

# PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK

## 2021 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

### STATE AND LOCAL PARKS

*Continue the revitalization of the New York State park system by ensuring continued capital investment and ample operating budgets, support for grassroots organizations, and equitable access to the outdoors for all.*

- Fund OPRHP's operations budget at a level that allows state parks and historic sites to continue to meet visitation needs.
- Fund the Parks 2020 capital program at \$100 million, sustain the restoration and revitalization of State Parks' aging infrastructure to continue improving visitor experience and recreation opportunities.
- Ensure that public lands are maintained for the benefit of the general public by creating a more stringent process for parkland alienation that holds government accountable and provides transparency in the process.

### TRAILS ACROSS NEW YORK

*Continue to develop the state's greenway trail network by improving connections between the Empire State Trail and communities across the state and by ensuring that greenway trails are maintained to the highest standards.*

- Dedicate state funding to continuing the growth and enhancement of New York's greenway trails network, providing the resources necessary to realize the vision laid out in the newly released Statewide Greenways Plan
- Amend the Recreational Use Statute to cover all recreational activities and protect property owners who allow use of their land for trail purposes.

### ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

*Ensure that streets and roads are made safe for people of all ages and abilities to walk, bicycle or travel by other means between trails, communities and other destinations.*

- Close the Complete Streets loophole, ensuring that all roadway maintenance and resurfacing projects account for the needs of all roadway users.
- Ensure bicyclists and pedestrians can safely travel throughout New York's communities by enacting a three-foot safe passing requirement and allowing municipalities to lower area speed limits below 30 miles per hour.
- Incorporate funding mechanisms for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and advance policies that support greater use of non-motorized transportation into climate change resiliency planning.

### NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

*Continue to protect present and future access to the outdoors from natural and man-made threats to environmental resources.*

- Provide funding for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) at \$300 million with no offloads of staff costs, and ensure funding for essential programs remain at least at historic levels, including \$1 million for the Park & Trail Partnership grant program and \$2 million for the Connect Kids to Parks grant program.
- Reauthorize the \$3 billion Environmental Bond Act, providing the state with the resources needed to safeguard against the threats of climate change.
- Cut down on waste in parks and other natural areas by strengthening the New York State Bag Waste Reduction Law and continuing efforts to expand the NYS Bottle Bill.