

# New York State Council of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation



A N N U A L R E P O R T 2 0 2 2



NEW  
YORK  
STATE

State Council  
of Parks



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**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

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

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**ERIK KULLESEID**  
Commissioner

**BRYAN ERWIN**  
Acting Chair, State Council of Parks

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor  
Executive Chamber  
Albany, NY 12224

February 2023

Dear Governor Hochul:

The State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is pleased to submit its 2022 Annual Report. This report highlights the State Council of Parks and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation’s achievements during 2022, and sets forth recommendations for the coming year.

The SCOP is extremely grateful for your long-standing support of state parks and looks forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that New York’s state park system continues to be a source of recreation, inspiration, and awe to the millions of New Yorkers who visit us every year.

2022 was another productive year at State Parks. This report features several major capital projects completed this year. The Council is extremely supportive of funding for the next generation of infrastructure improvements. 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. And, 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. We thank you for your support of these important programs.

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 Open Space Institute, Scenic Hudson and the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, we have raised millions in outside funds 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.

Later this year, State Parks will launch a Centennial campaign lasting through 2024 to celebrate 100 years of the State Council of Parks, which was established by NYS statute in 1924 and forged the remarkable state park system we know and love today. The Centennial campaign and its partners, will engage a new generation of visitors with innovative programming that breaks down barriers, expands access and tells the story of New York’s diverse history. Parks and its partners will continue to find new opportunities to invest and improve our public lands while ensuring our open spaces are protected forever. We look forward to a year of celebration in 2024 commemorating this significant milestone in New York’s history with you.

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. The State Council of Parks has been and will continue to be a proud partner in this effort.

Sincerely,

Bryan Erwin  
Acting Chair, State Council of Parks

# STATE COUNCIL OF PARKS 2023 PRIORITIES



I Love My Park Day



Connect Kids to Parks

# The State Council of Parks will advance five priorities in 2023

## 1. Celebrate the Legacy, Build the Future: NYS Parks Centennial 2024

In 2024, New York will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the State Council of Parks, which forged the state park system that New Yorkers know and love today. The Council strongly supports the NYS Parks Centennial commemoration highlighting New York's historic investment in state parks & historic sites and the partnerships that support our mission. The initiative will focus on investing in projects and programs that provide a high quality outdoor recreational and cultural experience, connecting and engaging a new generation of visitors by expanding access, and protecting the system forever as public and private funds are raised in partnership with the Natural Heritage Trust. The Centennial will ensure a vibrant, accessible, and welcoming Park system for the next 100 years.

## 2. Equity in Park Access and Diversity in Park Narratives

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 parks and historic sites. In addition to the Council's continued advocacy for the Connect Kids to Parks and Ladders to the Outdoors Programs, we support the agency's diversity, equity and inclusion initiative which seeks to reach new park users, promote access, and diversify the workforce. Additionally, we support the agency's Our Whole History initiative, an effort to ensure that the state's historic sites embrace narratives that reflect the diversity of our state and nation's history.

## 3. 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 public lands are left unaffected for future generations of visitors. We support the agency's newly published Climate Change Action Plan and its efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change on our public lands.

## 4. Advocacy

The State Council of Parks will continue to assist the agency in promoting and protecting our parks and historic sites. We support efforts to encourage responsible stewardship, such as leave-no-trace principles and volunteer initiatives like I Love My Park Day and Park Advocacy Day, where we will continue to meet with elected officials to advocate for New York State Parks.

## 5. Ensure Adequate Operating Funds

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.



Natural Resources

# STATE COUNCIL OF PARKS AND REGIONAL PARK COMMISSIONS

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.

## 2022 Regional Commission Chairs

### BRYAN ERWIN

Acting Chair, SCOP & Long Island Commission

### WENDY MYERS BRAND

Acting Chair, Allegany Commission

### CORNELIUS B. MURPHY

Chair, Central Commission

### W. DAVID BANFIELD

Chair, Finger Lakes Commission

### NATHAN E. COOGAN

Chair, Genesee Commission

### LEISLE LIN

Acting Chair, New York City Commission

### CINDY ABBOTT LETRO

Chair, Niagara Frontier Commission

### BRYCE O'BRIEN

Vice President, Palisades Commission

### HEATHER MABEE

Chair, Saratoga-Capital District Commission

### EDGAR M. MASTERS

Chair, Taconic Commission

### HAROLD JOHNSON II

Chair, Thousand Islands Commission

### DOUGLAS PERRELLI

Chair, State Board for Historic Preservation



# NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND HISTORIC SITES OVERVIEW

The State Park System is one of New York's greatest treasures. Today, the system totals over 250 parks, historic sites, recreational trails, golf courses, and boat launches. New York's Parks and Historic Sites provide affordable outdoor recreation and education opportunities to 79 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 obesity, diabetes caused by the twin evils of a sedentary life and unhealthy food.

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Parks) is responsible for the operation and stewardship of the state park system, as well as advancing statewide parks, historic preservation, and its mission. The agency has an "all funds" operating and capital budget of approximately \$462 million and is staffed by 2,087 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, 26 golf courses, 36 swimming pools and spray-grounds, 63 beaches, 27 marinas, 40 boat launch sites, 25 nature centers, 830 cabins, 128 cottages, 8,555 campsites, 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.

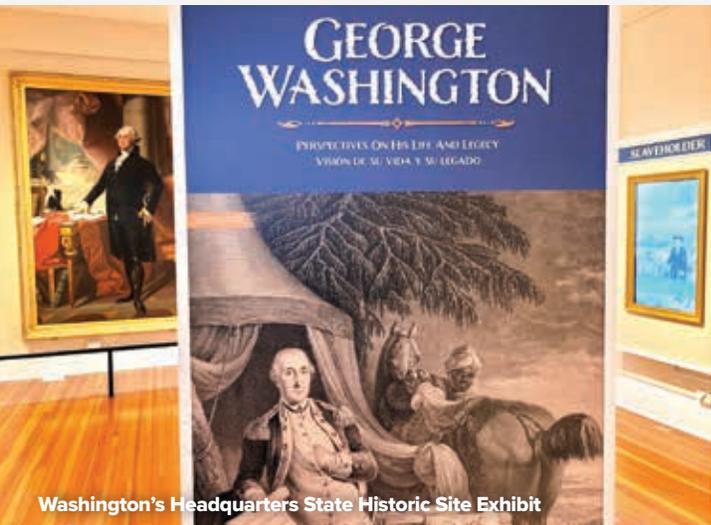
# NEW YORK PARKS CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022



Grand Opening of Lenape Steps at Minnewaska State Park Preserve



Improved Public Land Access Hempstead Lake State Park



Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site Exhibit

## Opening of Refurbished Historic Stone Steps at Minnewaska State Park Preserve

After a three-year rebuilding project, the historic cliffside steps reopened in late March. The Lenape Steps climb the Shawangunk Ridge escarpment in Ulster County, dating back to the 1860s. Starting in July 2019, nearly 50 volunteers from the Jolly Rovers cut, shaped, and set about 100 stone steps made from nearby boulders. Now, visitors have a much-safer way to reach Sam's Point, the highest point on the Shawangunk Ridge.

## New Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site Exhibit

The nearly completely digital exhibit, *George Washington: Perspectives on His Life and Legacy*, is the state park system's first exhibit that is completely available in Spanish and English, and the first installed as part of the **Our Whole History** initiative to bring forward the under-told stories of all the people who lived at State Historic Sites. The exhibit explores six aspects of Washington's career and personal life: General; Politician; Celebrity; Roman Virtue; Slaveholder; and Private Citizen. This exhibit includes quotes from men, women, native peoples, enslaved peoples, people of African descent, Americans, French and British to highlight different aspects of Washington's life, career, and behavior.



Grand Opening at Sojourner Truth State Park

## Sojourner Truth State Park Opens in Ulster County

In partnership with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC) and Scenic Hudson, State Parks celebrated the first state park to open since July 2019 with a Community Earth Day Celebration in late April. Located on 500 acres of former industrial land, Sojourner Truth is the first state park located in the City of Kingston. The new park honors African American abolitionist and suffragist Sojourner Truth, who was born enslaved in 1797 in Esopus, Ulster County. The park

currently features two hiking trails created by State Parks that provide access to the river corridor and to a bluff-top overlook offering magnificent views of the Hudson River.

### Improved Access at Hempstead Lake State Park

In mid-May, a portion of a \$47 million improvement project at Hempstead Lake State Park was completed including: a new ADA compliant fishing pier on Hempstead Lake with light-piercing decks for enhanced fish habitat; a new 20-foot observation tower with an elevated walkway that provides ADA access to the tower; a new ADA compliant kayak launch with a drop-off ramp; two raised crosswalks with solar flashing stop signs; new 10-foot wide trails with stone dust, optimized for equestrian riding; and new stairs and handrails providing safe public access to the lake. This project is the result of a partnership involving State Parks, the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, HUD, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The ongoing transformation of Hempstead Lake State Park will help protect Hewlett Bay, reduce flood risk, provide visitors with enhanced recreational opportunities, and educate the next generation of Long Islanders about the environmental challenges facing the region.

### Completion of Cocksackie State Boat Launch Renovation

Open in time for Memorial Day weekend, the Cocksackie State Boat Launch and Riverside Park on the Hudson River in Greene County is now complete after undergoing a \$3.2 million project to revitalize the area and expand public access. Site improvements include: a new open-air pavilion; new landscaping; improved bike and pedestrian connections between the waterfront and downtown with new sidewalks; and new signage, and basketball court renovations. Improvements to the boat launch include a new ADA-compliant kayak launch. Environmental improvements include a new boat wash station to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species, a rain garden to control stormwater, electric vehicle charging stations, and LED lighting fixtures. This site is the first to be renewed under the Hudson Eagles Recreation Area, a water-based initiative focused on access and experiences on the wild stretch of the Hudson River between Albany and Kingston.

### Opening of the Hubbard Perkins Loop Trail at Fahnestock State Park

State Parks, the Open Space Institute (OSI), and the Taconic Regional Commission opened the newly renovated Hubbard Perkins Loop Trail in late June. This trail is part of a series of OSI-led park enhancement projects aimed at making Fahnestock State Park more welcoming to visitors by improving access. The project overhauled 9.5 miles of multi-use trails to better accommodate park visitors. Improvements include the construction of fourteen new pedestrian bridges and trail crossings, four of which were completed through an ongoing partnership with the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.



Hubbard Perkins Loop at Fahnestock State Park

### Upgrade Completed at Big Six Mile Creek Marina

In late June, the agency celebrated the reopening of the Big Six Mile Creek Marina on Grand Island following a \$2.4 million renovation project. Funding for the project was provided through Niagara River Greenway and the New York Works program. This project involved upgrades to expand the parking lot, modernize drainage and electrical systems, improve landscaping with native species and rehabilitate the existing building/restrooms, including making them fully accessible. Environmental site improvements included removing a buried fuel tank, installing an above ground fuel tank, and modernizing the sanitary sand filter. The mod-



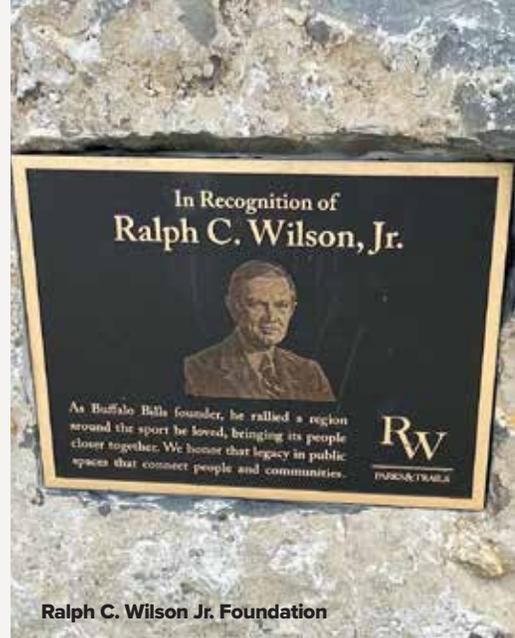
Renovated Cocksackie State Boat Launch Access



Big Six Creek Marina Upgrades



Roosevelt Drive ground breaking at Saratoga Spa State Park



Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation

ernization of this marina is one of several projects aiming to restore the ecological health of the Niagara River and surrounding habitats.

### Improvements to Roosevelt Drive in Saratoga Spa State Park

Construction began on Roosevelt Drive within Saratoga Spa State Park that will improve transportation safety by adding pedestrian and bicycling pathways adjacent to the park's busiest stretch of roadway. The roadway will be moved, making space for a large circular patio as a welcoming gathering place to kick off exploration of the park. The \$4.2 million capital investment will become part of the Park of the Arts initiative. The project will also create expanded parking to service the Spa Little Theater and the recreational and cultural attractions of the Roosevelt Campus, as well as to provide new EV charging stations. New stormwater management features will help protect water quality, stabilize water temperature, and improve brook trout habitat in Geyser Creek. The Roosevelt Drive project will promote safety, resiliency, access, and beautification within Saratoga Spa State Park

### Devil's Hole State Park Gateway Project Opens

In partnership with the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, work was completed at the Devil's Hole State Park Gateway. The project includes a gateway feature and a bike plaza which provides a welcoming entrance to the lower Niagara River segment of the Shoreline Trail. The design incorporates new pavement, columns and seat walls using the same stone indigenous to the park. Also included in the project are a hierarchy of pathways, amenities such as bike racks and a bike repair station, a drinking fountain, signage, LED overhead lighting, refurbished landscaping, and upgraded waterlines. Devil's Hole State Park is a gateway to the popular Niagara Gorge rim state parks, and the Shoreline Trail, a continuous pathway along Lake Erie and the Niagara River, is the integral route that connects these parks.

### New Gateway Entrance at Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion State Historic Park

A new gateway welcoming visitors to Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion State Historic Park in the Finger Lakes represents the first phase of a \$6.1 million multi-year effort by State Parks and the Friends of Sonnenberg. The park's new entrance and gateway is marked by stone columns, providing more visibility for the site and a direct link to the New York State Thruway. The new entrance boulevard leads to a bus turnaround and diverts traffic from an adjoining residential street. The project also improved pathways, expanded parking and added a new entrance garden and tree plantings.

### Cataract House Park Dedicated to Honor Underground Railroad History

In mid-September, the former Heritage Park outside Prospect Point in Niagara Falls State Park was rededicated as Cataract House Park. The Cataract House Hotel once sat on the site, established in 1825 the hotel quickly became a historic and integral stop on the Underground Railroad. Under the leadership of head waiter John Morrison, the African American wait staff led countless Freedom Seekers to safety in Canada.



New Gateway at Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion State Historic Park



Cataract House Park Dedicated



Reopening of Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site



Genesee Valley Greenway State Park Rehab



Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park

Their stories, along with Harriet Tubman and many others, are shared at the nearby Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center.

### Completion of the Genesee Valley Greenway State Park Rehabilitation

In early November, Genesee Valley Greenway State Park welcomed an additional 17 miles of trail from Rochester to the village of Avon, funded by a \$2.5 million grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. Improvements include new stone dust resurfacing, infrastructure improvements, added signage, and benches, picnic tables, bike racks, horse mounts, and gateway signage which all incorporate historic stone blocks from the canal. This 17-mile stretch is a milestone in the continued progress toward the entire 90-mile greenway that will eventually connect the City of Rochester, Letchworth State Park, Allegheny State Park and all of the communities along the Greenway.

### Reopening of Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site

Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, renowned as a National Historic Landmark and a Yonkers City Landmark, reopened in mid-November after a \$20 million renovation of the building and grounds, as well as the design of new exhibits. The site's revitalized exhibits advance the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's **Our Whole**

**History** initiative. In addition to the architectural restoration of the Hall, the grounds and building have been updated to include a newly constructed rear addition that houses new bathrooms and an elevator. The new exhibits have been designed to meet the needs of multilingual speakers, the hearing and visually impaired, visitors with wheelchairs and walkers, and is sensitive to visitors of all ages, abilities, and cultural experiences. A website has been devoted to additional historic and interpretative content called the "Virtual Wing" and will include a 360° virtual tour of the site.

### Major Renovation of Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park

State Parks installed a new \$1.5 million lighting tower to illuminate the outdoor track and field for evening activities and events held at Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park in Harlem. Additionally, the community garden was renovated to include new and expanded raised garden beds, ADA accessibility enhancements, and improved drainage and water supply. Major renovations will continue into 2023, with a \$26 million investment, including a renovation to 30-year-old locker room facilities, the outdoor track and athletic field. A new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system for the park's year-round performing arts center will also be a priority in the coming year.

# STATEWIDE INITIATIVES



Pride at Four Freedoms State Park



Get Outdoors & Get Together Day

## Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion

Several special events at state parks and historic sites this year celebrated our state’s vibrant diversity and important events in civil rights history. ‘Get Outdoors & Get Together Day’ events were held at 21 locations across New York State on Saturday, June 11. The New York State DEC and State Parks in partnership with the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities and the Division of Veterans’ Services, hosted free and low-cost events to connect people to nature and provide increased access to the outdoors. Get Outdoors & Get Together Day brought people of all abilities, ages, identities and backgrounds together for fun, healthy activities as part of the initiative to broaden diversity and ensure access to state public lands. State Parks hosted a successful day of inclusion at eight parks throughout the state, including Sunken Meadow, Riverbank, Saratoga Spa, Allegany, Lake Taghkanic, Hamlin Beach, Buffalo Harbor, and Taughannock Falls, and offered a selection of accessible activities, use of adaptive equipment and demonstrations.

During the summer season, the Niagara Region collaborated with NFTA to provide an Adventure Bus over the summer. The program was free for riders and each destination offered some level of programming. In 2022, over 500 riders visited 7 different parks utilizing this program. The Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion Team is also collaborating with the Capital Team and planning for increased statewide accessibility at beaches and improved comfort stations.

In June of 2022, Planting Fields State Historic Park in the Long Island Region, hosted the first Planting Pride event; a



Planting Pride event at Planting Fields State Historic Park

two-day Gilded Age festival celebrating the LGBTQ+ community. Planting Pride is the first Pride Festival in Planting



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

Fields’ more than 100-year history. Pride month kicked off a much larger initiative at Planting Fields that aimed to tell the stories and celebrate the lives and contributions of queer designers, photographers, and other creators who were central to the making of Planting Fields. In celebration of Transgender Awareness Week (November 13th – 19th) and the international observance of Transgender Day of remembrance (November 20th), OPRHP collaborated with the Division of Human Rights (DHR) and the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and the LGBTQ + Resource Group



Dishonorable Trade Exhibit

to host a webinar on “Building an Inclusive Work Culture for Transgender Identities and Remembering Transgender Lives Lost”. Marsha P Johnson State Park also hosted several Drag Story Hours throughout the year. In support of the annual New York State Parks Pride Outside campaign, a special progressive flag maple leaf logo t-shirt was made available for staff to personally purchase as part of the official uniform.

In honor of Black History Month, an exhibit on the impact of 17th century Dutch slave trade network in North America, the Atlantic and Africa titled “A Dishonorable Trade: Human Trafficking in the Dutch Atlantic World”, was created by our Office of Historic Preservation and was display at the Empire State Plaza in Albany for the entirety of February. The exhibition, created with support of a grant from the from the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Abolition and Resistance at Yale University, was previously displayed at the Crailo State Historic Site in Rensselaer County from 2015 to 2018. Additionally, in June of 2022, Schuyler Mansion Historic Site hosted a “Pinkster Celebration,” which is the oldest and first documented celebration enjoyed by enslaved and free Africans and their decedents.

**Land Acquisition**

Open Space 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 2022, State Parks closed on 11 distinct land acquisition project areas with a total acreage acquired of about 1,713 acres. Additionally, more than 30 significant open space acquisition projects are approved and underway.

**Significant acquisitions in 2022 included:**

- 926 acres, known as ‘Schofield Ridge,’ added to **Hudson Highlands State Park**, in turn creating an area of more than 9000 acres of Parks lands. The acquisition area rises to over 1200 feet and provides spectacular views of the Hudson River and surrounding valley. This area is now the largest public land assemblage within 100 miles of New York City.
- Multiple parcels, and over 510 acres, rising along the banks of the Hudson River shoreline in Kingston and Ulster, to form what is now **Sojourner Truth State Park**.
- Nearly 180 acres added to **Schunnemunk Mountain State Park** in the Hudson Highlands of Orange County, furthering the trail connection and wildlife corridor between Black Rock Forest and Schunnemunk Mountain State Park.
- Over 340 acres of new Genesee Valley Greenway Park property in the Allegany Region, a significant former railway corridor, now under State Park jurisdiction.

Other notable acquisitions included additions to **Moreau Lake State Park’s Grant Cottage State Historic Site**, **Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site**, and **Hudson Highlands State Park’s Breakneck Ridge Trailhead**.

# PARTNERS & PROGRAMS



I Love My Park Day



First Day Hikes



**First Day Hikes** in 2022, thousands of park visitors turned out across the state on January 1st (two legged and four-legged) to enjoy First Day Hikes and embrace nature's winter beauty. A **record 95 hikes** were hosted in communities across New York at state parks, historic sites, state forests, and other public lands.

The eleventh annual **I Love My Park Day** was held Saturday, May 7, 2022, at 150 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 2022, \$900,000 in grants to support 27 not-for-profit organiza-



tions 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 state-wide network of parks, trails and greenways.

Committed to protecting open space and making the outdoors more welcoming and accessible to all, the



**OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE**

**Open Space Institute (OSI)** is adding expertise and raising private dollars to leverage public investments at state parks and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) properties. In 2022, OSI partnered with State Parks to announce the opening of the of the newly restored Hubbard Perkins Loop Trail at Fahnestock State Park; improvements to the Glenclyffe Loop Trail adjacent to Hudson Highlands State Park; and a continuing partnership with the United States Military Academy at West Point which resulted in the design and construction of a new trail bridge at Hariman State Park. OSI secured \$1 million in state grants to construct a new 2.7-mile multi-use trail and trailhead at Schunnemunk State Park and to design and construct a new trailhead and park space at the eastern end of the Adirondack Rail Trail in the Village of Lake Placid. At the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, a key link in the Empire State Trail, OSI



Sam's Point at Minnewaska State Park Preserve



Hubbard Perkins Loop at Fahnestock State Park



Genesee Valley Greenway State Park Rehab



RALPH C. WILSON, JR.  
FOUNDATION

Since 2018, the **Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation** has granted nearly \$26 million to support park projects in the Western NY region. The grants are administered by the Natural Heritage Trust. In April of 2022, the Foundation announced a \$5.47 million grant to improve trails in three State Parks in Western New York. The grant will support key upgrades to trails in Art-park State Park in Niagara County; extend Allegheny State Park's Quaker Area Multi-Use Trail in Cattaraugus County; and improve the Genesee Valley Greenway State Park in Allegany County.

The Wilson Foundation's transformative grant funds are supporting a world-class trail system and continue to improve community connections in Western NY.

secured \$800,000 in funding from Ulster County and began restoration of a 5.5 mile stretch of the trail. OSI also began restoration of Minnewaska's High Point Carriage Road. The project builds on OSI's longstanding goal of connecting Lake Minnewaska to Sam's Point, linking the park's two visitor centers, and fully restoring more than 15-miles of the park's popular carriage roads. In the Adirondacks, OSI partnered with Revolution Rail to purchase 30 miles of the former Saratoga North Creek Rail Line stretching from Warren to Essex Counties. The partnership allows for future creation of a four-season, multi-use recreational trail. OSI also continued its decades-long commitment to land acquisition to protect and expand New York's irreplaceable public lands. In Ulster County, OSI acquired more than 1,000 acres to improve connections between the Shawangunk Ridge and the Catskill Park. OSI also added more than 200 acres, in total, to Schunnemunk State Park in Orange County and Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park in Putnam County. In addition, OSI, working in partnership with the New York Outdoor Recreation Coalition unveiled "Open Spaces For All," a statewide plan for a more inclusive, accessible, and equitable open space system for New Yorkers.





## 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 7,600 field trip grants. From 2019, in which over \$967K was awarded to 2022, in which \$1.129 million was awarded, participation in the grant program grew by 16.75 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. In 2022 alone, more than 700 field trips have served 30,000 youth. Organizations including the Fresh Air Fund, the Madison Square Boys and Girls Club, The Felix organization, and Hope 7 Community Center have used the Connect Kids program this year for summer camp programs.

## Ladders to the Outdoors Expands

First 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. In the summer of 2022,

over 10,000 youth were served through more than 100 programs. That same summer, 50 new groups participated and the program expanded, visiting 9 new State Parks.



Ladders to the Outdoors Program

In 2022, a Ladders to the Outdoors program launched in Central New York with support from the Central New York Community Foundation, the Gifford Foundation and the Central Regional Commission.

# EMPIRE STATE TRAIL



Empire State Trail at Buffalo Harbor State Park



Rosendale Trestle on Walkkill Valley Rail Trail

The **Empire State Trail** is the longest statewide multi-use trail in the country spanning 750 miles from Buffalo to Albany, and from New York City through the Hudson and Champlain Valleys to Canada. Officially opened in December 2020, the Empire State Trail welcomes bicyclists and walkers of all ages and abilities to experience the Empire State’s urban centers, village main streets, rural communities, diverse history, and remarkable natural resources.

Announced on National Trails Day, a new “Trip Planning” feature is now available on [empiretrail.ny.gov](http://empiretrail.ny.gov), the official website for the Empire State Trail. In addition to providing a wide range of lodging options within five miles of the trail, the new trip planning features include downloadable GPS routes and other resources such as access to maps and guidebooks.

State Parks completed several projects to rehabilitate key trail segments in the Mohawk Valley and Capital Region in 2022. The agency revitalized a 3-mile trail section from the City of Cohoes, running northwest towards the Town of Colonie. Additionally, a 2.5-mile section of the trail from the City of Little Falls east to Herkimer Home State Historic Site was revamped this year. Both trail segment projects included a new asphalt surface and many safety improvements. Lastly, a project to resurface the 5-mile section of the Erie Canalway Trail, from Herkimer Home State Historic Site east to the Montgomery County line was completed. State Parks will continue to prioritize Empire Trail projects in order to maintain one of New York’s finest outdoor public attractions.



Empire State Trail at Erie Canalway Trail section, Mohawk, NY



Empire State Trail at Hudson Crossing

# SUSTAINABILITY AND STEWARDSHIP



Coastal Shoreline Resiliency

In 2022, OPRHP introduced the agency's first Climate Change Action Plan, a roadmap to guide the agency in adapting to climate change, protecting the incredible natural, recreational, and cultural resources on behalf of the public, and reducing carbon emissions. The OPRHP Climate Change Action Committee (CCAC), established in April of 2022, has drafted phase one of the Action Plan, which identifies goals, objectives, success indicators, and actions for the Agency's highest priority strategies—coastal resiliency and energy. The plan aims to stabilize shorelines, retreat coastal infrastructure, and create storm resiliency within Parks. It will also implement strategies to make Parks more energy efficient, including the adaption of renewable energies and alternative fuels. The Agency looks forward to implementing the first phase of the Action Plan throughout 2023, and additional phases in the years to come.

To mitigate the agency's greenhouse gas emissions, Parks developed new zero-emission guidance strategies for all capital construction projects. Following Executive Order 22 (EO22) and BuildSmart 2025, State Parks is also conducting energy audits on over 100 of its largest buildings and implementing recommended energy conservation measures. State Parks is also working to reduce emissions from its equipment and fleet. In summer 2022, the agency ran a pilot project testing a variety of hand-held electric equipment (leaf blowers, string trimmers, etc). As follow up to this, State Parks is developing a statewide plan to transition to electric landscaping equipment.

In parallel, State Parks is developing a plan for internal fleet electric vehicle charging. Following EO22, the agency is planning how to electrify its fleet as well as how to power that fleet through new electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

As State Parks electrifies more of its systems, the agency wants to ensure that its electricity comes from renewable sources as well. As of fall 2022, State Parks has constructed over 5.5 MW of solar, covering 16% of its annual electric usage. Under Governor Kathy Hochel's leadership State Parks' goal is to cover all its electricity usage with on-site or purchased renewable energy by 2030.



EV Charging Station - Buffalo Harbor State Park

# DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND PLANNING



Niagara Region accepting the 2022 Lucy R. Waletzky Award for Environmental Stewardship



Student Conservation Association

The Lucy R. Waletzky Environmental Stewardship Fellowship is a two-year funded fellowship focused on innovative stewardship and new approaches utilizing the most up to date science and modern conservation practices. The work of the Fellowship is primarily centered on policies, programs, and/or projects that advance priority focus areas including climate resiliency, biodiversity conservation, and landscape scale habitat connectivity. The first Waletzky Fellow, Emily Johnson, started in October of 2022 in State Parks' Division of Environmental Stewardship and Planning and brings a fresh perspective, advancing the agency's larger stewardship goals.

In 2021, Commissioner Kulleseid announced the establishment of the Lucy R. 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. At the agency's 2022 Annual Awards Dinner, held in November, the Commissioner named the Niagara Environmental, Capital and Operations Teams as Park's first recipient of the award. The region was recognized for its project to restore and expand wetlands at State Park properties along the Niagara River.

## 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 regions, and there are now 48 affiliated institutions and seven High Schools/BOCES partnerships. Up to 100 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 two conservation programs as part of the Empire State Conservation Corps: The Parks Corps and the Hudson Valley Corps. Together 45 volunteers are placed in hands-on learning experiences in a variety of environmental disciplines.



FORCES

# 2022 ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Soujourner Truth State Park



Sterling Forest State Park

# NEW YORK PARKS ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022



Daughters of the American Revolution check for Barcelona Lighthouse



Ladders to the Outdoors Program

## Allegany Region

2022 was a year of planning for the Allegany Region, as it sought out funding for the **Barcelona Lighthouse** renovation. With support from the **Daughters of the American Revolution**, Parks and the Natural Heritage Trust will raise funds for the lighthouse renovation that will allow for public access for years to come. The Region is also looking ahead to expansive new projects funded through the **Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation** that will extend **Allegany State Park's** Quaker Area Multi-Use Trail in Cattaraugus County and improve access to **Genesee Valley Greenway State Park**, which connects multiple Park regions. The Wilson Foundation also granted \$1.25 million this year, toward the "Genesee Valley Greenway Bridges of Allegany County" project, which will create 22 miles of continuous trail along **Genesee Valley Greenway State Park**.

In 2022, Allegany Regional Commission members also attended a dedication ceremony for two historic markers erected at **Midway State Park**. The Region is gearing up for a Grand Opening of the new ferris wheel at Midway State Park in commemoration of the Park's 125th Anniversary, coming in 2023.

## Central Region

Due to lifeguard shortages, the Central Region took a new approach and collaborated with the City of Syracuse School District on lifeguard training for the 2022 season. The region has also been working to implement a **Ladders to the Outdoors** Program with funding from the Central New York Community Foundation and the Gifford Foundation. In December, the Central Region announced that Binghamton



Pete Jemison at Ganongagan's Indigenous Music & Arts Festival.

Pond Festival will be returning to **Chenango Valley State Park** for the first time since 2020. The Festival features family fun including snowshoeing, fireworks, a charity drive and, of course, hockey.

## Finger Lakes Region

The Friends of **Robert Treman State Park** were awarded funding from PTNY to revitalize the Old Mill roof at **Robert Treman State Park**. This year, renovations began on **Watkins Glen State Park's** Sentry Bridge. The 1930's era bridge has significant erosion which has compromised the integrity of the bridge at both ends. In July, **Ganongagan State Historic Site** hosted an Indigenous Music & Arts Festival,



Disc golf at Lakeside State Park



Jones Beach Commission Fundraiser

honoring Pete Jemison, a world-renowned Native American artist. Thousands attended the festival, including Finger Lakes Regional Commission members, to enjoy artisans, food, music, and dancing. The Friends of **Fillmore Glen State Park** held a very successful Fillmore Days Festival the second weekend in August that featured a wide array of food vendors and the beloved “Bath Tub Races” and parade. Both events were a wonderful way to celebrate the Region’s history and kick off the 2022 summer season.

### Genesee Region

In November of 2022, a \$6.5 million project was completed to improve the **Genesee Valley Greenway State Park** from Rochester to the village of Avon. Rehabilitation of the 17-mile stretch at the north end of the greenway was supported by a \$2.5 million grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. During the 2022 summer season, Genesee Regional Commission members learned to play disc golf at **Lakeside State Park** and attended **Letchworth State Park’s** first ever Rec Fest.

### Long Island Region

In the Fall, Live Nation Entertainment announced a multimillion dollar investment to improve the concert-going experience at the Northwell Health at **Jones Beach Theater**. Improvements include a new welcoming entrance, magnificent promenades, upgraded restrooms, enhanced hospitality areas, storm resiliency and security upgrades. The region is also looking forward to the completion of the Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for **Nissequogue River State Park** located in the Hamlet of Kings Park. This will outline a future plan for the park.

A major highlight of the summer season, Long Island’s **Bethpage State Park** hosted the 43rd Polo Golf Junior Classic on the Black Course, one of the most difficult golf courses in the nation, in late June and early July. The Long Island Regional Commission raised nearly \$100,000 for their Parks over the summer at several planned fundraising events, including the Bethpage Golf Tournament and the Rod Stewart Concert Fundraiser.



Marsha P. Johnson State Park Gateway

### New York City Region

In 2020, the State of New York dedicated the park, formerly known as East River State Park, to Black transgender pioneer and activist, Marsha P. Johnson. In March, State Parks called for Artists to design, fabricate and install public art at **Marsha P. Johnson State Park** in Brooklyn. The New York City region welcomes a bold and artful park entrance gateway structure at the Kent Avenue/North Eighth Street entrance and a monument that celebrates her achievements related to the LGBTQ+ communities, her joyous leadership and compassion, and her activism.

In the fall, New York City Regional Commission members attended the very successful Garden Party Fundraiser to support **FDR Four Freedoms State Park**. At the end of 2022, Governor Hochul announced a \$26 million investment in **Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park** in Harlem. The investment includes the renovation of 30-year-old locker room facilities, upgrades to the outdoor track and athletic field and the performing arts center. The project should be complete in time for the 2023 summer season.



Devil's Hole State Park- Shoreline Trail



Grand Opening at Sojourner Truth State Park

## Niagara Region

A restoration project began this year at **Woodlawn Beach State Park** in Erie County. The \$1.6 million project is funded through a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The region has also completed restoration work at **Buckhorn State Park**, and is on schedule to open the **Niagara Falls Welcome Center** in May of 2023.

In September, Niagara Regional Commission members attended the dedication of **Cataract House Park**, an important stop on the Underground Railroad. Planning of the **Buffalo Harbor State Park** revitalization is also underway. The Park will undergo \$30 million upgrades, including the installation of a splash pad near the existing playground and shade structures. The upcoming project will also expand the existing playground to include four new accessible play pieces. Finally, **Ladders to the Outdoors**, a grass roots initiative that provides recreational experiences to underserved neighborhoods in the Niagara Region, has become an inspiration and model that will be duplicated across the state.

## Palisades Region

In addition to opening the new **Soujourner Truth State Park** in Ulster County, the Palisades Region also welcomed an 130-acre addition to **Sterling Forest State Park**, adding new trails and public access to the 22,000-acre park. The property creates an opportunity for a new access point to Sterling Forest in an area where there are currently no entry points. From 1919 until the 1960s, a portion of the property was part of Greenwood Forest Farms, known as the first resort community for Black New Yorkers, becoming a haven for cultural and civil rights leaders from Harlem and Brooklyn, including writer Langston Hughes. Additionally, Palisades Interstate Park Commissioners also attended the first Annual Benefit within the region since COVID-19 struck, celebrating the accomplishments of essential park and historic site staff.

**Minnewaska State Park Preserve** became the first state park to implement a new Pilot Parking Reservation system for the **Sam's Point** area of the park. The pilot reservation system aims to protect the site's fragile ecosystem from the impact of increasing visitation and to provide an improved visitor experience, while reducing impacts on the surrounding community.

## Saratoga-Capital District

**Saratoga Spa State Park** welcomed a major new partner in 2022 with the opening of the Children's Museum of Saratoga in the Lincoln Bathhouse. The Children's Museum of Saratoga contributed \$3M to renovations and welcomed 35,000 visitors in their first six months of operations. In a partnership with the **Connect Kids to Parks** program, the **Saratoga Performing Arts Center** launched the SPAC School of the Arts which brings youth from The Schenectady Boys and Girls Clubs, Girls Incorporated, and the St. Catherine's Center for Children to the park for arts and cultural programming.

The Saratoga-Capital Regional Commission also welcomed two new Commissioners to their roster this year, creating a 9-member commission. The Commissioners worked to



Grand Opening - Children's Museum of Saratoga -Saratoga Spa State Park



Construction on Fjord Trail at Hudson Highlands State Park- Preserve



New Administration Building at Robert Moses State Park

advocate for State land transfers to expand **Moreau Lake State Park** and increase land available to develop visitor services at **Grant Cottage State Historic Site**. Operated by The Friends of the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage, the group contributed \$250,000 to advance a state-of-the-art fire suppression system at the Historic Site.

## Taconic Region

In March, the Region installed a \$3.1 million fire suppression system in Bedford House at **John Jay Homestead State Historic Site**, the family residence of one of America's Founders, dating back to 1787. The new water mist system creates rapid fire suppression while reducing potential water damage risk to the irreplaceable 18th century collection of arts and artifacts. In the spring, the

agency began developing a Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for **Clermont State Historic Site**, located in Columbia County, NY. And thanks to collaboration with The Olana Partnership, **Olana State Historic Site** will undergo major capital and site improvement projects, including the creation of the Frederic Church Center for Art and Landscape. The Taconic Regional Commission helped Friends of Taconic State Park secure funding to finish the development of a 1,000-foot loop railroad at the **Copake Iron Works Historic Site at Taconic State Park**.

The Hudson Line Breakneck station reopened Memorial Day Weekend this year in **Hudson Highlands State Park- Preserve**. The Breakneck station has been closed since 2019 and has since undergone several safety

enhancements. The physical improvements at the train station and trailhead are steps towards the planned **Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail**, a 7.5-mile linear park spanning the Hudson River.

## Thousand Islands Region

In partnership with the New York Power Authority, the Thousand Islands Region unveiled a new Parks Administration Building as a part of the continued revitalization of **Robert Moses State Park** in Massena. The 6,700 square foot facility will house both Park Police and park operations staff, and includes a public reception area, administrative offices, locker rooms and showers for staff use. The region is also continuing to transform the eastern shore of Lake Ontario by creating a new open-air pavilion at **Southwick Beach State Park**. Additionally, the region had a significant increase in staffing this year,

# DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Cynthia Howk



East Harlem South, El Barrio Reconnaissance Level Survey

The Division for Historic Preservation is the designated State Historic Preservation Office for New York and administers a variety of programs and services in collaboration with government agencies, organizations, and residents of New York State. In 2022, the Division received over 800 applications for homeowner tax credits, reviewed 49 projects totaling over \$1.2 billion in private investment incentivized by the federal and state historic tax credit programs, approved 95 nominations to the state and national registers for historic places, and awarded over \$9 million in historic preservation grants. In 2022, the Division secured federal grants to help support historic preservation work in the state, including a grant for exterior restoration work at Old Fort Niagara and funds to support an amendment and a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places that highlight Black and LGBTQ history in New York City.

The Division is also home to the New York State Bureau of Historic Sites, which provides collections care, conservation, and interpretive services for the network of historic sites, parks, and museums under the stewardship and operation of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. In 2022, the Division advanced the agency's Our Whole History Initiative to bring equal presence to the histories of all of the peoples involved in building New York. The 2022 exhibition installation and historic restoration work at Philipse Manor Hall in Yonkers is indicative of interpretive goals for the Division moving forward. Further advancing this initiative with support from Natural Heritage Trust, the agency welcomed an Interpreter of Native American History in 2022.

Over the next several years, the Division will be preparing for national and state anniversaries such as The State Parks Cen-

tennial in 2024, the Semiquincentennial (250th anniversary of the American Revolution) in 2026 and the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Emancipation in New York in 2027.

## 2022 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 2022 State Historic Preservation Awards recipients are:

#### Award Category: Outstanding Contribution to Historic Preservation

##### Cynthia Howk

Cynthia Howk was recognized for her long career and dedication to historic preservation planning, mentorship, and community engagement has had an incalculable impact on the state's cultural and historic resources.

#### Award Category: Excellence in Historic Preservation Documentation

##### East Harlem South/ El Barrio Reconnaissance Level Survey, New York City, New York County

As the first comprehensive historic/cultural resources survey in this part of New York City, the report is an important tool in understanding the built environment and cultural significance

of the neighborhood. It will also serve as a model reconnaissance level survey report for other communities statewide. forests, agricultural fields, and carriage drives.

**Award Category: Excellence in Historic Building Rehabilitation**

**F.R. Bain House, Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County**

The project is the culmination of a multi-year effort by homeowner Kimberlee Breden to diligently restore her historic 1888 Queen Anne style home by utilizing the Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Credit.

**Award Category: Excellence in Historic Preservation Consultation**

**Historic Bridge Rehabilitation Projects, Wayne and Wyoming Counties**

Specifically, Schoellkopf Road Bridge in Wyoming County and the Quaker/ O'Neil Road Bridge over the Erie Canal in Macedon, Wayne County exemplify the cross-collaborative efforts to thoughtfully and creatively revive historic bridges.

**Award Category: Excellence in Nonprofit Achievement**

**Jay Estate Gardens, Jay Heritage Center, Rye, Westchester County**

The transformational design of the gardens not only reflects the historic context, but emphasizes an intentionality to restore native species and original voices and to cultivate an appreciation and understanding of sustainable landscapes through partnerships and public outreach.

**Award Category: Excellence in Community Achievement**

**Lily Dale Assembly Historic District, Lily Dale, Chautauqua County**

The effort to nominate this community for its historic contributions to Spiritualism and the women's rights movement was spearheaded by community members whose advocacy and persistence successfully identified more than 200 historic resources for the district, which is now listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.



F.R. Bain House



Historic Bridge Rehabilitation



Jay Estate Gardens, Jay Heritage Center



Lily Dale Assembly Historic District



Niagara River Gorge Access Stairway Rehabilitation



Old Snell Hall



T Building



Pier 57

**Award Category: Excellence in OPRHP Project Achievement**

**Niagara River Gorge Access Stairway Rehabilitation Projects, Niagara Falls, Niagara County**

The projects blended historic preservation with utility and respected the historic stone stair design while prioritizing safety improvements.

**Award Category: Excellence in Historic Building Rehabilitation**

**Old Snell Hall, Potsdam, St. Lawrence County**

This highly visible reinvestment project adopted a successful historic preservation model and breathed life into an underutilized community resource by transforming it into a new mixed-use space.

**Award Category: Excellence in Historic Building Rehabilitation**

**Pier 57, New York City, New York County**

This adaptive reuse project of a historic pier in New York City is a unique first example of preservation work for a structure

type that is iconic to the city’s history. The pioneering vision, made possible through New York State and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits, now blends innovative construction technology from the 1950s with a cohesive contemporary design.

**Award Category: Excellence in Historic Building Rehabilitation**

**T Building, Queens, Queens County**

In addition to creating much needed supportive housing and space for local community services this adaptive reuse project, which was made possible through New York State and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits, restored many of the building’s original Art Moderne-style features and is a remarkable illustration of revitalized architecture.



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

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

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