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Assistance with Trail Development Available to NYS Communities

Posted July 20, 2009 by janet

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Parks & Trails New York, a statewide parks and trails advocacy organization, is offering assistance to communities wishing to develop a new multi-use trail or increase usage on an existing trail as part of its Healthy Trails, Healthy People Program. Five communities will be selected to receive help with technical issues, planning, public outreach, grant writing, fundraising, programming, organizational development and other activities critical to the long-term success of trail projects. "Close to home, multi-use trails enhance communities by providing opportunities for increased physical activity, alternative transportation, and economic development. Our goal is to work with communities to build the vision, constituencies and local support that is needed to get a trail built and ensure that community members will use it," commented Parks & Trails New York Executive Director Robin Dropkin. Applications and more information on the Healthy Trails, Healthy People Program can be found on the Parks & Trails New York website, www.ptny.org, or by contacting Parks & Trails New York at 518-434-1583 or ptny@ptny.org. Applications are being accepted until October 2, 2009. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact Parks & Trails New York to discuss their projects before the submission deadline.

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Lehigh Valley Trail

Selection will be based on level of community support and commitment to the project, number and nature of partnerships, clarity of project goals and assistance requested, opportunities to increase physical activity levels within the community, and level of need. Preference will be given to communities with a high percentage of low income households.

The *Healthy Trails, Healthy People Program*, funded in part by a grant from the Healthy Heart Program of the New York State Department of Health, builds upon Parks & Trails New York's ongoing efforts to assist New Yorkers with trail development. In the first five years of the program, Parks & Trails New York staff worked with local government officials and civic organizations, trail advocates, and interested citizens to help launch 27 trail projects in 25 counties. When fully complete, these initiatives will add 144 miles of new trail to the state's growing trail network.

Other trails resources available

As part of the Healthy Trails, Healthy People program, Parks & Trails New York offers a number of resources for trail enthusiasts: a free electronic newsletter, Parks & Trails E-NEWS, and several helpful guides including "*Getting Started: A Guide to Planning Trails in New York State*," "*Getting on Track: Working with Railroads to Build Trails in New York State*," and "*Getting Involved: A Community Trail Handbook for Landowners*." All are available on the Parks & Trails New York website, www.ptny.org/publications.

Parks & Trails New York is New York's leading statewide advocate for parks and trails, dedicated since 1985 to improving the health and quality of life of all New Yorkers by working with community organizations and municipalities to envision, create, promote, and protect a growing network of parks, greenways and trails throughout the state for all to use and enjoy.

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