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Give back to parks & trails: two upcoming volunteer opportunities

I Love My Park Day - May 4

Online volunteer registration for [I Love My Park Day](#) is [now open!](#)

On Saturday, May 4, join with volunteers at more than 70 state parks and historic sites across the state to help celebrate and enhance park lands and beaches, plant trees and gardens, restore paths, trails and wildlife habitat, and more.



Watch this short video on I Love My Park Day produced by our Television Media

Parks & Trails New York, in collaboration with the [Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation](#), is coordinating the event at the statewide level, with cleanup, improvement and beautification projects organized by Friends groups and park staff.

April

2013

MAKE A DONATION

BECOME A MEMBER

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

TrailFinder Trail of the Month



Frank J. Ludovico Sculpture Trail

Located along the Cayuga-Seneca Canal across from the Women's Rights National Historical Park in the Village of Seneca Falls, the [Frank J. Ludovico Sculpture Trail](#) proves a trail can combine recreation, history, nature, and art.

The 1.75-mile rail trail is named for the local businessman who

Sponsors Time Warner Cable Sports Channel and YNN.

Read Governor Cuomo's [invitation](#) to all New

Yorkers to volunteer on I Love My Park Day.

Visit the [I Love My Park Day website](#) to find an event near you and register to be a part of this exciting day. **Register by April 22 and you could win a \$100 camping gift card to NY State Parks!**

Canal Clean Sweep April 19-21

More than 2,000 volunteers have already committed to help clean up the NYS Canal System and Canalway Trail as part of [Canal Clean Sweep 2013](#). Will you be one of them? With [nearly 100 events](#), there are many ways you can help.

You can still organize an event in your community, but we need to hear from you soon. [Register](#) an event online or email [Elijah Yearick](#) to learn how to join an already scheduled event.

We did it! Final state budget includes boost to state parks and EPF



Critical health and safety repairs will continue at State Parks thanks to Governor Cuomo and the Legislature. The final state budget for FY2013-2014 provides **\$90 million for infrastructure improvements at state parks and historic sites** in every region of the state, providing an infusion of capital for the second year in a row.

Plus, for the first time parks are included in the state's five-year capital plan to the tune of \$90 million annually.

The final budget also [increases the Environmental Protection Fund to \\$153 million, providing a much-needed boost for](#) programs that protect parks and farms, support local recycling programs, enhance trails, and more.

These investments in parks and the environment will keep New York moving forward by creating jobs, protecting and enhancing important natural areas, and improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers. [Read PTNY's full press statement on the final budget.](#)

donated the land. The most unique feature of this Central New York trail is the eight original sculptures interpreting the development of the [Women's Rights Movement](#) as well as the rise of transportation and industry along the Erie Canal. The Ludovico Trail represents one section of the 19-mile [Cayuga-Seneca Trail](#) that will eventually connect [Seneca Lake State Park](#) in Geneva to the [Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge](#).

For more information on this and other multi-use trails, visit PTNY's [TrailFinder](#).

Bike NYS this summer



Two great bike tours - join us!

Cycling the Erie Canal

July 7-14

[Register now](#) to ride from Buffalo to Albany along the "Eighth Wonder of the World."

- Great for all ages and abilities
- Nearly three-quarters on off-road Canalway trail

Cycling the Hudson Valley

July 30 - August 4

[Register now](#) to cycle along the Hudson River on this 200-mile ride from Albany to New York City.

- Five magnificent bridge crossings
- Historic riverfront mansions, museums, wineries, Manhattan

Advocates speak out for trails, bicycling and walking



New Yorkers for Active Transportation's ([NY4AT](#)) first Advocacy Day brought together dozens of lawmakers, agency officials, and trails advocates from across the state to learn more about the new federal transportation bill,

MAP-21. The day began at a legislative breakfast where NYS Department of Transportation Chief Financial Officer Ron Epstein outlined his agency's plan for using MAP-21 funding and Nick Donohue, Policy Director for the national advocacy organization, [Transportation for America](#), recommended actions that New York could take to maximize its use of MAP-21 funds to create infrastructure that supports active transportation.

Following the breakfast, teams of advocates visited lawmakers to explain more about MAP-21 and ask them to send a [letter](#) to Governor Cuomo and NYSDOT Commissioner McDonald urging them to provide adequate funding for trails, complete streets, and bicycle-pedestrian programs. Since Transportation Enhancements and Safe Routes to School no longer have dedicated funding with MAP-21, New York lawmakers must now take an active role in ensuring that NYSDOT continues to support these important programs.

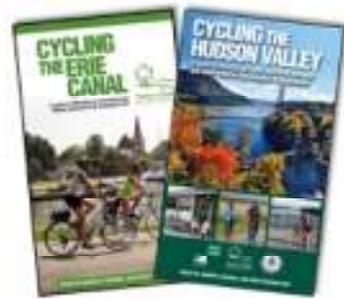
Even if you couldn't make it for Advocacy Day, you can still contact your state Senator and Assemblyperson to [discuss MAP-21](#) and the benefits of funding trails and community infrastructure that supports bicycling and walking. Ask them to show their support by sending [our letter](#) to the Governor and Commissioner McDonald.

PTNY selects park and historic site friends groups for new technical assistance program

PTNY recently [announced](#) the selection of two NY State Park and Historic Site Friends groups to receive targeted technical assistance through the [NYS Park Friends Technical Assistance Program](#) (TAP).

The two groups selected in this inaugural year of the program are the [Friends of Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site](#), located in Yonkers, and the [Friends of Caleb Smith Park Preserve](#) on Long Island. PTNY will work one-on-one with these Friends groups over the next year to help strengthen

Our cycling guidebooks are the place to start!



[Cycling the Erie Canal](#); A Guide to 400 Miles of Adventure and History Along the Erie Canalway Trail

[Cycling the Hudson Valley](#); A Guide to history, art and nature on both sides of the majestic Hudson River.

We're hiring

Like trails? Looking for a job? Find out more about our [Project Coordinator](#) position.

PTNY Board member named LI Conservationist

Congrats to PTNY Board Member Richard Remmer, who was honored March 8 by the Long Island Chapter of [Trout Unlimited](#) as Long Island "Conservationist of the Year." Way to go Richard!

Check out some good news about New York's parks and trails

Read our latest [Annual Report and GreenSpace newsletter](#)

their organizations and enhance their efforts to support state parks and historic sites. [Learn more.](#)

Thank you to Green Partners YNN and Time Warner Cable SportsChannel

We are proud to welcome Time Warner Cable SportsChannel and YNN as television media sponsors of I Love My Park Day.



news, weather, sports, politics and arts throughout Upstate New York.

[YNN](#), a part of Time Warner Cable's News & Local Programming Division, is a 24-hour news channel that covers local



interviews. The station has been bringing viewers years of robust coverage of youth sports such as soccer, basketball, football, hockey, volleyball, baseball, softball, track and field, field hockey and water polo.

"YNN and Time Warner Cable SportsChannel are excited to support this year's I Love My Park Day. As we cover all of New York State, it's a fabulous opportunity to give back to our parks and it fits so well with the geographic footprint of our channels," said Teri Parks, Marketing Manager, TWC News & Local Programming.

Ulster County weighing rail trail options



leased to the [Catskill Mountain Railroad](#) (CMRR). Under the county's plan, the scenic railroad would continue operating between Boiceville and Phoenicia and a trail would be built

In October, Ulster County Executive Mike Hein proposed developing a rail trail along a section of the former Ulster & Delaware (U & D) Railroad between the City of Kingston and the Ashokan Reservoir. The corridor is currently owned by the county and



PTNY in the Field



PTNY Parks Program Director Laura DiBetta (right) attended a recent meeting of the [Friends of Ulysses S. Grant Cottage](#) to present the group with a \$1,200 [Growing the Grassroots](#) grant. The Friends will use the funds for outreach efforts to recruit volunteer tour guides to assist with interpretation of the Adirondack cottage where President Grant spent his final days.



PTNY Project Director Martin Daley gave a presentation on advocacy at the spring meeting of the [New York State Trails Council](#). Martin also spoke about trail development at a [Columbia County Land Conservancy](#) trails roundtable.

parallel to the rail line. Other sections of the corridor would be developed as either a multi-use or hiking trail.

Several years ago a rail with trail [feasibility study](#) suggested the possibility of a side by side facility along the entire ROW, a concept supported by CMRR. Parks & Trails New York and many other organizations feel that the rail with trail option would be difficult and extremely expensive to achieve along the entire corridor due to physical constraints such as steep slopes and several bridge crossings and the high cost to engineer and construct new accessible trail at several locations. PTNY also believes that developing the complete rail with trail option, which might include on-road sections, will not attract the number of users and tourism dollars as the continuous rail trail only option. [Read more](#) in our letter to the County Legislature.

The U&D line was identified by the Kingston Land Trust's trails committee as one of several potential rail trail connections into the City of Kingston. Parks & Trails New York is currently working with the [Kingston Land Trust](#) to develop multiple trail connections to and within Kingston through our [Healthy Trails Healthy People](#) program.

The [Kingston Land Trust Rail Trail Committee](#) is organizing a cleanup of the Kingston Point Rail Trail as part of Kingston Clean Sweep presented by the Friends of Historic Kingston and Kingston Parks and Recreation Department on Saturday, April 20 at 9am. Volunteers are asked to meet in the parking lot behind Rondout Savings Bank, 300 Broadway, in Kingston at 8:30am to sign-in.

Local parkland under siege



As a recent *New York Times* article pointed out, parkland in New York is under siege ([Tennis Association Seeks Parkland, and Gets a Fight](#)). Flushing Meadows Corona Park started as a 1,000-acre park but development has chipped away at the land available to the public so now there are just over 300 acres open to the public.

The problem of park alienation, however, is not unique to Flushing. Parkland across New York State is at risk, particularly

in urban areas where land is scarce.

In New York, the courts have held that park alienation requires permission from the State Legislature. While oftentimes the legislation includes provisions for replacement parkland or the dedication of funds for parks, the process is inconsistent.

PTNY Director of Programs and Policy Fran Gotcsik facilitated a discussion on attracting resources at the DASH [Community Partnerships to End Obesity Disparities conference](#).

Farewell and best wishes to PTNY staff member Eli Yearick

This month we say good-bye to our friend and colleague PTNY Project Coordinator Eli Yearick who is moving to Harrisburg, PA to become a Transportation Planner for the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.

In his time at PTNY, Eli has done much to help create and promote our state's many trails, especially the Canalway Trail. Most notably, Eli has helped grow the Canal Clean Sweep into a major statewide event with more than 2,000 participants.

Get recognized as Erie Canalway Trail End-to-End, win a prize!



Parks & Trails New York's [End-to-End recognition program](#) has been a great success.

Nearly 1,000 persons have been entered on the End-to-End Honor Roll since it was launched in 2012. To celebrate we will award the 1000th registrant with a special gift!

[Register](#) today! Anyone who has completed a journey along the entire Erie Canalway Trail, whether in one multi-day trip or in segments over time, will be recognized with a [certificate](#), [decal](#), and inclusion in the End-to-End [Honor Roll](#).

Parks & Trails New York believes it is time for a more rigorous review process that codifies the public trust doctrine and protects our community parks from death by a thousand cuts. A bill in the New York State Legislature introduced by Senator Serrano and Assemblyman Englebright, [A. 5539/S. 1916](#), would do just this. Ask your legislators to support the bill and let them know that citizens won't stand for the gradual disappearance of our precious parkland.

PTNY Growing the Grassroots grant raises visibility of Central New York conservation group



A \$1,500 PTNY Growing the Grassroots capacity building grant helped Central New York's [Great Swamp Conservancy, Inc.](#) spread the word more widely about its efforts to assist landowners in managing 6,000 acres restored as "Forever Wild" on the southeastern shore of Oneida Lake. Grant funds were used to

produce a new membership brochure and full-color newsletters. Volunteer efforts to widely distribute these new materials have resulted in membership growth of 40%, 10 new volunteers, and a doubling of attendance at some events.

"We now have professional products that we are proud to distribute. We are very thankful for PTNY's assistance," said Michael Patane, Great Swamp Conservancy President.

Protect the Palisades



*Simulated View
(Click to enlarge)*

The natural beauty of the Palisades, scenic cliffs rising high above the Hudson River, has been protected for over 100 years. However, views of the Palisades could soon include skyscrapers. LG Electronics plans to build a high-rise building in Englewood, NJ that would be visible from many places and,

at 143 feet, is well above the 35-foot limit other companies in the area have respected. The [Protect the Palisades](#) coalition,

Looking for a grant for your park or trail project?

Check out PTNY's [grants page](#) for information on a variety of programs offering financial support for park and trail projects.

Celebrate National Trails Day - June 1

For more than 20 years, trail enthusiasts across the country have observed the first Saturday in June as [National Trails Day](#). You can join the celebration by taking part in an [event near you](#) or you can celebrate your favorite trail by [organizing your own event](#). Whatever you like to do outdoors, there is sure to be an event that will fit your interests!

Change envisioned for Niagara Falls Robert Moses Parkway Trail

The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has [announced plans](#) to remove at least a two-mile section of the Robert Moses Parkway along the heart of the Niagara Gorge in the City of Niagara Falls and is considering partial or complete removal of the parkway from Niagara Falls north to Lewiston.

The public comment process on three draft scoping proposals is underway, but one thing that is clear is that the Robert Moses Parkway Trail will be transformed with native plantings and a multi-use nature trail that connects the City of Niagara Falls to its waterfront.

New Hudson Valley trail projects in the works

Among the trail projects underway in Columbia and

of which PTNY is a member, is working to stop this intrusion on the scenic integrity of the Palisades. For more information on the coalition and what you can do to help, visit the [website](#).



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.earthshareny.org.

neighboring Rensselaer County are the [KSS Inter-municipal Trail](#), the [Albany-Hudson Electric Trail](#), and the [Harlem Valley Rail Trail](#) (HVRT). The HVRT was awarded a \$258,750 grant from the Regional Economic Development Council for planning the 11-mile leg of the trail from Chatham to Philmont. [See a trail map](#). This award, which is matched by \$86,250 in local contributions, will be used to hire a consultant to prepare the design and construction documents for this northern section of the trail, nicknamed "the Northwest 11."

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