



29 Elk Street
Albany, NY 12207
518-434-1583

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 05, 2016

Media Contacts:

Robin Dropkin, Executive Director, 518-434-1583, rdropkin@ptny.org, www.ptny.org
Laura DiBetta, Director, Parks Program and Government Relations, 518-434-1583, ldibetta@ptny.org

**Parks & Trails New York Applauds Governor Cuomo's
Proposed Historic Investment in Environment in Budget**
\$300 million to be allocated to Environmental Protection Fund

ALBANY, N.Y. – Parks & Trails New York, a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization, applauds Governor Cuomo's historic commitment to a \$300 million Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). The EPF protects clean air and water and supports parks, trails and farms, among many other job-creating programs. A fully funded EPF will enable environmental needs across the state to be addressed, including land acquisition for trail corridors and parks; municipal parks and waterfront revitalization grants; and state land stewardship and public access to state parks, historic sites, and state forest lands and recreation facilities.

"Today's announcement by Governor Cuomo puts New York in a position of national leadership," said Parks & Trails New York Executive Director Robin Dropkin. "The Governor's historic commitment includes important investments in state park infrastructure, environmental programs, and grassroots Friends organizations that will help grow the economy, promote tourism, and enhance the quality of life for all New Yorkers."

Among the important programs supported by the EPF is the new Park and Trail Partnership Program, a \$500,000 capacity-building grants program for organizations that promote and support the state parks system. The Park and Trail Partnership Program, administered by Parks & Trails New York in partnership with the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), will unlock the potential of these organizations by increasing their effectiveness, productivity, and volunteer and fundraising capabilities. This will enhance park, trail and historic site stewardship, leading to even greater economic benefits from outdoor recreation and healthier, more sustainable and resilient communities.

About Parks & Trails New York: Parks & Trails New York is the leading statewide advocate for parks and trails, dedicated since 1985 to improving the health and quality of life of all New Yorkers by working with community organizations and municipalities to envision, create, promote, and protect a growing network of parks, greenways and trails throughout the state for all to use and enjoy. For more information, visit www.ptny.org.