

# I LOVE MY PARK *days*



## Show New York's State Parks Some Love

### What is I Love My Park Day?

I Love My Park Day is an exciting statewide event to improve and enhance New York's state parks and historic sites and bring visibility to the entire state park system. Volunteers from across the state participate in cleanup, improvement, and beautification events and celebrate New York's state park system by cleaning up park lands and beaches, planting trees and gardens, restoring trails and wildlife habitat, removing invasive species, and working on various site-improvement projects.

The first-ever I Love My Park Day was held in 2012. Forty state parks and historic sites from across the state hosted events. Thousands of volunteers – including Governor Andrew Cuomo – participated in the inaugural event. The event has tripled in size, with more than 95 events and 6,000 volunteers participating in 2015.

### When is it?

I Love My Park Day 2016 is Saturday, May 7, 2016. As decreed by Governor Cuomo, it is always the first Saturday in May.

### Why Hold I Love My Park Day?

Holding a large statewide volunteer event provides

enhanced visibility to the entire state park system while improving parks and historic sites, bringing in new volunteers and resources, and helping to build new partnerships.

### But Don't Take Our Word For It!

Here's what Friends groups, park staff, and volunteers are saying about I Love My Park Day:

- "The work that was done would very likely not have been accomplished without this volunteer effort. Everyone who participated is 'super ready' to come back again next year!"
- "A fantastic event!!! PTNY hit a homerun with this event!!!!!"



- “It went awesome! We got the trail base down, picked up trash, cleared some extra trail edges and removed two old picnic tables from the woods. The volunteers were amazing!”
- “I Love My Park Day enjoyed the largest turnout the Friends had ever had for a single event.”

## I Love My Park Day 2015: By the Numbers

- **95** participating state parks and historic sites
- **200** cleanup, improvement, beautification and stewardship projects completed
- **6,500** volunteers; over 60% new to state park volunteering
- **16,000** volunteer hours
- **75+** press hits around the state

## How is it Organized?

Parks & Trails New York – in partnership with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and local Friends groups – coordinates the event on the statewide level, providing outreach, promotion, technical assistance and a how-to organizer’s kit for Friends groups to use for their individual events. Friends groups and park staff oversee cleanup, improvement and beautification projects and work with volunteers.

## How Can I Get Involved?

- **Organize:** If you are with a Friends group or a park staff person and would like to organize an event at a state park or historic site, please contact Parks & Trails New York at 518-434-1583 or [ilovemypark@ptny.org](mailto:ilovemypark@ptny.org).
- **Be a corporate sponsor:** There are sponsorship opportunities at the local and statewide level. Contact Parks & Trails New York to find out more.
- **Volunteer:** To find an I Love My Park Day event near you, visit <http://www.ptny.org/ilovemypark/findanevent.shtml>.



**Parks & Trails New York** is the leading statewide organization working to preserve and enhance a network of parks, greenways and trails for all New Yorkers for generations to come.



### For more information:

29 Elk Street  
Albany, NY 12207  
518.434.1583  
[ilovemypark@ptny.org](mailto:ilovemypark@ptny.org)



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic  
Preservation**

[www.ptny.org/ilovemypark](http://www.ptny.org/ilovemypark)