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Bicyclists Bring Business roundtable and bike-a-round in Central New York a success!

Participants discover how to attract and benefit from growing market of trail users



As the marquee proclaims, the welcome mat was out in Oneida in Central New

October 2013

MAKE A DONATION

BECOME A MEMBER

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

Ten terrific trails for fall foliage



To fully enjoy the sights and smells that autumn in New York has to offer, try walking or biking along a multi-use trail. Take your time as you stroll or pedal your way through a canopy of bright fall foliage, breathing in the fresh air, and drawing in the scenery around you. Multi-use trails such as rail and canal trails, greenways and bikeways are family friendly places to walk, run, and bike. Many are along historic railways or canal corridors and most are flat. Many of the trails are also located near scenic rivers and streams.

Parks & Trails New York has put together a list of [Ten Terrific](#)



York for the recent [Bicyclists Bring Business roundtable](#).

Almost 50 local business owners, citizens, and elected and tourism officials from three

counties came together to find out what other trail communities across the nation are doing and to share their enthusiasm and suggestions for attracting and meeting the needs of Canalway Trail tourists.

The following day, PTNY and NYS Canal Corporation staff joined interested citizens and tourism and government representatives to visit Oneida by bike starting at the Canalway Trail Durhamville trailhead about two miles north of the city. Riding along Route 46 into the city and experiencing the community from the perspective of a first-time bicycle tourist was an eye opener for everyone. As they made their way around the village, the group used the checklists found in PTNY's [Bicyclists Bring Business: A Guide for Attracting Bicyclists to New York's Canal Communities](#) to help generate a number of suggestions for improvements to signage, street infrastructure, and businesses.

Oneida was chosen as the location for this year's roundtable because of its proximity to the Canalway Trail and the Oneida Rail Trail Committee's recent efforts to establish a [city-wide trail network](#) on almost 11 miles of former rail beds within the community that link parks, attractions, and the central business district. The City has also applied for Transportation Enhancement Program funds to develop a trail linking the city to the Erie Canalway Trail intersection in Wampsville. The roundtable events were presented by PTNY and the [NYS Canal Corporation](#) and hosted by the Oneida Rail Trail Committee and Oneida Recreation Department.

Still time to apply for PTNY Growing the Grassroots Capacity- Building Grants - deadline Nov 12

There is still time to apply for the 2013 round of PTNY Growing the Grassroots capacity-building grants.

Whether you're looking to grow your organization, increase your membership, or enhance your communications, [Growing the Grassroots Capacity Building Grants](#) can help you assure the long-term sustainability of your park or trail not-for-profit organization. The grants, up to \$3,000, have helped more than 45 organizations state-wide better fulfill missions; improve reach, effectiveness, and impact; leverage resources; and increase community support for and involvement in park and trail planning, development and/or stewardship.

[Trails](#) we recommend for fall. For more information about these and other great multi-use trails in NYS visit PTNY's [TrailFinder](#).

Ghosthunters at Hyde Hall

If you like ghost stories and our state park system, don't miss the upcoming Halloween episode of [Ghosthunters](#). The episode, "Hyde and Seek," which takes place in New York's [Hyde Hall State Historic Site](#), will air on October 30 at 9:00 pm on SyFy.



Hyde Hall, operated by the [Friends of Hyde Hall](#), was built on the shores of Otsego Lake by George Clarke and sits inside [Glimmerglass State Park](#) near Cooperstown. The 50-room country estate is considered the finest example of neoclassic country mansions anywhere in the United States.

Over 2k Twitter Followers

@PTNY just surpassed 2,000 Twitter followers. There's still room for more. [Follow us](#) next time you tweet. #Hooray!

Creating gateways to bookend Erie Canalway Trail

PTNY is participating in the City of Albany's Corning Preserve

The application deadline is **November 12, 2013**. Don't miss this opportunity to grow and assure the long-term viability of your organization.

Join us for PTNY's 25th Annual Award Reception

Once a year, all of us at Parks & Trails New York look forward to getting together with several hundred friends and supporters to celebrate and honor the extraordinary work of environmental leaders in our great state with our George W. Perkins Award for Environmental Leadership.

This year's honorees embody the passion and dedication that will inspire park, trail, and environmental leaders for decades to come. We are proud to bestow our 2013 honorees with the George W. Perkins Award for environmental leadership.

This year we are proud to honor:

- **Citi** for its exemplary commitment to New York City through its investment in the widely successful [Citi Bike program](#).
- **Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan**, NYC DOT Commissioner, for her extraordinary leadership in transforming New York's streets into Complete Streets for bicyclists and pedestrians and vastly improving the city's physical, social and economic environment.
- **Four Freedoms Park Conservancy** for its dedication to building and operating a beautiful and meaningful green space on Roosevelt Island -- Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms State Park -- New York's newest state park.

Please join us on Wednesday, November 13th from 5:30-7:30 pm for Parks & Trails New York's 25th Annual Award Reception at The University Club in NYC.

[Get your ticket today!](#)

For more information, please contact Tiffany Soricelli, Director of Development at tsoricelli@ptny.org or 518-434-1583. We hope to see you on **November 13th**!

Two new sections of Erie Canalway Trail and bridge connection help "Close the Gaps" in cross-state trail

Little Falls in the Mohawk Valley

Advisory Committee and the Buffalo Riverwalk Revitalization Committee. In each case, PTNY is advocating for the creation of an Erie Canalway Trail gateway as well as improved wayfinding signage, additional parking (especially long-term parking), and connections to other community trail networks.

Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail celebrates five-year anniversary



A large crowd of [Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail, Inc.](#) (ECRT) supporters, including PTNY Program and Policy Director Fran Gotcsik, celebrated the five-year anniversary of their efforts to turn the 27-mile Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad corridor into a rail trail spanning five towns and two villages in Erie and Cattaraugus Counties in western New York. ECRT's banners, signs, video and other promotional materials - all funded in part by PTNY sub awards or capacity building grants - were proudly displayed at the event held at a ski resort located adjacent to the planned trail.

PTNY is working with the ECRT as part of its [Healthy Trails, Healthy People](#) program.

New 750-foot bridge heralds completion of Dutchess Rail Trail in Hudson Valley

With the opening of a new 750-foot-long bridge over Route 55, the [Dutchess Rail Trail](#) is

The completion of a one-mile segment of the Erie Canalway Trail in Little Falls in the Mohawk Valley creates more than 40-miles of continuous trail from Little Falls east to Amsterdam.

Newark and Lyons in Western New York

A 4.8-mile section of trail long in the making was officially opened on October 3. Built by workers from the Town of Arcadia, Town of Lyons and Village of Newark, this new section of Erie Canalway Trail connects Newark and Lyons in western New York. Before the ribbon-cutting ceremony, 180 fourth graders from Kelly Middle School in Newark walked along a section of the new trail in the Town of Arcadia.

Cohoes bridge in the Capital Region



Cohoes' Black Bridge Trail project, a decade in the making, is finally completed. The bridge and the trail bed in Cohoes will connect the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Hike trail section of the Erie Canalway Trail between Green Island, Cohoes, and Peebles Island and Saratoga County. The Bridge also provides a connection to the Champlain Canalway Trail. ([Map](#))

Closing the gaps in the [Erie Canalway Trail network](#) is one of Parks & Trails New York's priorities.

Clear skies and green parking spots for PARK(ing) Day



On Friday September 20, PTNY took over a parking spot in downtown Albany and turned it into a temporary park, complete with greenery, a tent, camping chairs, camp stove, and

marshmallows. Friends in the Capital Region stopped by, as did a [photographer from the Times Union](#).

This was the first time PTNY participated in [PARK\(ing\) Day](#), an international event in which people who care about parks and open space take over parking spaces in cities around the world and turn them into temporary public parks and other spaces for people to enjoy. It's just a fun way to remind ourselves how important it is to have a place to relax, rejuvenate, and recreate.

complete. The trail now spans 13 miles from Hopewell Junction to the Walkway Over the Hudson.

A celebration commemorating the completion of the Dutchess Rail Trail will be held Saturday, November 16th at 2 pm at the Hopewell Depot Trailhead.

Smoking ban in NY State Parks overturned

A NYS Supreme Court judge struck down a ban on smoking within New York State Parks in outdoor spaces such as pools, beaches, and playgrounds. The state parks agency had instituted the ban in February. The judge, in responding to a suit from a smokers' rights group, ruled that the agency had exceeded its authority since the state Legislature had only enacted restrictions on indoor smoking, never in outdoor parks.

State Parks is considering appealing the ruling.

How protected bike lanes benefit businesses

According to a [Sept. 19th StreetsBlog article](#), "The question isn't whether your city can afford to build high-quality bike infrastructure anymore...It's whether your city can afford not to." A study examining the different ways protected bike lanes help local businesses classifies the economic benefits into four basic categories:

1. Protected bike lanes increase retail visibility and volume
2. Protected bike lanes make workers healthier and more productive
3. Protected bike lanes make real estate more desirable

Kingston Greenline tours draw visitors, spur ideas



During the past few weeks, members of the [Kingston Land Trust's Rail Trail Committee](#) conducted guided tours on each segment of the proposed Kingston Greenline trail system -- the

proposed Walkkill Valley Rail Trail extension, Catskill Mountain Rail Trail, and the proposed [Kingston Point Rail Trail](#). The walks concluded with short design workshops meant to gather input from trail neighbors, partners, advocates and potential users regarding a wide range of challenges and opportunities involved in making the Greenline system vision a reality.

Participants also navigated the streets in midtown Kingston, the physical center of the area's former railroad network, to investigate potential linkages to bring trail users in from the edge of the city to the cultural and commercial assets of midtown.

Parks & Trails New York is working with the [Kingston Land Trust](#) and the [Rail Trail Committee](#) as part of its [Healthy Trails, Healthy People](#) program to engage the community in exploring the feasibility of connecting existing and proposed rail trails into the city.



PTNY's Growing the Grassroots grant helps brand Kingston's rail trail efforts



The Kingston Land Trust (KLT) used a \$1,000 PTNY Growing the Grassroots Capacity Building Grant to develop a positioning statement, branding strategy, logo and tagline. The attractive materials are helping KLT's Rail Trail Committee promote and create a green, non-

4. Protected bike lanes help companies score talented workers

Source: "[Four Ways Protected Bike Lanes Benefit Businesses](#)" by Angie Schmitt.

Grants

National Trails Fund provides grants for hiking trails

The [American Hiking Society](#) provides [funding](#) to give local organizations the resources they need to secure access, volunteers, tools, and materials to repair and protect America's hiking trails. To apply, you must be a member of [American Hiking Society's Alliance](#). The deadline to apply is **December 13, 2013**.

Tree projects for parks and trails

NYSDEC [Urban and Community Forestry Grants](#) of \$2,500 to \$50,000 are available for tree inventories and management plans as well as tree planting, maintenance and invasive species detection for neighborhoods, parks, and trails. Deadline to [apply](#) is **December 5, 2013**. [Email](#) NYSDEC for more information.

Resources

Submit your trail for National Recreation Trail designation

Congress established the [National Trail System](#) in 1968 to recognize exemplary trails of local and regional significance. Designated National Recreation Trails (NRTs) receive [benefits](#) such as promotion, technical assistance, networking and increased access to funding opportunities. See a [list](#) of

motorized alternative that will allow local citizens and visitors to explore and connect with neighborhoods and regional recreational opportunities.

"With all that is happening for trails within the City, the timing could not have been better for this grant which has helped us set our course in a clear way for expanded outreach and constituency building," said Gregg Swanzey, Chairperson of the KLT Rail Trail Committee.

News from State Parks

Olana viewshed at risk

The striking views that inspired 19th century Hudson River



School artist Frederic Edwin Church and that continue to inspire visitors to [Olana State Historic Site](#) are threatened by a plan to replace two 190-foot communications towers with ones that are the same height but six times as wide.

Supporters of the plan argue that the new towers are needed for modern emergency services. The [Olana Partnership](#) and other supporters of Olana question the necessity of siting the towers in that location and the thoroughness of the environmental review that was completed, and fear the precedent such a development could set. The Olana Partnership and Scenic Hudson have sued the town of Livingston, which approved the plan to build the replacement tower. Read more in these recent articles by the [New York Times](#) and Albany [Times Union](#).

Groundbreaking at Ganondagan



A 30-year vision is on its way to becoming a reality. New York State officials and the [Friends of Ganondagan](#) recently [broke ground](#) on a [Seneca Art & Culture Center](#) at [Ganondagan State Historic Site](#). The Center will establish a permanent destination dedicated to Seneca and Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) contributions to art, culture and society at the site of the 17th century Seneca town in Ontario County.

The 17,300 square-foot [Center](#), scheduled to open in 2015, will feature gallery space, a theater, auditorium, catering kitchen, gift shop and offices - all while complementing the

existing NRTs in New York State. The deadline for [nominations](#) is November 1, 2013. [Apply today!](#)

NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide available

The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) has just released a new [Urban Bikeway Design Guide](#) that provides cities with state-of-the-practice solutions that can help create complete streets that are safe and enjoyable for bicyclists. The guide includes detailed designs, guidelines and insights on many different bike facilities.

New website to design and create bike/ped wayfinding signs

Need walking or biking wayfinding signs for your town or village?

A new website, [Walk \[Your City\]](#), provides a powerful tool to easily create walking or biking wayfinding signs - and the first two are free!

With Walk [Your City], users draw a route between two points on a map and the tool automatically calculates the walk or cycle minutes from A to B, as well as generates a good-looking sign. A QR code in the bottom corner even links to a mobile website that displays the entire walking route on a map. Printed signs, ready for mounting, are shipped right to your door. Check it out!

PTNY in the field

Mighty Waters Conference

natural landscape. The \$11 million project is being funded in part by \$3.9 million in NY Works funding and an economic development grant from NYS. The Friends have also raised \$1.5 million of a \$2 million [endowment campaign](#) to support ongoing facility operations and programming.

Future uncertain for Grant Cottage

Governor Cuomo's plan to close four state prisons includes closing the Mount McGregor Correctional Facility in Saratoga County. That news leaves the future of the [Ulysses S. Grant](#)



[Cottage State Historic Site](#), which sits next to the prison in Wilton, uncertain. The site and its visitor center, which are operated by the [Friends of Ulysses S. Grant Cottage](#), depend on the prison for power, water, sewer, snow removal, and security services. Discussions are due to begin this month between State Parks and the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. [Read more.](#)

Trails - an important element of Complete Streets

Multi-use trails may not be the first thing that comes to mind when discussing Complete Streets, but PTNY believes they should be included as part of the on- and off-road infrastructure changes which communities can undertake. In some cases, off-road multi-use trails and physically separated, protected bike lanes can offer greater safety and a buffer from noise and pollutants resulting in a safer, healthier and more enjoyable trip, especially for children, seniors, or those new to walking and biking.

Other Complete Streets features such as signage, wider shoulders, bike lanes, curb ramps, and cross walks are also essential to ensuring that trails are fully and safely integrated into a community's transportation network and that crossings at road /trail intersections are safe. To see what other states are doing, check out the multi-use trails section in Connecticut's newly released [Complete Streets Report](#).

PTNY participates in NYSDOT meeting on Complete Streets

PTNY continued its Complete Streets advocacy by joining other statewide stakeholders groups in meeting with NYSDOT officials to learn more about the Department's ongoing efforts to implement New York's Complete Streets law, passed in

PTNY Project Director Martin Daley spoke on a panel at the [Mighty Waters Conference](#) hosted by Congressman Paul Tonko on September 23. Martin discussed PTNY's "Close the Gaps" campaign and highlighted the health and economic benefits of multi-use trails.

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2011. The law requires state, county, and local agencies to consider the convenience and mobility of all users in transportation projects that receive state and federal funds and are subject to NYSDOT oversight.

At the meeting, NYSDOT distributed a draft Complete Streets checklist and asked the group for input on ways to incorporate complete street design features into its policies and practices.

Of greatest concern to a number of stakeholders was that NYSDOT's [Preservation First policy](#) may make it harder to fund the new infrastructure required for implementation of Complete Streets.

PowerPoints from the meeting should be available on the [Complete Streets section](#) of the NYSDOT website in about a month. NYSDOT is actively encouraging comments on Complete Streets in New York State. Email completestreets@dot.ny.gov.

PTNY is joining with its partners in New Yorkers for Active Transportation to advocate for additional dedicated funding in next year's state budget for bicycling and walking infrastructure and Complete Streets implementation. Stay tuned for how you can lend support to this campaign.

Thank you to our Green Partner Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners

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is a long-time
supporter of
PTNY.

Brookfield

Brookfield Renewable Power, an owner, operator and developer of hydroelectric power facilities, is a proud partner in the communities in which it operates and is committed to environmental stewardship. The company has worked with a variety of stakeholders in New York to create, restore and support river and lake aquatic habitats, install screens to allow for safe passage of fish and open river access points to the public. Brookfield is working hard to support green spaces that PTNY members use and love.

Environmental Bond Act proposed

Citing the state's crumbling infrastructure, lawmakers have [introduced](#) legislation to create a \$5 billion environmental bond act. The [Clean Water/Clean Air/Green Jobs Bond Act of 2014](#), introduced by Senator



Mark Grisanti and Assemblyman Robert Sweeney, would provide funding for the "preservation, enhancement, restoration, and improvement of the state's environment." This includes state and local parks and greenways, along with funding for clean air and water programs, municipal sewer and water infrastructure, air pollution prevention programs, and more.



PTNY has long cited the need for an investment in state parks infrastructure as well as funding for local parks and projects that promote clean air, and active transportation including bike and pedestrian paths, trails and greenways. Last month, PTNY testified at an Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee hearing on the need for an environmental bond act. [Read our testimony.](#)



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.

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