

New York State Council of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation



2013
Annual Report

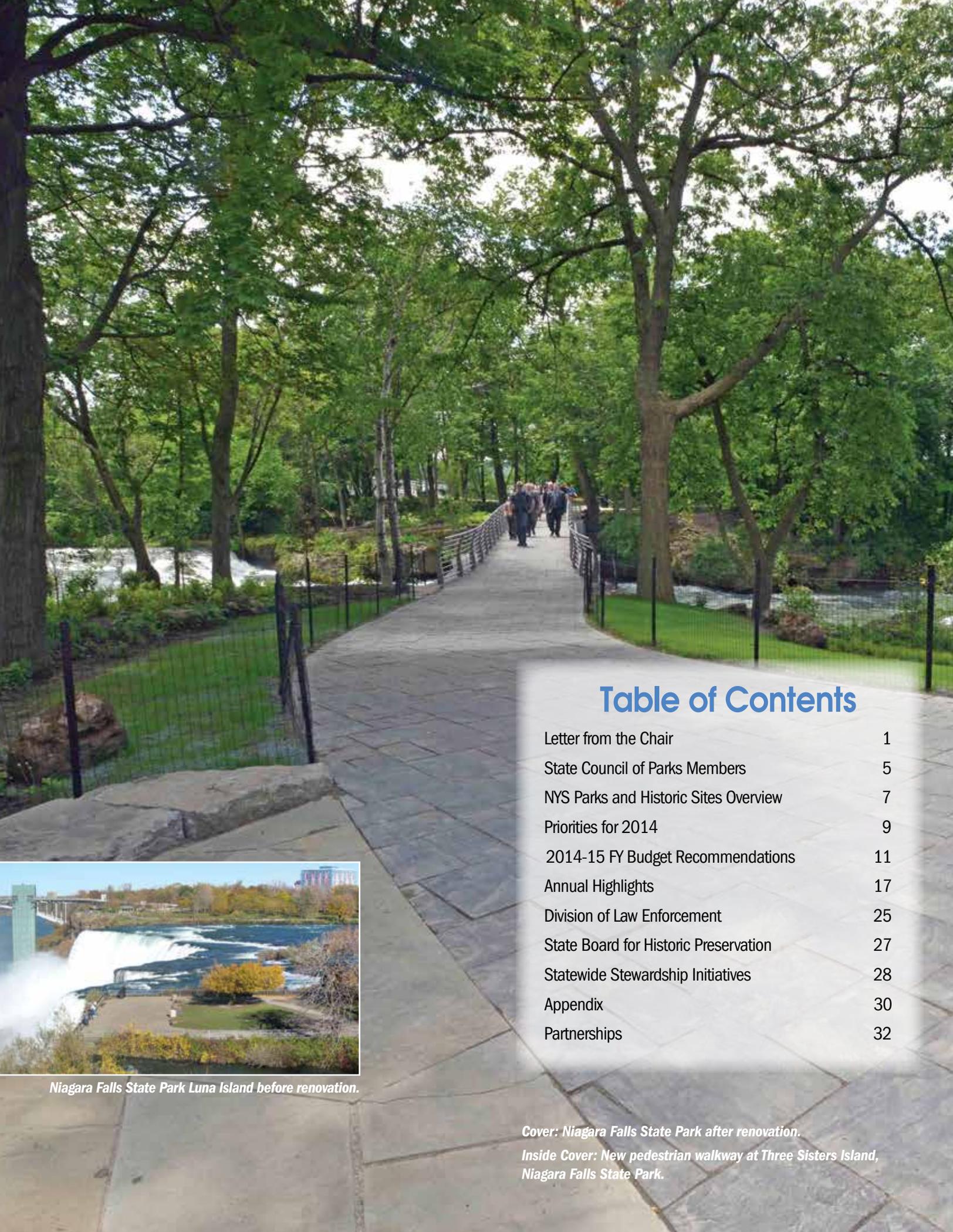


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Niagara Falls State Park Luna Island before renovation.

*Cover: Niagara Falls State Park after renovation.
Inside Cover: New pedestrian walkway at Three Sisters Island,
Niagara Falls State Park.*



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

Lucy R. Waletzky, M.D.
State Council Chair

New York State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

January 2014

Dear Governor Cuomo,

The State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is pleased to submit its 2013 Annual Report. This report highlights the State Council of Parks and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's achievements during 2013, and sets forth recommendations for the coming year.

First, on behalf of the State Council of Parks, I would like to convey my deepest gratitude for providing State Parks with another \$90 million in 2013-14 for critically important and long deferred capital projects in New York State parks. In two years, New York Works has provided a total of \$179 million for infrastructure repairs, the largest capital infusion in the history of the parks system. The money is improving infrastructure and visitor amenities at 81 parks and historic sites; funding 192 construction projects, creating 2,500 jobs and benefitting local economies across the state. From Niagara Falls to Jones Beach, this money has created a "parks renaissance," which has thrilled everyone involved.

As you know, the New York State park system has a long and treasured history of philanthropic support. The State Council of Parks, along with the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Alliance for New York State Parks (an initiative of the Open Space Institute devoted to supporting State Parks) and our park and historic site friends groups, remains committed to raising private funds and developing partnerships to supplement your New York Works initiative. Projects accomplished with the support of private fundraising have been initiated or completed in the following parks:

Allegany Region:	Midway State Park
Genesee Region:	Letchworth State Park
Long Island Region:	Jones Beach State Park and Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park
Niagara Region:	Niagara Falls State Park and Knox Farm State Park
Palisades Region:	Minnewaska State Park
Taconic Region:	Fahnestock State Park

And significant projects are in the planning stages for private fundraising campaigns at John Boyd Thacher State Park in the Saratoga-Capital District Region and at Riverbank State Park in the New York City Region.

To continue the important and vital work of repairing our state park infrastructure, the State Council of Parks respectfully supports \$90 million of critically important new capital funding in the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Additionally, we support adequate funding in the state budget for park operations to ensure that our parks and sites are safe and enjoyable for our 60 million annual visitors.

The State Council of Parks also salutes your creative Path through History program, which is already increasing visitation to our historic sites and improving the spirits of all involved with them.

We also remain grateful for your continued support of I Love My Park Day, organized in partnership with Parks & Trails New York. In its second year, 78 state parks and historic sites participated in I Love My Park Day, nearly double from the prior year. Over 100 cleanup, improvement, beautification and stewardship projects were completed, and 4,000 volunteers contributed 10,000 volunteer hours. We look forward to another successful day of volunteerism in 2014.

Finally, please accept my appreciation for your appointment and re-appointment of 25 Commissioners to our Regional State Park Commissions during 2013. We are thrilled to have these members who bring their time, skills and support to make tangible improvements to our state parks and historic sites.

We cannot thank you enough for being such an incredibly wonderful champion of our beloved parks and historic sites, and for considering the recommendations put forth in this report.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky, Chair



Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site

State Council of Parks



State Council of Parks and Regional Park Commissions



Moreau Lake State Park

The State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation – known simply as the “State Council of Parks” – is a 14-member body established by Article 5 of the state Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law (PRHPL). The State Council is comprised of the Chairs of the eleven Regional Park Commissions, the Chair of the State Board for Historic Preservation, and the Commissioners of State Parks and Environmental Conservation.

As defined in PRHPL Section 5.09, the State Council’s powers and duties are to: a) review the policy, budget and statewide plans of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and make appropriate recommendations regarding their amendment or adoption; b) submit reports to the Governor, not less than once each year, concerning progress in the area of state parks, recreation and historic preservation, including recommendations for the future, and covering such other matters as the council may deem appropriate; c) and act as a central advisory agency on all matters affecting parks, recreation and historic preservation.

The eleven Regional Parks Commissions, created by PRHPL Article 7, represent each of the State Parks Regions, with the exception of the Palisades (which is represented by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission) and the Adirondack & Catskill Park Region (which is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation). Regional Commis-

sion members must be residents of the state and are appointed to seven year terms by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, and serve without compensation. Regional Commissions serve as central advisory bodies on all matters affecting parks, recreation, and historic preservation within their respective regions, with particular focus on the operations of state parks and historic sites. The Commissions are also charged with reviewing and approving the Region’s annual budget request prior to its submission to the Commissioner of State Parks.

State Council of Parks Members

LUCY ROCKEFELLER
WALETZKY,
Chair and Taconic Commission

CINDY ABBOTT LETRO,
Niagara Frontier
Commission

DALTON BURGETT,
Allegany Commission

PHILIP WHITE,
Palisades Commission

CORNELIUS B. MURPHY,
Central Commission
Chair (Acting)

HEATHER MABEE,
Saratoga-Capital District
Commission

W. DAVID BANFIELD,
Finger Lakes Commission

HAROLD JOHNSON II,
Thousand Islands
Commission

PETER HUMPHREY,
Genesee Commission

ROBERT MACKAY,
State Board for
Historic Preservation

BRYAN ERWIN,
Long Island Commission

JANET FELLEMAN,
New York City Commission



Overview

New York State Parks & Historic Sites Overview

The State Park System is one of New York's greatest treasures. Today, the system totals 214 State Parks and Historic Sites encompassing nearly 335,000 acres. New York's Parks and Historic Sites provide affordable outdoor recreation and education opportunities to more than 60 million visitors each year. These facilities contribute to the economic vitality and quality of life of local communities and directly support New York's tourism industry. Parks also provide a place for families and children to recreate and exercise, promoting healthy lifestyles and helping combat childhood obesity.

open space mission. The agency has an "all funds" operating and capital budget of approximately \$331 million (FY2013-14 adjusted budget) and is staffed by 1,719 permanent employees and more than 4,400 seasonal positions during peak operating season. Drawing on these resources, OPRHP is responsible for operating an extensive network of public recreational facilities that includes 5,000 buildings, 29 golf courses, 36 swimming pools, 67 beaches, 27 marinas, 40 boat launching sites, 18 nature centers, 817 cabins, 8,355 campsites, more than 2,000 miles of trails, extensive utility systems, 104 dams, hundreds of miles of roads, and 604 bridges.



Roberto Clemente State Park



Clermont State Historic Site

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) is responsible for the operation and stewardship of the state parks system, as well as advancing a statewide parks, historic preservation, and

New York's State Park system has long been recognized as one of the best and most diverse in the nation. Among the fifty states, we rank first in the number of operating facilities and first in the total number of campsites with DEC. We are fifth in total acreage and second in total annual visitation. Attendance at Niagara Falls State Park is greater than that of Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Parks combined, and more than twice as many people visit Jones Beach each year than visit Yellowstone. Niagara Falls is the oldest state park in the nation and Washington's Headquarters was the first property acquired with public funds for the express purpose of historic preservation and patriotic visitation.



Chenango Valley State Park

The term "state park system" as used in this report refers to New York's 179 state parks and 35 state historic sites.



Priorities

State Council of Parks 2014 Priorities

The State Council of Parks will continue to advance six priorities for 2014



Jones Beach State Park



Golden Hill State Park

1. Build a 21st Century Sustainable and Resilient Park System

In 2012, thanks to the leadership of Governor Cuomo, New York took an enormous step forward to address the backlog of capital needs in the state park system. Governor Cuomo continued the investment in 2013, providing another \$90 million in funding for capital projects in New York State Parks. In two years, New York Works has provided a total of \$179 million in funding for infrastructure repairs, the largest capital infusion in the history of the park system. The State Council of Parks supports an additional \$90 million of critical new capital funding in 2014-15 for state park improvements and infrastructure.

2. Keep State Parks and Historic Sites Fully Open, Safe, Affordable and Accessible.

The State Council of Parks urges adequate state funding for operations to keep all 214 state parks and historic sites fully open. It also supports efforts to reinvent, redesign and automate park operations to leverage state resources to provide safe, clean and affordable recreational and education experiences for the more than 60 million people who visit our facilities annually.

3. Public-Private Partnerships

The State Council and Regional commissions will continue to help establish and strengthen partnerships with friends groups, for-profit, and non-profit organizations, governmental entities and volunteers for a wide range of support, from direct monetary contributions and formal concession agreements to operations and programming. The State Council will continue to pursue private funding

from individuals, corporations and foundations for the New York State park system with a focus on signature projects that greatly enhance the visitor's experience and create connections between parks and the communities they serve.

4. Increase, Deepen, and Improve the Visitor Experience

Understanding that connecting our citizens to their parks and historic sites is central to our mission. The State Council of Parks will support and encourage programs and opportunities to invite all New Yorkers to explore, experience, and enjoy our magnificent state park system. We will also support initiatives that develop programs to encourage healthy, active lifestyles, particularly among our youth.

5. Promote and Celebrate our Parks

The State Council will continue to assist the agency in implementing marketing initiatives to create a strong brand for our parks and historic sites. We also support the message of "this parkland is your parkland" to promote stewardship and responsibility among our park visitors and partners and initiatives such as I Love My Park Day that encourage volunteerism and pride in our state parks and historic sites.

6. Stewardship of Natural Resources

The State Council of Parks recognizes the importance of the stewardship of our natural resources and the need to protect, preserve and conserve them throughout our state park system to ensure that they are left unimpaired 9 for future generations.

A scenic landscape photograph of a river valley. In the foreground, a river flows through a dense forest. The middle ground features a prominent sandstone cliff face on the left, partially covered in greenery. The background shows rolling hills and a distant horizon under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The word "Budget" is overlaid in a green, sans-serif font on a white rectangular background in the upper right corner.

Budget

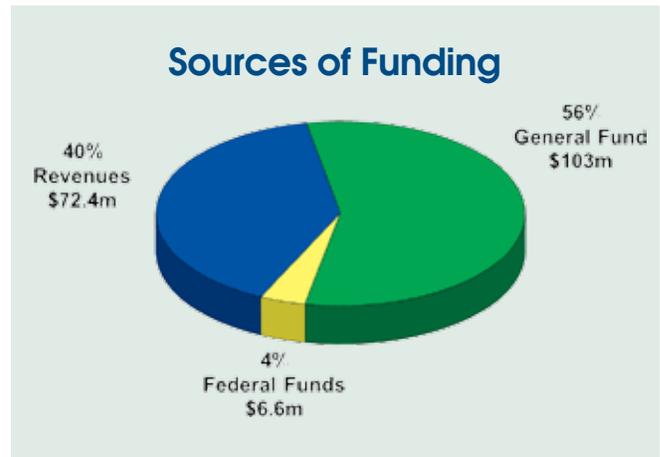
State Parks Operating Budget



Allegany State Park

OPRHP is a “direct operations” agency – it runs facilities, not programs. Ninety percent of the agency’s operating budget goes to pay the direct costs incurred in operating New York’s 214 State Parks and Historic Sites.

The enacted 2013-14 State Budget includes \$182 million in funding for OPRHP agency operations (encompassing state General Fund support, federal programs, agency-generated special Revenue funds). This represents a General Fund spending reduction of about 15 percent from 2009-10 to 2013-14.



Minnewaska State Park Preserve

State Parks Operations – 2013 Summer Season

We are pleased to report that during the 2013 summer season, all parks and historic sites enjoyed robust visitation throughout the year, with nearly 42 million visitors through Columbus Day.

FY2014-15 Operating Budget Recommendation:

In response to significant reductions to its operating budget and staffing levels since 2008, State Parks has advanced a number of administrative efficiencies and strategic actions such as expanding the practice of managing smaller parks as “satellite” facilities of nearby larger parks, and entering into new partnerships with local governments and non-profit organizations to operate parks and historic sites.

The State Council of Parks urges adequate state funding to keep all 214 state parks and historic sites open, safe, clean and affordable for its 60 million visitors.

I Love My Park Day 2013

Thanks to thousands of volunteers who pitched in on Saturday, May 4, 2013, the second annual I Love My Park Day was a resounding success. Organized in partnership with Parks & Trails, New York (PTNY), the purpose of I Love My Park Day is to improve and enhance state parks and historic sites; boost volunteerism; and raise the visibility of the entire state park system and its needs.

**I LOVE
MY PARK**
day

In 2013, 78 state parks and historic sites participated in I Love My Park Day, nearly double from the prior year. Over 100 cleanup, improvement, beautification and stewardship projects were completed, and 4,000 volunteers contributed 10,000 volunteer hours.

State Parks was proud to have the support of Governor Cuomo who invited New Yorkers to participate in I Love My Park Day, and who himself volunteered at FDR State Park.



Hamlin Beach State Park

Together with Governor Cuomo and PTNY, State Parks will continue to build on the momentum of I Love My Park Day to engage new volunteers and build a strong community of park stewards every day of the year.



Riverbank State Park

Super Storm Sandy

State Parks experienced widespread and devastating impacts from Super Storm Sandy which made landfall on October 29, 2012. More than 50 state parks were affected with damages exceeding \$120 million. Impacts included significant beach and dune erosion; undermining of roads, parkways and parking areas; heavy damage to Jones Beach and Robert Moses State Park boardwalks; disrupted utilities, and wind and flooding damage to buildings. State Parks immediately mobilized to initiate recovery efforts, ensuring that all state parks reopened in time for the summer 2013 season.

In addition to completing projects that repaired storm damage across Long Island, New York City and the lower Hudson Valley, State Parks has focused on efforts to build back stronger and more resilient against future storms. At Jones Beach State Park, 1.5 miles of the boardwalk were repaired with more resilient materials, and electrical systems were raised to protect them from future flooding. Live Nation completed a major reconstruction of the Jones Beach Theater to repair major damage caused by Sandy. Included in the \$20 million worth of repairs was the reconstruction of the entire stage foundation and relocating all electrical systems to the second floor to prevent future flooding. Backstage dressing rooms, offices, concession areas, and the box office all required restoration and repairs.

At Robert Moses State Park on Long Island, the agency is working to ensure enhanced protection of state-owned assets from the effects of future storms, and ensure ongoing protection for mainland Long Island. At Harri-man State Park in the Palisades Region, State Parks will upgrade high hazard dams to meet current design and



Nyack Beach State Park

code standards to better protect public and private infrastructure, homes and critical transportation corridors from future flooding. And in New York City, planning efforts are underway to rebuild the bulkhead at Roberto Clemente State Park with a more resilient design that offers increased flood protection and enhances the esplanade area of this popular park located in the Bronx.



Jones Beach Theater, Jones Beach State Park

Capital Budget



The opening of Rock Island Lighthouse State Park

State Parks Capital Budget



Niagara Falls State Park

2013 was another historic year for the New York State Park's capital program. Launched by Governor Cuomo and approved by the Legislature in the 2012-13 state budget, the New York Works initiative, designed to reinvent state economic development with an innovative new strategy to rebuild the state's infrastructure, invested \$89 million to rehabilitate state parks. Governor Cuomo followed up with an additional \$90 million in the current fiscal year.



New York Works funded projects in every region of the state that will enhance the visitor experience and enable our parks to re-emerge after years of decline in capital infrastructure. Over the two years of the program, 192 capital projects will be completed. Eighty percent of all projects are completed or under construction, and

another 51 are under design for future construction. Eighty-one state parks and historic sites have improved under this initiative. New York Works projects at state parks have created 2,500 jobs in communities throughout New York State.

With continued capital investment, the Agency will further its efforts to fix our aging infrastructure, and convert and transform New York's parks and historic sites into a welcoming, transformative, 21st century park system with the following priorities: continue to address the backlog of capital needs in existing facilities, infrastructure and health and safety; incorporate energy efficiency, green technology and automation in capital projects; protect our natural resources; build for future storm readiness; and continue to develop public-private partnerships for signature projects.

2014-15 Capital Recommendation

To continue this forward momentum, the State Council of Parks respectfully requests that an additional \$90 million of new capital funding for state parks improvements be included in the 2014-15 Executive Budget. The State Council will continue to support efforts to leverage the public investment through private fundraising and partnership opportunities, including supporting private fundraising for signature projects that improve the visitor experience and increase connections between parks and the communities they serve.



Staatsburgh State Historic Site



Annual Highlights

ROBERTO CLEMENTE

Acknowledging the crowd after his 3000th major league hit September 30, 1972 at Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh, PA.

Clemente was an extraordinary Hall of Fame player who opened doors of opportunity for Latin American baseball players.

Clemente was also a great humanitarian who once said, "Anytime you have an opportunity to make a difference in this world and you don't, then you are wasting your time on Earth."

40th Anniversary of Roberto Clemente State Park

Annual Highlights

Allegany Region Allegany State Park

National Public Lands Day: Saturday, September 28, 2013 was a great day at Allegany State Park. More than 75 park supporters turned out to participate in the annual celebration of National Public Lands Day, an all-volunteer event designed to give people across the country a chance to give back to the public lands they use and love. Volunteers



National Public Lands Day

came from the surrounding area and from the suburbs of Buffalo. Faculty and students from Cattaraugus-Little Valley and Ellicottville Central Schools also participated. This year, volunteers focused on the Quaker area and worked on the installation and refurbishment of gardens at Cain Hollow Toll Booth and the Quaker Museum, picnic table assembly, fire pit clean-out, marking and benching of Black Snake Hiking Trail, work on Mt. Tuscorora and a snowmobile trail, and litter pick-up.

Single-Track Mountain Biking Trail: The Western New York Mountain Bike Association (WNYMBA) group had 22 people on hand over two days in September to build a new single-track off of Ridge Run Trail, located in the Art Roscoe Ski and Mountain Bike Area. The group put a total of 143 working hours over the weekend. The trail is almost complete with only about a half mile to build to open it next year. The club is planning another weekend in the spring to finish the project so it will be available for spring races and the annual Raccoon Rally.

Park Capital Improvements: Upgrades and improvements funded through Governor Cuomo's NY Works initiative were completed in the Red House and Cain Hollow Campgrounds, including a new shower building, all new electric, and paving of sites and all main campground roads. A ribbon cutting was held for the

opening of the newly refurbished Group Camp 5 located in the Quaker Area, which enjoyed bustling business this past camping season, and the new carousel building at Midway, which thrilled all visitors to the park.

Midway State Park

Carousel Horses: The refurbishing of the Herschel carousel horses at Midway State Park has been a wonderful cooperative effort between the Friends of Midway State Park (FOMSP), Midway State Park and Allegany Region Capital Facilities. The first step of the process was for NYS Parks to have the horses sandblasted, primed, painted and clear-coated. FOMSP took the next step and raised \$29,000 in less than thirty days by collecting individual sponsorships for the thirty horses over the summer. The final step is the actual decorative painting of the horses, which is occurring this fall.

Chautauqua Choo Choo: The refurbishment of the Chautauqua Choo Choo has been a multi-year joint effort between Midway State Park and Friends of Midway State Park. Over the last two years both of the passenger cars have been restored and this year, the train got a new engine and the engine car was restored. In July 2013, the fully restored train rounded the tracks at Midway State Park filled with families making memories once again.

Central Region

FORCES Program Expanding: FORCES (Friends of Recreation, Conservation and Environmental Stewardship) got a significant boost this year. The program was awarded funding from the Alliance for New York State Parks and the Natural Heritage Trust to support an expan-



OPRHP staff and FORCES students, faculty and friends from Hartwick College removed invasive Japanese barberry from Robert V. Riddell State Park on National Public Lands Day 2013

sion to at least ten more collegiate institutions throughout the Central and Finger Lakes Regions over the next three years. A regional FORCES Program Coordinator was hired, with plans to bring on additional support staff as more colleges and universities come online. FORCES at SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry (ESF) continues to grow, with the formation of an official student FORCES last April. Since 2008, over 600 students have contributed to natural resource stewardship and park improvement projects throughout Central New York. In addition, FORCES student ambassadors and clubs have been initiated at Wells College and Hartwick College with more schools to come, including SUNY Cortland, Syracuse University, Cornell University and Hobart & William Smith Colleges.

Herkimer Home State Historic Site: Herkimer Home State Historic Site has teamed up with Wellin Museum of Art at Hamilton College to offer a new educational opportunity to students.



Herkimer Home State Historic Site

The project was inspired by the opening of the new exhibit by Los Angeles-based artist Frohawk Two Feathers called *You Can Fall: The War of the Mourning Arrows* (An Introduction to the Americas and a Requiem for Willem Ferdinand) at the Wellin Museum of Art. The exhibit portrays events that took place between 1787 and 1789, and was created around Two Feathers' retelling of history through the eyes of marginalized people. High school students are now taking on a similar task of visual literacy, and are creating narratives with an accompanying portrait of an artifact inspired by real-life. Students visited both the Two Feathers exhibit and the Herkimer Home for ideas. While touring the site, students focused specifically on the General's role in the Battle of Oriskany to find a unique perspective to draw from for their artistic process. The students' final projects will be displayed during a reception at the Wellin Museum.

Chenango Valley State Park: The Central Region's Capital Facility Construction Crew has undertaken a complete renovation of the park's Old Administration Building near the beach. This CCC-era structure, one of the park's original buildings, severely deteriorated over many decades and was in jeopardy. Beginning last winter, regional employees, park staff and local contrac-

tors began repairs and renovations that will ultimately restore this signature building to its original grandeur. Working with the State Historic Preservation Office, Central Region engineers, architects and landscape architects developed a rehabilitation plan and began methodically repairing and restoring one section of the building at a time. When complete, the building will have meeting space, restrooms and a great hall available for public rental with accessible restrooms attached to the building. The project is supported with funding from the Environmental Protection Fund.

Verona Beach State Park: In September, construction began on a new bathhouse, concession stand, lifeguard/first aid station and an adjacent enclosed picnic pavilion. Along with the bathhouse and pavilion, there will be three small shelters where families can gather for picnics. These new facilities replace a deteriorated 1950's structure and will provide accessible amenities along the beach that are visually appealing and will improve the visitors' enjoyment of the Oneida Lake waterfront. In addition to the structures, the parking areas are being replaced with Central Region's second green parking lot. Rehabilitation of the heavily-degraded lot will improve accessibility to the park's beach, bathhouse, and day use areas, as well as reduce direct runoff to the lake, improving lake water quality. Total construction cost for these projects is \$4.3 million made available through Governor Cuomo's NY Works program. The new facilities will be open for Memorial Day 2014.

Finger Lakes Region

Seneca Arts and Culture Center at Ganondagan State Historic Site: The groundbreaking for the Seneca Art and Culture Center at Ganondagan State Historic Site in September was one of the Finger Lakes region's most anticipated events of the year. Representatives from the Friends of Ganondagan, the Seneca Nation, local dignitaries, the Finger



Seneca Arts and Culture Center Groundbreaking

Lakes Regional Commission and Commissioner Harvey gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony hosted by Ganondagan Site Manager Peter Jemison. The 17,300 square-foot center is scheduled to open in 2015 as a full-time educational, cultural and tourist destination

for visitors from around the world. The project is made possible by \$3.9 million from Governor Cuomo's economic development initiatives and contributions from the Seneca Nation, and corporate, foundation, and private funds raised by the Friends of Ganondagan.

Taughannock Falls State Park: In August, Taughannock Falls State Park partnered with the Ithaca Motion Picture Project (IMPP) to show the 1916 silent film comedy *The Lottery Man* to an audience of over 400 park patrons. Held on a perfect summer night, the film was screened with a full complement of stars overhead and was accompanied by live music performed by the Cloud Chamber Orchestra. This was the third annual *Movie Under the Stars*, and while the event was entertaining, it also highlighted the region's storied history of silent film production and helped IMPP promote their vision of restoring part of the historic Wharton Bros. film studio that is still located at the southern end of Cayuga Lake.

Robert H. Treman State Park: The Friends of Robert H. Treman State Park have purchased and donated a tablet computer to the Finger Lakes Region's Environmental Education Department. The tablet, now loaded with archival images of the former hamlet of Enfield Falls and the old mill at the Upper Park, also features video of flooding that occurred in the park in 1935, 1970 and yet again last year. The Friends of RHT have also allowed the environmental educator to use the tablet for programs at all of the parks in the region. This type of rich media experience has made presentations much more engaging for patrons and is a great example of how a small act by a friends group can have a profound effect on all park visitors throughout the Finger Lakes.

Catharine Valley Trail: Construction on the final section of the Catharine Valley Trail (CVT) is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2014. The final leg of the CVT is located in the Town of Veteran, Chemung County, and will make the connection to Mark Twain State Park and Elmira College's Athletic Center in addition to connecting the communities of Millport and Pine Valley. In anticipation of the trail's completion, the Friends of the Catharine Valley Trail are working with State Parks and Elmira College to create a birding trail in Mark Twain State Park and expand the trail opportunities associated with the CVT. The birding trail will take hikers through a variety of habitats along the east edge of the Horseheads Marsh.

Genesee Region

Letchworth State Park Nature Center: The Letchworth Nature Center, a project of the Genesee Regional Commission and State Parks made significant progress this year. Renderings, a floor plan and schematic design are all being prepared for a final design to be completed

by summer of 2014. A partnership with SUNY Genesee, The Friends of Letchworth, the Alliance for New York State Parks and the Open Space Institute (OSI) has been formed to assist with promotions, fundraising, operations and environmental education. A fundraising video was produced to help spread the word about the project. A Consolidated Funding Application was submitted by OSI for design consultant work and the project was endorsed by the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council which designated it as a "Regionally Significant Project" in its Strategic Plan/Progress Report. Initial donations were secured, and fundraising events were held in Buffalo, Rochester and at Silver Lake. Groundbreaking is planned for fall of 2014 with a target opening date of fall 2015.



Rendering of Letchworth State Park Nature Center

by summer of 2014. A partnership with SUNY Genesee, The Friends of Letchworth, the Alliance for New York State Parks and the Open Space Institute (OSI) has been formed to assist with promotions, fundraising, operations and environmental education. A fundraising video was produced to help spread the word about the project. A Consolidated Funding Application was submitted by OSI for design consultant work and the project was endorsed by the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council which designated it as a "Regionally Significant Project" in its Strategic Plan/Progress Report. Initial donations were secured, and fundraising events were held in Buffalo, Rochester and at Silver Lake. Groundbreaking is planned for fall of 2014 with a target opening date of fall 2015.

I Love My Park Day: The 2nd annual I Love My Park Day was a great success across the region with numerous projects at Letchworth, Hamlin Beach and the Genesee Valley Greenway including clean-up, landscaping and removal of invasive species. It was a particularly special day at Letchworth as Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy joined volunteers for several hours, touring the work sites and pitching in to help. Later in the day the park hosted ceremonial events to re-dedicate the Clan Trail to the Council Grounds with the unveiling of the new interpretive signs provided by the Friends of Letchworth and celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the William Pryor Letchworth Museum with a special proclamation from Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Park Capital Improvement Projects: A major project funded by Governor Cuomo's NY Works initiative was completed in Hamlin Beach State Park to upgrade the campground electric system, install new camper pads, and repave the loop roads. At Letchworth, a new comfort station/wash house was completed for Cabin Area D & E renters and construction is underway on the park's waterline project to connect to the Village of Cas-

tile's municipal water supply and to upgrade the system inside the park. Work is moving ahead on upgrading the electrical system and replacing some of the comfort station/wash houses in Letchworth's Highbanks Campground for the 2014 season.

Genesee Valley Greenway: Now that the Genesee Valley Greenway is fully under the auspices of State Parks, efforts are underway to enhance the development and operation of this 90-mile multi-use recreational trail. A management planning process has begun and three public meetings were held in June in Allegany, Livingston and Monroe Counties to gather public input. Input and review of the plan is also being provided by the Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway who partner with State Parks in the promotion, operation and maintenance of the Greenway.

Long Island Region

Major Golf Tournaments Announced for Bethpage State Park: Governor Andrew Cuomo and The PGA of America announced that the world-renowned



Black Course at Bethpage State Park

Black Course at Bethpage State Park will host the 101st PGA Championship in 2019 and the 45th Ryder Cup in 2024. As two of golf's most important tournaments, the PGA Championship

and Ryder Cup attract hundreds of thousands of spectators from around the world and provide a significant economic boost to the communities that host them.

Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park – Sensory Garden: The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Planting Fields Foundation have partnered to design and install a Sensory Garden at Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park. This new, innovative project allows visitors of all abilities to enjoy the wonders of the outdoor world and enjoy an exciting outdoor space to explore and discover. Through the use of water movement, textures, colors, surfaces, wildlife and natural materials, all of the senses will be stimulated in harmony with nature. Funding for this \$1.6 million project has come from the NY Works initiative and private fundraising led by the Planting Fields Foundation, which has raised nearly \$700,000.

Long Island State Parks Continue to Host Major Events: Despite the impact of Super Storm Sandy on Long Island's state parks, the region continued to support the New York State film industry and hosted major charitable events this year. This year's major film productions included a new "Ninja Turtles" movie filmed at Jones Beach State Park; the television program "The Following" filmed at Robert Moses; and the movie "Winter's Tale" filmed at Caumsett and Hempstead Lake State Parks. Various Long Island State Parks hosted other film segments including "4 Square", "Person of Interest", "Iron Man RC", "Royal Pains", "Boardwalk Empire", "Beware the Night", and "The Affair". Major charitable walks attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors and produced millions of dollars in donations for various charities. Among the best attended was the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Jones Beach which saw 60,000 walkers and raised over three million dollars. Other noteworthy organizations that used Long Island state parks included the American Diabetes Association, Pancreatic Cancer Walk, Autism Walk, and March of Dimes.

Former Kings Park Psychiatric Center

Demolition: Phase 1 demolition at the former Kings Park Psychiatric Center within Nissequogue River State Park has been completed. This work included the demolition of 19 structures, 15 of which were buildings. One of the highlights of the demolition project was the implosion of the smoke stack which was viewed by approximately 3000 people and garnered significant media coverage. The cost of this Phase was \$6 million. The planning of Phase 2 is currently underway.

Jones Beach State Park – West Bathhouse

Restoration: The West Bathhouse underwent extensive restoration during 2013. This project was funded through the NY Works program. The work completed prior to the operating season included a new patio deck around the pool, new filtration system for the main pool and kiddie pool. The exterior restoration of the bathhouse is still ongoing and is expected to be completed by spring of 2014. Total cost for these projects was \$9.5 million.

New York City Region

Roberto Clemente State Park: The first New York State park built within the five boroughs of New York City, Roberto Clemente celebrated its 40th Anniversary in August. For this milestone, the Commissioner and the NYC Regional Commission were joined many federal, state and Bronx elected officials at a ceremony that highlighted the park's history, recognized the service of the staff, cut the ribbon of the new playground, and kicked off the reconstruction of the baseball field. Another highlight of the

summer was the unveiling of a statue of Roberto Clemente that was donated by Goya Foods. In addition to the executives from this company, the Borough President assisted in the dedication of the sculpture that was the first sculpture of a Puerto Rican in New York City.

East River State Park: As the popular Williamsburg neighborhood increases in population, this park's visitation has also grown. This year the Smorgasburg and Brooklyn Flea, events that for the past 2 years had been located on an adjacent lot, moved onto the south slab of the park as part of a pilot agreement with the Natural Heritage Trust. With the terrific Manhattan views and East River Ferry stop nearby, these weekend events attracted patrons from the region and tourists from around the country and the world. The agreement also funded a children's movie series. The Friend's group had a successful I Love My Park Day, planting a lovely flower garden with design help from Linden Miller.

Gantry Plaza State Park: Once again State Parks partnered with Queens College to produce 'Live at the Gantries' for six Tuesday evenings with support from NYC City Councilman Van Brammer, TF Cornerstone Developers and other donations. Verizon, TF Cornerstone and the Natural Heritage Trust sponsored movies on the lawn in August. The newly completed northern section of the State Park was opened in late summer as most of the residential development is completed in the Queens West Development.

Clay Pit Ponds Preserve State Park: The statewide Invasive Species Strike team spent 5 days on site during the hottest week this summer assisting staff in managing the vegetation in this park. Students from a local school continue to work with Cornell Extension Service on organic farming at the Gericke Farm.

Riverbank State Park: On May 18th, there was a grand celebration of this state park's 20th anniversary attended by former Governor Mario Cuomo, his wife Matilda, Governor Andrew Cuomo, elected officials,

community advocates, Commissioner Harvey, State Council of Parks Chair Lucy Waletzky, NYC Regional Chair Janet Felleman, and past and

present patrons. Staff members who have served twenty years were recognized and the event opened with a band



Riverbank State Park

leading a parade of all of the youth groups that call Riverbank home. Also this summer, murals were created by summer youth program participants. Groundswell organized the youth to create a mural for the spray pad area with artists retained by the Natural Heritage Trust and NYC Department of Environmental Conservation. Introduced to State Parks by the Harlem CDC, Creative Arts Workshop used community history and interaction with the patrons to create murals that are now hung in the Aquatics, Athletic and Cultural facilities within the park.

Niagara Frontier Region

Niagara Falls State Park Revitalization:

Ribbons were cut at Niagara Falls State Park on the first phase of a \$25 million revitalization of the nation's oldest state park. The revitalization, funded through Governor Cuomo's NY Works initiative, is restoring the most heavily used area of NFSP, including its primary viewing points, walking trails, historic buildings and landscaping. Niagara Regional Commission members were joined by members of the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council, elected officials and other friends of the Park as Luna Island, Three Sisters Islands, Cave of the Winds and Prospect Point showed off their new look.

Yurt Camping: Four Mile Creek State Park is the home of the first yurts in the New York State Park system. Available for rent, this alternative to cabins and tents provides a unique place to stay. Plans include adding yurts to Evangola State Park and Golden Hill State Park in the spring.



Yurts Camping

Knox Farm State

Park: Knox Farm State Park and the Friends of Knox Farm opened a very popular dog park at the park. Always a popular location with dog walkers, pups can now run free and enjoy visiting with other dogs. Knox Farm was also the location of the 2013 Junior League Decorators' Show House, which raised awareness and funds for the Friends of Knox Farm State Park. Show House organizers said it was one of the most successful houses in project history.

Palisades Region

Washington's Headquarters Tower of Victory

Victory: The Palisades Park Commission and The Palisades Parks Conservancy are raising funds for the restoration of the Tower of Victory located at Washington's



Washington's Headquarters Tower of Victory

Headquarters in Newburgh, New York. The Tower of Victory is the nation's only monument commemorating the peace that came at the end of the Revolutionary War. Commissioned in 1883

by Robert Todd Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's son and then Secretary of War, the dedication marked the 100th Anniversary of the peace treaty. The Tower was completed on December 31, 1887 where it has stood sentinel over the Hudson River. To date the Conservancy has raised more than a half a million dollars in grants and donations toward the restoration goal of \$1.5 million.

Minnewaska State Park Preserve Carriage Road Restoration Project

The Palisades Park Commission in conjunction with The Alliance for New York State Parks and The Palisades Parks Conservancy have been working to restore the Minnewaska State Park Preserve carriage roads. The historic carriage road network was designed by the Smiley family more than a hundred years ago. It is in need of restoration in order to continue to offer the 250,000 annual visitors to Minnewaska State Park Preserve an opportunity to enjoy the peaceful, natural environment and spectacular views. A complete restoration of Hamilton Carriage Road began in July 2013. The fundraising campaign by the Alliance for New York State Parks has provided a half million dollars to the Hamilton Carriage Road restoration project. This project is part of the larger campaign to rebuild the historic Smiley family's 83 mile network of hand-built broken stone carriage roads in New York State's Shawangunk Mountains.

NY/NJ Trail Conference Trail Maintenance Capacity Building Project for Sterling Forest

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference (NYNJTC) maintains approximately 485 miles of state park trails with a base of approximately 1000 volunteers and has been working in partnership with OPRHP for 90 years. Building off the success of the Appalachian Trail restoration project at Bear Mountain, State Parks has contracted with NYNJTC, using the Bear Mountain Trail

University Model (recruiting and training volunteers), for trail maintenance as part of the implementation of the adopted Sterling Forest trails plan and repair of trail damage caused by storms Irene and Lee. NYNJTC is also implementing a GPS/Assessment training program for volunteers. These efforts serve to provide support for volunteer efforts and offer a low cost means of trail maintenance and development in the region that are crucial to maintaining our trail network.

Saratoga-Capital District Region

John Boyd Thacher State Park: This majestic park in southern Albany County kicks off a year of special projects to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the park along the Helderberg Escarpment. Views from the spectacular trail along the edge of the cliffs are being re-opened, picnic areas rejuvenated, new recreational opportunities will be offered and new park destinations developed. The Friends of Thacher and the Saratoga-Capital District Regional Parks Commission are assisting with the development of a new Visitor Center to welcome one and all to this four-season outdoor playground for the Capital District.

Max V. Shaul State Park: 2013 was an exciting year of expanding programming and visitor amenities at Max V.

Shaul State Park which resulted in an increase in park attendance of 34 percent over last year. Open mic nights were held every Friday night



Max V. Shaul State Park

over the summer on a covered stage open to musicians, singers, bands, and on one occasion a ukulele player and a comedian. The Toe Path Mountain Jamboree was a day-long music festival in August, with the featured act being Frank Palangi, a talented young musician from Queensbury. The Camper Incentive Program was a collaborative effort between the park and local businesses to attract campers to the campground, and to attract those campers to the local businesses. The park partnered with The Old Stone Fort, Howes Caverns, Hubies Pizzeria, The Catskill Mt. BBQ Team, and the Iroquois Indian Museum, and each business offered a discount to their establishment for Max V. Shaul State Park campers. The park plans to make all of their programs bigger and better in 2014.

Grant Cottage State Historic Site: Bolstered by a record number of visitors in 2013, the Friends of Grant Cottage partnered with members of the Regional Parks Commission to fund the development of new



Grant Cottage State Historic Site

and expanded interpretive materials for the Visitor Center. The Cottage, located high atop Mt McGregor in Saratoga County, was the final home of our

18th president as he was fighting a race against time to complete his memoirs in his final months during the summer of 1883. The Friends of Grant Cottage, who have partnered with State Parks to take on daily operations of this unique historic attraction, also contributed this year to historically accurate interior renovations.

John Brown Farm State Historic Site: Thanks to the dedicated work of John Brown Lives, our partner for programming, the annual program at John Brown Farm broke all attendance records this spring. The event is designed to link John Brown's legacy to today's issues of human rights around the world and at home. The multi-media event featured dance performances and a choir of local residents premiering an original composition by conductor Glenn McClure. Poetry and stories rounded out the event at John Brown's farmstead in the historic African American community of Timbuctoo, now North Elba near Lake Placid.

Johnson Hall State Historic Site: This Baronial mansion, built by Sir William Johnson in 1763, celebrated its 250th anniversary this year. A series of lectures and special events sponsored by the Friends of Johnson Hall focused on archeology, building styles and interior design that influenced Johnson Hall's original construction and ongoing restoration. A recent purchase of painted Naskapi mittens by the Friends will continue the effort to reproduce Sir William's cabinet of native curiosities. The Friends have also contributed reproduction hand blocked wallpaper to the ongoing restoration of Sir William Johnson's bedchamber and are currently fundraising to purchase custom woven bed hangings and window treatments to complete the room.

Taconic Region

John Jay Homestead State Historic Site: The Friends of John Jay Homestead, combined with grants from the federal and state government, raised the money needed to restore the Carriage Barn structure, marking completion of the first step in expanding the educational programming at the Carriage Barn.

John Jay's 1801 Carriage Barn is now a state-of-the-art education and visitor center. The revamped facility includes a main exhibit gallery with a welcome desk and gift shop, a map-model of the property, computer kiosks with exhibit content, a video watching area, and period news magazines featuring articles relevant to John Jay's life.

Walkway Over The Hudson State Historic Park:

Trail Connections Made

The Walkway Over the Hudson connected with the Dutchess County Rail Trail this October thanks to work from Dutchess County, Walkway Over the Hudson and State Parks. With the final connections made, the Dutchess Rail Trail stretches 18 miles from the Hopewell Junction, over the Walkway Over the Hudson and to Ulster County's Hudson Valley Rail Trail. Dutchess County invested a great deal to bring this to fruition. An inaugural bike ride from the new RT 55 bridge to the Walkway was led by rail trail pioneer Fred Schaeffer on October 11th to celebrate and commemorate the momentous occasion.

Mobile Web Tour

In partnership with Marist College, State Parks and IBM, the Walkway Over the Hudson has developed a Mobile Web Tour. This is a new multimedia, multilingual tool, which visitors can access via their mobile devices and QR (quick response) codes on informational signs posted along the Walkway.



Mobile Web Tour Launch Group

The product of two years of development, the Mobile Web Tour connects visitors with engaging content to enrich their understanding of the Walkway and its history while enriching their overall experience in the Hudson River Valley by connecting them to nearby walking/hiking trails, dining and lodging options, and other local, state, and federal parks, as well as cultural and other tourist attractions. The Mobile Web tour is designed to be easily accessible to a broad population of visitors (launching with English and Spanish, Mandarin to be added in 2014).

Clarence Fahnestock State Park: Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park's Canopus Lake visitor and recreation area is undergoing a major overhaul. The project is funded through a public-private partnership led by State Parks, Open Space Institute's Alliance for New York State Parks program, the Taconic Regional Parks Commission and the Friends of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks. To date, \$825,000 in public and private funding has been identified and raised toward a \$1.2 million goal that will help improve and update run-down public facilities at



Clarence Fahnestock State Park

the park's swimming beach and Winter Park area, including the café space, ski and snowshoe rental area and restrooms. Of the \$825,000, half has been raised through private donations, while the remaining \$400,000 was secured through a New York State Environmental Protection Fund grant awarded through Governor Cuomo's Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council.

Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site: Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site partnered with Groundwork Hudson Valley this year to build a new community garden at the site. Groundwork HV's Green Team youth tended the gardens. This community garden furthers a joint mission of Groundwork HV and Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, with help from the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall, to improve the city of Yonkers.

Olana State Historic Site: The Olana Partnership and State Parks are working together to restore Olana's landscape. This year, Crown Hill and Olana's farm were targeted for restoration. This project began to return the farm to the historical land-use patterns during Church's time and set the stage for future farm restoration projects. The first phase included a series of carefully considered improvements: selective thinning of hedgerows and invasive plants that have taken over former pasture; establishment of low native meadow grasses in the historic orchard; restoration of pastures; revealing, through the clearing of vegetation, the existing ruins of the property's original 18th century farmhouse, the farm shed, the ice house, and the stone walls along portions of the east and north property lines; drainage adjustments, and the restoration of the Crown Hill Carriage Road, one of the carriage roads created by Frederic Church which provides singular views over Olana's farm. Environmental Protection Fund, The Olana Partnership, Natural Heritage Trust and OPRHP funds made the work at Crown Hill possible.

Thousand Islands Region

Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site:

1813 was a pivotal year during the War of 1812 and one that helped solidify a young republic struggling to maintain its independence from Great Britain. Battles fought at Sackets Harbor helped shape the war's outcome. Two



Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site

hundred years later, in 2013, Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site commemorated important events of the war during bicentennial celebrations that brought hundreds of re-enactors and thousands of visitors to the battlefield and historic village. Two ceremonies were highlights of the busy bicentennial year: the first commemorated the centennial of the 1913 placement of the historic monument in the Site's memorial tree grove and the second, sponsored by the Site's friends group, the Battlefield Alliance, placed a monument to Crown Forces believed buried on the battlegrounds.

Rock Island Lighthouse State Park : June 4th marked the grand re-opening of Rock Island Lighthouse following a 3-year, \$1.5 million restoration. Recognized as the most intact lighthouse station in the St. Lawrence Seaway open to the public, Rock Island hosted, in its inaugural year, over 12,000 visitors who arrived by private watercraft and tour boats. The refurbished lighthouse affords breathtaking panoramic views from its lantern room 40 feet above the majestic St. Lawrence River. The island's Keepers' House contains a self-guided museum detailing the history of the island and the development of the St. Lawrence Seaway. New floating docks and the accessible public restrooms, a rare and welcomed accommodation to boaters, complete the renovations. This significant restoration project, bringing a major new tourist attraction to the 1000 Islands, received a 2013 New York State Historic Preservation Award.

Keewaydin State Park : New York Works funding is bringing a much-needed and exciting upgrade to the very popular marina at Keewaydin State Park in the heart of the 1000 Islands. The marina's deteriorated shower building will be replaced with an energy efficient, accessible, modern facility. The addition of a second floor, three-season pavilion will expand gathering opportunities for the park's boaters and campers and is designed to take in the unobstructed views of the St. Lawrence Seaway shipping channel that borders the park. Construction on this \$1.4 million NYWorks project began in October 2013 and will be completed for the busy 2014 boating season.

NYS Parks Division of Law Enforcement



2013 Academy Graduation

New York State Park Police

2013 was a year of dramatic, life-saving rescues across the state by members of the Division of Law Enforcement.

Life-Saving Rescues

Robert Moses State Park, Long Island

Recent academy graduate, Park Police Officer Nathan Sibenik and his Field Training Officer Park Police Officer

unconscious girl, located her and brought her back to shore. Both rescuers were exhausted by their efforts and had to be assisted themselves. Park EMTs, local EMS personnel and a Suffolk County Police helicopter were all instrumental in treating and transporting the victim to the hospital. The victim recovered and told her family, "I felt like I was going to die...it was just black." Officers Sibenik and Bottega have been nominated for lifesaving awards.



Robert Moses State Park, LI

Jessica Bottega were alerted about swimmers in distress in the Atlantic Ocean at Robert Moses State Park on Long Island and were quickly on scene. A group of young people swimming at the closed beachfront were unable to make their way back to shore. The officers assisted the swimmers closest to shore and observed a 17-year-old girl in rough surf and going under the water. Officer Sibenik and an off duty lifeguard swam to the



Liberty Award, Robert Moses State Park, TI

Robert Moses State Park, Thousand Islands

Within days of the ocean rescue, Park Police Officers John Friot and Dustin Lottie were on patrol at our northern Robert Moses State Park, located in St. Lawrence County. They were dispatched to assist a vessel operator who was reportedly having a mechanical problem in the St. Lawrence River. The officers located the vessel and were told by the operator that he was

alright and that he was heading back to the marina. The officers elected to follow him back to the marina and observed the boat being operated in an erratic manner, navigating into rocky waters and toward a very large dam. The officers observed the elderly operator slumped over the wheel and positioned the Park Police vessel alongside the stricken vessel. Officer John Friot jumped from the Park Police vessel onto the other boat. Officer Friot was able to take control of the vessel, steer it away from the dam and bring it back to the marina. The vessel operator was brought to the hospital for treatment. For their actions in rescuing the vessel operator, Officers Friot and Lottie received the Liberty Award from State Senator Pat Ritchie.

Niagara Falls State Park

On the far western edge of the state at Niagara Falls, Dispatcher Stephanie Price was monitoring a video feed of the approach to the brink of the American Falls. She observed a man enter the closed area and approach the brink of the falls. Sergeant Thomas Franz and Park Police Officers Jesse Mack and John Perry immediately responded to the area and located the subject. He physically resisted and the officers had to subdue him to prevent him from jumping. Great observation and teamwork led to a great rescue.

Noteworthy Incidents

- In the Hudson Valley, park police officers and park forest rangers engaged in a lengthy search and rescue operation to locate two subjects who were reported to be very ill from drug abuse while deep within Harriman State Park. The officers and rangers located the victims and transported them out to medical assistance.
- Two officers were injured when their Park Police SUV was struck from behind by a drunk driver. The officers were on patrol at Jones Beach State Park when their vehicle was struck and overturned. The DWI operator was arrested.
- Division of Law Enforcement personnel from several commands participated in two manhunts for suspects in homicides. A large scale search was conducted in Harriman State Park for a 71 year old who murdered his daughter-in-law and fled into the park.
- A second manhunt was conducted at Hudson Highlands State Park for a suspect who had shot two

persons (one fatally) on Long Island. The search ended when Park Police marine patrol officers recovered the body of the suspect from the Hudson River, after he took his own life.

Special Events

Multiple large scale investigations were conducted throughout the state involving personnel from every Park Police command. A very robust concert schedule at our three major concert venues and numerous large special events kept Division of Law Enforcement staff busy throughout the year.

Academy Graduation

On May 10, 2013 the Division of Law Enforcement celebrated the graduation of its first class of police recruits since 2008. Thirty five graduates and their families and friends joined Commissioner Rose Harvey at the Park Police Academy for the graduation ceremonies. The new graduates were assigned to Park Police commands throughout the state and continued their training by participating in a ten week field training program. A new class of police recruits will graduate in May, 2014.



In June 2013, the Academy graduated a class of new State Park Forest Rangers. The class was conducted on the SUNY Farmingdale campus and provided peace officer and ranger training to the new rangers. The Park Forest Rangers were assigned to downstate commands and served throughout the peak operating season to supplement our Park Police and permanent ranger force. And, the Academy hosted a training school for newly appointed Public Safety Rangers. The Public Safety Rangers were assigned throughout the state.

Division for Historic Preservation



Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park

Notable Listings

New York has consistently led the nation in the number of nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. Through the years the program has evolved to include a great diversity of places associated with every aspect of history and culture and it continues to challenge conventional approaches to recognizing and preserving important places—here are a few highlights.

New York State is proud to have the first site in the country listed on the registers for its association with the gay and lesbian civil rights movement. Nominated in 1999, Stonewall in New York City is regarded by many as the most important catalyst for this movement. In 2013 we nominated the Cherry Grove Community House and Theater on Fire Island—the third gay and lesbian site in the country to be listed. The property is significant in social history for its prominent role in shaping what evolved into a community known as “America’s First Gay and Lesbian Town.”

The Space Shuttle (or Orbiter) Enterprise was recently listed for its exceptional significance in the development of the U.S. Space Shuttle Program (1969-2011). Built for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and completed in the mid-1970s, the Enterprise was the first and only full-scale prototype of the orbiter fleet. The Enterprise played an important role in advancing the nation’s ability to explore outer space and is now displayed at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York City.

Walkway Site System Gateway Signs

Four new heritage tourism promotion signs have been installed along the bridge at Walkway Over The Hudson State Historic Park. The signs promote the state historic sites located in the Hudson Valley and group them by theme, including Revolutionary War sites and grand mansions and estates. In cooperation with the agency’s Taconic Region, the park, and the Walkway organization, the division created the signs that incorporate bold images and shapes, themed lists of the region’s state historic sites, and QR codes that link to a mobile web tour developed by the Walkway organization and Marist College. The division is currently working to develop a group of

signs for Niagara Falls State Park that promote the state historic sites in western New York.

2013 Historic Preservation Award Honorees

Honoring Excellence in the Protection and Rejuvenation of New York’s Historic and Cultural Resources

- The dedicated local residents, organizations, and officials that recognized and preserved some of Buffalo’s largest and most distinguished residential and commercial historic neighborhoods, including Allentown, Elmwood West, Hamlin Park, University Park, and Black Rock.
- The Destroyer Escort Historical Museum for its outstanding contribution to the restoration and interpretation of the USS SLATER, a CANNON class destroyer escort that was built in 1944 and served the U.S. Navy during World War II. Docked at Albany’s waterfront, the restored SLATER has become one the finest naval ship exhibits in the country.
- The Battery Park City Authority for its exceptional restoration of the vacant and deteriorated City Pier A in lower Manhattan. The pier’s structural system, deck, and building have been fully rehabilitated with the help of the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit program.
- Property owner and developer George Traikos for his outstanding contribution to rejuvenating the Rochester Free Academy building in downtown Rochester for commercial and residential use. With the help of the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit program, the local landmark has been infused with new life.
- Property owner and developer Juan Figueroa for his remarkable commitment to rescuing, restoring, and transforming the former Williamsburgh Savings Bank at 175 Broadway in Brooklyn into a vibrant venue for events, exhibitions, and performances. With the help of the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit program, the Beaux Arts style landmark has been returned to its original grandeur.
- The agency’s Thousand Islands Region for its outstanding commitment and contribution to preserving and interpreting the Rock Island Lighthouse, one of the area’s most prominent landmarks. The revitalized lighthouse complex, which features interpretive exhibits and furnished period rooms.



Environmental Sustainability

Hamlin Beach State Park

The plants, animals and ecosystems within state parks contribute significantly to the state's rich biodiversity. A wide variety of common, rare and significant animals and plants live within the mainly natural 300,000 acres of state parkland. Just this year, NY Natural Heritage Program (NHP) scientists worked with State Parks through a State University of NY Environmental Science and Forestry partnership and completed over 50 surveys in over 30 parks, documenting rare and common species and assessing the status of natural areas. A number of rare species records were updated, several new records were found, and significant local natural communities and features were noted, including Hamlin Beach State Park's stunning beach maple mesic forest. NHP also led 24-hour bioblitzes at Schodack Island and Taconic State Parks during I Love My Park Day 2013 on May 2nd. Fifty scientists participated and nearly 500 species were documented at Taconic State Park, including 85 species of moths, 19 snails, and 14 mammals. At Schodack Island State Park, 273 species were tallied, including 171 plants, 16 fish, 52 bird species – and the discovery of one rare plant.

Continuing the stewardship of these resources, State Parks Environmental staff, along with numerous partners, work to protect, restore and conserve this biodiversity. The agency has developed environmental sustainability goals that support viable native populations, resilient species and populations, ecosystem representation across the state, properly functioning ecological processes, connections between and among habitats and ecosystems, and enjoyable recreational opportunities.

In 2013, many projects in parks supported these goals. Among these projects are: the construction of a bat gate to protect bat species at Thacher State Park; the monitoring and treating of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid; creation of educational aquatic invasive species signage for boat launches statewide; the implementation of green infrastructure at various parks; restoration of habitats for birds and other species; utilization of water quality surveys, aquatic invasive species control, emerald ash borer monitoring and treatment, and deer exclosures to protect rare plant species; and participation in regional and international projects, including contributing new species to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature red list, performing Niagara Escarpment rare species surveys, and contributing to regional invasive species removal projects.

For more information on natural resources stewardship within New York state parks, visit www.nysparks.com/environment.



Timber Rattlesnake



Liatris Scariosa, New England Blazing Star

Natural Resource Stewardship



Biologists at Schodack Island State Park

Audubon in the Parks

Audubon in the Parks is an initiative of Audubon New York and the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), its Regional Commissions, Audubon Chapters and Friends Groups. The goal of the partnership is to advance bird conservation in State Parks, specifically targeting Bird Conservation Areas (BCAs) and Audubon Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Audubon and its partners are currently working in 19 state parks and are actively exploring work at 23 additional sites.



Highlights Projects Initiated in 2013

Saratoga-Capital District Region: The Audubon Society coordinated 60 volunteers on Earth Day to remove invasive Buckthorn from **Thacher State Park** and is currently working to expand the BCA. At **Schodack**, Audubon initiated Cerulean Warbler monitoring and coordinated an invasive removal workday with over 30 volunteers targeting Oriental Bittersweet. At **Moreau Lake State Park** Southern Adirondack Audubon Society constructed and installed five fishing line receptacles (tangle-tainers) at boat launches and fishing areas to reduce threats to wildlife.

Long Island Region: For the Birds!, Audubon New York's statewide environmental education program, brings students to **Jones Beach** and **Hempstead State Parks** to learn about birds in their communities and conduct projects to improve bird habitat locally. As part of "Be a Good Egg", students created and installed signs at Jones Beach that urge beachgoers to be mindful of the endangered piping plovers. Great South Bay Audubon Society co-hosts birding and breakfast events with the Friends of **Connetquot River State Park** and continues to maintain

a bluebird trail at the park. Volunteers from Four Harbors Audubon Society have been working with OPRHP environmental staff to install American Kestrel and Eastern Bluebird boxes, coordinate invasive species removal workdays with students, and plant native plants at **Sunken Meadow** and **Nissequogue River State Parks**.

Taconic Region: Audubon New York staff coordinated a MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) banding station at **Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park** to collect important data for this habitat. The Putnam Highlands Audubon Society also continues to maintain the park's Ann Odell Bird and Butterfly Garden and conducts field trip and bird counts within the park, which contributed to the creation of a bird checklist.

New York City Region: New York City Audubon not only coordinates field trips to **Clay Pit Pond State Park Preserve** to introduce underserved communities to their nearest Important Bird Area and Bird Conservation Area, but they also connected a college ecology class to the site, and partnered with CBS.com to organize a trail maintenance and invasive species removal work day.

Central Region: Onondaga Audubon and Audubon New York are working with **Green Lakes** park staff to implement the grassland management plan, and volunteers are coordinating bird and invasive species surveys, and installing Kestrel nest boxes.

Niagara Region: Audubon New York, OPRHP, and the Buffalo Audubon Society are evaluating and improving avian habitat and interpretation at **Joseph Davis State Park**, to enhance critical bird habitat along the upper Niagara River Corridor, attracting migratory bird populations, and also improving public enjoyment of this important resource.

Appendix #1

Roles & Responsibilities of State Council and Regional Commission Members

Roles and Responsibilities: Members, State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

The State Council, created by Article 5 of PRHPL, consists of the Chairs of the eleven Regional Parks Commissions (including a representative of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission), the Chair of the State Board of Historic Preservation, the Commissioner of State Parks, and the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation. The Governor appoints the Chair and Vice Chair of the State Council. The Council meets at least four times per year through in-person meetings and conference calls. The Council's statutory responsibilities include:

- Act as a central advisory agency on all matters affecting parks, recreation, and historic preservation.
- Review the policy, budget, and statewide plans of the agency and make appropriate recommendations regarding their amendment or adoption.
- Submit reports to the Governor, not less than once each year, concerning progress in the area of state parks, recreation, and historic preservation.

To advance these responsibilities, State Council of Parks members shall:

1. Endeavor to attend all State Council of Parks meetings.
2. During State Council meetings and through other channels, educate other Council Members, the State Parks Commissioner, and other Executive and OPRHP Staff about issues, priorities, challenges, and opportunities within their respective regions.
3. Communicate State Council and agency priorities and initiatives to all Regional Commission members. Encourage, motivate, and support fellow Regional Commissioners to enable them to fully engage in state parks issues.
4. Become educated about statewide parks, recreation, and historic preservation issues.
5. Develop and submit a written annual report to the Governor each October.
6. Undertake all responsibilities of Regional Parks Commissioners (attached).

Roles and Responsibilities: Members, Regional Park, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commission

The ten Regional Park, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commissions, created by Article 7 of PRHPL, represent each State Parks region, with the exception of the Palisades (represented by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission) and the Adirondack/Catskill park region. Each Regional Commission consists of seven to fourteen members (the number for each commission is set in law). All Commission members, who must be residents of the state, are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for seven-year terms. The Governor designates the chair of each Commission. Each Regional Commission meets at least four times per year. The Regional Commissions are charged with acting as a central advisory body on all matters affecting parks, recreation, and historic preservation within their respective regions, with particular focus on the operations of the state parks and historic sites.

To advance these responsibilities, Regional Parks Commissioners shall:

1. Endeavor to attend all Regional Parks Commission meetings.
2. Learn about the operations, priorities, and programs of the region, and participate in the annual review and approval of the regional budget. Remain in regular contact with the Regional Director. Visit as many state parks and historic sites in the region as possible, and become acquainted with regional staff and park managers.
3. Serve as an advocate for the state parks and historic sites within the region, including:
 - “Adopt” one or more state parks, or historic sites, so that every park and site in the region has a Regional Commissioner with whom they have a special relationship. Actively participate in the formation or enhancement of Friends Groups, including considering making personal financial contributions, and assisting in fundraising efforts.
 - Meet with State Legislators and other elected officials to educate them about issues, challenges and opportunities facing state parks and historic sites and advocate for state park funding and policy priorities.
4. Enlist the support of parks user groups, environmental and historic preservation organizations, land trusts, local community and business leaders, tourism officials, and other partners to advance state parks goals and priorities.
5. Become educated about parks, recreation, and historic preservation issues throughout the region, with particular emphasis on issues – such as inappropriate development, sprawl, illegal ATVs, climate change, invasive species, etc. – that threaten state parks and historic sites. Testify or appear as appropriate at environmental review hearings, local planning meetings, etc. regarding proposed projects that impact park and historic site resources.
6. Participate as appropriate in continuing education opportunities such as: attending the annual Facilities Managers conference; participating in park master planning, trailway development, and parkland designation efforts (such as Bird Conservation Areas and Natural Heritage Areas) for individual parks; and attending parks, open space, and historic preservation conferences and training programs.
7. Assist in identifying qualified individuals to fill vacant Regional Commission positions.

Partnerships

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation actively engages in a range of partnerships with for-profit, non-profit and governmental agencies. Below is a sample list of those organizations with which the agency has or has recently had such a partnership.

Corporate Partners

American Park Network
Bethpage Federal Credit Union
Bonacio Construction
Brookfield Power
Cablevision
Cascadian Farms
Citibank
Clear Channel Broadcasting
Clif Bar
Cox Broadcasting
D.A. Collins
Dasani
David Lerner Associates
Dick's Sporting Goods
DirectTV
Dowling College
Drake Bakeries
Dunkin Donuts
Emblem Health
Entenmann's
Farmingdale College
First Niagara Financial Group
Fisheye Virtual Tours
FUZE Beverage
Geico

Good Solutions Group
Hard Rock Café
Long Island Radio Group
Macy's
Naudus Communications
National Grid
Nestle/ Juicy Juice
New Living Magazine
New York Islanders
Newsday
Nissequogue River Fly
Fishing School
Odwalla
Cablevision
Radio Disney
Red Bull
REI
Runner's Edge Sporting Goods
Sony PlayStation
Sports Authority
Stewarts
Street Gear Inc.
Super Runners Shop
The Fisherman Magazine
The Northface
Thompsons Water Seal
TV 10/55
Verizon

WABC-TV
Zippo Manufacturing Co.

Concession Partnerships

Balloons over Letchworth
Bethpage Associates
Delaware North Parks & Resorts
Destination Cinemas Inc.
Golf/ Confer Bethpage Guest Services
J&B Restaurant Partners
Maid of the Mist Corp.
Nikon at Jones Beach Theater/ Live Nation
Professional Golf Inc.
ReserveAmerica/Active Network
Rich Products/Be Our Guest, Ltd.
Tower Optical

Non-Profit Partnerships

Adirondack Mountain Club
Alliance for New York State Parks
Audubon New York
Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Concerned Mountain Bikers of Long Island
Dyson Foundation
Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society
Harriman Group Camps
Home Made Theater
Islip Arts Council
Long Island Philharmonic
Mohonk Preserve
National Museum of Dance
New York Restoration Project
NYS Broadcasters Association
NY/NJ Trail Conference
Parks and Trails New York
Saratoga Automobile Museum
Saratoga Performing Arts Center
Scenic Hudson
The Nature Conservancy
United States Golf Assoc.

Inter-governmental and Municipal Partnerships

Cattaraugus County Economic Development Department
City of Niagara Falls
Empire State Development Corporation

Long Island Power Authority
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police
MTA Long Island Bus
National Park Service
New York Lottery
New York Power Authority
Niagara Tourism and Convention Corporation
Orleans County
Oswego County
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Town of Aurora
Town of Babylon
Town of Brookhaven
Town of East Hampton
Town of Hamburg
Town of Hempstead
Town of Islip
Town of Lewiston
Town of Oyster Bay
Town of Schodack
Town of Sodus
United States Fish & Wildlife Service
Wantagh Fire Department
Washington County

Friends Groups

Allegany State Park Historical Society
Artpark & Company
Bannerman Castle Trust
Bayard Cutting Arboretum Trust and Bayard Cutting Horticultural Society
Calvert Vaux Preservation Alliance
Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum (agency affiliate Old Erie Canal State Park)
Dutchess County Historical Society (Clinton House)
Fort Montgomery Battle Site Association
Foundation for Long Island State Parks, Inc.
Four Freedoms Park Conservancy
Friend of the National Purple Heart of Honor
Friends of Caleb Smith State Park Preserve
Friends of Chenango Valley State Park
Friends of Cherry Plain State Park
Friends of Clay Pit Pond State Park Preserve
Friends of Clermont
Friends of Connetquot State Park, Inc.
Friends of Crown Point State Historic Site
Friends of East River State Park
Friends of Evangola State Park
Friends of Fahnstock & Hudson Highlands State Parks
Friends of Fort Crailo State Historic Site
Friends of Fort Ontario
Friends of FDR/Trump State Parks
Friends of Ganondagan, Inc.
Friends of Gantry Neighborhoods Parks
Friends of Genesee Valley Greenway
Friends of Glimmerglass State Park, Inc.
Friends of Grafton Lakes State Park

Friends of Grant Cottage, Inc.
Friends of Hamlin Beach
Friends of Herkimer Home
Friends of Higley Flow State Park, Inc.
Friends of John Brown Farm/John Brown Lives
Friends of John Jay Homestead
Friends of Johnson Hall
Friends of Knox Farm State Park
Friends of Letchworth State Park
Friends of Lorenzo
Friends of Midway State Park
Friends of Mills Mansion
Friends of Mine Kill /Max V. Shaul
Friends of Minna Anthony Common Nature Center
Friends of Montauk Downs State Park
Friends of Moreau Lake State Park
Friends of Peebles Island
Friends of Philippe Manor Hall, Inc.
Friends of Point au Roche State Park
Friends of Robert H. Treman State Park
Friends of Robert Moses State Park Nature Center, Inc.
Friends of Rockland Lake & Hook Mountain State Parks
Friends of Sampson State Park
Friends of Saratoga Spa State Park
Friends of Schodack Island State Park, Inc.
Friends of Schoharie Crossing
Friends of Schuyler Mansion
Friends of Senate House, Inc.
Friends of Staatsburg State Historic Site
Friends of Stony Point Battlefield & Lighthouse

Friends of Taconic State Park
Friends of Thacher State Park and Thompsons Lake State Parks
Friends of the 30 Mile Point Lighthouse
Friends of the Catharine Valley Trail
Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct
Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Inc.
Friends of the Shawangunks
Friends of the State Historic Sites of the Hudson Highlands
Friends of the Sterling Forest Partnership
Grand Island Historical Society at River Lea (Beaver Island)
Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association & Friends of the Irontdale School House
Hyde Hall
Jones Beach Rescue
Little Stony Point Association
Lloyd Harbor Historical Society
Martin House Restoration Corporation
Nissequogue River State Park Foundation
Old Fort Niagara Association
Palisades Camp Association
Palisades Interstate Parks Conservancy
Planting Fields Foundation
Riverbank Partnership
Sackets Harbor Battlefield Alliance
Sonnenberg Inc.
The Caumsett Foundation
The Council of Parks Friends (Clark Reservation State Park)
The Olana Partnership
Walkway Over the Hudson
Walt Whitman Birthplace Association





**New York State Council of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation**

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