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## ew York State Office Of Parks Announces \$3.3 Million For Appalachian Trail Restoration @ Bear Mountain



Bear Mountain

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation,  
and Historic Preservation

Palisades Interstate Park Commission

Bear Mountain State Park

Appalachian Trail Restoration Project at Bear  
Mountain Receives Federal Recreational  
Trails Funding

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and

Historic Preservation Commissioner Carol Ash announced \$3.3 million in grants for 32 trail-related projects around the state as part of the Federal Recreational Trails Program. The on-going rehabilitation of the Appalachian Trail as it winds through Bear Mountain's State Park will be funded with support from two awards:

Palisades Parks Conservancy \$120,935

The Palisades Parks Conservancy, Inc., in partnership with the NY-NJ Trail Conference and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, will construct a half-mile accessible trail along the Bear Mountain summit, giving access to an area that is not available to persons with disabilities.

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference \$150,000

The original section of the Appalachian Trail, the nation's first National Scenic Trail, at Bear Mountain is also the most heavily used and degraded. As part of a larger project to rebuild this historic trail to safely accommodate the hundreds of thousands of users annually, this project will open a three-quarter-mile section originating behind the Bear Mountain Inn.

New York has one of the most expansive trail systems in the nation, providing public access to the many natural resources across the state. The trails, which lead through public and private lands, are developed and maintained by state and local municipalities and

motorized and non-motorized trail group volunteers.

"New York's expansive trail system offers four-seasons of recreation for all who live and visit our great state," said State Parks Commissioner Carol Ash. "Through these grants, New York will help connect people to the spectacular scenery and wide open spaces across the Empire State, while helping to improve the quality of life and economies of host communities."

"Trails are a key asset to New York, providing multiple benefits," said Robin Dropkin, executive director of Parks & Trails New York. "They encourage people to be more physically active, protect our air, water and wildlife, provide close to home recreation, and bring tourists and visitors to communities. As big parcels of land get harder and harder to come by it's time to turn more attention to greenways and trails—as green swaths of protected open space in their own right and enhancements to and connections between larger parcels of open space.

The grants will be used for such projects as creating new trails, improving trails, providing connections and purchasing equipment. Trail development plans must emphasize providing access for people with disabilities and minimizing environmental impact.

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