



NEWS RELEASE

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Parks & Trails New York Commends Governor Cuomo's Proposed Investment in Parks and Environment in Budget

ALBANY, N.Y. – Governor Cuomo's budget proposal for State FY 2013-2014 includes important investments in state parks infrastructure and environmental programs that will help grow the economy, better protect communities from the impacts of climate change, and enhance the quality of life for all New Yorkers.

New York State Parks and Historic Sites

The Governor's proposed budget includes a \$90 million investment to address the backlog of infrastructure needs at New York State Parks and Historic Sites. In addition, the Governor's five-year capital plan includes \$90 million for the state park system in each of the next five years, signaling a long-term commitment to providing substantial annual capital funding for state parks and historic sites. The budget proposal also maintains the operations budget of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP).

"Parks & Trails New York is pleased that the Governor continues to demonstrate his strong commitment to our state parks and historic sites," said Robin Dropkin, Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) Executive Director. "This infusion of capital funding will help continue the revitalization of our state park system and secure New York's parks and conservation legacy for future generations."

Governor Cuomo has shown strong support for New York's state parks and historic sites during his administration, allowing the state to begin to address the more than \$1 billion in infrastructure needs and critical safety repairs at state parks and historic sites, such as replacing aging water and sewer systems, rehabilitating restrooms, and repairing bridges, dams, roads, leaky roofs and swimming pools. This investment in our state park system, leveraged with additional private and federal investment, is

creating local jobs, boosting tourism in communities across the state, and helping to grow the state's economy sustainably.

"Governor Cuomo's budget proposal reflects his recognition of the important role state parks play in local economic growth, in the protection of important natural areas, and in providing affordable, close-to-home recreational opportunities to New Yorkers," said Dropkin.

PTNY looks forward to working with the Governor and the Legislature to keep the momentum going for parks, including partnering with the Governor and OPRHP on I Love My Park Day in May to celebrate and enhance New York's state parks and historic sites.

Environmental Protection Fund

PTNY also commends the Governor for including \$153 million for the state's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) in his 2013-14 Executive Budget, representing a \$19 million increase over last year's budget level. The EPF provides critical funding for state and local parks and trails while providing a 7-to-1 return on investment for the state.

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