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NEWS RELEASE

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Assistance with Trail Development Available to NYS Communities Application deadline October 12

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 of 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.

“Easily accessible, close to home, multi-use trails are a proven and significant way in which communities can provide no or low cost opportunities for almost everyone to increase their level of daily activity and become more involved in their community. Our goal is to work with communities to help them build the vision, constituencies and local support needed to not only get trails built but also ensure they are used by all their residents,” 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. Application deadline is **October**

12, 2010. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact Parks & Trails New York to discuss their projects before the submission deadline.

Since *Healthy Trails, Healthy People* was launched in 2004, Parks & Trails New York staff have assisted 32 communities in 30 different counties with their trail development efforts. When these projects are fully complete, 240 miles of new multi-use trail will be open to the public. *Healthy Trails, Healthy People* is funded in part by a grant from the Healthy Heart Program of the New York State Department of Health.

Other trails resources available

As part of the *Healthy Trails, Healthy People* program, Parks & Trails New York offers additional resources for trail enthusiasts: a free, monthly electronic newsletter, Parks & Trails E-NEWS, and a free, 40-page trails how-to guide called “*Getting Started: A Guide to Planning Trails in New York State.*” Both are available on the Parks & Trails New York website, www.ptny.org.

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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