

New York State Council of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

A photograph of Lucy R. Waletzky, a woman with short blonde hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blue puffer jacket over a light purple shirt and a patterned scarf. She is standing outdoors in front of a brick building with large windows. To her right is a stone dedication plaque on a wooden stand. The plaque is engraved with the text: "Dedicated to LUCY R. WALETZKY 2010".

Lucy R. Waletzky, Chair
New York State Council of Parks
2007-2021

“The New York State Parks system is an irreplaceable public asset that provides unparalleled recreation opportunities, enhances the health of citizens, supports the state’s economic vitality and quality of life, and harbors irreplaceable ecosystems and natural resources.”

–Lucy Waletzky

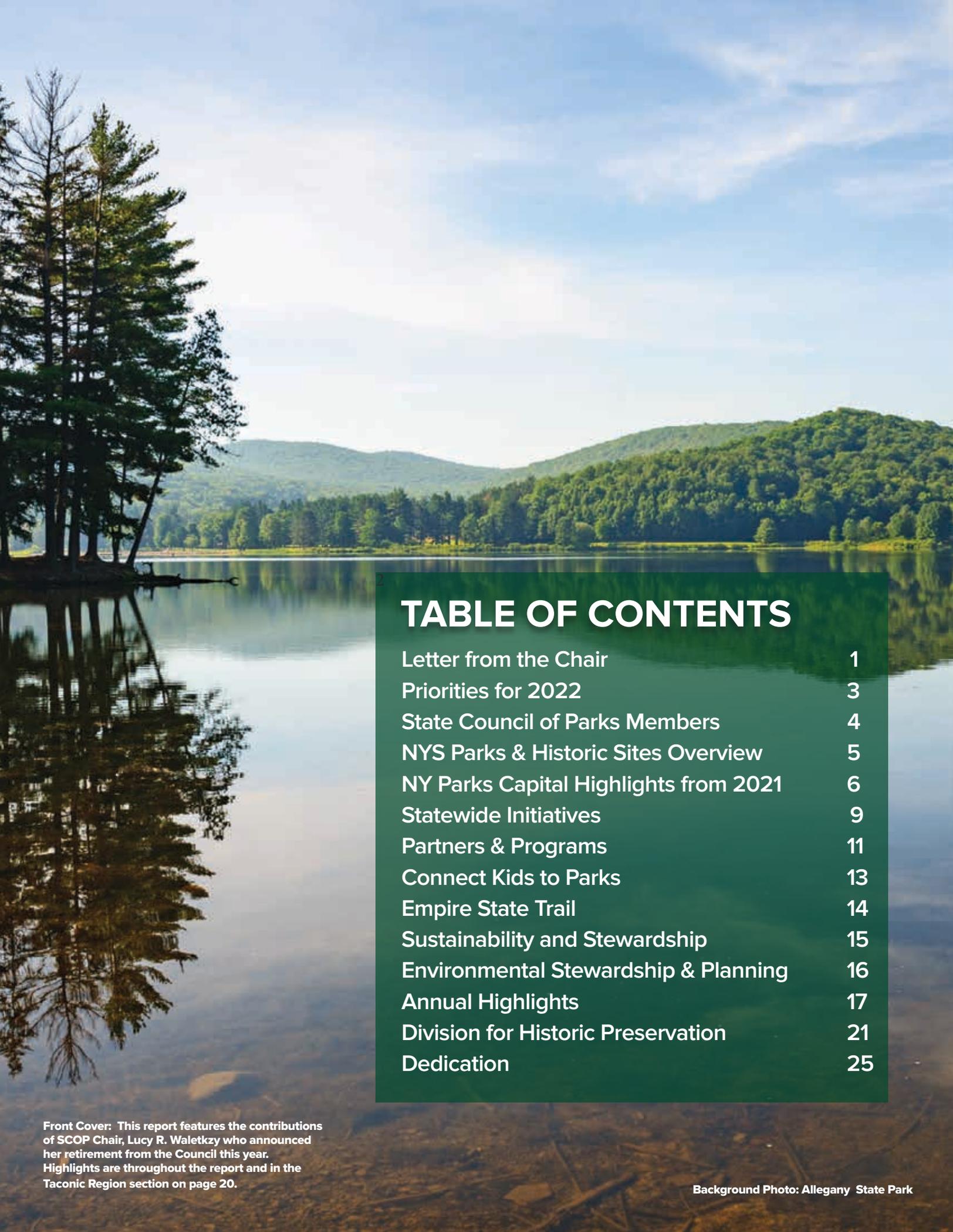


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Front Cover: This report features the contributions of SCOP Chair, Lucy R. Waletzky who announced her retirement from the Council this year. Highlights are throughout the report and in the Taconic Region section on page 20.

Background Photo: Allegany State Park



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

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

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

ERIK KULLESEID
Commissioner

LUCY R. WALETZKY, M.D.
State Council Chair

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

December 2021

Dear Governor Hochul:

The State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is pleased to submit its 2021 Annual Report. This report highlights the State Council of Parks and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation’s achievements during 2021, and sets forth recommendations for the coming year.

On behalf of the State Council of Parks, I join with all New Yorkers in expressing my gratitude for your leadership through a challenging time. You have guided our state through a difficult transition and are moving us toward a positive future. You are managing the COVID-pandemic in a thoughtful and effective way and your actions on the economy will ensure we recover and rebound.

We are particularly thrilled by your long-standing support of state parks. You have been a champion, friend and patron of our state’s remarkable state parks your entire life and the State Council of Parks looks forward to working with you on your priorities for these important places.

2021 was another productive year at State Parks. This report features several major capital projects completed this year. NY Parks 2020 has been an unqualified success in transforming the State Park system. The Council is extremely supportive of funding for the next generation of infrastructure improvements, known as NY Parks 100. Your investment in the state’s public lands will leave a legacy of conservation, access and economic stimulus that will be felt for generations to come. While programming continued to be limited this year due to the pandemic, the agency served thousands of underserved youth through the Connect Kids to Parks and Ladders to the Outdoors programs—expanding access and opportunity for all New York State youth to develop skills to enjoy a lifetime in the outdoors.

The State Council of Parks remains committed to seeking philanthropic and other outside support for state parks and historic sites. On our own and through partners like the Natural Heritage Trust, the Long Island Power Authority, the New York Energy and Research Development Authority, the New York Power Authority, the Open Space Institute, Scenic Hudson and the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, we and State Parks raised more than \$20 million in outside funds in 2021 to support essential capital projects, exhibits and long-term operations at state parks and historic sites throughout the State. And, our friends’ groups—from large to small—continue to grow in strength and ability, providing high quality programs and working on important projects that are invaluable to our parks. We thank Parks & Trails New York for partnering with us to build our friends groups network, and for administering the important capacity building Park & Trail Partnership Grant funded through the EPF with your support.

To protect the historic Parks 2020 capital investment while best serving our visitors, we encourage an increased level of general fund support in the state budget to support not only the basic operations of State Parks but also to maintain the new and improved infrastructure resulting from your investment and meet the needs of a growing number of visitors. By ensuring an adequate level of operational support for State Parks we ensure that the 78 million people who visit our parks during good times and bad have a safe and high quality experience.

It is with mixed feelings that I submit this Annual Report, my last as Chair as I retire in December. It has been my honor to serve as Chair of the State Council of Parks these last 14 years and I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished. The New York State Park system has been transformed and its programs are vibrant and effective, meeting the needs of a modern and diverse park visitorship. It is my hope that this revitalized state park system continues to be cherished and protected through adequate funding for operations and maintenance and the ongoing strength of public-private partnerships.

In these challenging but hopeful times, we extend our deep gratitude to you for your continued commitment to ensuring that our state's remarkable public lands remain accessible to all New Yorkers and for fighting efforts that threaten our state's natural resources whether through over-development, encroachment or environmental hazards. The State Council of Parks has been and will continue to be proud partners in this effort.

Best wishes,

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

Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky
Chair, State Council of Parks

The State Council of Parks will advance six priorities in 2022



1. Building Better Parks: NY Parks 100

The Council strongly supports NY Parks 100, the capital initiative to renew the historic commitment to investing and expanding the State park system by committing at least \$440 million through 2024. This critical period of revitalization will culminate in the 2024 celebration of the 100th anniversary of the State Park Act, which first created our nation-leading State park system in 1924 under Governor Al Smith. NY Parks 100 will continue crucial investments in park infrastructure while enhancing opportunities to reach the full range of New York State's recreational and cultural offerings. The initiative will focus on creating places to recreate locally, relieving overcrowded parks, welcoming new visitors, and protecting New York State's environmental and historic legacy. This new plan will ensure people from all communities and across all ages and abilities can fully experience our outdoors, our culture, and our heritage.

2. Equity in Park Access: All Are Welcome Here

The State Council of Parks shares the agency's priority to expand diverse and equitable access to parks so that people from all communities and across all ages and abilities are included and can fully experience our parks and historic sites. In addition to the Council's continued advocacy for Connect Kids to Parks we support the agency's diversity and inclusion initiative which seeks to reach new park users, promote access, and diversify the workforce.

3. 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 efforts to encourage responsible stewardship, volunteer initiatives such as I Love My Park Day, and leave-no-trace principles as park visitation increases.

4. Stewardship of Natural and Historic 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 for future generations.

5. Advocacy

Wherever state parks and historic sites have threatened or actual boundary (or certain visual or toxic) encroachments, we will mobilize, and form plans to stop them.

6. Ensure Adequate Operating Funds Amid Record Visitation

As demonstrated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, New Yorkers are relying on their parks more than ever. To ensure that all visitors continue to have access to safe outdoor places for recreation and respite, we support adequate funding in the state budget for state park operations including staff and maintenance.

State Council of Parks and Regional Park Commissions



Allegany 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 of Parks is 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, except for 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 Commission 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 a focus on the operations of State Parks and Historic Sites.

2021 Regional Commission Chairs

LUCY WALETZKY
Chair, SCOP & Taconic Commission

DALTON BURGETT
Chair, Allegany Commission

CORNELIUS B. MURPHY
Chair, Central Commission

W. DAVID BANFIELD
Chair, Finger Lakes Commission

Genesee Commission
BRYAN ERWIN
Chair, Long Island Commission

LEISLE LIN
Chair, New York City Commission

CINDY ABBOTT LETRO
Chair, Niagara Frontier Commission

DAVID MORTIMER
Chair, Palisades Commission

HEATHER MABEE
Chair, Saratoga-Capital District Commission

HAROLD JOHNSON II
Chair, Thousand Islands Commission

DOUGLAS PERRELLI
State Board for Historic Preservation



New York State Parks and Historic Sites Overview



Minnewaska State Park Preserve

The State Park System is one of New York's greatest treasures. Today, the system totals 250 State Parks and Historic Sites encompassing nearly 350,000 acres. New York's Parks and Historic Sites provide affordable outdoor recreation and education opportunities to 78 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 communities to explore nature and enjoy the outdoors together.

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Parks) is responsible for the operation and stewardship of the state parks system, as well as advancing statewide parks, historic preservation, and open space mission. The agency has an "all funds" operating and capital budget of approximately \$407 million and is staffed by 1981 permanent employees and more than 4,500 seasonal positions during peak operating season.

State Parks is responsible for managing a vast array of public facilities within its 250 facilities. New York has one of the most developed state park systems in

the nation, encompassing a huge inventory of public facilities including 5,000 buildings, 28 golf courses, 24 swimming pools and spray-grounds, 57 beaches, 21 marinas, 75 boat launch sites, 25 nature centers, 825 cabins, 136 cottages, 8,179 campsites and 19 yurts, more than 2,000 miles of trails, 106 dams, 604 bridges, hundreds of miles of roads, and dozens of historic structures listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

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. 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 is the first property acquired with public funds for the express purpose of historic preservation and patriotic visitation.

New York Parks Capital Highlights from 2021



Pier 76



The Pines at Saratoga Spa State Park

Pier 76 Park Opens in Manhattan

A new recreational and cultural space on Manhattan's western Hudson River shoreline was announced in June, achieving the long-awaited inclusion of the former New York City Police Department impound parking facility into Hudson River Park. The project was completed in only 81 days, or less than three months. The \$31 million Parks project included environmental abatement, repaving, and installation of railings and lighting. Nineteen interpretive panels relay the history of the area, including the indigenous Lenape people of Mannahatta and the evolution of the city's shipping industry. The pier is now under the control of the Hudson River Park Trust, an independent board that will oversee a long-term development plan for the pier.

Improvements to the Saratoga Performing Arts Center

The Saratoga Performing Arts Center and Live Nation invested over \$8 million in partner capital funding to the development of new visitor services facilities at the world-class outdoor amphitheater. New concessions buildings, restrooms, and program areas were beautifully designed to enhance the visitor experience, while improving site circulation and safety. This project is the latest milestone in one of New York State's oldest and most productive public-private partnerships dating back to the facility's development in the 1960's by Governor Nelson Rockefeller.

East Gate Plaza Opens at Walkway Over the Hudson State Park

In October, Lt. Governor Brian Benjamin joined State Parks to announce the opening of the \$2 million East Gate Plaza outside of the Poughkeepsie entrance to the Walkway Over the

Hudson State Historic Park. The expanded gathering space more than doubles the size of the pathway atop the Washington Street Stairs and provides an ideal location for community events. The hallmark of the Plaza includes a walk-in space for guests to purchase Walkway merchandise, improved access to snacks, and a covered pavilion with audio/visual capabilities to support events, tours, and special programs. Part of the project is on property that State Parks acquired through the support of the not-for-profit Open Space Institute.



East Gate Plaza at Walkway Over the Hudson State Park

Autism Nature Trail Opens at Letchworth State Park

The nation's first nature trail specifically designed for those with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities opened this year at Letchworth State Park. Supported by more than \$3.3 million in private fundraising, the new

Autism Nature Trail is a one-mile hiking loop that includes eight marked sensory stations, each designed to address a different sensory experience in a safe and supportive environment. Support and programming for the trail comes from

various depths enliven the pool's main wading section. The new pool was constructed inside of the old pool footprint, resulting in a surface area of nearly 42,000 square feet and a water volume of approximately 1.3 million gallons. The park's original swimming pool was constructed in 1963 and had reached the end of its useful life. Other improvements include a new poolside restroom building; renovated concession building and lifeguard locker room; sustainability improvements, including modern, efficient water filtration equipment; refurbished lawns and new shade trees; and new lifeguard and first aid pavilion.

DEC Marine Resources Headquarters Opens in Long Island's Nissequogue State Park

A partnership between DEC and State Parks resulted in a new sustainable building in Nissequogue State Park that will serve as a central hub for DEC's Division of Marine Resources and its essential work to manage and conserve New York's marine fisheries, shellfish, and other protected marine life habitats. The Center will be home to New York's First FDA-Certified Shellfish Microbiology Laboratory and will protect and promote New York's crucial marine resources. Construction of the new \$26 million facility was supported by funding from NY Works and is aligned with the goals of the Nissequogue River State Park Master Plan.

New Playground Opens at Roberto Clemente State Park

The park's south playground, originally built in 1973 as an adventure playground, had been closed for nearly 20 years due to unsafe conditions. The renovated playground features new playground equipment, playground safety surfacing, modern climbing structures, adult fitness stations and shade trees. The playground is situated along the park's main esplanade close to the Riverpark Towers, and its improvement will enhance the connection between the park and its largest residential neighbor. The \$1.35 million project was funded through a \$1 million grant from Bronx Borough president Ruben Diaz, \$250,000 from Council Member Vanessa Gibson and the final \$100,000 from Omni New York LLC.

Big Woods and Appalachian Trail Trailheads at Fahnestock State Park

This \$5 million project was supported by the not-for-profit Open Space Institute (OSI) through a generous contribution from the Topfield Foundation supported by prominent Hudson Valley conservationist and philanthropist, Anne Perkins Cabot. Under the project, a new trailhead and 25-car parking lot is now open off State Route 301 west of Canopus Lake, which will reduce current hiker parking along the busy highway. The project also includes a second new trailhead and 15-car parking lot off Route 301 for the nearby Appalachian Trail, as well as Fahne-



Autism Nature Trail at Letchworth State

the nearby Perry Central School District in Wyoming County and Rochester's Camp Puzzle Peace, an Adirondack summer camp for families living with developmental disabilities. Fundraising for the trail is being managed on behalf of State Parks by the Natural Heritage Trust. The trail is dedicated in the name of one of the project's most devoted early advocates, ANT co-founder Susan Gouinlock Herrstein.



Big Woods and Appalachian Trail Trailheads at Fahnestock State Park

Renovated Pool at Franklin Delano Roosevelt State Park

Open in time for the summer season, the renovated pool at FDR State Park in Westchester County includes a total of 26 new entertaining and colorful spray features placed at



Hempstead Lake State Park



Hempstead Lake State Park Resiliency Center

stock State Park gateway signage at US Route 9 and the Taconic State Parkway announcing arrival at the park.

Taconic Outdoor Education Center Reopened

In early November, a modernized Taconic Outdoor Education Center at Fahnestock State Park opened after a two-year, \$6.2 million renovation project. Located in Putnam County, the center includes the Highland Lodge and nine all-season rustic cabins. The cabins provide overnight accommodations for participants in nature-related, year-round programming for schools, colleges, youth groups, and scouting organizations. A new education pavilion also was added to the facility. Funding for the renovation project was supported by NY Works, with State Council of Parks Chair Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky donating to support construction of the new outdoor teaching pavilion.



Taconic Outdoor Education Center

Enhanced Accessibility at Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site

Begun last summer, this \$1.8 million project funded under NY Works included repair of existing bluestone walkways, enhancement of accessible parking, new fencing, and improvements to accessible paths on nearly seven acres of grounds overlooking the Hudson River. Pathways and parking are now ADA compliant. Work also reinstalled the East Gate and established an ADA-compliant path to the recently restored Tower of Victory, which was built in 1887 to mark the centennial of victory in the War for Independence. Improved exterior lighting and drainage were also installed. A new 60-foot flagpole and new flags also were added with support from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Friends of the State Historic Sites of the Hudson Highlands (FSHSHH).

Hempstead Lake State Park Resiliency Center Opens

During Climate Week, Governor Kathy Hochul announced the opening of the \$8.3 million Environmental Education and Resiliency Center at Hempstead Lake State Park in Nassau County. The 8,000-square-foot center offers hands-on learning on the topics of storm resiliency and environmental management; provides space for community outreach; and serves as an emergency coordination center during disaster response. The center is part of a \$35 million parkwide project to reduce flood risk, improve water quality and enhance recreational access along the Mill River corridor as part of Rebuild by Design—Living with the Bay, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Statewide Initiatives



John Brown Farm State Historic Site



Buffalo Haror State Park

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Several special events at state parks and historic sites this summer celebrated our state's vibrant diversity and important events in civil rights history. In June, Commissioner Kulleseid once again hosted Pride Month across the state where Pride Flags flew at State Park facilities and visitors shared their experiences with the #prideoutside hashtag on social media. Also in June, State Parks Commissioner Kulleseid joined John Brown Lives! historic site staff and stakeholders at **John Brown Farm State Historic Site** Friday to pay respects to the noted leader in the struggle for human rights and commemorate the site's 125th anniversary. The event included the reopening of the powerful Memorial Field for Black Lives exhibit. Artist Karen Davidson Seward created the Memorial Field for Black Lives as a space to acknowledge the struggle for equality in America in response to the brutal murders of unarmed Black Americans.

Marking LGBT History Month in October, State Parks announced the award of a \$49,999 federal grant from the National Park Service to expand State and National Registers of Historic Places documentation for the Greenwich Village Historic District in Manhattan. The grant was made under the National Park Service's Underrepresented Community Grants Program, which works towards diversifying nominations submitted to the National Register of Historic Places. The grant will be facilitated by State Park's Division for Historic Preservation and the New York City LGBT Historic Sites Project, a cultural heritage initiative documenting the city's LGBT heritage.

A new partnership to connect communities with Parks launched this summer in the Capital District. The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC) partnered with the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, State Parks, and local partners to provide a free bus service to connect communities

in the City of Albany to natural areas in Albany County that are a short ride from downtown Albany. The Nature Bus ran every Saturday and included a stop at Thacher State Park.

State Parks is in its third year of the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP). Developed in the 1990s by a Nevada-based company specializing in aiding differently abled people to engage in recreation, UTAP is a system of objective measurements taken at specific intervals along an unpaved trail to form an accurate picture of its difficulty, in terms of grade, width, surface firmness and cover. Parks has measured more than 19 miles of trails at 17 different State Parks in 2019 and 2020. This work is being supported by a Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grant from 2019, with the project currently scheduled to run through 2022. So far, trails identified as meeting UTA accessibility standards include the Upper Falls Lookout Trail at Letchworth State Park and the Awosting Falls Connector Trail at Minnewaska State Park Preserve.



CDTA Nature Bus

There are also several trails that are close to meeting RTAS with minor modifications including: The Bog Trail at Chenango Valley State Park, the Beacon Hill Trail at Minnewaska State Park, the Bike Path at Schodack Island State Park, and the Green Lakes and Round Lakes Trail at Green Lakes State Park.

Land Acquisition

Land acquisition has also been an important part of the agency’s planning and stewardship activities, filling in gaps at parks and historic sites, creating linkages and connections between sites, and protecting ecological and scenic resources. In 2021, State Parks closed on 25 land acquisitions with a total acreage acquitted of 1,872. Another 32 projects are underway.



Moreau Lake State Park

Significant acquisitions in 2021 included:

- 860 acres recently added to **Moreau Lake State Park**. Property is adjacent to the Hudson River providing a new access point for canoes and kayaks to launch on the river. The parcel’s lowlands function as a floodplain, buffering stormwater surges during high runoff events helping to protect downstream communities.
- Pier 76, a 588,000 SF structure elevated over the Hudson River, as well as the underlying land, added to Hudson River Park in the Borough of Manhattan.
- A 12.14-mile, 192 acres, developed trail acquired in the Allegany Region. The trail provides important connectivity to **Allegany State Park**, the Finger Lakes Trail, the North Country Trail and the State and County snowmobile trail systems.

Other notable acquisitions included additions to the Black Diamond Trail and **Seneca Lake State Park** in the Finger Lakes Region; **Schunnemunk Mountain** and **Sterling Forest State Parks** in the Palisades Region and **Lake Taghkanic**, **Clarence Fahnestock**, **Hudson Highlands**, and **Wonder Lake State Parks** in the Taconic Region.

Marketing

In 2021, State Parks offered a new way for park supporters to show their love of New York’s outdoors. The **State Parks Online Merchandise** store launched in June and is stocked with Park-themed items from short and long sleeve tee shirts to cozy hoodies, embroidered caps, fun glassware, camp mugs, notecards and more.

State Parks, together with the Department of Environmental Conservation also launched the first-ever **Camper Loyalty/Reward Program** for overnight stays at state campgrounds across New York. The introduction of the new Loyalty program coincides with the opening of the nine-month online reservation window for the 2022 Camping Season. The new Loyalty program will allow visitors to earn points for every dollar spent on overnight accommodations and redeem the points toward use fees on future stays.

In 2020 State Parks launched the **NY State Parks Explorer App**, available for iOS and Android devices. This user-friendly tool provides vital information all in one place— directions, hours, fees, plus helpful know-before-you-go details. Users can also favorite their



most-loved facilities to receive important updates and alerts to assist with trip planning. In September 2021, more enhancements were added to the app; the most notable is the interactive mapping. This feature provides live and offline mapping tools to orient visitors and provides helpful wayfinding information when in the parks and on the trails. Since its inception, the app has had over 110,000 downloads, and more upgrades are underway for 2022-23.



State Parks Online Merchandise

Partners & Programs



First Day Hikes



I Love My Park Day



First Day Hikes In 2021, the First Day Hikes were impacted by the pandemic and capacity restrictions at select sites to ensure social distancing, but thousands of park visitors (two legged and four-legged) across New York were still able to enjoy the day and embrace nature's winter beauty! While the 10th Anniversary First Day Hike looked different than in year's past – there was a

remarkable turnout around the state, and a robust series of events thanks to the creativity and commitment of staff and volunteers.

The tenth annual **I Love My Park Day** annual was held over the weekend of May 1 and May 2, 2021 at 120 state parks, historic sites, and public lands across New York. The event, sponsored

by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Parks & Trails New York, and the Department of Environmental Conservation, is the largest single-day volunteer event in New York State and enhances parks, historic sites, and public lands, and raises awareness and of the state's outdoor recreation assets and their needs.

The **Park and Trail Partnership Grant Program** is funded through the state Environmental Protection Fund. The grants support partner group efforts to raise private funds for capital projects, perform maintenance and beautification undertakings, provide educational programming, and promote public use of the parks through hosting of special events. Grants are administered in partnership



with **Parks & Trails, New York**.

Recipients must raise outside funding of at least 10 percent of the grant amount received. In 2021, \$900,000 in grants to support 30 not-for-profit organizations involved with stewardship of state parks, trails, historic sites and public lands. Grants are aimed at initiatives that enhance the preservation, stewardship, interpretation, maintenance and promotion of New York State parks, trails, historic sites and public lands; increase the sustainability, effectiveness, productivity, volunteerism and fundraising capabilities of not-for-profit organizations that promote, maintain and support New York State parks, trails and state historic sites and public lands and; promote the tourism and economic development benefits of outdoor recreation through the growth and expansion of a connected statewide network of parks, trails and greenways.



Committed to protecting open space and making the outdoors more welcoming, the **Open Space Institute (OSI)**



OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE

is adding expertise and raising private dollars to leverage public investments at State Parks and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) properties. In 2021, OSI partnered with State Parks to complete several access and amenity projects at Fahnestock State Park, including the creation of the new Big Woods and Appalachian Trail trailheads; the fourth trail bridge design and build project of by West Point Cadets; and ongoing work to create the 9.5-mile Hubbard Perkins Loop trail. Thanks to two key land



Friends of GVG State Park

acquisition projects in the Hudson Valley, OSI provided the means to improve access at Breakneck Ridge at Hudson Highlands State Park and Walkway Over the Hudson. OSI began restoration of 3.5 miles of the Walkkill Valley Rail Trail, a key link in the Empire State Trail in Ulster County. Once completed, OSI will have restored the northern 13 miles of the popular trail. In the Adirondacks, OSI completed a suite of upgrades to its Adirondack Upper Works site aimed at improving visitor access to the High Peaks Wilderness Area and helping to better disburse visitors. At Moreau Lake State Park, OSI added nearly 900 acres, bringing OSI's historical additions to the park to more than 4,250 acres – more than tripling the park over the past two decades. Prior to the property's transfer, OSI completed the first major phase of a habitat restoration project to benefit the endangered Karner blue butterfly. All total, in 2021 OSI added nearly 1,500 acres to State Parks and DEC properties and protected another 860 acres to be added to the state for public benefit in the future.



Since 2018, the **Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation** has granted nearly \$14 million to support park projects in the Western NY region. The grants are administered by the Natural Heritage Trust. The grants supporting the Ladders to the Outdoors program at seven state parks in Western New York; the Western New York Greenways initiative to bridge the gaps in the Niagara River Greenway and the 750 - mile Empire State Trail; and the completion of the Genesee Valley Greenway are creating a world-class trail system in Western NY and investing in programs that connect the next generation to outdoor recreation at state parks in the Niagara Region. In 2021, the Foundation announced an \$8 million grant to support the construction of a new Welcome Center at Niagara Falls State Park. Construction on the innovative facility is underway.



12 Walkkill Valley Rail Trail



Ladders to the Outdoors Program



Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park

Connect Kids to Parks

In 2017, New York State launched the “Connect Kids to Parks” program to enhance educational and recreational opportunities for schoolchildren and help promote parks and historic places in every corner of the state.



A key program in this initiative is the Connect Kids to Parks Field Trip Grant program. Since 2016, the Connect Kids Field Trip Program has awarded over 4,000 field trip grants. In 2019-20, participation in the grant program grew by 30 percent. The grant, funded through the Environmental Protection Fund, covers the costs of transportation and all program fees for any grade from a Title 1 school district. While Connect Kids programs have been dramatically curtailed due to COVID, the program continues to serve youth via smaller, socially distant programs and vir-

tual education programs at state parks and historic sites. Since March of 2020, more than 170 physical and virtual field trips have served 8000 youth. Organizations including the Fresh Air Fund and the Madison Square Boys and Girls Club used the Connect Kids program this year for summer camp programs.

Ladders to the Outdoors Launched in Western New York

Funded with a grant to the Natural Heritage Trust from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation,



Ladders to the Outdoors seeks to increase access to outdoor recreational spaces, equipment, transportation, and skills development in underserved communities near state parks in Western New York. The \$860,000 grant funds a three-year program to support the development of and community outreach for participation in free youth recreational programs and instructional classes at state parks including guided hikes, fishing, biking, kayaking, swimming, and sports activities. The grant will also fund recreational equipment including bikes, kayaks, fishing gear and sports equipment for community use, the rehabilitation of athletic fields and the addition of accessible play equipment at several state park playgrounds. Transportation to parks is through a partnership with the New York State Connect Kids to Parks program. In 2021, more than 2000 youth participated in a Western NY Ladders program.



Ladders to the Outdoors Program

Empire State Trail



PBS's Travels with Darley

In its first full year of operation, the **Empire State Trail (EST)** continues to be a popular destination for recreational enthusiasts across New York. The trail spans 750-miles total, 75 percent of which is off-road and ideal for cyclists, hikers, runners, cross-country skiers, and snowshoers. The EST draws over 8 million residents and tourists annually.

In 2021, a partnership between the EST and the Boilermaker Race created the “Empire State Trail Challenge”, a four-month virtual race where participants logged miles to reach milestones tied to virtual progress along the Empire State Trail. Participants tracked their miles walking, running, or cycling from April through July, to complete the mileage of at least one leg of the Empire State Trail. Thousands participated in the challenge which showcased the Trail and its many communities.

Projects to improve and maintain the EST are continuously underway. In 2021, Governor Hochul announced that State Parks is rehabilitating a 2.5-mile section of the Empire State Trail from the City of Little Falls to Herkimer Home State Historic Site, in Herkimer County. The trail segment is also part of the Erie Canalway Trail. A partnership with the Open Space Institute and the Town and Village of New Paltz will improve a 3.5-mile section of the Walkkill Valley Rail Trail, a key link in the Empire State Trail in Ulster County. Two projects will improve a total of 4.2 miles of the EST in the Capital District, including a 1.2-mile section of trail in Waterford and, work has begun on a 3-mile section of trail in Albany County to install a new asphalt surface on the 20-year-old trail, and update safety fencing, signage, and road crossings. In addition, in June NYS DOT resurfaced a 2.8-mile trail section north of the City of Albany, along the Hudson River.

With the support of a grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission (NRBC), (made possible in part with a Rural Business Development Grant from USDA Rural Development) administered by the Natural Heritage Trust, a partnership with the Department of State, State Parks and the Hudson Valley Greenway is developing a marketing and promotional campaign to draw visitors and outdoor recreation enthusiasts to the sections of the Empire State Trail that connect communities to New York’s northern border region. The campaign will include a feature of the EST on PBS’s Travels with Darley. This summer, Darley Newman toured the Empire State Trail and the many people and places along it for an episode of her show. The whirlwind adventure included stops at state parks and many local destinations and communities along the 750-mile trail. The EST episode is expected to run in early 2022. The NRBC grant also funded improvements to the EST website, and creation of a large format printed EST map which is being distributed to trail users and tourism promotion agencies (members of the public can order a free copy of the map on the EST website).



Sustainability and Stewardship



Niagara Falls State Park

During the last decade, State Parks has installed 48 solar array projects at facilities across the state, with 37 installed by State Parks staff and the rest by contractors. These facilities combined are rated at about six megawatts, and cover about 15 percent of State Parks' total statewide energy consumption. By 2027, Parks has a goal of covering half of its electricity needs through renewable energy.

In 2021, **Grant Cottage State Historic Site** became the first State Parks facility to disconnect completely from the electric energy grid, Grant Cottage is powered by 90 nearby solar panels and 48 batteries for storage of power for later use. A backup propane generator is included for emergency purposes. State Parks staff, assisted by training staff from Hudson Valley Community College, performed the installation.

In recognition of New York State Climate Week 2021, a new solar array that will provide clean, sustainable, carbon-free power maintenance operations at **Niagara Falls State Park** was announced. A new 300-kilowatt solar array atop the park's maintenance building and trolley shop at 1410 Buffalo Avenue will provide power to the grid equivalent to the usage at the facil-

ity, which provides vehicle and maintenance support for park operations and for natural-gas powered trolleys that shuttle visitors. A second phase in the \$435,000 project calls for the addition of electrical storage batteries to allow the facility to go off-grid and continue operating during blackouts or other emergencies.



Grants Cottage State Historic Site

Division of Environmental Stewardship and Planning



Niagara River Habitat restoration



FORCES

The agency's dedicated environmental stewardship staff includes regional biologists, environmental analysts, stewardship specialists and field staff. In the last 10 years, over 500 dedicated on-the-ground environmental stewardship projects have been completed in State Parks. These projects have restored wildlife habitat and protected rare species; improved water quality and controlled invasive species; enhanced resilience statewide and conserved Ocean and Great Lakes ecosystems and provided experience for future conservation leaders. Over \$16 million in grants funds have been leveraged to support stewardship efforts across the state. The agency has also adopted a climate change strategy to inform all aspects of operations and enhance the agency's resiliency against the effects of climate change. These funds support projects in the Ocean and Great Lakes program; Niagara River Habitat restoration; Woodland Beach wetland restoration; and the Iona Marsh restoration at Bear Mountain. The Division also oversees habitat restoration projects that support programs like Audubon in the Parks, pollinator protection, and a statewide reducing mowing initiative.

At the October 2021 annual meeting of the State Council of Parks, Commissioner Kulleseid announced the establishment of the Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky Award for Environmental Stewardship. The award, created in recognition of Dr. Waletzky's contributions to and inspiration for the agency's stewardship program, will recognize staff teams, alone or in partnership with volunteer, nonprofit or other partners, for projects that improve the natural resources or ecology of a state park or historic site.

FORCES

The Friends of Recreation, Conservation and Environmental Stewardship (FORCES) was launched in 2008 in our Central Region with the intention of boosting and growing volunteerism within New York State Parks. The program has expanded from one to seven region, and there are now 43 affiliated institutions and 4 High School partnership. Up to 70 FORCES stewards are hired throughout the various seasons each year and the number continues to grow.

Student Conservation Association

Through a partnership with AmeriCorps and the Student Conservation Association, State Parks currently supports three conservation programs as part of the Empire State Conservation Corps: Excelsior Conservation Corps (ECC); the Parks Corps and the Hudson Valley Corps. These programs have provided over 316,000 hours of service in 10 years and many members are now State Park employees.

Excelsior Conservation Corps (ECC)



New York Parks Annual Highlights from 2021



Allegany State Park Commission



Green Lakes State Park

Although the COVID pandemic continued to present challenges throughout 2021, New York State parks were fully open, safely providing outdoor recreation, camping and programs to millions of New Yorkers. State Parks continued to be an active partner in the state's efforts to combat the virus and encourage vaccination. New Yorkers who received their first dose or single dose COVID-19 vaccine, anywhere in New York State between May 24 and 31 received a free two-day pass to any New York State Park. Additionally, 15 New York State Parks hosted pop-up COVID-19 vaccination sites.

Allegany Region

Allegany State Park celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2021. The park held a virtual celebration on July 30th 2021 that included a library of digital content. The park also hosted a summer series of interpretive programs highlighting the park's history and produced a set of four self-guided interpretive booklets to guide visitors to 100 points of interest within the park. As part of the centennial celebration, the State Council of Parks held its annual meeting in the region in September. The permanent protection of the 12.1-mile Pat McGee Trail in Cattaraugus County was also announced this year. Connecting the city of Salamanca and village of Cattaraugus, the multi-use trail along a former rail bed has connections with the current Finger Lakes Trail and the North Country Trail. The region also completed the Genesee Valley Greenway Action plan, in conjunction with the Genesee Region. After 25 years of service to the Commission, its Chair, Dalton Burgett, retired in 2021. His support and contributions to the region and to the State Council of Parks will be felt for many generations to come.

Central Region

The region offered several programs to visitors that were very popular this year. Highlights include the **Green Lakes Halloween Wicked Woods drive-through** and **Symphonia at Fort Ontario State Historic Site**. Several projects throughout the region improved facilities for visitors including a paved parking lot for accessibility to the boat launch at **Chenango Valley State Park**; adding electricity to all campsites at **Verona Beach State Park** (starting in 2022) and the restoration of comfort stations and bathhouses at **Delta Lake** and **Green Lakes State Parks**.

Finger Lakes Region

Work began this year on new entrance and gateway at **Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion State Historic Park**.



Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion State



Letchworth State Park - Humphrey Nature Center



Jones Beach - Bethpage Air Show

To date, the project is supported by \$1 million from two state Community Funding Application (CFA) grants, as well as more than \$300,000 from an ongoing fundraising campaign by the not-for-profit Friends of Sonnenberg. In person and virtual programming continued throughout the region including the return of Fillmore Days at **Fillmore Glen State Park**, a community event coordinated and produced by the Friends of Fillmore and supported by a grant from PTNY in 2019. The Friends of Ganondagan hosted virtual programs at **Ganondagan State Historic Site** throughout the year. An Interpretive board walk was constructed at **Fair Haven Beach State** and leads from the eastern edge of the parking lot, through the restored dunes and terminate near the West Beach bath houses. Interpretive signage along the boardwalk explains and educates visitors on the ecology of the Lake Ontario shore.

Genesee Region

The Friends of Letchworth continue their restoration efforts of the CCC stone tables throughout the park. This effort began with the installation of the CCC worker statue in 2003 and has been followed by the restoration of a CCC-built lean to close to the Hogsback, stone chimneys at Gibsonville and Big Bend camps, and restoration of stone picnic tables at the Parade Grounds. Currently, the Friends of Letchworth are restoring the stone tables at Wolf Creek and Tea Table to be funded in part by a \$50,000 grant from the Ralph Wilson, Jr. Legacy Fund. Environmental educators based out of the Humphrey Nature Center have developed new interpretive programs for passive use to help keep programs in the region despite the pandemic. They have also helped develop virtual programming for schools served by state parks throughout the state, not just the region.

Long Island Region

Long Island State Parks staff took a leadership role in the creation and management of the **Jones Beach State Park** mass vaccination site, which opened on January 14th, while

also managing the Jones Beach mass testing site. About 30 State Park staff worked at the site daily. The Long Island region completed the restoration of the Hempstead Lake Tennis Complex including refurbishing 6 asphalt courts (hard courts) and 12 clay tennis courts. 6 pickleball courts were also built—the first in the Region. In June, the West Portico of Coe Hall at **Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park** reopened to the public. The complete restoration was made possible by a grant from the Environmental Protection Fund program and the Planting Fields Foundation in partnership with New York State Parks. Visitors can once again experience the harmony between the Gilded Age home, built by W.R. and Mai Coe, and the surrounding Olmsted Brothers landscape. The Bethpage Air Show and the Jovia Financial Credit Union Fireworks Spectacular returned to Jones Beach in 2021, the latter with a new title sponsor.



New York City Region

A new public-private partnership between State Parks and the Natural Heritage Trust, a “Bike Library” that provides free loaner gear to visitors at **Shirley Chisholm State Park**



Shirley Chisholm State Park - Bike Library

opened for its third season. Supported by the Con Edison Power of Giving program, the Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy, the Bloomberg Philanthropies, and the Natural Heritage Trust, the program also offers bike riding classes for all ages. The park also hosted poplar book giveaways to youth in East New York thanks to new program partnership with Brooklyn Book Bodega. Programming returned to **Roberto Clemente State Park** this year, with the Bronx Children’s Museum and Major League Baseball as partners for afterschool programs and t-ball. Music also returned to RCSP, for the first time in decades! The Jazz Foundation of America together with the park presented renowned jazz trombonist Colin Anderson in October. 2022 will see a full six-month outdoor concert series with JFA at RCSP. Music was featured at **Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park** where Carnegie Hall opened and closed the Citywide Concert Series. The park house opened at **Marsha P. Johnson State Park**, hosting programs and community events. And, Shakespeare in the Park was held at **Gantry Plaza State Park** this summer.

of the Guest House. The Niagara Region Programs Office completed several virtual programs this year including a presentation to a school group in Hawaii. The regional commission assisted in the development of the enhanced virtual program. Artpark and Company completed a very successful season of concerts, fine arts and family programming.

Palisades Region

In May, the Palisades Region entered into a new partnership with the Appalachian Mountain Club for the management of **Harriman State Park’s** two visitor centers at Reeves Meadow and along the Palisades Parkway. Under the agreement both centers will be refurbished and transition from seasonal to year-round operations. A new trail connecting **Nyack Beach State Park** with **Hook Mountain State Park** opened this summer. The trail connects the Hudson River waterfront to the Long Path and on to the summit of Hook Mountain. It was constructed with support from the Friends of Rockland Lake & Hook Mountain and the NY/NJ Trail Conference. This



Borderlands Music Festival at Knox Farm State Park



Hudson Cliffs State Park

Niagara Region

Just ahead of National Trails Day, new park space was dedicated along the Niagara Gorge rim in Niagara Falls, created through removal of a two mile segment of the former Niagara Scenic Parkway. The project created seven acres of new open space and a 140-acre unbroken green ribbon of park land along the Niagara Gorge rim, as well as more than five miles of new multi-purpose trails and soft paths. It marks the largest expansion of **Niagara Falls State Park** since the creation of the park in 1885. The region also both announced and began construction on the new Welcome Center at Niagara Falls State Park, a \$46 state-of-the-art facility that is also funded with an \$8 million grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. The Foundation also supported a study for the development of a trail to connect **Artpark** and **Ft. Niagara State Park**. The 3rd Borderland Music Festival took place at **Knox Farm State Park** with approximately \$20,000 of the proceeds going to the Friends group, off-setting the \$65,000 they invested in the renovations

fall, State Parks closed on over 500 acres of new parkland that will create the Palisades Region’s newest park along the Hudson River in Kingston.

Saratoga-Capital District

Saratoga Spa State Park has welcomed the Children’s Museum of Saratoga to the historic Lincoln Bathhouse. The Museum’s generous investment of \$3.1 million into renovations of the National Historic Landmark marks the first major renewal and activation of this prominent Spa Park destination since it closed to public mineral water bathing in the 1980’s. The Friends of **Grant Cottage State Historic Site** secured a major gift of \$250,000 to help preserve the vulnerable wooden structure from the threat of fire. Thanks to the Friends generous support, OPRHP is advancing a state-of-the-art fire alarm and suppression system designed to preserve this National Historic Landmark. As part of **Grafton Lakes State Park’s** 50th Anniversary, the Friends of Grafton



Saratoga Spa State Park - Children's Museum of Saratoga



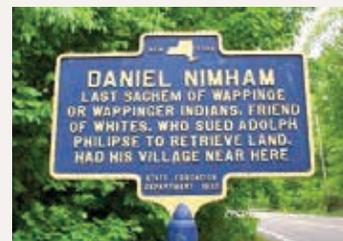
Members of the Taconic Regional Commission

joined with numerous community organizations and park staff to develop special commemorative programming including an oral history project, art exhibition and diverse recreational programming to build better connections with the rural community that hosts this vast State Park.

Taconic Region

The Taconic Region joined the agency and the State Council of Parks in recognizing the contributions of Lucy R. Waletzky upon her retirement from the positions of Regional Commission and SCOP Chair. The impact of her leadership and support is particularly evident in the Taconic Region where, as shown on this report's cover, her donation made possible the renovation of an historic school house in Staatsburg, creating a beautiful and sustainable headquarters for the Regional staff. The building was the first public building in New York State to win LEED Platinum for new construction or major renovation projects. Her contributions also supported projects at the **Walkway Over the Hudson State Park**, the revitalization of the Canopus Lake beach area at **Fahnestock State Park** and most recently, the outdoor classroom pavilion at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center. Lucy's contributions to programs like Audubon in the Parks, Connect Kids to Parks, and as announced in September, an agency Stewardship Award, reflect her commitment to supporting the efforts to protect precious natural resources and educate the next generation about the importance of the natural world. The Taconic region also recognizes the contributions of retiring member, Arthur Geller. Art served with distinction on the Taconic Region Commission since 2006, providing invaluable guidance on many issues. He helped advance significant projects at the magnificent **Staatsburg Historic Site**, **Walkway Over the Hudson** and **Old Croton Aqueduct**, among many other properties. This year, the region also partnered with the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc. (HHFT) to create a new trail on Breakneck Ridge in **Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve**. The Ninham Trail is named

after Wappinger chief Daniel Ninham (1726–1778). **Olana State Historic Site** hosted several art exhibits highlighting art and the environment from the 19th century to the contemporary moment.



Thousand Islands Region

Several capital improvement projects were completed or are underway in the region, including the expansion of the **Robert G. Wehle State Park** parking lot. The SCA completed the beautiful system of trails at **Keewaydin State Park**, offering campers and the local community their first opportunity to explore new areas of the park. Big improvements to the Keewaydin pool are well underway. The Olympic-size pool is a very popular amenity with campers and with the local community. This most recent improvement consists of replacing the liner and should be completed in time for a 2022. Autumn Fest at **Wellesley Island State Park** attracted over 1,700 people this year.



Wellesley Island State Park - Fall Fest

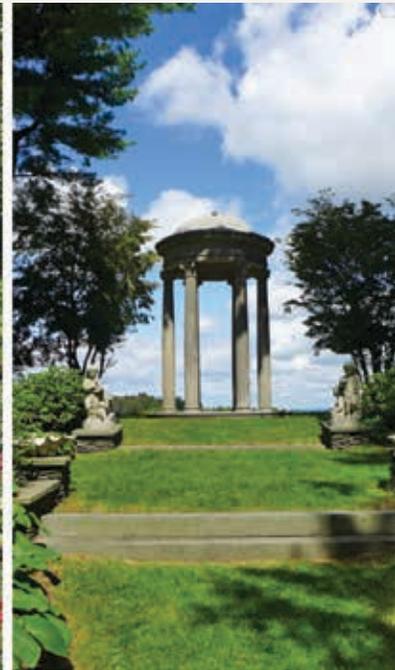
Division for Historic Preservation



Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky



Wethersfield



The Division for Historic Preservation leads the nation in the number and diversity of historic preservation listings. In 2021, nearly 4,400 properties across 33 counties were added to the National Register of Historic Places, qualifying them to use the New York State Rehabilitation Tax Credit program or access state and federal grant programs providing funding for historic preservation. Since our State Historic credit incentives were improved in 2013 and 2017, New York State leads the nation in encouraging private investment in the revitalization of historic buildings. In 2020, this program catalyzed \$1.3 billion in private investment to restore derelict commercial, Main Street buildings and historic districts essential to local economic development. Over 90 percent of program applications come from upstate communities, both urban and rural, while program participation in New York City remains strong and is beginning to increase in the outer boroughs. In total, this program has incentivized more than \$7.6 billion in historic resource redevelopment, and more than 700 additional projects are pending or in early planning stages.

2021 Historic Preservation Awards

Established in 1980, the state preservation awards are given by the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation each year to honor excellence in the protection and rejuvenation of New York's historic and cultural resources.

The 2021 State Historic Preservation Awards recipients are:

Award Category: Outstanding Contribution to Historic Preservation

Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky

Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky, M.D. has served as Chair of the New York State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation since March 2007. She has been Chair of the Taconic Region Parks Commission and a member of the New York State Council of Parks since February of 2004.

Award Category: National Register Listing

Wethersfield (Wethersfield Farm)

This 1,000-acre country estate, created between 1937 and 1977 by Chauncey Stillman, includes a Georgian Revival-style residence, a stable/carriage barn, and ancillary farm buildings, set in an area of formal gardens and sculpture, forests, agricultural fields, and carriage drives.



Grant Cottage State Historic Site



Groversville Public Library



Point O'Woods Historic District



Building B

Award Category: Restoration Project (funded by EPF/HP grant)

Groversville Public Library, Groversville, NY

The Groversville Public Library was constructed in 1904 and is one of New York State's many Carnegie libraries. The work was funded in part by a \$500,000 Environmental Protection Fund Historic Preservation Grant from NYS. The project included restoration work and energy upgrades to the 111-year-old building.

Award Category: Environmental Stewardship (solar installation)

Grant Cottage State Historic Site

The State Park's Energy and Sustainability Bureau installed a 30kilowatt Hybrid Photovoltaic system on the hill approaching the visitor's center at the Grant Cottage State Historic Site in the spring of 2020. The system comprises 3 ground mount arrays which are connected to battery bank with 98 kilowatt hours of storage capable. The installation has taken the Grant Cottage and visitor center off-grid.

Award Category: Tax Credit Rehabilitation

Building B, Brooklyn Navy Yard, Brooklyn

Building B, originally constructed in 1872 as the residence of the Captain of the Yard, is the only remaining building left of Admiral's Row, a row of ten home built to house naval officers. With a long-term lease in place, Steiner Studios undertook the restoration project to transform the building into their new offices at the Navy Yard. This adaptive reuse project brought new life to the once threatened building.

Award Category: National Register Nomination

Point O'Woods Historic District, Fire Island

The Point O'Woods Historic District nomination was presented at the June 2021 State Review Board meeting and was officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places in July 2021. Point O'Woods is a private family community of 133 summer homes (and staff housing) on a 200-acre stretch of Fire Island.

**Award Category: Tax Credit Rehabilitation/
Economic Development**

**Clinton Avenue Rowhouses Rehabilitation,
Albany, NY**

Located in the Arbor Hill neighborhood of Albany (along Clinton Avenue and Ten Broeck Triangle), 70 historic rowhouses were rehabilitated into 210 affordable housing and mixed-income residential units made up of 3 studios, 123 one-bedroom apartments, 68 two-bedroom apartments, and 16 three-bedroom apartments.

**Award Category: Tax Credit Rehabilitation/
Adaptive Reuse**

**Roe-Jan Brewing Company, Hillsdale, Colum-
bia County**

The building now occupied by the Roe-Jan Brewing Company was historically known as the Bulkeley Store and is a contributing structure to the Hillsdale Hamlet Historic District. The building was constructed in 1851 to house the Hillsdale Mercantile Association. Steven and Kathy Blue-stone moved to Hillsdale in 2017 and envisioned a new

future for this structure as a craft brewery and restaurant. the owners/project managers worked carefully to meet all rules and guidelines and the restaurant/brewery is now open to the public.

**Award Category: Tax Credit Rehabilitation
Kreiner Malt Building, Buffalo, Erie County**

The Kreiner Malt House at 50 Elk Street in Buffalo is unique because it was the first adaptive reuse of a grain elevator/silo complex in Buffalo. The project creatively transformed the building into offices, apartments, and a brewery and showcases this important regional building type.

**Award Category: Tax Credit Rehabilitation,
Economic Development**

**Northland Corridor Redevelopment/Niagara
Machine and Tool Works Rehabilitation, Buffalo**

The Northland Beltline redevelopment project involves the revitalization of multiple vacant properties in a large manu-facturing district on Buffalo's east side. This massive project involves a partnership between city, state, and local officials as well as strong community input and involvement.



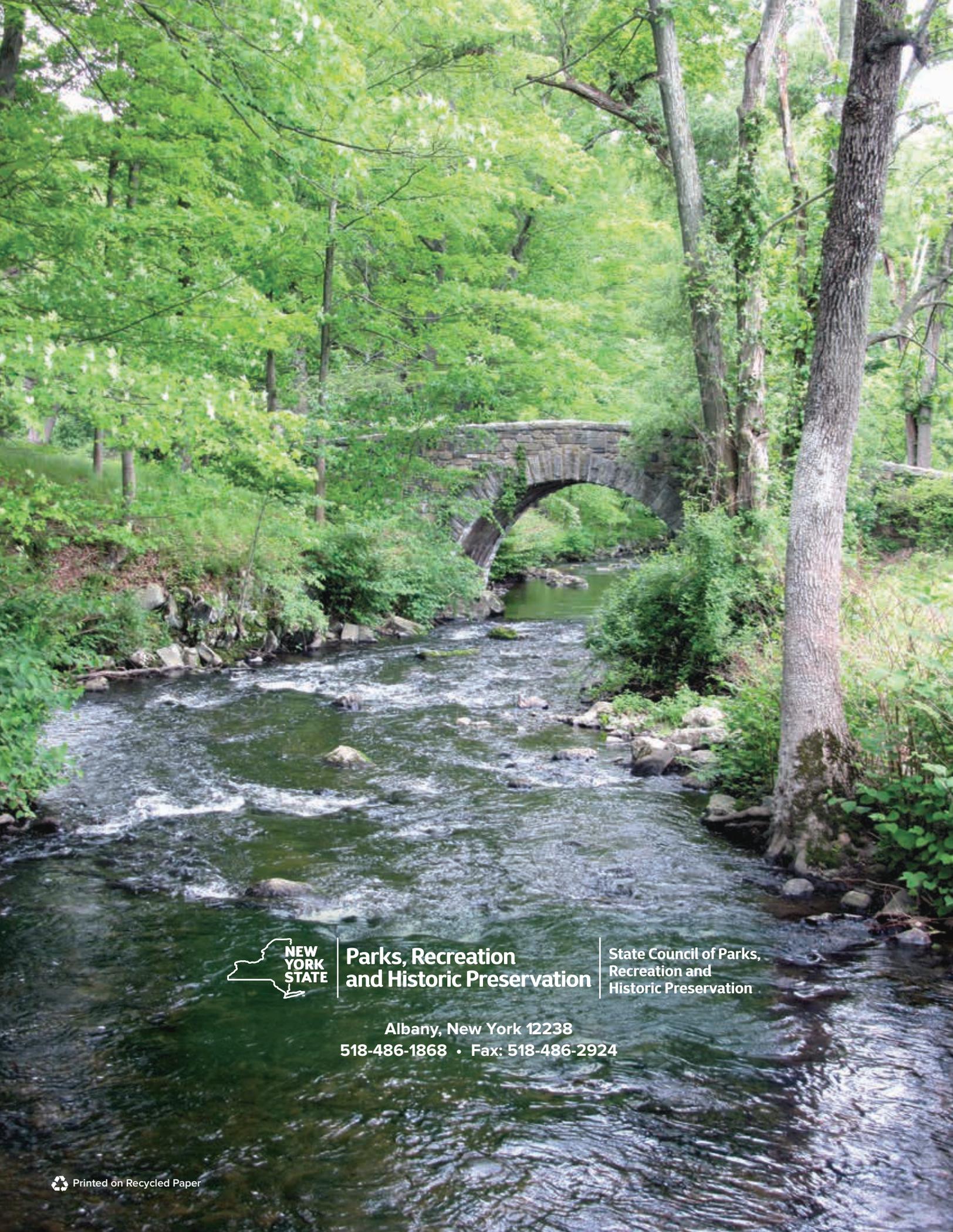


Dedication



Dr. Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky

The 2021 Annual Report is dedicated to Dr. Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky who announced her retirement from the State Council of Parks after 14 years of distinguished service as its Chair, and as Chair of the Tanconic Regional Commission. Lucy's remarkable contributions are highlighted throughout this Report. Her advocacy and support for New York's public lands are unparelled and have helped to define the transformation of the New York State park system over the last decade.



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

State Council of Parks,
Recreation and
Historic Preservation

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