



29 Elk Street
Albany, NY 12207
518-434-1583

NEWS RELEASE

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For more information:

Robin Dropkin, rdropkin@ptny.org, office: 518-434-1583

Laura DiBetta ldibetta@ptny.org, office: 518-434-1583

<http://www.ptny.org/our-work/support/park-trail-partnership-program>

Parks & Trails New York Accepting Applications for \$500,000 in Grants to Help Organizations Improve State Parks, Trails and Historic Sites.

Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) and the NYS Office of Parks, Preservation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), with support from Governor Cuomo and the NYS Legislature, are pleased to announce the second round of \$500,000 in competitive grants through the NYS Park and Trail Partnership Program funded through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. The grants are available to Friends Groups of State parks and the program will be administered by PTNY, in partnership with OPRHP.

The program is designed to:

- enhance the preservation, stewardship, interpretation, maintenance and promotion of New York State parks, trails and state historic sites;
- 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
- 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.

In March 2016, [Governor Cuomo announced](#) the first round of Park and Trail Partnership Program awardees which secured \$450,000 in grant funds disbursed among 20 organizations dedicated to the stewardship and promotion of New York State parks and historic sites. The grants were matched by nearly \$242,000 in private and local funding which support projects to strengthen Friends Groups and enhance public access and recreational opportunities at parks and historic sites across the state.

“It’s so inspiring to see the transformational effects of the first round of Park and Trail Partnership Program grants and how they are enhancing the ability of Friends groups to make an even greater contribution to the renaissance of the New York State Park system currently underway thanks to the leadership of Governor Cuomo and Commissioner Harvey,” said PTNY Executive Director Robin Dropkin.

“State Park Friends Groups and volunteers go above and beyond to make our park system a success, and I am excited that the second year of this program will help their energy and talents go further to improve parks, historic sites and trails across New York,” State Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey said.

Applications are due December 2, 2016. Grant awards are expected to be announced in March 2017. The Park and Trail Partnership Program is open to recognized Friends organizations whose primary mission is the preservation, stewardship, interpretation, maintenance and promotion of a specific New York State park, trail or historic site (or multiple such sites) under the jurisdiction of State Parks. More

information about the grant program and its timeline are available at <http://ptny.org/our-work/support/park-trail-partnership-program>.

The Park and Trail Partnership Program, in addition to other grassroots efforts, complements Governor Cuomo's commitment to revitalizing and transforming the State park system through his NY Parks 2020 plan. Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York State is making a historic commitment to improving and expanding access to outdoor recreation. [The Governor's NY Parks 2020 program](#) is a multi-year commitment to leverage \$900 million in private and public funding for State Parks from 2011 to 2020.

Parks & Trails New York is New York's leading statewide advocate for parks and trails, dedicated since 1985 to improving our health, economy, and quality of life through the use and enjoyment of green space.

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