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Parks & Trails New York offers grants for park and trail groups

Growing the Grassroots Grants aim to boost organizational capacity

Parks & Trails New York is launching the latest round of its Growing the Grassroots capacity building grants for park and trail groups in New York State. The grants, which have increased in size to up to $4,000, will strengthen not-for-profit organizations that are working to build and protect parks and trails in communities across the state.

Through the grant program, Parks & Trails New York aims to help not-for-profits better fulfill their missions by improving their reach, effectiveness, and impact; leveraging more resources; and increasing community support for park and trail development. Funds can be used to assist with activities associated with organizational start-up and development, training, communications, and volunteer recruitment and management. The deadline for submitting applications is October 30, 2014.

The program is unique in that it supports activities not normally covered by existing grants. While a number of grants are available to not-for-profits, they usually only fund capital projects and specific programs; they don’t help organizations develop and strengthen the skills, processes, and resources that they need to survive and thrive.
“Across the state, hundreds of not-for-profit organizations work to build, protect, and promote our state’s parks and trails. They offer a great service to their communities, providing needed space for relaxation and recreation. It’s amazing how much these groups accomplish with minimal resources and limited or non-existent staff,” said Robin Dropkin, Parks & Trails New York Executive Director.

“Since we initiated the awards program in 2009, we have helped 54 parks and trail groups in 36 New York counties to strengthen their organizations, and ultimately become better stewards. This year, we’ve increased the potential award amounts to $4,000. We’re looking for innovate projects that will expand funding and membership for these groups, and programs that effectively market their parks and trails. These types of efforts have paid off for the groups we’ve funded in years past, and we’re looking for an even greater impact from this year’s round of funding,” added Dropkin.

Parks & Trails New York is the 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.

More information and an application can be found on the Parks & Trails New York website www.ptny.org, or by emailing grants@ptny.org or calling 518-434-1583.

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