



You Gotta Have Friends

A newsletter for friends of the NYS park system



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Summer, not surprisingly, is the time when most people will visit New York's storied system of state parks and historic sites. In 2014, state parks welcomed nearly 35 million visitors from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. What's different this year are the new and creative ways to explore these treasured places, and the exciting enhancements we can look forward to enjoying soon.

Where will this summer take you? Read on for some inspiration.

Warm regards,

Laura DiBetta
Director, Parks Program & Government Relations



Next Wave of Exciting Park Projects Announced

Take a look at the exciting park projects underway this summer at four state parks: Thacher State Park near Albany, Taughannock Falls State Park in the Finger Lakes, and Green Lakes and Verona Beach State Parks in Central New York.

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Go the Distance

Looking for more than a day hike? There are more than a dozen long-distance hiking trails that crisscross New York, more than half of which traverse parks in the state parks system. Check out our slideshow and start planning your next (or first!) multi-day hiking trip.

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Poetry Trail at Clermont Inspires

The Friends of Clermont recently hosted a creative month-long poetry installation at Clermont State Historic Site in the Hudson Valley. The event brought history to life through poems, quotes, prose and haiku.

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Buffalo Harbor State Park Opens

New York State opened its 180th State Park this summer. Located on Buffalo's Outer Harbor, the 190-acre Buffalo Harbor State Park features picnic areas, a playground, a pedestrian walkway, and fishing access along the city's waterfront. Now residents and visitors can enjoy a brand new park that boasts a waterfront along the harbor and close proximity to the heart of Buffalo.

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Take a Seat: New Hikers Shuttle in Harriman

Until this summer, hikers arriving at Harriman State Park by train all had to enter the park using the same

nearby trailhead. Thanks to a new creative partnership, hikers and other park lovers can now hop aboard a shuttle bus to various stops in the park, providing greater access to the park's 200 miles of trails.

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In Memoriam: Bill Bylewski

PTNY is sad to share the news of the passing of a devoted park Friends group leader. Bill Bylewski was a founding member of Friends of Gantry Neighborhood Parks and devoted countless hours as a volunteer gardener and community leader to maintaining Gantry Plaza State Park's beauty.

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You Gotta Have Friends: Volunteer Profile

According to Kevin Gallineau, Vice President of the Friends of Allegany State Park, what makes Allegany special is its people. Kevin's leadership and dedication to enhancing the park certainly prove that theory.

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Short Takes/Resources

[Apply here](#) for a small grant from The Captain Planet Foundation.

Gimme Shelter: [Mick Jagger and Charlie Watts visit Darwin Martin House.](#)

Calendar

October 3: Grand Opening of the [Seneca Art & Culture Center](#) at Ganondagan

May 7, 2016: Save the Date for [I Love My Park Day!](#)

PTNY's new website includes [resources for park Friends groups](#).

Help protect New York's parks and trails



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