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Dear Friend -

With 2015 only a week old, we are still very much in New Year's resolution mode.

Many of our resolutions involve spending more time outdoors, in New York's awesome parks and trails.

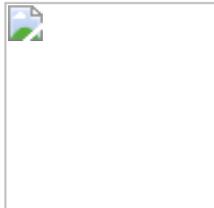
At PTNY we are also resolved to strengthen our efforts in 2015 to promote policies and programs that protect, promote and enhance parks, trails and green spaces and to ensure that these outdoor treasures are seen as integral to the state's economy, transportation, and health.

We hope you will join us in enjoying and, also, speaking out for our cherished outdoor places.

Here's to a fantastic 2015, with lots of time outdoors!



Robin Dropkin  
Executive Director



## Congrats! 7 Growing the Grassroots grants awarded

PTNY granted almost \$16,000 in Growing the Grassroots capacity building grants to seven not-for-profit park and trail organizations across New York State.



Parks & Trails New York's



## We couldn't do it without you!

Thanks to you, our members and friends, PTNY's 2014 year-end campaign was the most successful in PTNY history! Just in time for our 30th anniversary, together, we raised over \$25,000 to help protect and promote New York's parks and trails. Thank you for your generous support and for being a part of the PTNY community!



## Ready. Set. Cycle.

Registration is now open for Parks & Trails New York's 17th annual Cycle the Erie Canal tour, an unparalleled opportunity to bike across New York State and take in the rich history of the legendary canal that helped transform America. The 2015 tour kicks off in Buffalo July 12 and arrives in Albany July 19.



## Our New Year's Resolutions

In 2015, PTNY will work to promote policies and programs that protect, promote and enhance New York's parks, trails and green spaces, and to ensure that these outdoor treasures are an integral part of the state's economic, transportation, health, and environmental strategies.



## Outdoors wins big with fracking and casino decisions

Just in time for the holidays, two major announcements about fracking and casino siting were made that will keep the parks, trails and open spaces we love protected from the impacts of intense development.



## Welcome new Project Coordinator

Greg Francese joined Parks & Trails New York as a Project Coordinator in November. Greg has a personal interest and academic background in bicycle and pedestrian planning, with a Master's degree in Regional Planning from SUNY Albany and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Vermont.



## Speak out! Winter advocacy days in Albany

In January, the New York State legislature returns. Soon after PTNY will return to the halls of the Capitol to call for policies and funding that grow and protect New York's great outdoor spaces. If you care about parks and trails, please join us for Active Transportation Advocacy Day February 3 and Park Advocacy Day March 3.

[Read More](#)



## Keeping the pressure up

In November, the New Yorkers for Active Transportation (NY4AT) coalition weighed in on NYSDOT's 5-year Capital Plan with a letter to NYSDOT Commissioner Joan McDonald that recommended priorities and performance measures that can help the transportation agency better monitor its bike/ped progress.

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## 500 do 360

Nearly 1.6 million annual visits to the Erie Canalway Trail involve just a few miles of trail. But a stalwart group of visitors who complete the entire 360 miles of trail between Albany and Buffalo receive designation as intrepid end-to-enders every year.

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### Short Takes/Resources

[Congress trims TIGER in 2015](#) spending bill, but the grant program still survives.

Read the experience of two cyclists who [cycled over 300 miles along the Erie Canalway Trail](#) last summer.

Don't let the winter cold keep you from exploring our parks! Experience over 90 New York state parks, campgrounds, and other attractions from your armchair with [New York's 360 degree virtual panoramic tours](#).

### Calendar

**Feb 3:** Active Transportation Advocacy Day

**March 3:** Park Advocacy Day

**April 17-19:** Canal Clean Sweep

**May 2:** I Love My Park Day

**July 12-19:** Cycle the Erie Canal Bike Tour

Help protect New York's parks and trails



**DONATE NOW**

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