



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATEMENT FROM PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK ON
GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO'S 2021 STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS**

(ALBANY, NY) - At this week's State of the State address, Governor Cuomo highlighted some of the great investments that the state has made in protecting our outdoors over the past decade, transforming our state's park system and completing the visionary Empire State Trail project. We are excited by the many initiatives he proposed to continue this work, including:

- completing the "Roc the Riverway" project in Rochester along the Genesee River
- taking down the Buffalo Skyway and creating a stunning new park overlooking Lake Erie
- constructing the Albany Skyway, connecting pedestrians and bicyclists to the Hudson River
- removing Interstate 81 in Syracuse and creating a new multimodal transportation corridor
- connecting the world-famous High Line with the new Moynihan Train Hall in Manhattan

Our public lands have seen unprecedented levels of visitation as New Yorkers seek solace and refuge in our parks and trails during the COVID-19 pandemic. This increased use illustrates the need to ensure all New Yorkers have access to outdoor recreation opportunities, as our public green spaces are vital to New York's public health infrastructure as well as drivers of the state's economic resiliency. We are optimistic that the Governor's budget will reflect these priorities and continue the positive investment in our state's parks, trails and public lands.

We look forward to working with the Governor and State Legislature to advance this vision and ensure New York continues to have the nation's premier state park and trail system, economic security, and the resilience to combat climate change.

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About Parks & Trails New York:

Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) is New York's leading statewide advocate for parks and trails. Since its founding in 1985, PTNY has been fighting to improving our health, economy, and quality of life through the use and enjoyment of green space. With the support of members, supporters and partners from across the state, PTNY is a prominent voice for the protection and expansion of New York's magnificent state park system and multi-use trail network, including more than 1,500 miles of greenways, bike paths, and river walks. Learn more at www.ptny.org.