

# BUILDING BETTER PARKS

## Update on NY Parks 2020 Progress



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**





# LEADING THE NATION ON PARKS



Niagara Falls State Park Dedication



Letchworth Nature Center Dedication

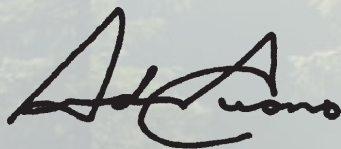


Jones Beach State Park West Bathhouse Dedication

A century ago, New York State built a park system that became the model for the nation – a system that celebrated nature and gave people of all income levels a place to enjoy it. This system of parks, assembled with great vision and ambition, was a great gift to the people that was to last for the ages. Unfortunately, as time passed we did not fully appreciate the gift. It was our responsibility as citizens to preserve it and protect it and pass it on to our children, and we had not done that.

From the outset of my administration in 2011, we have worked to reverse the trend of deteriorating parks. We launched NY Parks 2020, a \$900 million multi-year commitment to restore the park system. This is an investment in a system unique in the nation. We are bringing back the grandeur bestowed on us, while improving our tourism economy.

It's an important investment and it's one that we're going to be proud to pass on to our children.



Governor Andrew M. Cuomo



# NY PARKS 2020:

## \$900 million to revitalize New York State Parks



Jones Beach State Park Nature Center



Allegany State Park



Letchworth State Park

- ✓ 176 Parks Improved and Counting
- ✓ 300 New Cabins and Cottages
- ✓ 30 New Nature and Cultural Centers
- ✓ 72 New and Improved Playgrounds
- ✓ 90 New and Improved Bathrooms
- ✓ 700 Infrastructure Projects

### The New York Times

*New York State Parks, After Years of Decline, Receive Infusion of Cash and Care*  
Nov. 2, 2015

### Newsday

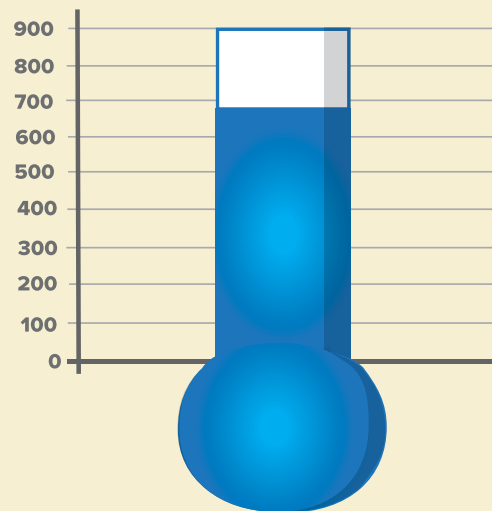
**Our state parks finally on the rebound**  
May 28, 2016

The Governor has made the protection of land and parks a hallmark of his tenure. His \$900 million NY Parks 2020 commitment is creating a park system for the 21st century.

#### The revitalization plan follows 7 strategic priorities:

- Transforming New York's flagship Parks & those that benefit the underserved
- Promoting healthy, active outdoor recreation
- Connecting people with parks
- Rejuvenating our world class park facilities
- Preserving historic sites and cultural assets
- Sustaining New York's natural environment
- Energizing local economies

### A \$900 MILLION INVESTMENT IN STATE PARKS



State Parks has completed more than \$685 million in projects of the multi-year plan.



# CONNECTING KIDS TO STATE PARKS



Fourth-grade students show off their free Every Kid in a Park Pass at Fort Montgomery State Historic Site.



Learn To Swim children at Roberto Clemente State Park.

Revitalizing our state park system is ultimately about connecting these special places to people – particularly young people for their health, happiness and understanding of their place in the environment and our collective history of democracy. That’s why Governor Cuomo launched the **Connect Kids to State Parks** program. The initiative is encouraging youth visitation to State Parks by:



- Extend free day-use entry to all fourth-grade students and their families.
- Provide direct grants to transport K-12 students from underserved areas to nearby parks and historic sites with revitalized programming and facilities for educational programs.
- Increase youth engagement in the Empire Conservation Corps conservation and volunteer programs.
- Provide more educational and recreational programs at nature centers, historic sites and recreational facilities.



Members of the park’s chess club strategize at Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park.



Capital Region students attend a nature program at Emma Treadwell Nature Center.





Fifth Grade Students from Roosevelt School in Ossining search for birds at Rockefeller State Park Preserve, thanks to the Connect Kids Program.

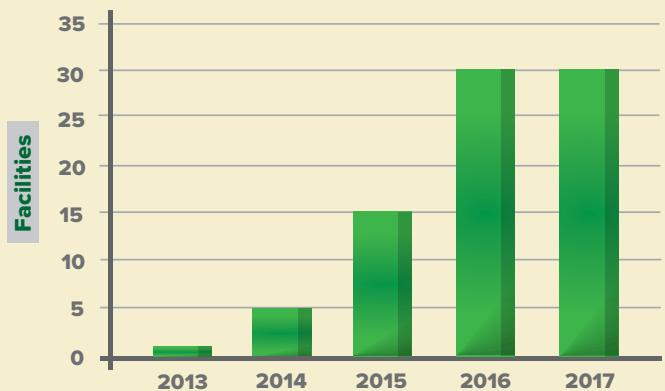


The Creekside Classroom project transformed an old comfort station into classroom space for the park's environmental education program.

## Connecting Kids to New York's Outdoor Classrooms

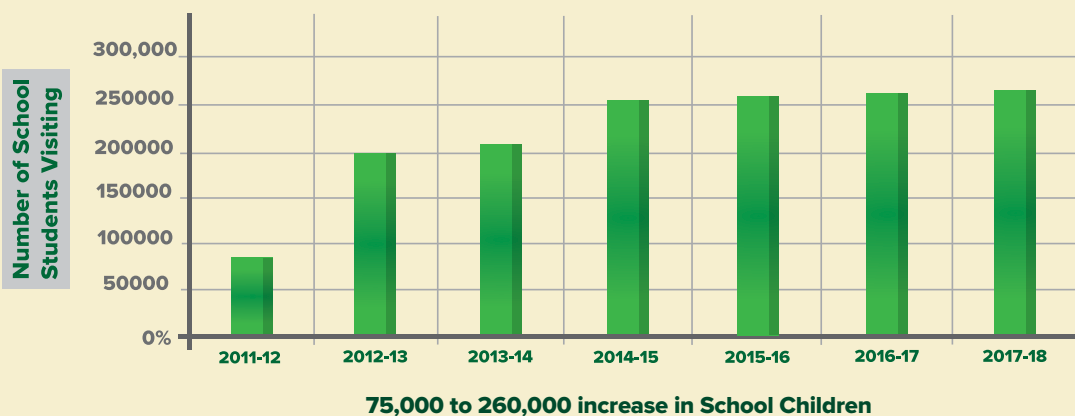
Improved facilities are helping enrich the education of tens of thousands of New York children, equipping them with lifelong skills. The Connect Kids program provides free transportation to schools, particularly in underserved communities, for educational field trips to our parks, historic sites, and state environmental education centers. Over the last two years, the Connect Kids Field Trip Grant program has funded more than 1,500 school field trips connecting nearly 70,000 additional students to recreational nature and historic programs.

## SWIMMING FACILITIES HOSTING FREE LEARN-TO-SWIM PROGRAMS



Quality facilities help enhance programs. State Parks' free Learn-to-Swim program has grown tenfold since it began in 2013. Parks and our partners now teach over 20,000 kids to swim each year for free in low cost programs.

## COMBATING 'NATURE DEFICIT DISORDER'



Improved facilities will help steadily increase the number of school students who gain a hands-on educational experience at State Parks and Historic Sites every year.



# BUILDING CONNECTIONS

## New Nature Centers, Group Camps, and Playing Fields are Connecting People to Parks



The Humphrey Nature Center provides a much-needed center for environmental education at Letchworth State Park.

### ✓ **Humphrey Nature Center opens year-round at Letchworth State Park**

Nature is one of our greatest classrooms. The state-of-the-art, \$6.75 million center for environmental education fills a glaring need at the state park ranked America's favorite. The project was made possible by a significant public-private partnership, including the Campaign for Letchworth Nature Center; the Humphrey Family; Genesee Regional Park Commission; and the Open Space Institute.

### ✓ **Nation's first outdoor summer group camps get new life at Harriman State Park**

NY Parks 2020 has invested over \$10 million to revitalize over 37 outdoor group camp facilities, and will invest \$4 million more in the camps serving the homeless, foster families, and underserved communities. Built in 1913, the camps provide families a place to experience the outdoors. Below, Appalachian Mountain Club recently opened the Harriman Outdoor Center in a formerly vacant Group Camp at Harriman State Park.







Former Major League Baseball Star Alex Rodriguez lends his support to youth baseball and softball programs at Roberto Clemente State Park.

## New partnerships and improved facilities are expanding opportunities for urban youth

In partnership with Major League Baseball, the Major League Baseball Players Association, Alex Rodriguez and Dream Baseball, State Parks has created a baseball and softball academy at Roberto Clemente State Park in the Bronx. The partners are investing \$10 million to renovate and expand playing fields and bring Dream's program to the park. The academy will serve 1,500 youth, tripling the number who participate in the park's baseball programs.

At Denny Farrell Riverbank State park in Harlem, State Parks opened New York City's first public greenhouse, which will become a center of urban gardening and nutritional educational programs. The Horticultural Society of New York will lead programs at the site.

State Parks, the National Park Service and New York City are working to establish a new 407-acre state park on Jamaica Bay in Brooklyn, providing crucial new open space access to one of the most park-poor areas of the state. The new state park complements the state's efforts to create more pocket parks, community gardens, playgrounds and recreation centers within a ten-minute walk for every Central Brooklyn resident.



Year-round education classes and public events will help the Riverbank State Park community use more fresh produce to improve family health and nutrition.



MLB announces new youth academy in Roberto Clemente Park



A new state park in Brooklyn will open 3.5 miles of waterfront to the public, creating new opportunities for biking, hiking, fishing, kayaking, and environmental education.

## I LOVE MY PARK DAY: MAKING A LIFELONG CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS



New Yorkers are deeply connected to their State Parks. The annual "I Love My Park Day," a day to volunteer and give back to these special places, has been growing by leaps and bounds since it was launched by Parks & Trails New York and State Parks in 2012.



# BUILDING MIND AND MUSCLE

## New Parks, Trails and Orientation Centers are Promoting Healthy, Active Outdoor Recreation

### Buffalo Harbor State Park creates new recreational access to the Lake Erie Waterfront

The city of Buffalo's first state park opened in May 2015, converting an underutilized patch of the city's waterfront into a vibrant park with a playground, picnic pavilions, scenic waterfront paths, and an improved marina.

OPENED 2015



THE BUFFALO NEWS

June 7, 2017

Putting the play in playground: State parks upgrades draw rave reviews

The new Buffalo Harbor State Park now draws 240,000 children and adults to get out and play on the Buffalo waterfront.

### Thacher Park Center launches rediscovery of a 100-year-old park

The new visitor center provides a jumping off point from which visitors can explore the park's expansive trail network, as well as public gathering space overlooking the park's dramatic views in all four seasons. The \$3.8 million public-private partnership is supported by the Open Space Institute and the Saratoga-Capital Region Parks Commission.



Rock-climbing is one of new activities happening at the revitalized Thacher State Park.

THE DAILY GAZETTE May 4, 2017

Thacher Park opens new visitor center

OPENED 2017







**Hallock State Park Preserve improvements connect people to underutilized parkland**

A \$4.25 million visitor center and park access improvements make this previously inaccessible parkland open to the public. Support from the Trust for Public Land and Natural Heritage Trust made the project possible.



The Preserve offers access to one mile of pristine shoreline. Inset: Community members celebrated the long-awaited opening of new visitor facilities at Hallock State Park Preserve.

*The New York Times*  
 A State 'Hungry for Trails'  
 Savors Cuomo's 750-Mile Plan

**The 750-mile Empire State Trail will drive economic growth and tourism across the State**

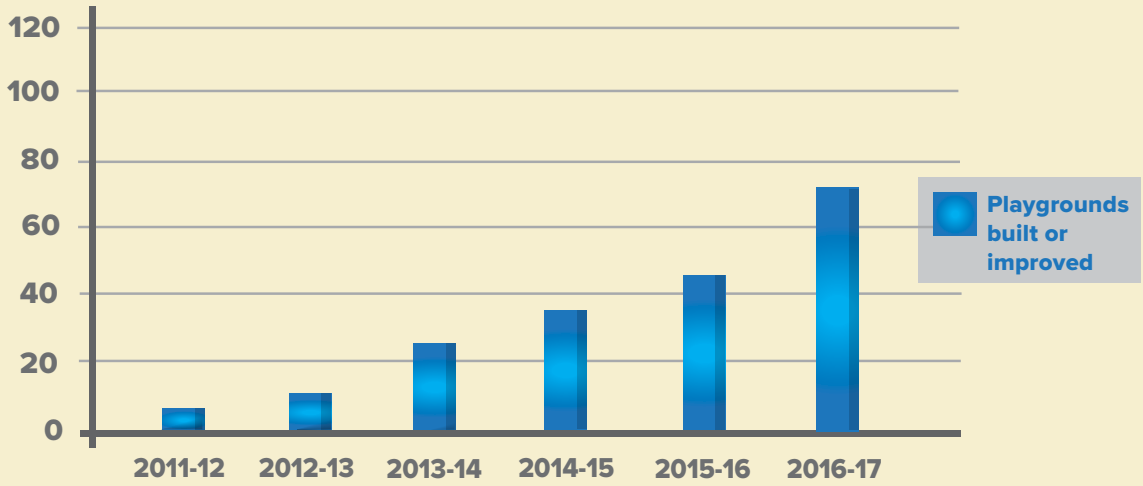


New York is creating the Empire State Trail, a planned bike and walking pathway from New York City to Canada and from Albany to Buffalo. To complete the Empire Trail by 2020, approximately 350 miles of new/improved trails will be built. Ultimately, 70% of the 750-mile trail will be off road. The trail will attract and connect more hikers, bikers, and cross-country skiers to New York's cultural, natural and historic destinations.



The Empire State Trail will connect the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail and the Erie Canalway Trail, creating the largest state multi-use trail in the nation.

**BUILDING NEW PLACES FOR CHILDREN TO PLAY**



Playgrounds are a gateway to a lifetime of healthy, active recreation. State Parks is well on its way to meeting a goal of building or improving 100 playgrounds by 2020.



# BUILDING MEMORIES

Tens of Millions of Citizens Are Better served by Transformative Improvements to more than 30 Flagship Parks & Parks Benefiting the Underserved

 **Niagara Falls overhaul improves international tourism destination**

The state's \$75 million transformation of Niagara Falls State Park is renewing the park's historic landscape, while creating modern attractions like the new Cave of the Winds Experience Building, featuring interactive programs on the natural and cultural history of the Falls for visitors heading down to the famed Hurricane Deck.



CAVE OF THE WINDS PLAZA



STEDMAN'S BLUFF



LUNA ISLAND & LUNA ISLAND BRIDGE



TERRAPIN POINT



PROSPECT POINT



PARKING LOT 2 & TERRAPIN POINT PHASE 2



POLICE STATION



COMFORT STATION BUILDING



LOWER GROVE TRAIL



THREE SISTERS ISLANDS



PAVILION BUILDING



NORTH SHORE TRAIL



**REOPENED 2016**

**Jones Beach State Park rebirth provides new reasons to go back to storied beach**

Revitalizing the iconic West Bathhouse is part of a \$65 million investment in restoring the park's historic grandeur, attracting new visitors and creating new recreational facilities. A Taste NY café and renovations to the Marine Dining Room in the West Bathhouse encourage longer and more frequent visits.



A stylish new restaurant, known as The Landing at Jones Beach, is now operating in the newly restored West Bathhouse. Inset: Governor Cuomo tours construction work.

**Newsday** May 26, 2016  
**Cuomo unveils \$36M in improvements for Jones Beach State**

**The LEADER** Feb. 11, 2016  
**\$6.5 million project to make 'a graceful entrance' at Watkins Glen State Park**



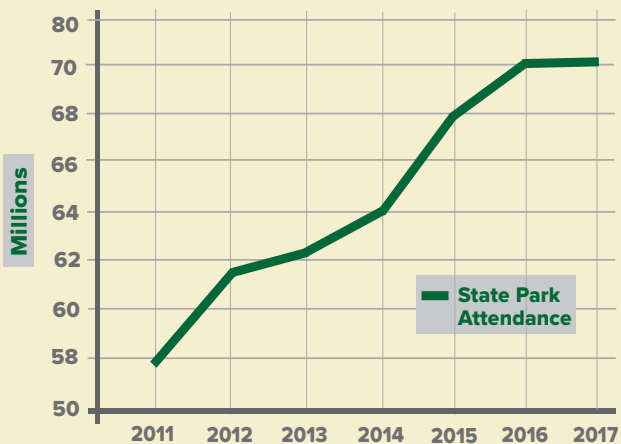
**OPENING MAY 2018**

**Watkins Glen State Park gateway reframes picturesque setting**

A \$6.5 million project is creating a less congested and more welcoming main entrance to this leading Finger Lakes tourism destination. Relocating an unsightly parking lot will ease local traffic jams, create space for lawns, visitor information center, and enhanced interpretation of Watkin Glen's unique natural and cultural history.

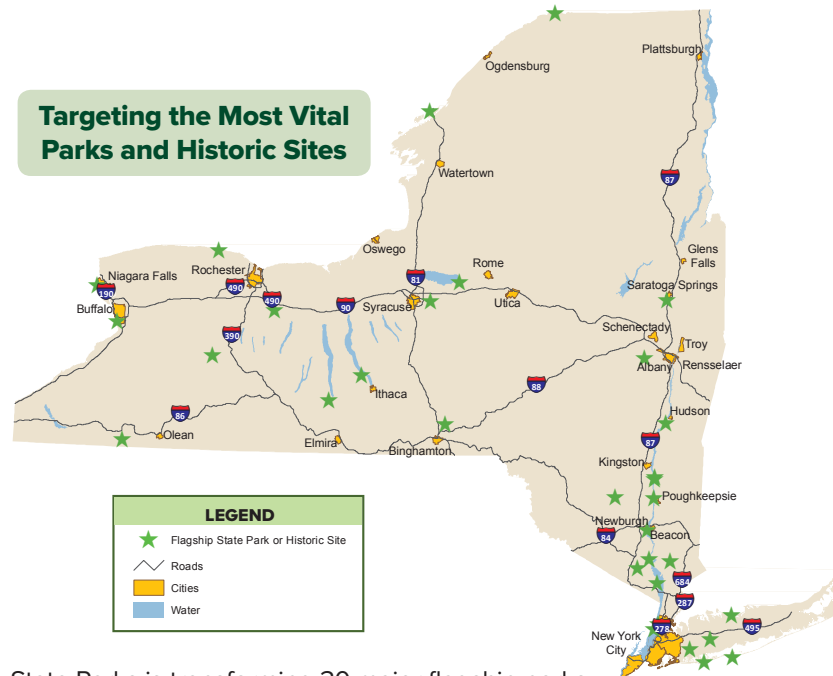
Visitors will have more room to gather before hiking the scenic gorge at Watkins Glen State Park.

**ATTRACTING VISITORS TO NY STATE**



State Park attendance has increased 23% since 2011, from 57.9 annual visitors to 71.5 million.

**Targeting the Most Vital Parks and Historic Sites**



State Parks is transforming 30 major flagship parks and historic sites – along with parks that serve communities of need. Together, these parks represent 80% of the park system's visitation.



# BUILDING STEWARDSHIP & RESILIENCY

## Green Innovations are Helping Protect New York's Natural Environment and Creating a More Resilient Landscape and Park System



### Solar power helping create energy independent park system

Solar power systems at State Parks are part of broad strategy to create a greener, more sustainable park system. To date \$3.3 million has been allocated for solar installations in 12 parks. Parks is working on 7 more parks with up to 5 megawatts anticipated.

### ENERGIZED 2017



The major solar power system creates enough electricity to serve Robert Moses State Park's 4 million visitors a year and created one of the first energy neutral state parks.

DAILY NEWS

June 5, 2014

Improvements on the way for Roberto Clemente State Park waterfront

### OPENING JUNE 2018



The transformation of Roberto Clemente State Park will strengthen resiliency while improving the experience for visitors.

### Strategic park improvements help create climate resilient communities

State Parks are on the front lines in defending against rising sea levels and fiercer storms. A \$28 million state-of-the-art seawall will help better protect communities behind Roberto Clemente

### 2018 GROUND BREAKING



As part of upgrades at Hempstead Lake State Park, a new, two-story, 8,000-square-foot community center will focus on environmental stewardship and climate change adaptation resiliency and house the Nassau Police's Explorer Program for youth at risk.

State Park in the Bronx, and will help urban residents learn about the Harlem River ecosystem. A \$34 million investment in Hempstead Lake State Park, including constructed marshes and dikes, will help increase the resiliency of communities along Long Island's Mill River and South Shore's bays, while advancing environmental education.





Park improvements protect Green Lakes State Park's unique ecology.

## Environmental stewardship central to transformation of Green Lakes State Park

A \$16.9 million transformation of Central New York's most-visited park included major improvements to camping, golf, visitor arrival and environmental education that will convert a deteriorated 1940s boathouse into an environmental education center. All park infrastructure upgrades designed protect the water quality by revetting flow away of ecologically significant meromictic lakes.



State Parks unveils plans for education center, broadwalk at Green Lakes

## Nearly 14,000 acres of open space expand the state park system

Open spaces provide clean air and water, outdoor recreation, habitat for plants and animals, protection from storm surges and floods, and many other benefits. State Parks has added nearly 14,000 acres of open space that will connect, buffer or fill in existing state parks to its park system since 2011.

DAILY NEWS

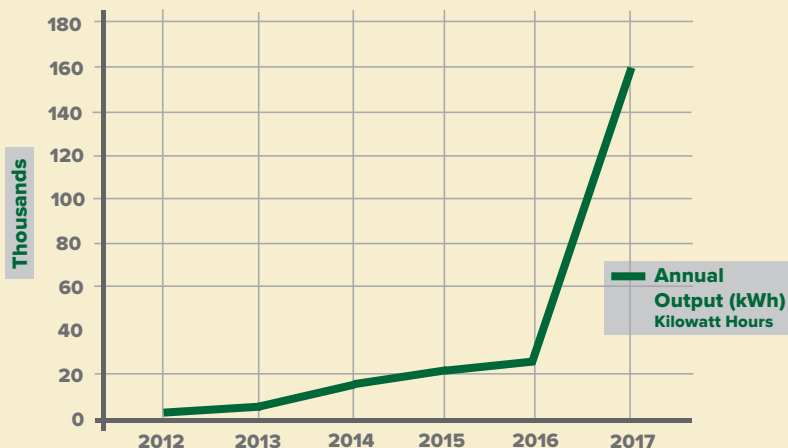
April 22, 2017

Gov. Cuomo celebrates Earth Day by announcing conservation of 5,900 acres of Hudson Valley parkland



State Parks worked with the Open Space Institute to add the 1,068-acre Sam's Point, known for its spectacular views and striking cliffs, to the Hudson Valley's Minnewaska State Park Preserve.

## SOLAR OR RENEWABLE GENERATING CAPACITY OVER COURSE OF NYP2020



State Parks use of solar power helps reduce harmful emissions, while saving money on park operations.



Staff removing invasive species at Chittenango Falls State Park.



# BUILDING ECONOMIES

## Modern, Revitalized State Parks are Growing the State's Tourism Economy



High quality accommodations like the Cottages at Sampson State Park will help draw tourists to the region



The Taughannock Falls Overlook visitor center helps direct visitors to nearby tourism destinations.

### **New vacation cabins and cottages encourage visitors to stay longer, explore more**

State Parks' first vacation cabins and cottages on Long Island are under construction at Wildwood and Heckscher State Parks. Ten new lakefront vacation cottages in the Finger Lakes at Sampson State Park provide visitors with easy access to region's beaches, wineries, and cultural destinations. In all, NY Parks will build or improve 300 new cabins or cottages by 2020.

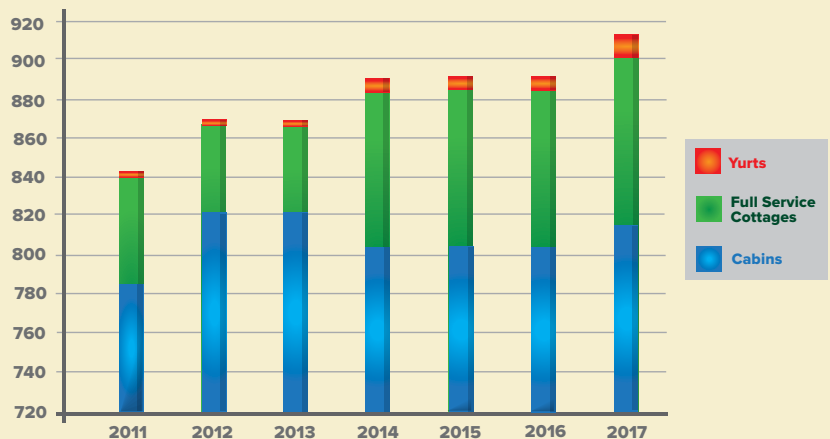


State Parks has brought 76 new cabins, cottages and yurts on line to provide visitors with a range of overnight accommodations, and will build or renovate 300 by 2020.

### **On-site partnerships promote regional tourism and agriculture**

At Taughannock Falls and Watkins Glen State Parks, new satellite visitor centers will host tourism ambassadors from the local business community to highlight the variety of Finger Lakes region destinations. As part of the Taste NY initiative, which promotes New York's food, beverage and agricultural industries, State Park concessionaires make Taste NY menu options available to more than 30 million State Park visitors.

## ATTRACTING VISITORS IS KEY TO STRONG TOURISM ECONOMIES







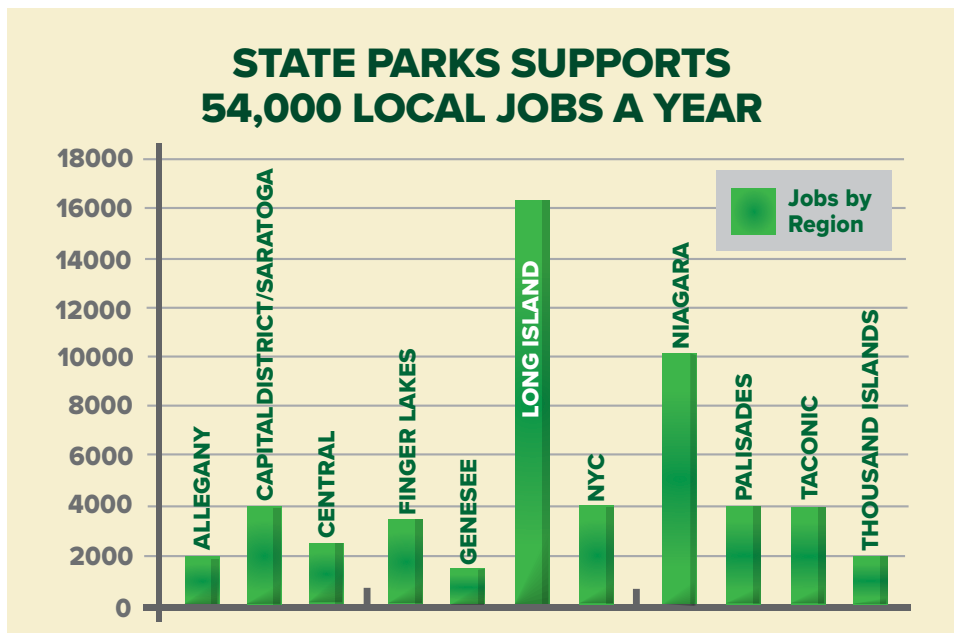
**Top Left:** State Parks is renovating the underutilized Roosevelt II Bathhouse to prepare it for potential use as a wellness center. **Top Right:** In an unprecedented agreement between The PGA of America and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Bethpage State Park's Black Course will host the 101st PGA Championship in 2019 and the 45th Ryder Cup in 2024. **Bottom Left:** Safe Harbor Development, a concessionaire, has invested \$8 million into the boat marina at Buffalo Harbor State Park, a top Western New York boating destination. **Bottom Right:** The Bear Mountain Inn and Conference Center, one of several hotels in the park system, offers 15 guest rooms and a venue for weddings, banquets and corporate events at historic Bear Mountain State Park.

## Partnerships promote localized economic development

NY Parks 2020 is targeting projects where public dollars will leverage private funding, operations, and partnerships to expand services for park visitors and promote local business growth. State Parks has more than 100 concession contracts with private entrepreneurs – everything from resort hotels to snack bars and the Maid of the Mist at Niagara Falls to kay-



ak rental concessions. These employers alone generate more than \$100 million in gross receipts annually, of which \$11 million is returned directly to support park operations.




A recent study by Parks & Trails NY found the state park system supports thousands of local private jobs across New York and add \$5 billion to the economy.



# BUILDING CONNECTIONS TO OUR PAST

## New Ways to Learn and Explore are Helping Preserve our Historic Sites and Cultural Assets

 **Historic site improvement and new memorials illuminate New York's diverse history.**

Historic sites provide an opportunity to learn about New York's diverse history. A \$324,000 renovation of Johnson Hall State Historic Site's southwest stonehouse provides space for the public to better learn about the work and living conditions of enslaved people living on New York's frontier in the 18th century. The project reopened space that has been unused for more than a decade, providing a hands-on classroom to deliver new programs and hold events.

*The New York Times* JUNE 25, 2017  
*A Winning Design for a New York Monument to Gay and Transgender People*



**OPENING IN 2018**

Governor Cuomo designated the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, the birthplace of the modern LGBT rights movement, a New York State historic site; and he launched a new LGBT Memorial Commission to establish a monument honoring the LGBT community, those lost in Orlando and all victims of hate, intolerance and violence.

The monument honoring the LGBT community will be installed in Hudson River Park.

Governor Cuomo awarded \$10 million to the City of Auburn to build a destination center emphasizing New York's progressive history and encouraging regional tourism. The Equal Rights Heritage Center will highlight Auburn heroes like Harriet Tubman and William H. Seward, as well as the role New Yorkers have played in the struggle for human rights.

**OPENING IN 2018**



New York's history of promoting social and equal rights will be on display in downtown Auburn.

**REOPENED 2016**



Johnson Hall State Historic Site's southwest stonehouse.

*The Leader-Herald* August 25, 2016  
Historic Johnson Hall in the city of Johnstown restored as learning center



**Seneca Art & Culture Center preserves ancient way of life.**

The new \$15 million Seneca Art & Culture Center at Ganondagan State Historic Site guide visitors through more than 2,000 years of Iroquois contributions to art, culture and society to life. Collaboration between New York State, the Seneca Nation and many private donors made building and operating the year-round facility possible at the original Seneca homeland at Ganondagan.



**OPENED 2015**



Ganondagan State Historic Site - Seneca Art & Culture Center.

**COMING SOON**



Visitors to Olana State Historic Site discover the house and landscape is a singular work of art.

**Olana Center helps reveal full vision of America's most celebrated 19th century artist.**

State Parks and Olana have spearheaded public partnership to invest \$17 million on a range of projects encourage visitors and tourists to more fully experience the full 3 dimensional experience of the 250-acre Olana State Historic Site, the home of artist Frederic Church. Guided by award-winning master plan, Parks has invested \$10 million in house and landscape improvements with Olana Partnership investing the remainder.

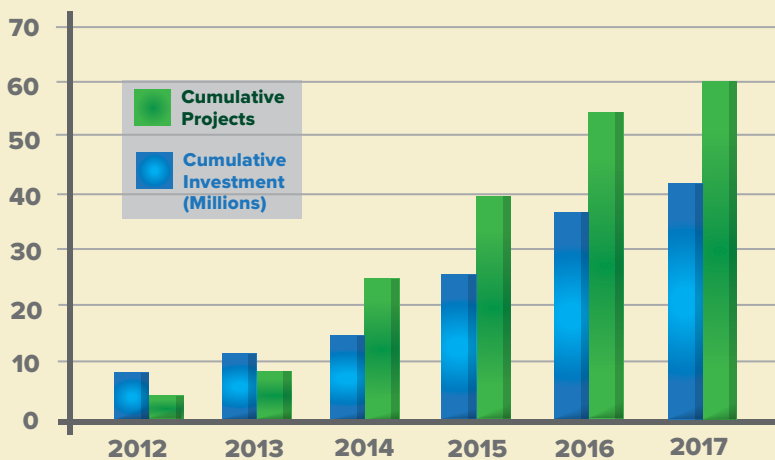
**Restoration of historic Darwin Martin House saves architectural masterwork.**



The Martin House, a National Historic Landmark and New York State Historic Site, is an expansive example of Wright's design philosophy.

New York completed a 25-year, \$50 million restoration of Frank Lloyd Wright's Martin House in Buffalo. The 15,000-square-foot Martin House has been painstakingly restored to its 1907 condition 1907, with extensive original Wright furnishings as well as elaborate built-in cabinetry and wood trim.

**INVESTING IN OUR HISTORIC SITES AND CULTURAL CENTERS**



State Parks is committed to the stewardship of state historic sites and historic parks. NY Parks 2020 and state partners have committed more than \$44 million to 61 major projects to preserve or improve 22 historic sites and historic parks in the system.



# REBUILDING BROKEN INFRASTRUCTURE

## Modern Infrastructure is the Platform for the Future of our World Class Park System

### ✓ Worn-out swimming facilities get a new look

NY Parks 2020 is making priority improvements to swimming facilities across the state – reversing decades of decay at these popular sites. A new \$4 million Allegany State Park bathhouse is the first major improvement to the popular Quaker Lake beachfront in nearly 50 years. The modern 10,000-square-foot energy efficient facility includes a three-season multi-purpose ‘Great Room’ for large gatherings at the Cattaraugus County Park. A new \$2 million Wellesley Island State Park bathhouse replaced an outdated facility at the park’s busy swimming beach. The new Thousand Islands facility includes improved bathrooms, changing areas, a concession area and an adjoining open-air covered pavilion.

OPENED 2016



The new Quaker Lake beach bathhouse provides a gathering place for Allegany State Park’s annual fireworks show.

✓ OPENED 2016



Campers staying at one of the park system’s largest campgrounds now have a quality bathhouse at Wellesley Island State Park (below).

**OLEAN TIMES HERALD** July 6, 2016  
New Quaker Lake Bathhouse officially opened in Allegany State Park

### State Parks will construct and improve 400 miles of trails by 2020

New York State Parks feature more than 2,000 miles of trails, from challenging mountain climbs to gentle bicycle paths. NY Parks projects to construct new trails or make repairs to existing networks will total 400 miles of enhanced trails.

✓ OPENED 2016



Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul joins community members to celebrate the 2016 opening of an 8.5-mile section of the Black Diamond Trail in Tompkins County.



(Left): Improvements to the Niagara Gorge Trail System enhance a challenging hike near the Niagara River rapids.





Replacing the culvert at Letchworth State Park is an example of the countless projects to maintain unseen but essential infrastructure throughout the park system.



Workers repair docks at Seneca Lake State Park.



**Above Left:** Automated paystations and internet connectivity are part of the 21st century infrastructure that needs to be incorporated in the park system.



**Above Right:** Miles and miles of electric transmission lines, drinking water lines and sewer lines within State Parks must be maintained.



A deteriorated parking area get a makeover at Saratoga Spa State Park.

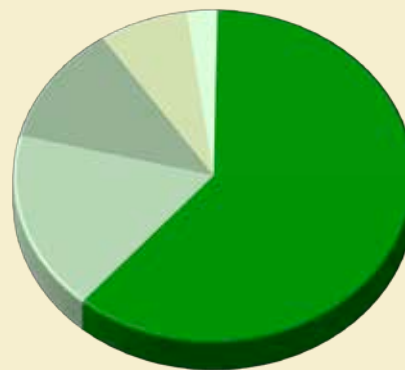
**AP** Associated Press July 5, 2016  
**Cuomo: NY's state park improvements boost summer recreation**

*The New York Times* Nov. 2, 2015  
*New York State Parks, After Years of Decline, Receive Infusion of Cash and Care*

### A commitment to stewardship

NY Parks 2020 priority remains the rehabilitation of basic infrastructure suffering from age, heavy public use, and deferred maintenance. New York has one of the most developed park systems in the nation, with a huge inventory of public facilities including 5,000 buildings, 36 swimming pools, more than 2,000 miles of trail, 106 dams, hundreds of miles of roads and parking areas, and vast electric and drinking water distribution systems. Most projects renew existing public use facilities, ensure the health and safety of visitors, rehabilitate historic buildings and protect the park system's natural environment.

## MORE THAN HALF OF NY PARKS 2020 IS DEDICATED TO REHABILITATING EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE



55% percent of NY Parks 2020 funding goes to rehabilitating existing infrastructure, such as rehabilitating bathrooms and bathhouses, modernizing water, sewer and electrical systems, repaving roads and replacing roofs.





## **Building Public-Private Partnerships**

# **THANK YOU!**

Public-private partnerships are crucial to the success of NY Parks 2020 and the park system as a whole.

We thank our key partners for the progress we've made so far, and look forward to even more success in the future.

### **New York State Council of Parks**

**Open Space Institute**

**Parks & Trails New York**

**Natural Heritage Trust**

**More than 90 State Park & Historic Site  
Friends Groups**

### **State Agency Partners**

- NYPA
- DOT
- DEC
- ESD
- NYSERDA
- GOSR



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

**Andrew M. Cuomo**  
Governor

**Rose Harvey**  
Commissioner