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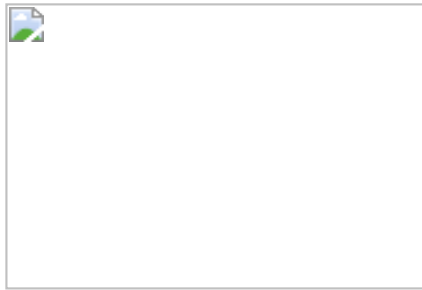


Leading the fight for federal trails funding

The newly passed federal Transportation bill (MAP-21) dealt a big blow to trail and bike/ped funding in NYS, slashing these programs by one-third. States now also have the option of diverting half of these funds to non-trail and bike/ped projects and opting out completely from the Recreational Trails Program.

An early victory-- Recreational Trails Program preserved

A big thank you to Governor Cuomo for preserving the popular Recreational Trails Program (RTP). And **THANK YOU** to the almost 600 trail advocates who responded to our postcard initiative to convince the Governor how important RTP is to trail development in NYS.



Taking action

Our recent [letter](#) to Governor Cuomo-developed with our partners the [Tri-State Transportation Campaign](#) and the [New York Bicycling Coalition](#), and co-signed by almost 100 organizations and municipalities-urged immediate action to ensure continued robust funding for trail, bike and pedestrian-oriented projects in NYS. The collaboration in developing the letter has created a strong coalition platform for us to move forward to fight for funding for trails and bike/ped projects.

While we've made ourselves heard, we still have a lot of work to do. NYSDOT still has not made available tens of millions of dollars in Transportation Enhancement funds from the previous transportation law - funds that communities around the state can use to build trails. The concern is if these dollars are not committed soon, Washington may take them back.

Act TODAY:

[Write or call](#) NYSDOT Commissioner Joan McDonald today and tell her to initiate another round of Transportation Enhancements funding right away.

Great Hudson Valley Pedal 2012

September 2012



Celebrating 25 years of advocacy for New York's parks and trails

TrailFinder Trail of the Month

Orange County's Heritage Trail



There's still some summer days left to enjoy the [Heritage Trail](#) in Orange County. Connecting the villages of Goshen and Monroe, this 11.5-mile trail was the first multi-use asphalt trail developed in Orange County. It remains a popular draw, receiving more than 140,000 annual visitors.

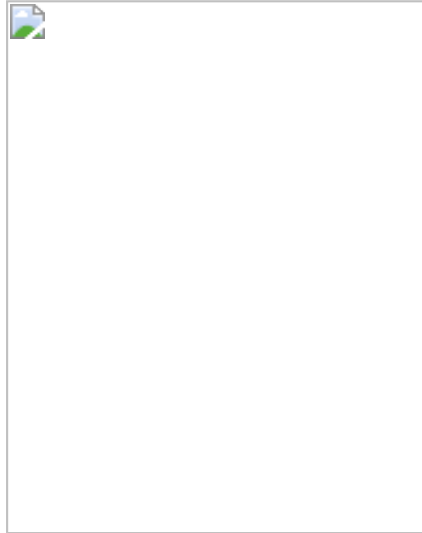
Outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy scenic vistas, a bird/wildlife sanctuary, historic landmarks, babbling streams, rolling meadows, and friendly communities along the way. Trail users can enjoy biking, walking, rollerblading, and nature study, as well as shopping and dining in the local villages. Access points are located in Monroe, Chester and Goshen, all with good parking.

For more information on the

More than 150 cyclists and volunteers joined PTNY for our 8th annual [Great Hudson Valley Pedal](#) bike tour.

Ranging in age from nine to 83 and hailing from 25 states and Canada, the cyclists set off on their 200-mile adventure on July 31 and arrived in NYC on August 5.

Rolling hills, vibrant orchards and vineyards, historic homes, and six fabulous bridge crossings combined to create a memorable experience for the cyclists.



This year's Great Hudson Valley Pedal marked the release of PTNY's new guidebook, [Cycling the Hudson Valley](#). A press event was held in Hyde Park on August 3, in the middle of the bike tour, at the FDR National Historic Site to announce the release of the guidebook.

A new finish location at [Brooklyn Bridge Park](#) was very popular, as cyclists enjoyed spectacular views of Manhattan as they crossed the East River into Brooklyn to reach the park.

News from State Parks

State Park Visitation Soars

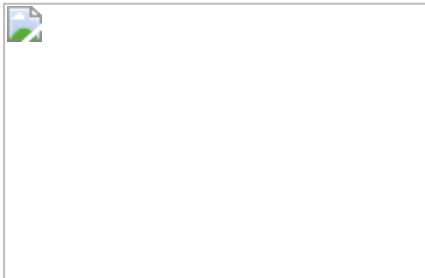


Photo courtesy of Ric Vrana

New Yorkers clearly love their parks. According to [data released](#) by State Parks, 43.7 million people had visited state parks and historic sites in 2012 by the last weekend of August - a 2.3 million increase in visits over 2011. And these numbers were announced before the busy Labor Day weekend when New

Yorkers and tourists alike flock to places like Jones Beach State Park and the park system's countless lakes and swimming pools for a last taste of summer. [Read more](#) about this year's boost in visitation.

More visitors to parks and historic sites is great news for our state park system and the local communities that benefit from the economic boost and jobs these special places provide. But it also means increased wear and tear on aging facilities and increased maintenance needs on an agency already stretched thin.

Upgrades and rehabilitation efforts are happening across the state thanks to Governor Cuomo's NY Works Fund, which supplied the largest infusion of capital funding to state parks in history. PTNY looks forward to working with the Governor and the Legislature to

Heritage Trail and others like it, visit [TrailFinder](#), PTNY's interactive guide to multi-use trails throughout New York State.

SAVE THE DATE PTNY's Annual Reception October 17



At PTNY's annual award reception, we will be honoring:

- * Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo
- * Cong. Maurice D. Hinchey
- * Brookfield and its Co-Chairman John E. Zuccotti

Please join us Wednesday, October 17 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the University Club in NYC.

Tickets, sponsorships, and program ads are now available. Call 518-434-1583, ext. 205 or email mgershun@ptny.org

A day at the fair



Did you know that the smallest state park in New York is actually part of the [Great New York State Fair](#)? [The State Park at the Fair](#) is a 3-acre sanctuary in the midst of games, competitions, rides, concessions and concerts. PTNY exhibited as part of this unique State Park over the weekend and met hundreds of New Yorkers who love their parks.

Join us! 2012 Walk/Bike Symposium, September 18, Glens Falls

PTNY is co-sponsoring this

keep this momentum going in 2013 and beyond so New York's treasured places can continue to welcome visitors in droves.

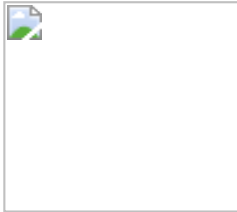
Kings Park demolition begins

After some delays, the demolition of 15 deteriorated buildings at the former Kings Park Psychiatric Hospital began in August. Once the buildings are

removed, the grounds -- now part of [Nissequogue River State Park](#) -- will be restored. Learn more and stay up-to-date on the progress of the project through a [new website](#).



Expanded Empire Passport coming soon



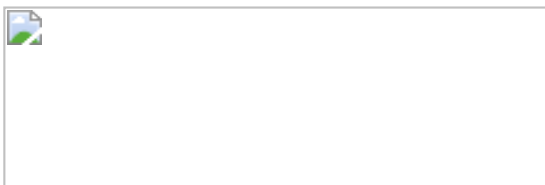
Thanks to legislation signed by Governor Cuomo you'll soon be able to purchase three-year and five-year [Empire Passports](#), which provide access to 178 state parks and 55 Department of Environmental Conservation forest preserve areas, as well as boat launch sites, arboretums, and park preserves. The bill was sponsored by [Senator José M.](#)

[Serrano](#) and [Assemblyman Steve Englebright](#).

"For many New Yorkers, state parks offer countless recreational opportunities, and foster an important appreciation for the great outdoors while offering families an affordable alternative to costly travel. The three-year and five-year Empire Passport will serve as a money saver for many avid park goers, while also serving as an important investment to help maintain park infrastructure," said Senator Serrano.

For comprehensive news on New York's state park system and the Friends groups that support it, see the summer issue of ["You Gotta Have Friends."](#)

Thank you to our Green Partner - First Niagara Bank



Living up to its motto, "We live here. We work here. We make a difference here," [First Niagara](#) is committed to giving back to its communities. PTNY and New York's Erie Canalway

year's statewide Bike/Walk symposium at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls on September 18. PTNY Project Director Martin Daley will give a presentation entitled "Talking Trails: The Economic, Health and Community Benefits of Multi-use Trails." [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

Utica editorial supports Closing the Gaps in Erie Canalway Trail

Thank you to the *Utica Union-Dispatch* for the great [editorial](#) about Closing the Gaps in the Erie Canalway Trail! Closing the Gaps in the cross-state trail has been a PTNY priority for more than a dozen year. [Read our latest report on the effort](#).

NYS Canal System is good investment

Read PTNY's [letter to the editor](#) about why Investment in the NYS canal system pays big dividends.

September Events

Hudson River Valley Ramble

Held on the four weekends in September after Labor Day, the Hudson River Valley Ramble celebrates the history, culture, and natural beauty of the Hudson Valley. With nearly 200 events, including 69 hikes and walks, the Ramble is a great way to enjoy the Valley this fall. A complete listing of events can be found on the Ramble's [website](#).

National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation's

communities have first-hand experience of this commitment as First Niagara was the Official Bank Sponsor of PTNY's 2012 [Cycling the Erie Canal](#) bike tour.

The bank supported the ride, the more than 500 riders, and the Upstate communities we visited on our eight-day journey from Buffalo to Albany, and participated in the community celebrations PTNY hosted along the way.

First Niagara has more than 425 branches, approximately \$38 billion in assets, and about 6,000 employees providing financial services to individuals, families, and businesses across Upstate New York, as well as in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

Bicyclists Bring Business! roundtable and bikearound Oct 11/12

Western New York residents, government and agency officials, and business owners can discover how to appeal to and profit from bicycle tourists visiting the Erie Canalway Trail and the region's many other trails at a free roundtable, "Bicyclists Bring Business!" to be held **Wednesday, October 10**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the [Hoag Library in Albion](#). Learn more about the demographics and needs of the bicycle tourist as well as tips for making communities and businesses more bicycle-friendly and attractive to other outdoor recreationalists. Attendees will receive a copy of Parks & Trails New York's guidebook, "[Bicyclists Bring Business: A Guide for Attracting Bicyclists to New York's Canal Communities](#)."

The following day, **Thursday, Oct 12**, participants will have an opportunity to experience the Canalway Trail and the Village of Albion from the perspective of a cycling tourist, beginning at the [Golden Gourd Bistro](#) in the village at 10:00 a.m.

The event is sponsored by Parks & Trails New York, New York State Canal Corporation, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, and Western Erie Canal Alliance. RSVP to [Parks & Trails New York](#) or call 518-434-1583. Registration required for the October 11 event.

Corning Inc. gives back to the community with downtown park

Corning residents, workers, and visitors are going to see a major change in the downtown landscape when Corning Incorporated completes the park it is building on the former [Fallbrook plant site](#).



The 10-acre park, which will be owned and maintained by the company, will include a tree-lined area with open, grassy interior space; shade, flowering and evergreen trees; a half-mile paved walking trail; and an ornamental fence and benches.

largest, single-day volunteer event for public lands. On Saturday, Sept. 29, join with over 170,000 volunteers across the U.S. to give back to parks, trails, historic sites and other treasured public lands. NPLD is a program of the [National Environmental Education Foundation](#). [Register to hold an event](#) or view the [Find a Site](#) map to find an event near you.

Parks & trails are good for the economy

New report shows outdoor recreation pays off

A recent study by the [Outdoor Industry Association](#) has shown the important role outdoor recreation plays in the national economy. Not only does it contribute \$646 billion annually and is responsible for 6.1 million jobs; it grew nearly 5% during the recession! You can read the summary and download the [complete report](#) on the Outdoor Industry Association website.

Sen. O'Mara voices support for park and trail investment

[State Senator Tom O'Mara](#) cites the Outdoor Industry Association report (see above) and one of [PTNY's reports](#) in a recent [op-ed piece](#) highlighting the importance of investing in New York's parks and trails. Thank you, Senator O'Mara!

Free webinars on updated AASHTO Bike Guide

The national [Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center](#) (PBIC) is offering a webinar series on the updated American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials' (AASHTO) Guide for

Construction started in May 2012 and will be completed next spring. Coming elected to build the park, located one block from historic Market Street, under the guidelines of the Brownfield Cleanup Program administered by the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation.

"We feel creating a large park at the former plant site in the heart of the city is the best use for that property," said Dan Collins, Coming Vice President for Corporate Communications. "A city block in Coming that once housed a manufacturing facility is about to take on an entirely new role in the community, as it becomes green space for all to enjoy."

[Coming Inc.](#), with its global headquarters in Coming, has been in business for more than 160 years and is the world leader in specialty glass and ceramics.

Parks, trails and sustainability



Governor Cuomo has set in motion a new regional sustainability planning effort. The initiative is part of the [Cleaner, Greener Communities Program](#), a \$100 million competitive grant program to encourage

communities to develop regional sustainable growth strategies. There are two stages of the program: in stage one, 10 regions of the state will develop comprehensive sustainability plans; in stage two, funding will be provided on a competitive basis for implementation of specific projects that help achieve the plans' goals.

PTNY is working to ensure that expanding, promoting, and protecting a network of parks, trails, and greenways is an integral part of all the regional sustainability plans. Read [PTNY's comments](#) submitted to the Capital Region planning team.

All regions will also provide the public with the opportunity to provide input and some have already begun. [Contact your regional planning team](#) and find out how you can get involved.

Heads up! Upcoming grants

PTNY Growing the Grassroots capacity-building grants

PTNY's [Growing the Grassroots](#) capacity-building grants have helped dozens of park and trail groups strengthen their organizations. The next round of applications will be announced on September 18. Be on the lookout for an email, or [visit our website](#) for updates.

Small grants for Erie Canalway Corridor projects

the Development of Bicycle Facilities. The guide is the key resource for creating and designing bicycle facilities in the U.S. and has undergone extensive revision since the previous edition was published in 1999. Upcoming webinars will cover topics such as shared use paths, bike lanes, bike boulevards, and trail maintenance activities. Register at www.bicyclinginfo.org/aashto.

Signs to link 50 miles of trails in Binghamton area

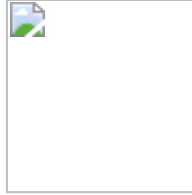
Municipal officials in the Binghamton area are [installing signs](#) to guide trail users from one trail to the next. Expected to be installed later this year, the signs will create a network of trails connecting Binghamton, Otsiningo Park, and the Chenango and Susquehanna Rivers.

How to get trails built without big grants

[Community Built - Stories of Volunteers Creating and Caring For Their Trails](#) describes how 11 different trail projects nationwide were successfully developed using more than just a big grant. The 35-page report, published by Rails to Trails Conservancy, details how local groups and volunteers used donations, ingenuity, multiple partnerships, and a strong and diverse board of directors and membership to overcome opposition and logistical and funding challenges to build and maintain trails.

New Complete Streets resources

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, in partnership with the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, is offering a number of small grants, from \$2,000 to \$7,000, for projects that advance the goals and strategies of the Erie Canalway Preservation and Management Plan. [Applications](#) available Sept 10, with an **Oct. 12 deadline**.

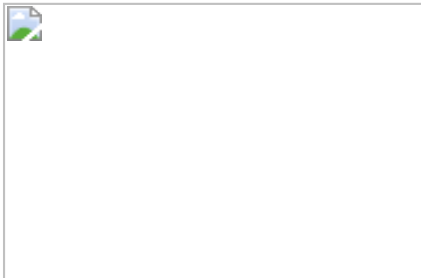


Technical assistance grants support cultural and historic resource projects

The Preservation League of New York State's [Technical Assistance Grant](#) (TAG) program provides grants up to \$3,000 for nonprofits and municipalities to undertake conditions surveys, engineering/structural analyses, feasibility/reuse studies and conservation studies to preserve New York State's cultural and historic resources. Deadline for applications is **October 1**.

Canal Splash!

Champlain Canal and the Revolutionary Road to Saratoga



As part of Canal Splash!, PTNY staff participated in the inaugural 25-mile guided bicycle tour of the Champlain Canalway Trail corridor on August 12. Revolutionary War historic sites and Champlain Canal features were highlights of the tour, including [Hudson Crossing Park](#), [Champlain Canal Lock 5](#), the [Schuyler House](#), the Champlain Canalway Towpath Trail, and [Saratoga National Historic Park](#).

[Crossing Park](#), [Champlain Canal Lock 5](#), the [Schuyler House](#), the Champlain Canalway Towpath Trail, and [Saratoga National Historic Park](#).

What better way to experience the area's rich history and the beauty of the Canal than by bicycle. And what better way to advance the vision of a continuous Champlain Canalway Trail route from Waterford to Whitehall. Read more about this vision in the [Champlain Canalway Trail Action Plan](#).

NYS acquires largest single addition to Adirondacks in a century

Thanks to a landmark acquisition, outdoor enthusiasts will soon get to explore parts of the Adirondacks that have been closed to the public for 150 years. Governor Cuomo announced in August the state's acquisition of 69,000 acres of the former Finch Pruyn and other Nature Conservancy (TNC) lands throughout the Adirondacks. The entire 69,000 acres will become part of the "forever wild" Forest Preserve, the largest single addition to the

The [National Complete Streets Coalition](#) recently released two publications.

The [2011 Complete Streets Policy Analysis](#) details the growth of the Complete Streets movement in 2011 and provide the best examples from around the country.

The [Complete Streets Local Policy Workbook](#) expands on the Policy Analysis by providing a step-by-step guide for communities ready to implement their own policies.

Bike shop and Metro-North partner to promote cycling in the Hudson Valley

2012 marks the second year that Dobb's Ferry bike shop [Endless Trail Bikeworx](#) has partnered with the Metropolitan Transit Authority, which operates [Metro-North Rail](#), in an effort to encourage cyclists to visit the Hudson Valley. NYC residents can purchase a combination train/bike rental ticket for \$35 at Grand Central Terminal, then board a Dobbs Ferry-bound train to pick up their bike at Bikeworx. Customers also get a water bottle, backpack and helmet to use for the day.

Innovative partnership helps build and maintain western NY trail

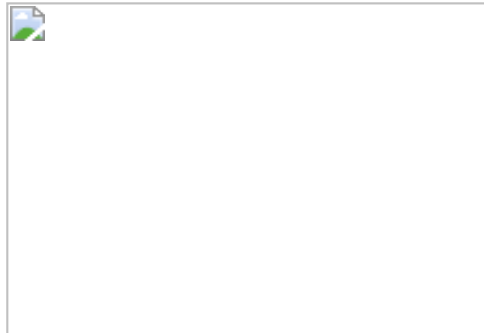
Searching for ways to advance your trail project? The Village of Chittenango in Madison County in central New York partnered with its county [Employment and Training office](#), [Madison-Oneida BOCES](#), and the Town of Sullivan Parks and Recreation Department to

Adirondack State Forest Preserve in more than a century.

The former Finch lands contain some of the most important recreational and environmental assets in the Adirondacks, including 180 miles of rivers and streams, 175 lakes and ponds; 465 miles of undeveloped shoreline along rivers, streams, lakes and ponds; six mountains taller than 2,000 feet; and countless smaller hills. The acquisition will provide abundant opportunities for recreation, including hiking, paddling, camping, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, hunting and fishing. [Read more.](#)

New and old memories of Allegany mingle on I Love My Park Day

While celebrating I Love My Park Day at Allegany State Park, volunteers with the Allegany State Park Historical Society and park staff experienced a pleasant surprise. Patricia Cudzilo of Hamburg, N.Y. stopped by the park after seeing the restoration that was being done at the Sweet Water Spring, a place she had visited with her family as a small child.



She was unaware of the special activities happening for I Love My Park Day, but was happy to see the restoration occurring at the same spot she'd been with her family so many years before.

"I just couldn't believe it! I went by it and I started crying, I was so surprised. I could just picture my family sitting by the falls," said Cudzilo,

Ms. Cudzilo and her daughter continue to come to the park annually and appreciate how well-kept the park is.

Before saying goodbye, Ms. Cudzilo had her picture taken in front of the restored spring while holding the photo of herself and her mother in the same spot from so many years ago.



Parks & Trails New York is a member of Earth Share New York, an alliance of leading nonprofit environmental organizations. For more information about workplace giving to Parks & Trails New York and Earth Share, check out www.earthsharenyc.org.

coordinate the County's Summer Youth Work Program in Chittenango this summer. Local youth, ages 14-20, were employed by Madison County during the month of July to work on the [Village Creek Walk and Neighborhood Trail](#).

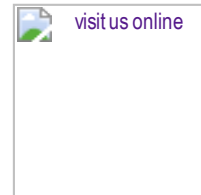
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