



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 11, 2022

**STATEMENT FROM PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK ON  
2022-23 NEW YORK STATE BUDGET**

Parks & Trails New York hails the passage of the FY 2023 State Budget and thanks Governor Kathy Hochul and key legislative leaders. The newly passed budget funds the most ambitious investment in parks, trails, and the environment in decades by increasing the Environmental Protection Fund to a record \$400 million, increasing the Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Bond Act to \$4.2 billion, and providing a \$250 million capital investment in State Parks. The budget also includes a 15% increase in the operating budget for State Parks, ensuring that all visitors continue to have access to safe and welcoming outdoor places for recreation and respite.

“We are thrilled with the historic investments made in this visionary budget for parks and the environment. Parks, trails and public lands are cornerstones of the economy of the state and local communities, and this budget ensures that the state can continue to welcome and respond to the millions of visitors to our green spaces and trails every year,” said Robin Dropkin, Executive Director of Parks & Trails New York. “We thank the many advocates across the state whose voices helped bring about these critical investments.”

The increased Environmental Protection Fund doubles funding for the Park & Trail Partnership Grant program, administered by Parks & Trails New York, to a total of \$2 million. The funding will further advance private partnership efforts to steward the state’s parks and public lands and address barriers to diversity, equity and inclusion. The budget also includes an increase to \$26 million for the Municipal Parks program, providing critical support to local parks projects. State Land Stewardship funding, which goes towards improving trails and infrastructure on public lands, is expanded to \$49 million. Funding is also increased for important environmental justice efforts, with an increase to \$13 million, including \$4 million for community impact grants and \$3 million for the Connect Kids program.

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About Parks & Trails New York:

Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) is New York's leading statewide advocate for parks and trails. Since its founding in 1985, PTNY has been fighting to improve our health, economy, and quality of life through the use and enjoyment of green space. With the support of members, supporters, and partners from across the state, PTNY is a prominent voice for the protection and expansion of New York's magnificent state park system and multi-use trail network, including more than 1,500 miles of greenways, bike paths, and river walks. Learn more at [www.ptny.org](http://www.ptny.org).