

Parks & Trails New York Statement on Governor Andrew Cuomo's 2020 State of the State Address

Proposal would enhance public realm and green space by adding new state parks, acquiring land to enhance existing parks, and securing our future through bold action to restore our natural environment.

(ALBANY, NY) - At last week's State of the State address, Governor Cuomo charted a bold course for New York's future and reinforced the state's commitment to preserving open space and our natural environment through the Restore Mother Nature initiative.

As the state park system continues to see record levels of visitation, ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to outdoor recreation opportunities remains paramount. The Governor's announcement that the state will seek to establish a new park on formerly industrial land in Kingston and a linear, water-based park along the Hudson River from Rensselaer to Hudson will expand recreational opportunities, and the acquisition of over 4,000 acres of land to enhance seven existing parks will ensure that the pristine natural environments that New Yorkers cherish will be protected for generations to come.

The *Reimagine the Canals* Task Force report lays out an ambitious plan to repurpose the canalway corridor for the 21st century, but one with the potential to have a transformative impact on the upstate economy. The *Reimagine* proposal will build on the success of the Empire State Trail to connect communities in a sustainable, resilient manner that celebrates our state's history and environmental diversity.

The \$3 Billion Restore Mother Nature Bond Act proposed by the governor will provide an important infusion of funding to ensure that our natural environment is more resilient in the face of climate change. Funding will help preserve open space and conserve forested areas, providing exciting new outdoor recreational opportunities for New Yorkers. The funding will also provide important investments to increase resilience, ensuring that parks, historic sites, and communities are protected from the threat of flooding.

We look forward to working with the Governor and state Legislature to advance these proposals and ensure New York continues to have the nation's premier state park system and the resilience to combat climate change.

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About Parks & Trails New York

Parks & Trails New York is New York's leading statewide advocate for parks and trails, dedicated since 1985 to improving our health, economy, and quality of life through the use and enjoyment of green space. With thousands of members and supporters across the state, PTNY is a leading voice in the protection of New York's magnificent state park system and the creation and promotion of more than 1,500 miles of greenways, bike paths, river walks, and trails. Learn more at www.ptny.org.