



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **PARK(ing) Day Coming to Albany on September 18, 2015**

*Parking spaces around the City to be temporarily reclaimed for people*

Albany, N.Y. – On Friday, September 18, 2015 parking spaces throughout Albany will be taken over and temporarily transformed for a variety of public uses. The event is part of PARK(ing) Day, an annual, worldwide event where artists, activists, and citizens independently, yet simultaneously, turn metered parking spots into “PARK(ing)” spaces—that is, temporary public parks and other spaces for people to enjoy.

The mission of PARK(ing) Day is to call attention to the need for urban open space, to generate critical debate around how public areas are created and allocated, and to improve the quality of urban human habitat...at least until the meter runs out!

In Albany, more than 20 parking spots will be converted into public spaces by 11 organizations and local businesses (see list and map on last page). The event will run from 11:00am-4:00pm and is cosponsored by Parks & Trails New York (PTNY), the City of Albany’s Department of Development and Planning, and Albany Center Gallery.

PTNY is taking over multiple parking spaces on Washington Avenue near the Capitol, converting them temporarily into a segment of the Erie Canalway Trail leading into a public campground complete with greenery, tent, camping chairs, camp stove, marshmallows and a game of corn hole. A protected bike lane, created by Albany Bicycle Coalition, will also connect to the spaces.

By creating a temporary refuge in the middle of the city, PTNY is reminding New Yorkers how important it is to have a place to relax, rejuvenate and recreate.

“Parks, trails and other open spaces are critical to the health and well-being of all New Yorkers in all communities,” said PTNY Executive Director Robin Dropkin. “PARK(ing) Day is an excellent way to remind ourselves of the importance of having natural areas that are accessible to everyone.”

“PARK(ing) Day is not just a fun event—it speaks of a great message regarding open space, and makes us think outside the box about how we can use it in our City,” said Mary Millus, Senior Planner with the Department of Development & Planning. “I also love the creative approach of this event. The participants put a lot of thought into transforming their parking spots—and I appreciate that. The Planning Department will be out in front of the Iron Gate Café at 182 Washington Avenue.”

"We are excited to be part of PARK(ing) Day again this year," said Tony Iadicicco, Director of Albany Center Gallery. "Bringing art into public spaces has been part of our ongoing efforts to educate and promote local and regional artists. With PARK(ing) Day, taking it to the streets, it really creates a focus on how spaces and places can be used in unique ways"

See [www.ptny.org](http://www.ptny.org) for a map of all the PARK(ing) Day spaces in the City of Albany. Learn more about PARK(ing) Day at [www.parkingday.org](http://www.parkingday.org).

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**Parks & Trails New York** is the state’s leading advocate for parks and trails, working since 1985 to expand, protect and promote a network of parks, trails and open spaces throughout the state for use and enjoyment by all. Learn more at [www.ptny.org](http://www.ptny.org).

Original PARK(ing) Day concept by Rebar. [www.rebargroup.org](http://www.rebargroup.org).



**Participant**

**Location Description**

Parks & Trails New York

On south side of Washington Ave (Capitol Building side of Washington Ave); west lawn, near food trucks & west lawn walking paths.

Albany Bicycle Coalition

On south side of Washington Ave (aka Capitol Building side of Washington Ave); west lawn, near food trucks & west lawn walking paths. Adjacent to Parks & Trails NY.

Downtown BID

540 Broadway. In between Albany Dental and the Broadway Plaza Sign.

City Planning

On north side of Washington Ave in front of the Albany Main Branch Library (near bike rack). First metered spot on Washington Ave by library.

Albany Poets

247 Lark Street. In front of Upstate Artists Guild Gallery.

Albany Center Gallery

On Broadway, in front of Tricentennial Park.

The Brakes Coffee Shop

227 Lark Street. In front of The Brakes Coffee Shop.

Radix Center

90 State Street. In front of Stagecoach Coffee.

College of St. Rose

89 Washington Avenue. In front of the NYS Education Building. On north side of Washington Ave, across from State Capitol Building, near Hawk St.

Capitalize Albany

522-524 Broadway. In front of NYS Association of Counties entrance. Stand on Broadway, look at the brick Broadway Plaza Building facing west, first entrance into the building from the left. (In between second light pole on the block, and its neighboring street tree to the right).

Albany Barn

Lark Street