



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY

### BY THE NUMBERS

- 126—participating state parks, historic sites and public lands
- 8,000—volunteers
- >250—cleanup, improvement, beautification and stewardship projects completed
- 20,000—volunteer hours contributed

### BROAD SUPPORT FROM SPONSORS, PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS

NYS Commission on National and Community Service, AT&T, ConEdison, Brookfield Renewable Energy Group, Harney & Sons Fine Teas, America's Best Value Inn, Corning Incorporated, M&T Bank, Nicholas & Lence Communication, Stantec Consulting Services, BBL Construction Services, LLC, Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation, H2M architects + engineers, L.L.Bean, Inc., Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects PC, The National Baseball Hall of Fame, GoGo Squeez, Albany Times Union, The Buffalo News, Long Island.com, and MANY MORE!



*East River State Park*

### CLEANUP, IMPROVEMENT, BEAUTIFICATION & STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS COMPLETED

- Beachfronts and shorelines cleaned
- Leaves raked to get sites ready for opening day
- Thousands of trees planted to reforest parks
- New gardens and flowerboxes created
- Flowers planted in existing beds and mulch spread
- Butterfly gardens spruced up
- Miles of trails and walking paths cleaned up and enhanced
- New trails created and marked
- Picnic tables constructed
- Painting (fences, picnic tables, flower boxes, kiosks, polo boards, picnic shelters, historic cannons)
- Firepits cleaned and grills installed



*Riverbank State Park*

### PARK FRIENDS, STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS TELL THEIR STORIES

#### **PRAISE FOR VOLUNTEERS - Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve**

“We had such a wonderful group of volunteers! Enthusiastic and prepared to get the work done. They cleared a wall of invasive vines that were completely covering a willow tree. Senator Terrance Murphy stopped by to see the great work”

**FAMILY BONDING - SUNKEN MEADOW**

“The people in charge were knowledgeable, patient, and they taught us well. We built tables this year, painted lifeguard stands last. Everything we needed was provided. I recommend this highly! My daughter and I did this together and it was a wonderful experience.”



*Hudson River Park*

**BROAD PARTICIPATION - KNOX FARM**

“People came out to help because they love the park so much and truly wanted to help. They came with rakes, hand tools and ideas of what they wanted to accomplish. We had jobs for all abilities, and they added some, like building a gate at the dog park. They brought all necessary tools and materials too. Everyone was able to participate no matter their age or ability.”

**TEACHING FUTURE STEWARDS - FORT ONTARIO**

“It's just a wonderful experience to give back and my children are learning what it means to be an important part of their community. This was our 4th year volunteering and we will plan on continuing in the future. If we want our parks and historic sites to be around for future generations, we all need to help keep them clean and maintained.”



*Valley Stream State Park*

**SHARING FAVORITE PARKS - SCHUYLER MANSION**

“We loved it. So many volunteers showed up that we did not expect and they were SO NICE and so helpful. It was great sharing the place with people who had not been here before (we provided tours afterward) and the high school students from Green Tech were hard workers!”

**A TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS - ACROSS NEW YORK STATE**

“It is a wonderful opportunity to connect with the community and get people out on the trail. Also gets a lot of work done at the best time of the year!” -Catharine Valley Trail

“Many friends who saw that I participated asked how they can get involved, many will be joining us next year!” -Sunken Meadow

“It was fun! The organizers were great! Helpful, nice, giving, and fun. It is a source of pride to help the parks. Can't wait to visit and see my work!” -Gilbert Lake



*Gantry Plaza State Park*



**Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation**