NEWS RELEASE

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PARK(ing) Day Coming to Albany on September 19, 2014
Parking spaces around the City to be temporarily reclaimed for people

Albany, N.Y. – On Friday, September 19, 2014 parking spaces throughout Albany will be taken over and temporarily transformed for a variety of public uses. The event is part of PARK(ing) Day, an annual, worldwide event where artists, activists, and citizens independently, yet simultaneously, turn metered parking spots into “PARK(ing)” spaces—that is, temporary public parks and other space for people to enjoy.

The mission of PARK(ing) Day is to call attention to the need for urban open space, to generate critical debate around how public areas are created and allocated, and to improve the quality of urban human habitat…at least until the meter runs out!

In Albany, nine parking spots will be converted into public spaces. The event will run from 11:00am-4:00pm and is cosponsored by Parks & Trails New York (PTNY), the City of Albany’s Department of Development and Planning, and Capital District Transportation Committee’s Capital Coexist.

PTNY is taking over a parking space on Washington Avenue near the Capitol, converting it into a temporary public campground complete with greenery, tent, camping chairs, camp stove and marshmallows. By creating a temporary refuge in the middle of the city, PTNY is reminding New Yorkers how important it is to have a place to relax, rejuvenate and recreate.

“Parks, trails and other open spaces are critical to the health and well-being of all New Yorkers in all communities,” said PTNY Executive Director Robin Dropkin. “PARK(ing) Day is an excellent way to remind ourselves of the importance of having natural areas that are accessible to everyone.”
“Each year PARK(ing) Day grows in popularity in the City of Albany,” said Mary Millus, Senior Planner with the City of Albany Department of Development & Planning. “I always look forward to visiting each parking space to see the creative uses that people come up with. We will be out in front of the Albany Main Branch Library on Washington Avenue celebrating Tivoli Lake Preserve.”

“Capital Coexist is a CDTC education campaign which encourages pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists to safely coexist on our region’s roadways,” said Mike Franchini, Executive Director of the Capital District Transportation Committee. “Ensuring that all modes of transportation can travel safely will encourage residents to be healthier, increase recreational opportunities and make streets a place for moving people, not just a place to move or park cars.”

See www.ptny.org for a map of all the PARK(ing) Day spaces in the City of Albany. Learn more about PARK(ing) Day at www.parkingday.org.

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**Parks & Trails New York** is the state’s leading advocate for parks and trails, working since 1985 to expand, protect and promote a network of parks, trails and open spaces throughout the state for use and enjoyment by all. Learn more at www.ptny.org.

The **Capital District Transportation Committee** (CDTC) is a public transportation planning agency, and the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Albany-Schenectady-Troy and Saratoga Springs metropolitan areas and the four County region. Visit www.capitalcoexist.org for more information.