



IMPROVING YOUR PARKS . . . FROM THE GROUND UP

I Love My Park Day 2019 enriches 144 of your favorite parks and outdoor spaces

Thanks to your support and participation, Parks & Trails New York hosted the best ever I Love My Park Day in May. 8,000 volunteers rolled up their sleeves, got their hands dirty, and gave 36,000 hours of their time to a record 144 state parks and outdoor spaces.

Because of I Love My Park Day, your favorite outdoor spaces are safer, cleaner, and more beautiful for all to enjoy. Volunteers collected thousands of bags of trash, planted thousands of trees, and improved hundreds of miles of trails, all of which helped get parks ready to welcome visitors during the busy spring and summer seasons.

I Love My Park Day is so much more than clean-up projects though. The event inspires the next generation to get outside and give back. We are excited to see the increasing number of enthusiastic youth who show up to volunteer. I Love My Park Day also means a great deal to local communities. Many volunteers come year after year to support their favorite parks.

As park staff are stretched to the limit, your support and volunteer work make a huge difference for our state's magnificent outdoor spaces.

On I Love My Park Day 2019, supporters like you helped volunteers accomplish an amazing amount:



1460 trees planted



219 gardens created



1692 bags of trash collected



358 bags of invasive species removed



155 miles of trails cleared



50 miles of beach cleaned



257 picnic tables painted

We look forward to making I Love My Park Day 2020 on May 2 an even greater success. Mark your calendar! We'd love for you to join us.

PARK & TRAIL PARTNERSHIP GRANT: EXPANDING THE IMPACT

Clark Reservation deepens connection with visitors

Thanks to a Park and Trail Partnership Grant, Friends of Clark Reservation in Central New York upgraded its 40-year-old nature center with new furniture, displays, books, and children's area. Geologist volunteers created a new exhibit to highlight the rock formations as visitors descend the 200 stairs to the fossil plunge pool.



Clark Reservation State Park has seen the number of visitors double over the past five years. Renovating the nature center has helped deepen engagement to drive repeat visits and increase donations to the park.

This support has enabled Clark Reservation to develop more educational programs and keep the nature center open more hours.



You Make All the Difference

Dear *Friends of New York's Parks and Trails*,

As the air cools and the leaves change, we have exciting updates and successes to share with you this winter season. I hope you're as proud as we are of what we've been able to accomplish. We couldn't do it without the generous support of friends like you—thank you!

We look forward to keeping you updated with what 2020 has in store for New York's parks and trails.

Best wishes,

Robin Dropkin
Executive Director



“The Park and Trail Partnership Grant has been instrumental to the growth of our activities and is helping the public enjoy the wonders of the natural world found at Clark Reservation State Park

– Friends of Clark
Reservation”

CLOSING THE GAPS IN THE ERIE CANALWAY TRAIL

And your support of Parks & Trails New York is making it happen!



Cycle the Erie Canal 2019 riders enjoying the scenery in Wayne County.

As the 750-mile Empire State Trail nears completion, new sections of the Erie Canalway Trail are getting cyclists and hikers off-road and closer to the water. These new sections of trail, from the Mohawk Valley to Western New York, are enhancing the Canalway experience. The complete stretches of trail are scenic and serene with new trees, shrubs, benches, and picnic tables.

The 650 cyclists who completed our Cycle the Erie Canal bike tour rode these newly completed sections of the Canalway Trail. Riders from all over the country and all walks of life were transformed by the beautiful views along the canal, charming canal towns, and rich history. Not to mention the exhilaration of riding 400 miles in 8 days!

Our trails work had another big win this summer, when a bill to develop a statewide multi-use trails plan passed both houses of the state legislature. The bill got full approval because so many legislators heard from trail supporters like you! Now, the bill goes to the Governor to sign, which we are hopeful he will.

With your support and participation, more people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy multi-use trails that connect communities across the state. As you know, trails boost small businesses and local economies in addition to being good for your health and the environment. Together, we're making New York greener and healthier!



March 2
Park Advocacy Day

March 16
Trails Advocacy Day

April 18-19
Canal Clean Sweep

2020 Save the Dates!

May 2
I Love My Park Day

July 12-19
Cycle the Erie Canal Bike Tour

WITH ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS AND DECREASES IN FUNDING, NEW YORK'S PARKS AND TRAILS NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



We don't take the above view for granted, and we know you don't either.

With NY Parks 2020 set to expire and the Empire State Trail slated for completion—both in 2020—now is the time to plan for the future. We've come a long way since the threatened closure of 100 parks and our Save Our State Parks campaign 10 years ago. But support for parks is not guaranteed, and there's still work to be done. Your favorite parks and trails need support today to thrive in 2020 and beyond.

Now more than ever, we need to invest in the people who care for our parks. Less operations funding means fewer lifeguards, rangers, police, maintenance, and trade workers. With over 70 million visitors to state parks every year, our parks can't afford to lose funding or staff.

The 750-mile Empire State Trail needs ongoing maintenance and future projects to connect the state's

trail system to even more communities. We're working to secure strategic planning and reliable funding for New York's growing trail network to make that vision a reality.

We need to continue the positive momentum for the parks and trails you love. With your support, our team is hard at work, expanding our impact through direct community support. We provide a voice and speak up for New York's parks, so we can keep them safe, clean, and beautiful.

These are challenging times for the environment. Your support today will help us defend your favorite outdoor spaces from development, lack of funding, and climate change. 2020 will be a big year to determine the future of our state's parks and trails. You can count on us to take action and protect New York's valuable outdoor spaces.

Your gift makes a difference protecting and expanding New York's parks and trails.

Double your impact! When you make a gift before December 31, our Board of Directors will match it dollar for dollar. Thank you!

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ Other \$ _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

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☐ Enclosed is my check payable to Parks & Trails New York

☐ Please charge my credit card # _____

Exp: _____ Security # _____ Signature: _____

☐ My company's matching gift form is attached. Donate online at www.ptny.org/donate

☐ \$50 becomes  \$100

☐ \$100 becomes  \$200

☐ \$250 becomes  \$500

☐ \$500 becomes  \$1,000

☐ \$ _____ becomes  twice as much!

Parks & Trails New York is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, EIN 14-1753475. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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