



# Memo in Support A6272 Pennies for Parks

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**Summary:** This legislation creates the “Pennies for Parks” program providing funds for capital expenditures at state parks and historic sites; imposes tax on single use carryout plastic bags; establishes the “Pennies for Parks” fund to hold funds received by the tax on single use carryout plastic bags.

**Why PTNY supports this bill:** In 2006, Parks & Trails New York published its groundbreaking report, *Parks at a Turning Point*, documenting how years of neglect had contributed to the crumbling infrastructure of the New York State Park System. Unfortunately, the situation has only gotten worse, with the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation estimating \$1 billion dollars in needed infrastructure repair and restoration, nearly half health and safety related.

While the need has never been greater, the OPRHP capital budget is at an historical low. It will take a significant multi-year investment for the agency to make inroads in its backlog of capital needs. “Pennies for Parks” can provide more than \$60 million annually to support and maintain parks and historic sites – a sustainable base from which to revitalize the Park System.

A recent poll indicates that nearly three-quarters of New Yorkers favor a dedicated penny surcharge on plastic bags to support state parks. Plus, the surcharge is avoidable if consumers use reusable bags.

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

