

Eight Capacity Building Grants awarded to strengthen park and trail groups around the state

Parks & Trails New York awarded eight capacity building grants to not-for-profit park and trail organizations to aid them in their efforts to increase organizational visibility and generate community support, grow membership, and attract additional volunteers.

Made possible by a generous private donor, Parks & Trails New York's capacity building grants are designed to strengthen the state's not-for-profit park and trail organizations, enabling them to leverage more private funding and marshal more volunteer power to better fill the gaps in government spending.

Grants were awarded to:

- **Friends of Edgewood-Oak Brush Plains Preserve, Suffolk County** – **\$2,000** for design of a logo, business card, stationery, table top display, tri-fold brochure, and newsletter template to establish a visual identity for the organization and enable it to do community outreach.
- **Tanglewood Nature Center and Museum, Chemung County** - **\$2000** for interactive membership software to increase communication with members, attract new members, and better track memberships and donations.
- **Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association, Inc., Dutchess County** - **\$2000** for design, printing, and mailing of membership and volunteer opportunity information to be sent to Columbia County residents in conjunction with the construction and completion of the trail within the county.
- **Friends of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks, Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess Counties** – **\$1900** for redesign of the organization's website.
- **Concerned Long Island Mountain Bicyclists (CLIMB)** – Queens, Nassau, Suffolk Counties - **\$1700** for recruitment, training and membership materials for expansion of the group's park-based Trail Ambassador program.
- **Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association, Ulster County** - **\$1500** for consultant services to conduct an organizational assessment and develop a work plan to strengthen leadership and improve the organization's capacity to take responsibility for a greatly expanded trail.
- **John Burroughs Association, Ulster County** - **\$1400** for design and printing of a new membership brochure to present a fresh new identity for the organization and attract new members.
- **Friends of Taconic State Park, Columbia County** - **\$500** for expanding its website to allow for on-line membership solicitation, donations, and shopping.

Parks & Trails New York received 39 applications from organizations located in 26 counties throughout the state. This is the third year that Parks & Trails New York has offered this funding assistance.