



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 8, 2014

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Statement from Parks & Trails New York on Governor Cuomo's 2014 State of the State Address

ALBANY, N.Y. – In today's State of the State address, Governor Cuomo reinforced his commitment to the revitalization of New York's world-class state park system. We applaud the Governor's continued investment in these treasured landscapes and cultural landmarks for New Yorkers today and for future generations.

Over the past two years, with the State's commitment of over \$200 million for park restoration, Governor Cuomo has made parks an integral part of his efforts to rebuild the state's infrastructure and economy. His leadership reflects his recognition of the important role parks play in local economic growth, in protecting important natural areas, and in providing affordable and healthy recreational opportunities for New Yorkers and visitors, alike.

Sustained investment in the restoration of New York's park system will enable the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to continue its progress in addressing the estimated \$1 billion backlog of infrastructure needs and critical safety repairs, breathing new life into the park system.

We also commend the Governor's plan to bring parks into the twenty-first century through his e-Business strategy, employing new technologies for common park procedures such as camping reservations and vehicle entrances. Similarly, mobile apps and enhanced guides and maps will encourage new generations of New Yorkers to visit and experience our 179 parks and 35 historic sites and spur continued growth in visitation. A lifetime State Parks' Empire Passport will allow New Yorkers easier access to the natural and historic treasures in their backyards.

Parks & Trails New York was founded in 1985 to support the New York State Park System, and in the almost 30 years since, we have been the state's leading organization working to preserve and enhance a network of parks, trails and greenways for all New Yorkers for generations to come.

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