

New York State Council of Parks

587th Meeting
Thursday, June 2, 2022

**Thacher State Park
Visitor's Center**



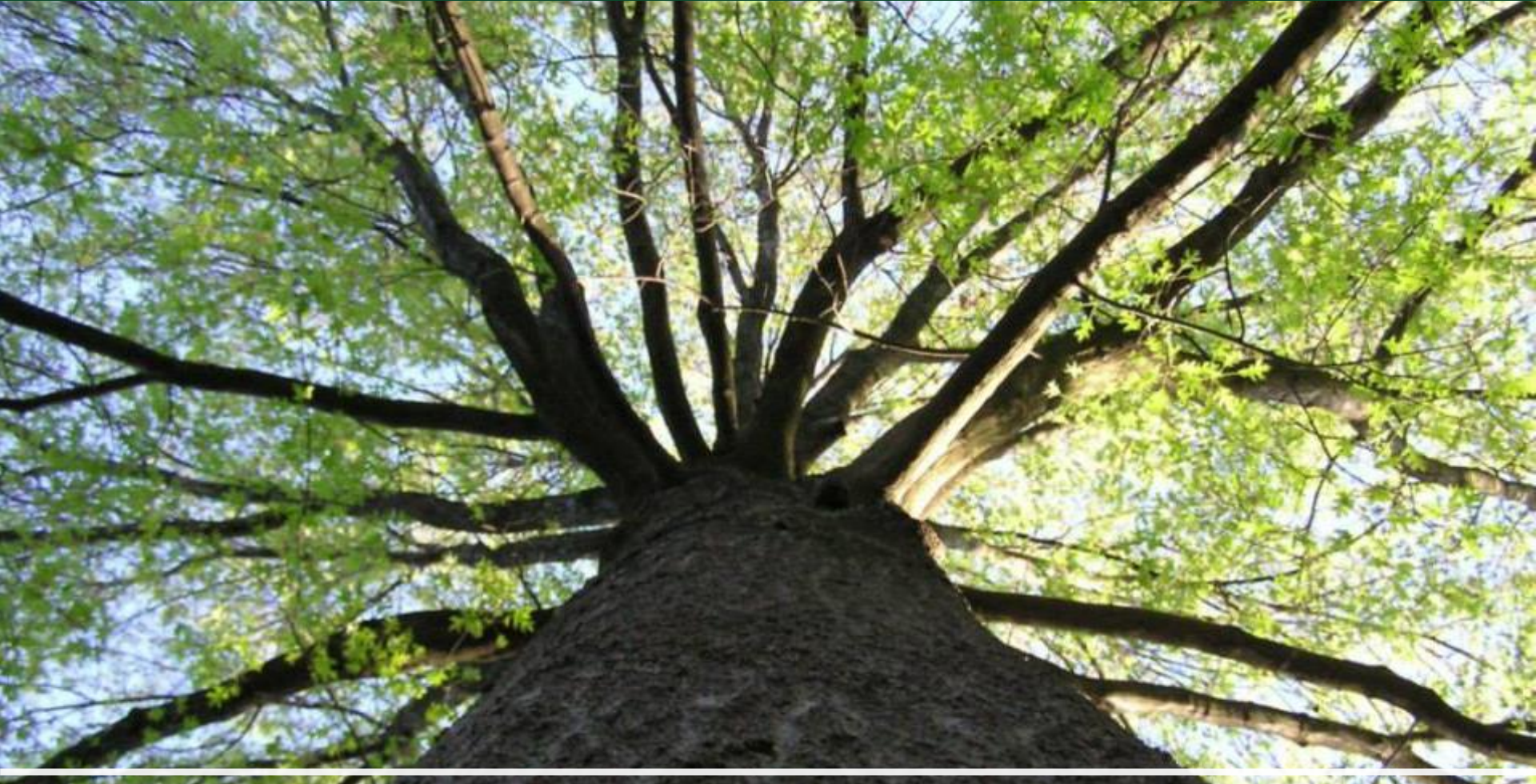
Parks, Recreation
and Historic
Preservation

State Council
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New York State Council of Parks: Chair's Update

Chair's Update

Bryan Erwin



#FightForOurParks

- Status of Regional Commission Appointments
- Enhancing Commission's Connection to Stakeholders:
 - Host a BBQ
 - Invite an official to a SCOP meeting
 - Invite an official to a regional event (e.g., a fair, a ribbon cutting)
 - "Adopt" an official, give a park tour, explain the needs



It is important that we do not miss opportunities to advocate for our parks, we should work on creating these opportunities within our regions.



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New York State Parks: Commissioner's Update

FY 2022 Enacted Budget: Historic Investment in the State Park System

State Parks Capital

- \$250M (\$130M increase)

Agency Operating

- \$123.9M (\$16.6M increase)

Staffing

- Staffing level approved to 2,087 FTEs (106 new positions)
 - Highest level since 2009

Environmental Protection Fund

- \$400M
- Connect Kids, Land Acquisition, Friends Groups, Stewardship

Clean Water, Clean Air Green Jobs Bond Act

\$4.2B

Earned Revenue Spending Flexibility



Major Project Update

- **Sojourner Truth State Park Opens**
 - Former quarry in city of Kingston
 - Partnership with Scenic Hudson
- **Enhanced public access at Hempstead Lake State Park**
 - Tree top viewing overlook
 - ADA boat launches and fishing pier
 - 4.75 miles of new trails
- **11th Annual I Love My Park Day**
 - Over 5,000 volunteers
 - Over 300 projects completed
 - Nearly 170 parks (record)
- **Coxsackie State Boat Launch Opens**
 - \$3.2 million revitalization
 - Part of innovative Hudson Eagles Recreation Area highlight river access



Park Police

- Status Update
- 30x30 Initiative



Memorial Day Weekend Kicks off 2022 Summer Season

- **Bethpage Air Show**
 - Welcomed capacity crowds on Sunday
- **Connect Kids Field Trips Returning**
 - Application numbers soaring
 - 600 received YTD vs. 500 in all of 2021
- **Lifeguard Hiring/Recruitment**
 - Robust effort underway to hire lifeguards—needed across the state
- **Camping Season Underway**
 - 96% occupancy over Memorial Day Weekend
- **Get Outdoors & Get Together Day—June 11th**
 - Joint event with DEC, OPWDD and Veterans Affairs to highlight inclusive and accessible activities public lands

JOIN THE PARKS TEAM!

Lifeguard jobs are available statewide



APPLY TODAY!



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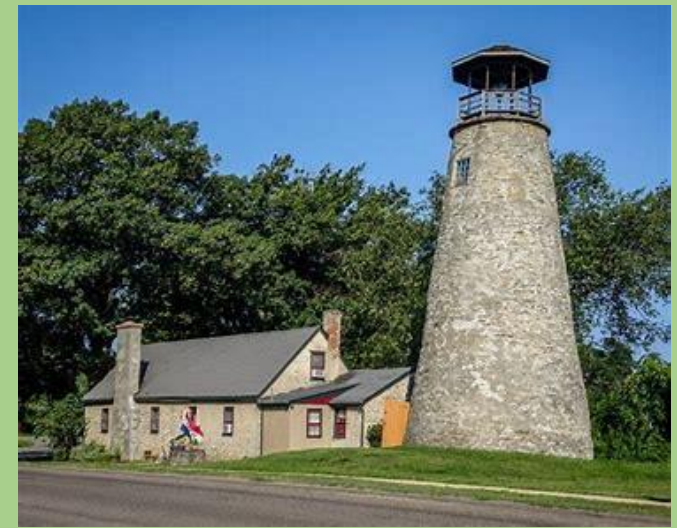


New York State Council of Parks: Regional Commission Updates

Allegany Region

Wendy Brand, Acting Chair

- **May 3rd Commission Meeting**
 - Discussed the NYS Historic Business Preservation Registry event at Cutco
- **Historic Marker Ceremony**
 - Commission members attended a dedication ceremony for two historic markers erected at Midway State Park
- **Fundraising at the Barcelona Lighthouse**
 - The Daughters of the American Revolution are partnering with Parks and NHT to raise funds to renovate the lighthouse to allow for public access
 - The Commission is hopeful that this effort may be a springboard to found a Friends Group for the BLH



Central Region

Neil Murphy, Chair

- Collaboration with the City of Syracuse School District on Lifeguard Training
- Update on the Central Region Ladders Program Funding by the CNY Foundation
- Planning for an Autism Nature Trail in the Central Region
- Success of the Environmental Education Center at the Green Lakes State Park



Finger Lakes Region

David Banfield, Chair

- Finger Lakes Commission has two new potential members
- I Love My Park Day
 - 491 volunteers at 15 parks
- Update on Watkins Glen Sentry Bridge

Friends of Ganondagan ILMPD Video



Genesee Region

Nate Coogan, Acting Chair

- **Park Manager Outreach and Meetings**
 - Three Park Managers- One to go!
 - One Friends Group- Two more this year
- **ILMPD: All regional commissioners participated in I Love My Park Day**
 - Two at Hamlin (Frank and I)
 - One at Letchworth (Martin)
 - Two at the ANT (Loren and Gail)



ANT Take A Visit Video



Long Island Region

Bryan Erwin, Chair

- **Long Island Parks Foundation**
 - Resuming Bethpage Black Course golf outing later this summer-major fundraiser
- **Continuing Education**
 - Officially launched scholarship for Park Staff
- **GreenTree Foundation**
 - Meeting to explore continuing ed for park educators



New York City Region

Leisle Lin, Chair

- **April 26th Commission Meeting**
 - Deep dive into and tell the “story” of DF Riverbank State Park - follow up with brainstorming
- **ILMPD at Four Freedoms State Park**
 - Commission members, Commissioner, PTNY and elected officials attended



Niagara Region

Cindy Letro, Chair



- **Cave of the Winds**
- **Buckhorn State Park**
 - Work is complete on the restoration at Buckhorn State Park with funding from a federal grant
 - This sensitive area of the Niagara River is home to birds, fish and other wildlife
- **Niagara Falls Welcome Center**
 - Work is on schedule and the building is slated to open in May 2023



Palisades Interstate Park Commission

Bryce O'Brien, Vice-President

Jeanette Redden

- **Big Think**

- Sebago Beach
- Bear Mountain
- Silver Mine
- Anthony Wayne
- Reeves Meadow

- **New State Park in Kingston**

- Celebrated opening day of Sojourner Truth State Park

- **Trail Planning**

- Restoration & Connectivity

- **Group Camps**

- New camps



Saratoga-Capital District Region

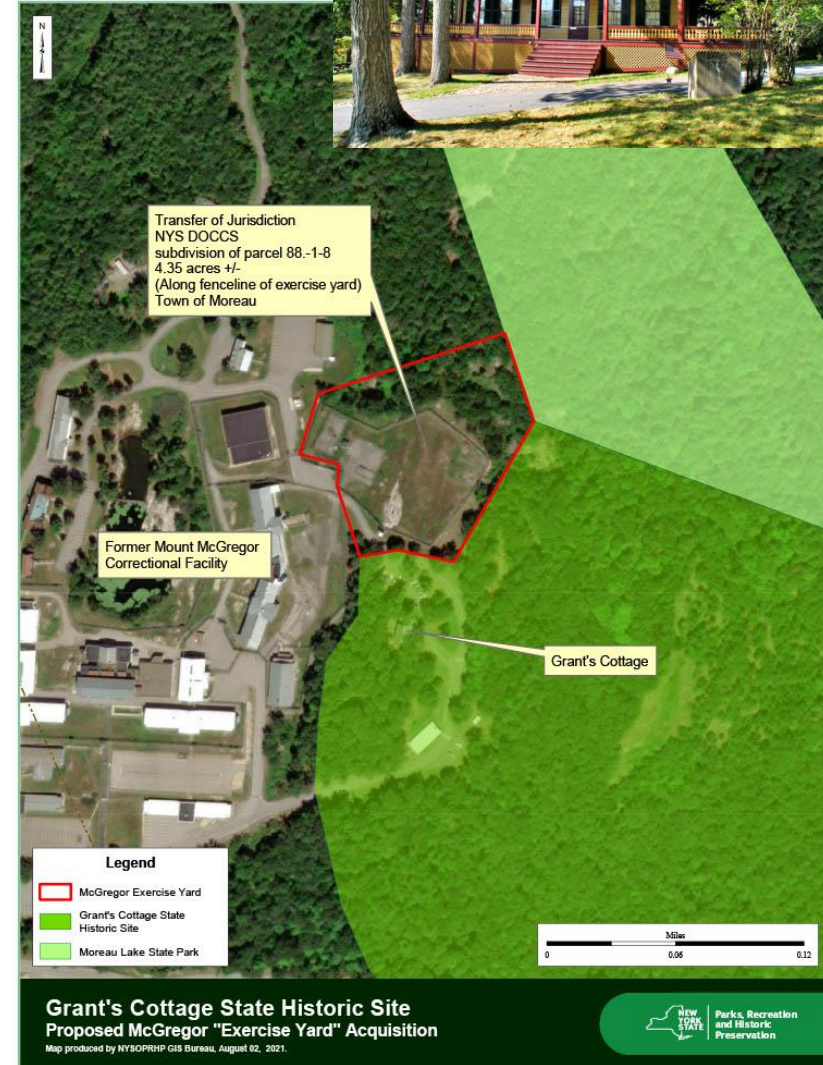
Heather Mabee, Chair

• Grant Cottage Expansion

- Operated in partnership with Friends of Grant Cottage, supported organizationally by the Commissioners
- Commissioners advocated for State land transfers to expand Moreau Lake State Park and increase land available to develop visitor services at the Cottage.
- Friends contributed \$250,000 to advance a state-of-the-art fire suppression system, 20% of the New York Works project.

• The Nature Bus is back!

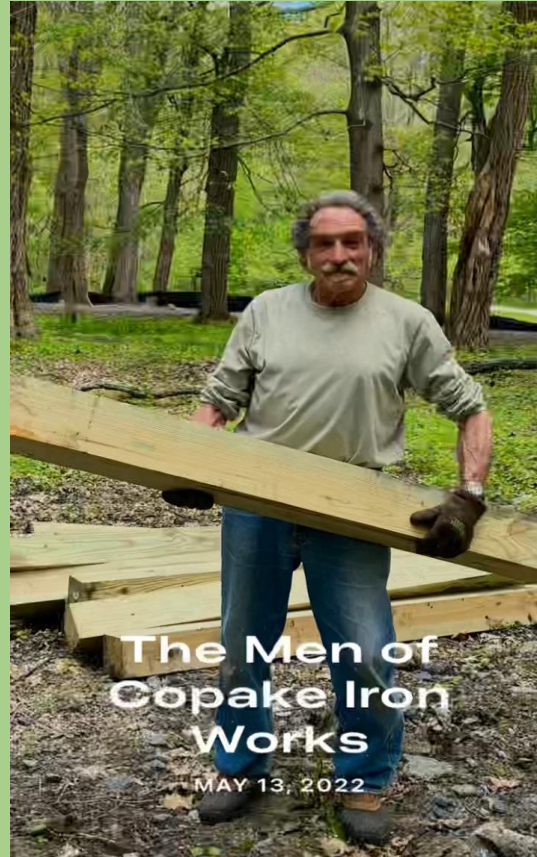
- Community-based
- Partnership to provide free public transportation to Thacher & other public lands



Taconic Region

Edgar Masters, Chair

- Harlem Valley Rail Trail – Complete to Hillsdale, NY
- John Jay Homestead Progress
- Taconic Region Commission Appointments
- Taconic State Park— Copake Iron Workers →



Thousand Islands Region

Harold Johnson, Chair

- **Southwick Beach State Park**
 - Continuing transformation of the Eastern Shore of Lake Ontario
 - Beach concession building will be repurposed as an open-air pavilion.
- **Robert Moses State Park Admin Building**
 - Commissioner Kulleseid attended a ribbon cutting with NYPA for new park Administration Building and Park Police facility
- **Park Staffing**
 - 26 permanent employees were hired this winter and spring.

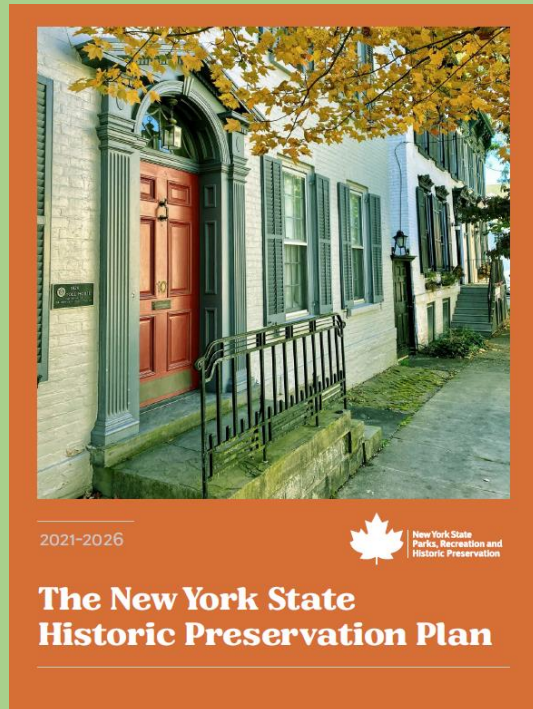


State Board for Historic Preservation

Doug Perelli, Chair

Daniel Mackay

- **Division for Historic Preservation senior staff team fully re-established**
 - Dan McEneny, Director, DHP
 - Greg Smith, Director, Bureau of Historic Sites
 - Nancy Herter, Director, Technical Preservation Bureau
 - Kathy Howe, Director, Community Preservation Services Bureau
- **New Initiatives**
 - NYS Preservation Plan published
 - Historic Business Preservation Registry in March
 - Launch of revived NYS Barn Rehabilitation Tax Credit in April
- **June Meeting of the State Review Board**
 - 25 nominations throughout 14 counties



DEC: Laura DiBetta

- **I Love My Park Day**
 - Held at 35 DEC locations
- **Get Outdoors & Get Together Day**
 - June 11th



- **NYS Birding Trail: 6 of 9 Regions Completed**
 - New initiative to support popular activity and sustainable, nature-based tourism
 - DEC, Parks and partners developing a curated list of the best places to go birding in each region of NYS
 - Priority to promote an inclusive experience for all



Centennial of the NYS Park System

2024 is the 100th anniversary of the State Parks Act, the legislation that forged the New York state park system

We are formulating plans for a Centennial Campaign to expand and enhance the connections between New York State parks and historic sites and the communities they serve – led by friends groups, lead partners, regional commissions and NHT.

Planning to announce this fall.

The Centennial Campaign will build support from the public to ensure a vibrant, accessible, and welcoming Park system for the next 100 years.

- **Let's Invest**
- **Let's Connect**
- **Let's Protect Forever– Second Century Fund**

