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It's serious: elimination of funding for biking and walking looms

Funding for programs that have done so much to support bicycling and walking for almost two decades are seriously threatened. The House members of the conference committee charged with drafting new transportation legislation want to **eliminate** local governments' ability to access federal funds for small transportation projects.

It's unbelievable, but House members of the conference committee are insisting that any new federal transportation bill allow states to opt out of bicycling and walking and Safe Routes to School funding.

We can't let that happen!

The existing legislation expires June 30 so you must act today.

Please tell your [Representative](#) and Senators [Schumer](#) and [Gillibrand](#):

- **Maintain the Cardin-Cochran agreement from the Senate's version of the bill, MAP-21.** Cardin-Cochran is a bipartisan compromise that gives local governments a voice in transportation planning by having the option to compete for a small portion of "Additional Activities" funds that can be used for Safe Routes to School and Transportation Enhancements-type programs.
- **Biking and walking programs enjoy overwhelming bipartisan support.** A [national poll](#) conducted in March 2012 by the Princeton Survey Research Associates showed that 83 percent of all Americans, including 88 percent of Democrats and 80 percent of Republicans, support maintaining or increasing federal investments in biking and walking.

We've asked and you've responded, but please make a call one more time. Our elected officials need to hear your strong support for funding for trails, biking and walking.

June 2012

[MAKE A DONATION](#)

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)

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

**TrailFinder Trail of the
Month**

**Zim Smith Trail - now a
National Recreation Trail**



Designated as a National Recreation Trail on National Trails Day, the Zim Smith Trail is a nine-mile multi-use trail stretching from Ballston Spa to the Town of Halfmoon in Saratoga County.

Most of the trail is paved but south of the Village of

Thank you.

Economic impact of Erie Canalway Trail focus of study

PTNY has launched the first-ever study of the current and potential economic impacts of the Erie Canalway Trail on New York's economy. Results will be presented not only in terms of dollars generated but also number of jobs created and sustained. Paul Scipione, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Business and Director of the Survey/Research Center at SUNY Geneseo, will conduct the eight-month effort.

Dr. Scipione and his team will survey 600-800 current trail users to gather data on demographics, trail usage, and spending patterns, and overall trail experience. Approximately 30 SUNY Geneseo undergraduates who live within the Canalway Trail corridor will administer the survey to persons selected randomly at multiple points along the trail. In addition, students will be noting the number and nature of trail users as part of an expansion of the annual Erie Canalway Trail count will survey local business owners and government, economic development and tourism officials.

The study is funded in part by the NYS Canal Corporation and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. Study results will be available in early 2013.

Senator Gillibrand urges Amtrak to allow roll-on bikes along Erie Canalway Trail

In a recent [press release](#), Senator Kirsten Gillibrand urged Amtrak to consider the appeal of New York State to bicyclists as it modernizes its service between New York and Buffalo. Currently, bicycles are prohibited on Amtrak trains unless they are disassembled and boxed. Stating that the inclusion of bicycle racks was a "commonsense step to remove barriers" between New Yorkers and the State's natural beauty, the Senator underscored the potential of bicycle tourism to "jumpstart a new economic engine" in communities along the Erie Canalway Trail.

Robin Dropkin, PTNY Executive Director, applauded the Senator's efforts, stating that these steps would not only bring more tourism dollars to canal communities, but would also provide Amtrak with increased ridership.

Round Lake it changes to a stone dust surface. Southern portions of the trail pass through wetlands, making it a great place for bird watching.

For information on the Zim Smith Trail and other great trails, visit [TrailFinder](#), Parks & Trails New York's interactive guide to 115 multi-use trails throughout the state.

Remembering Alice Kryzan



We note with sadness the passing of lifelong environmentalist and former PTNY board member and officer, [Alice Kryzan](#). Alice was one of New York's pioneers of environmental law honored last year with PTNY's George W. Perkins Award.

Still looking for a father's day gift?

Does your dad use and appreciate New York's parks and trails? How about giving him a PTNY [membership](#)? PTNY is the ONLY statewide organization advocating for our green network of parks, rail and canal trails, and bike paths and working to enable every

Celebrating Erie Canalway Trail End-to-Enders



Have you bicycled or walked the full 360-mile length of the Erie Canalway Trail between Buffalo and Albany? If so, we want to recognize and reward your achievement.

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

The program is a joint effort of PTNY, the NYS Canal Corporation, and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

The first step is to [register](#) as an End-to-Enders. You will be asked several questions about your trip and overall experience. We'd love to hear your stories and receive photos of your trip. Please send them to endoenders@ptny.org. You can also put your images on our [Flickr](#) site.

Not yet an [End-to-Enders](#)? Begin planning your journey today!

National Trails Day celebrated in big way in NYS

Walk introduces community to Andes trail effort

In the Delaware County Town of Andes, trail advocates hosted a walk on a proposed trail corridor near the village. Prior to the event, a group of hearty volunteers constructed a plank road for crossing over a large muddy area. Wildflowers were in full bloom, making the adventure a beautiful way to spend the afternoon. Trail advocates are hopeful the trail will be officially opened later in the summer.

Genesee Valley Greenway bridge dedicated

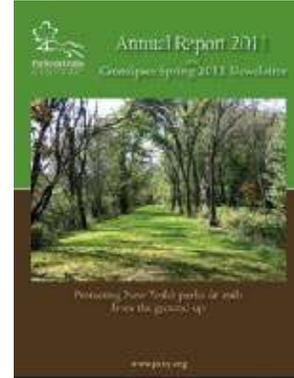
In Livingston County, the [Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway](#) held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of a 456-foot trail bridge linking the Town of Leicester with the Village of Mt. Morris. Acting NYSDOT Regional Director Robert Traver called the \$1.7M bridge crossing the Genesee River "a beautiful example of sustainable transportation that is improving our transportation system and bringing jobs to communities across the state."



New Yorker to enjoy the outdoors - close to home.

New PTNY publications

Annual Report and Spring GreenSpace Newsletter



Canalway Trail Times



You Gotta Have Friends: A newsletter for Friends of the NYS Park System



Bike NYS this summer

There are still a couple of spots left on PTNY's

This event marked the 20th anniversary of the opening of the first two miles of Greenway trail to the public. Presently, 62 of the Greenway's 90 miles are available for year-round use. PTNY was instrumental in the early development of the Greenway.

Granville hosts third annual 5k race



In Granville in Washington County, the rail trail and the trail's bridge over the Mettawee River were the location for the third annual [Rail Trail to the Footbridge 5k](#) and children's 1k race. Despite the wet weather, more than 100 runners, joggers, and walkers participated in the event.

Rochester commemorates the opening of El Camino trail

The City of Rochester hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for their newest trail, [El Camino](#). Sited on the former Rochester Running Track property, approximately 250 people were in attendance to try out the 2 1/4 mile multi-use trail.



Be counted -- be part of the 2012 NYS Trail User Count

Want to know how many people are using your multi-use trail each year? Join the 2012 New York State Trail User Count.

As part of efforts to implement recommendations of [New York's Statewide Trails Plan](#), PTNY will assist NYSOPRHP and other trail advocates with a count of users for 15 of the state's multi-use trails during the month of August. The objective of the study will be to build a body of data on the nature and volume of trail usage on a variety of NYS multi-use trails. If you would like your trail to be included in the count, [contact PTNY](#) to discuss your project by July 13.

NYC parks face budget axe

As summer rolls in, New York City parks are struggling to survive severe budget cuts. Since 2008, the NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation's budget has been cut by a total of \$62 million. As a result, many amenities that residents have enjoyed for a long time are now in jeopardy. Without immediate funding, four of the city's public pools will remain closed this summer.

[Cycling the Erie Canal](#) and [Great Hudson Valley Pedal](#) bike tours. Don't miss your chance for some great summer fun. Sign-up today to experience the beauty of New York State first-hand!

Save the Date



2012 Walk-Bike Symposium
September 18, Glens Falls.

Welcome PTNY intern Becca Liebschutz



Rebecca Liebschutz, PTNY's summer intern, is happy to be working on environmental and outdoor projects! After growing up in the beautiful Hudson Valley, she is majoring in Environmental Studies at the University of Michigan.

Her love of the outdoors and trails stems from a very young age, when she watched her grandfather Ed Hoffman help open the Catharine Valley Trail in Watkins Glen. In her free time, Becca enjoys running, swimming, ultimate frisbee, and playing the oboe.

[New Yorkers for Parks](#) and 3 NYC Council Members recently called on the City Council and the Bloomberg Administration outlined a plan to restore \$33.4 million to the Park Department's expense budget. It is now up to the City Council to make a decision on whether to take action and restore funds.

Contact your local [Council Member](#) and the [Mayor](#) and let them know that parks matter, and their maintenance needs to be better funded.

Thank you to our Green Partner: Barton and Loguidice

[Barton & Loguidice, P.C.](#), is an engineering firm with extensive trail and park project experience. Founded in 1961, the firm's professional staff includes engineers, environmental scientists, planners, landscape architects, hydrogeologists, and construction professionals.



Barton & Loguidice has completed more than 172 miles of trail, including portions of the Erie Canalway Trail, the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, the Mohawk Hudson Bikeway Bridge, and trails in the city of Syracuse, as well as the assessment of the Mohonk and Minnewaska Carriage Roads Trail System.

B&L has New York offices in Albany, Rochester, Syracuse, Ellenville, and Newburgh.

Hudson Valley friends group boosts volunteers and attendance with PTNY Growing the Grassroots grant

Parks & Trails New York's



A PTNY Growing the Grassroots capacity building grant helped the [Friends of Fahnestock & Hudson Highlands State Parks](#) turn a "barebones" website into one that can handle online donations and memberships and can be updated easily. The grant also made it possible for the group to distribute monthly electronic newsletters which have helped recruit new

volunteers and increase attendance at events.

"We are raising funds for a major renovation of two park buildings. The website and electronic newsletter will be valuable

Race set to benefit Fallsburg Trail



On July 15, The [Sullivan Striders](#) running club will host their 3rd annual O & W Rails to Trails Race along the O&W Rail Trail in the town of Fallsburg. Participants can either run the entire four-mile course or walk a shorter two-mile section. The event serves as a fundraiser for the rail trail.

Through its [Healthy Trails, Healthy People Program](#), PTNY is working with the Town of Fallsburg Rails-to-Trails Committee to help improve the trail and increase the number of people who use it.

Apply for NPS assistance for recreation and conservation projects

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program ([RTCA](#)) provides assistance to state and local agencies, not-for-profits, and citizens groups for conservation of waterways, preservation of open space, and development of trails and greenways.

Applicants should discuss their project with [RTCA staff](#) before applying.

tools as we begin this effort," said Katrina Shindledecker, President, Friends of Fahnestock & Hudson Highlands State Parks.

The next round of PTNY's [Growing the Grassroots](#) capacity building grants will be announced in the fall.

News from State Parks

That's what it's all about - Hokey Pokey world record set on Walkway

[Walkway Over the Hudson](#) was the site of a whole lot of hokey-pokeying last weekend. A [new world record](#) was set when 2,569 individuals stood side-by-side on the Hudson Valley bridge, part of New York's State Park System, to perform the largest line dance in history. Participants from as far away as California [danced](#) to the tune of the "Hokey-Pokey" for more than 5 minutes. An official from Guinness World Records was on hand to confirm the record. The event did have a larger purpose - funds raised from the event will go towards the building of a new visitor center at the Walkway.

Want more news on New York State Parks? Read the latest issue of our eNewsletter, [You Gotta Have Friends](#), for comprehensive news on state parks, including new friends groups, I Love My Park Day highlights, and more!

New York State's linear parks

New York is fortunate to have an incredible system of over 200 state parks and historic sites owned and managed by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). Lesser known, but no less important, are ten linear parks--long-distance multi-use trails--also owned and managed by OPRHP, often in conjunction with a not-for-profit trail friends group and/or local government.



Old Croton Aqueduct

Three of these trails are full-fledged state parks - the 26-mile [Old Croton Aqueduct State Historic Park](#) and the [Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park](#) in the Hudson Valley and the 36-mile [Old Erie Canal State Historic Park](#) (part of the 365-mile Erie Canalway Trail) in central New York.

Not official state parks but part of the OPRHP "family" are:

[Applications](#) are due **August 1st**.

Register your thoughts on an Adirondack rail-trail

Take the Great Adirondack Recreation Trail [Survey](#) and express your interest in the development of a world class recreational trail connecting Lake Placid and Old Forge.

Spare Seat Expedition wraps up in NYC



With 22 days and 500 miles of paddling under their belt, Richard Harpham and Glenn Charles of the Spare Seat Expedition concluded their journey at the Statue of Liberty. There, in New York Harbor, they held their own Wedding of the Waters with water they carried with them from Lake Erie. Though the journey is over, you can still trace their adventures on their [blog](#) or see the sights in their [photo gallery](#).

New Erie Canalway map and guide released

The 2012 Erie Canalway Map and Guide has been released just in time for summer. You can pick up a copy at one of over 100 [sites](#) or download one from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor [website](#).

- 90-mile [Genesee Valley Greenway](#) in western New York
- six-mile [Catharine Valley Trail](#) and the soon to open eight-mile [Black Diamond Trail](#) in the Finger Lakes
- 15-mile [Harlem Valley Rail Trail](#) in the Hudson Valley
- seven-mile Bethpage Bikeway on Long Island
- 30 miles of Erie Canalway Trail in the Mohawk Valley
- four-mile D&H Rail Trail in Granville in Washington County on the Vermont border.

Visit PTNY's [TrailFinder](#) site to download maps and get more information to help you enjoy each of these state-owned linear parks.



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.

Walkable real estate at a premium

A [recent study](#) from the Brookings Institute found that in the Washington D.C. metro area, the more walkable a neighborhood, the greater the value of its real estate.

Wouldn't you love to live in a place where you could walk or bike to work, shopping, and entertainment?

Keep In Touch!

If you're not already on our email list, visit our [website](#) to join.

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