



# Memo in Support A693

## Analysis and justification of park or historic site closure

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**Title:** An act to amend the parks, recreation and historic preservation law to require an evaluation of the impacts of the closure of public access to any land owned or operated by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP).

**Summary:** This bill requires OPRHP to prepare a report, subsequent to at least one public hearing in the impacted area, that lays out the justification and rationale for the closure of a park, historic site, or other property or facility owned or operated by the agency at least 6 months prior to the closure.

**Why PTNY supports this bill:** PTNY opposes the closure of any park or historic site in New York State. However, if OPRHP determines that closure is the only option, it behooves the agency to do due diligence and lay out the justification and rationale for the closure and evaluate the impact to the people of New York and to local communities.

This bill ensures that OPRHP's internal decision making process will be transparent to the public, as it needs to be in as important a decision as a park or historic site closure. The holding of a public hearing in the impacted area provides a voice at the table for community leaders, friends groups, and local citizens and may reveal issues the agency had not previously considered.

The requirement to provide justification and rationale for closure will ensure stakeholders have the information needed to be more constructive partners in possibly developing alternative management structures to keep open a park or historic site. With a six-month lead time, stakeholders will have sufficient time to more thoroughly investigate alternative management arrangements and to attract benefactors and corporate sponsors.

**Parks & Trails New York strongly supports this bill.**

