



Parks & Trails
NEW YORK

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NEWS RELEASE

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Parks & Trails New York awards grants to strengthen park and trail groups around the state

The statewide advocacy group Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) today awarded almost \$15,000 in Growing the Grassroots capacity building grants to eight not-for-profit park and trail organizations. The groups will use the funds to increase organizational visibility, generate community support, grow membership, and attract additional volunteers.

PTNY's program is unique in that it supports activities not normally covered by existing grants. Most grants available to not-for-profits fund capital projects and specific programs. PTNY's Growing the Grassroots capacity building grants focus on developing and strengthening the skills, processes, and resources that will allow park and trail groups to thrive and better foster the expansion, stewardship, and promotion of New York's parks and trails.

“Hundreds of not-for-profit organizations are working to build, protect, and promote our state's parks and trails which contribute so much to our economy and quality of life,” said Robin Dropkin, Parks & Trails New York Executive Director. “With our Growing the Grassroots grant program, we can help propel these groups to new levels, enabling them to leverage more private funding and marshal more volunteer power to aid their stewardship efforts.”

Since it initiated the awards program in 2009, PTNY has assisted 54 organizations in 36 New York counties.

Organizations receiving 2014 Growing the Grassroots grants:

Springside Landscape Restoration, City of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County - \$2,400 for an up-to-date and flexible website that will help grow the organization's membership, donor, and volunteer base and support its efforts to protect and restore Andrew Jackson Downing's carriageway trails and only extant landscape.

Port Washington Parks Conservancy, Port Washington, Nassau County - \$2,000 to develop an interactive website that reaches a broader audience, accepts online donations, and serves as a point of access for the group's efforts to restore, preserve, and enhance the parks in Port Washington.

Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation, Inc., Town of Bethlehem, Albany County - \$2,000 for website development for the newly formed organization working with the Town to support park projects and programs within the community.

Friends of Hammondsport Area Parks & Trails, Town of Urbana, Steuben County - \$2,000 for the creation of a website to grow membership and volunteers to assist with development of a trail linking recreational, educational, and cultural resources within the town.

Friends of Robert H. Treman State Park, City of Ithaca, Tompkins County - \$1,723 for a membership brochure to attract additional members and volunteers to the state park south of Ithaca.

Friends of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Donald J. Trump State Parks, Yorktown Heights, Westchester County - \$1,600 to print brochures, favicards, and posters that will increase awareness among local residents and weekend visitors of the efforts of the Friends group at two lower Hudson Valley parks.

Oneida Improvement Committee, Inc. City of Oneida, Madison County - \$1,500 for design of a website to help recruit volunteers, attract donations, and transform the organization as it leads the effort to create an 11-mile, city-wide multi-use trail network.

Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association, Village of New Paltz, Ulster County - \$1,500 for printing a redesigned membership brochure as the group takes on 12 additional miles of trail stewardship.

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.

More information on the Growing the Grassroots grant program and Parks & Trails New York can be found at www.ptny.org or by calling 518-434-1583.