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PTNY Receives \$80,000 State Economic Development Award

Regional Economic Development Council award to fund marketing campaign to attract cyclists to 365-mile Erie Canalway Trail



PTNY was awarded \$80,000 through Round Three of the Regional Economic Development Council grant awards announced by Governor Cuomo on December 11.

The award will fund an initiative to undertake a multi-faceted

December 2013



Thank you for remembering Parks & Trails New York in your year-end giving.

TrailFinder Trail of the Month



Jamestown Riverwalk

The City of Jamestown in Chautauqua County has come to recognize the importance of the

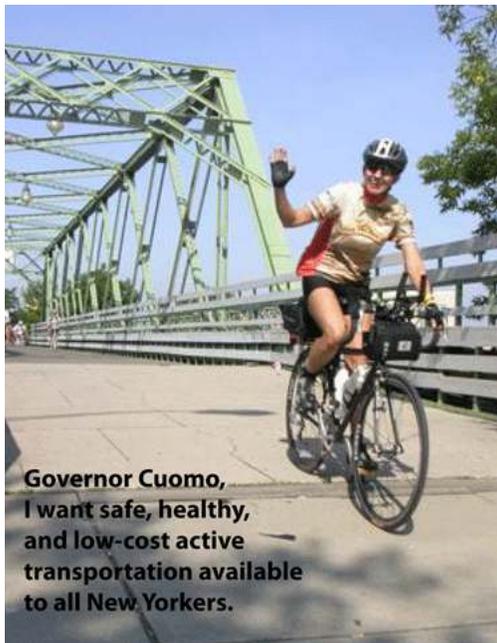
marketing campaign to attract national and international cyclists to the 365-mile Erie Canalway Trail between Buffalo and Albany. The Trail extends across 14 New York State counties.

The award was part of the Market New York Grant program, administered by Empire State Development, which supports regionally-themed New York-focused projects that promote tourism destinations, attractions, special events and other travel-related activities.

The marketing campaign will consist of a comprehensive Erie Canalway Trail website, a promotional video, print and online advertising, a presence at trade shows, and trip planning assistance.

[Read the press release.](#)

Send Governor Cuomo a postcard in support of bicycling and walking - all it takes is two clicks



[New Yorkers for Active Transportation](#) (NY4AT), a coalition founded by [Parks & Trails New York](#), the [New York Bicycling Coalition](#) and [Tri-State Transportation Campaign](#), has been working to ensure New Yorkers of all ages and abilities are provided with safe, healthy, and low-cost active transportation.

Recent reductions in state and federal funding have greatly limited the ability of communities to develop the infrastructure needed to implement the state's [Complete Streets law](#) and promote bicycling and walking.

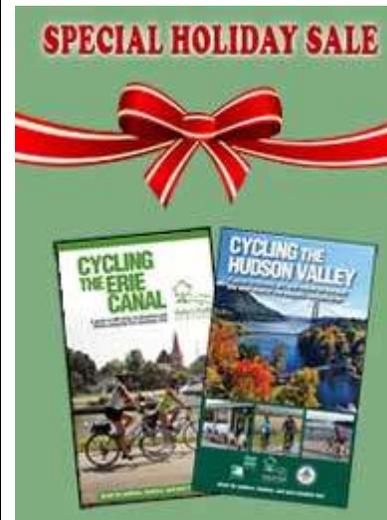
A postcard from you to the Governor can change that.

Provide your first name, last name and city in our [online form](#) and PTNY will deliver a [postcard](#) from you to Governor Cuomo urging him to establish a dedicated line in the 2014-15 state budget for pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure, with a

Chadakoin River as the source of its history and an opportunity for its future. Over the past year, Jamestown has [opened a 1,000-foot North Shore extension](#) to the Riverwalk and [leveraged](#) New York State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and Brownfield Opportunity Area grants to connect the growth of the waterfront trail with the development of new commercial and public facilities. The Riverwalk, which currently runs a half mile on both the north and south sides of the Chadakoin River from Panzarella Park to Riverwalk Park, forms the heart of an envisioned eight-mile network of parks and trails that could transform the city.

Check out the Jamestown Riverwalk and more of NY's multi-use trails on PTNY's [TrailFinder](#).

Free holiday shipping on great NYS cycling guidebooks



Are you still looking for that perfect holiday gift for a fellow cyclist, hiker or history buff?

Take advantage of free holiday shipping when you purchase either [Cycling the Erie Canal](#) or [Cycling the Hudson Valley](#) before Christmas.

minimum commitment of \$20 million annually over the next five years.

PTNY honors 2013 Perkins Award recipients

On Wednesday, November 13, Parks & Trails New York presented its George W. Perkins Award to

- **Citi** for its exemplary commitment to New York through its investment in the widely successful Citi Bike program
- **Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan** for her extraordinary leadership in transforming New York's streets and vastly improving the city's physical, social and economic environment
- **Four Freedoms Park Conservancy** for its dedication to building and operating a beautiful and meaningful green space on Roosevelt Island, Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms State Park.



As the evening's mistress of ceremonies, PTNY's Board Chair Judith C. Mower said, "A word that applies to all of our honorees this evening is transformational, the transformation

of an island through the creation of one of our newest state parks, the transformation of a city through the efforts of an innovative and determined individual, and the transformation of a society through a program that changes how people move. At PTNY we are proud to recognize our honorees for their commitment to a better life for all New Yorkers."

A big THANK YOU to all our Erie Canalway Trail Ambassadors for another great season!



Each year a dedicated team of volunteers put on yellow and orange ambassador vests and spend countless hours providing assistance and

Plus, if you order [both guidebooks](#) you'll save even more money with our special holiday discount!

Order by December 20 to ensure delivery by Christmas.

Registration opens January 1 for PTNY bike tours

[Cycling the Erie Canal](#)

July 13-20, 2014

This is the year to join PTNY for Cycling the Erie Canal! Meet people from across the country and around the world while learning about the Erie Canal on this 8-day, 400-mile, mostly off-road ride from Buffalo to Albany.

[Cycling the Hudson Valley](#)

July 29-August 3, 2014

Cycling the Hudson Valley is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2014! Visit Olana, the Culinary Institute of America, Dia:Beacon, and West Point on this 6-day, 200-mile ride along the Hudson River from Hudson to New York City.

Save the Dates!

Mark your calendar for several statewide events and advocacy days this winter and spring!

New Yorkers for Active Transportation Advocacy Day February 11

PTNY Park Advocacy Day February 26

DASH-NY [Healthy Community Development Conference](#) March 24

[Canal Clean Sweep](#) April 25-27

[I Love My Park Day](#) May 3

Bike to Work Day May 16



information to the Erie Canalway Trail's 1.6 million users. Erie Canalway Trail (ECT)

Ambassadors also monitor the condition of the trail and generally promote the courteous and safe use of our state's amazing

historic, cultural and recreational resource. The program began in Schenectady and Albany Counties in 2008 and has since expanded to other parts of the state. ECT Ambassadors can be found on the trail on both weekends and weekdays from spring to fall.

This year ECT Ambassadors have met people from all over the world, including many riders whose trip along the ECT is just a small piece of a larger journey across the entire United States. [Parks & Trails New York](#), the [Canalway Trails Association New York \(CTANY\)](#) and the [NYS Canal Corporation](#) could not be happier to have their service. Thank you to each and every one of our ECT Ambassadors!

Interested in joining the ranks of this amazing group?

[Contact](#) Park & Trails New York for more information about serving as an ECT Ambassador.

PTNY Growing the Grassroots capacity building grant builds membership for Adirondack trail group



A logo and membership brochure, made possible by a [PTNY Growing the Grassroots Capacity Building grant](#), has helped the newly-formed [Northville-Placid Trail chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club](#) with its efforts to attract members and volunteers. The club assists NYSDEC with stewardship of the 133-mile trail that traverses some of the most

remote sections of the Adirondack Park.

"ADK is deeply grateful to PTNY for its assistance with this project - building capacity of the Northville-Placid Trail chapter ensures the improvement and protection of the trail over time," said Deb Zak, ADK Director of Membership and Development.

[Walk-Bike New York Symposium](#) May 21-22

We want to serve you better!

Help PTNY improve our website functionality and appearance by completing a [quick survey](#).

PTNY in the field

Hearing on State Parks in NYC

The Assembly Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts, and Sports Development recently held a hearing on strategies for enhancing the state park system and maximizing public use and enjoyment of its facilities, in particular how to address the park system's many underutilized, vacant and at-risk facilities. Executive Director Robin Dropkin was there to present PTNY's recommendations. Read our [testimony](#).

Advocacy for LWCF in Washington DC

In advance of federal budget negotiations, PTNY Board Vice-Chair Bob Kafin met with the offices of several New York State Congressional and Senate representatives in the nation's capital to urge support for funding for critical environmental programs, specifically full and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

LWCF has provided funding to help protect some of New York's most special places and ensure recreational access for outdoor activities. New York has received approximately \$302 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as Gateway National Recreation Area, Sterling Forest, and

Chittenango Creek Walk Committee wins Smart Growth Award

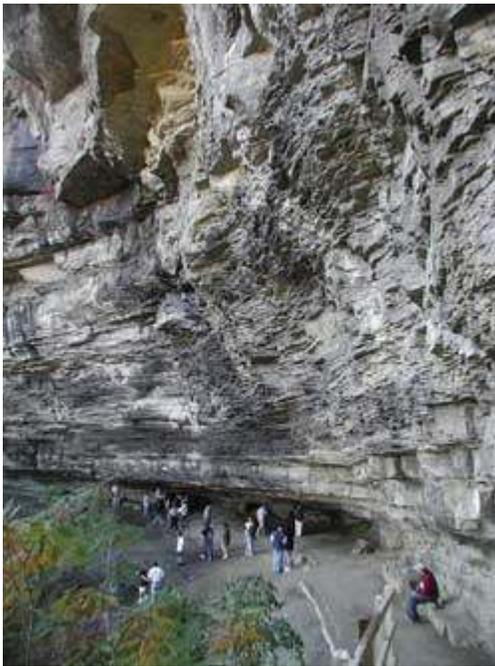


The Madison County Planning Department chose the Village of [Chittenango Creek Walk](#) Committee to receive the 2013 Smart Growth

Award for its ongoing efforts to implement the vision of a multimodal trail system that links the Village's neighborhoods, downtown, and parks. As part of its [Healthy Trails, Healthy People](#) program, PTNY has assisted Chittenango with the Creek Walk's development.

News from State Parks

Enhanced recreation coming to Thacher Park



[John Boyd Thacher Park](#) near Albany has a [new master plan](#) designed to enhance the park as a four-season destination for adventurous outdoor recreation, exploration and fitness in the Capital District. The plan comes just in time for the park's 100th anniversary in 2014.

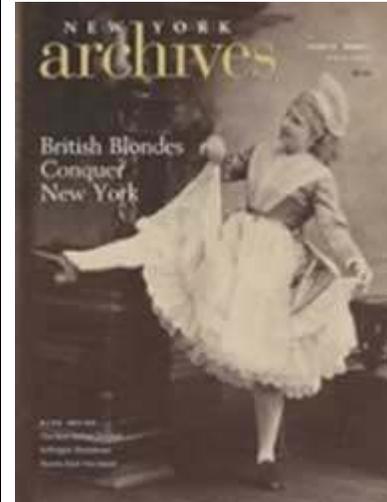
Future plans for the park include new and

expanded hiking trails, including a 4.6-mile bike path connecting the Escarpment Trails to Thompson's Lake; creation of a new mountain bike park; and more diverse activities such as rock-climbing, caving, and a new "challenge course" recreation area at the former pool site.

[The plan](#) also calls for unifying Thacher State Park with the neighboring Thompson Lake campground, expanding the Thompson Lake beach, and building a new visitor center. [Read more.](#)

Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge. [Learn more.](#)

PTNY staff member is published



The [latest issue](#) of [New York Archives](#), a magazine published by the [New York State Archives Partnership Trust](#), includes an article by PTNY's Parks Program Assistant [Jackie Mirandola Mullen](#). "Ash Wednesday on Fire Island" explores how the 1962 Ash Wednesday Storm served as a catalyst for citizens organizing opposition to Robert Moses' planned Ocean Parkway extension, which eventually led to the establishment of Fire Island National Seashore. This research is part of Jackie's larger dissertation project on coastal conservation in the postwar United States. To learn more, [pick up a copy](#) of [New York Archives](#) or [contact Jackie](#).

Grant Opportunities

Several grants with funding available for trail development, friends groups, or events have upcoming deadlines.

- [Toyota Everyday Grants](#): December 18, 2013

Taconic Friends gather at regional meeting



Friends groups from state parks and historic sites across the Taconic region met on Tuesday, December 3 to compare notes, network, and collaborate. Over 45 people attended,

representing all 16 friends groups in the Taconic region. Representatives from Clermont State Historic Site, Taconic State Park, Walkway Over the Hudson, and the Old Croton Aqueduct presented their strategies for volunteer recruitment and best practices for park management and friends group collaboration. The event, hosted by PTNY, Alliance for NYS Parks, and the Taconic Regional Commission, concluded with a candlelit tour of Mills Mansion.

Long Island Friends groups enjoy holiday get together

Representatives from Friends groups [across Long Island](#) gathered on December 12 at the Snapper Inn in Oakdale, which neighbors the [Connetquot River State Park Preserve](#). Representatives from nine friends groups and parks were present, in addition to [PTNY](#), officials from the L.I. regional OPRHP office, and the [Natural Heritage Trust](#). The event enabled friends groups to network with one another and share ideas.

Strong Support for State Parks Funding



Nearly 70 organizations from across New York sent a message of support to Governor Cuomo for continued funding for capital improvements at state parks and historic sites. The [letter](#) also urges increased operations support for the state parks agency. The Governor and Legislature have

- Museum Association of New York [Get Ready, Get Set, and Go! Grants: Rolling Deadlines](#)
- [MVP Project Go Contest: January 27, 2014](#)

Ribbon cuttings celebrate new trail sections

Harlem Valley Rail Trail



Years in the dreaming and planning stages, another section of the [Harlem Valley Rail Trail](#) in the Hudson Valley opened to the public on Nov. 23, with a celebratory ribbon cutting. Volunteers from the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association cleared brush, mowed weeds, and laid down crushed stone to ready the new trail segment. While this new trail section will eventually be paved, it is now available for walking, cross-country skiing, and snow shoeing.

When the trail is complete between Wassaic in Dutchess County and Chatham in Columbia County it will be 46 miles long.

Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail





shown an unprecedented commitment to the state park system in the last two

state budgets, providing a \$179 million investment to restore and reinvigorate treasured state parks and historic sites, including Niagara Falls State Park. Parks & Trails New York, along with our partners, will be working to ensure that this state parks renaissance continues.

PTNY members and friends share their stories for #GivingTuesday



Over 10,000 partners from more than 40 countries came together to engage supporters on December 3rd for the second annual #GivingTuesday. Billed as an "opening day" for the giving season,

#GivingTuesday comes on the heels of Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday to bring a global community together around philanthropy.

Parks & Trails New York participated again this year by encouraging members and friends to share their giving stories for a chance to win an L.L. Bean giftcard. We received dozens of responses from our generous and giving park and trail community. The winning entry was submitted by the mother of the three young volunteers, shown in the above photo, who are donating their time for the fifth year to sell kazoos in support of Camp Good Days.

Thank you to all who participated this year and for keeping the spirit of giving alive!

Reports, resources and apps

Elevation profiles for your cycle route



Check out [Cycle Route](#), a [web app](#) that uses google maps biking directions to provide elevation profiles

PTNY attended a ribbon cutting and party on December 7 for three newly-opened miles of one of one of PTNY's original *Healthy Trails, Healthy People* program projects - the [Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail](#) (HHRT) in Albany County.

The opening of the trail section involved the renovation of two bridges. When completed, the HHRT will connect Voorheesville, New Scotland, Bethlehem and Delmar to the City of Albany and the Hudson River at the Port of Albany, adding an important recreational and commuting resource to the region

Dix Bridge re-opens to pedestrians and cyclists



Years of planning, perseverance, and partnerships are paying off along the Champlain Canal, where the historic Dix Bridge, which spans the Hudson River, reopened on November 8th. The bridge connects Saratoga County at Lock C5 and Hudson Crossing Park in Schuylerville to Washington County at Greenwich. The 113-year-old bridge will provide a critical link in the Champlain Canalway Trail from Waterford to Whitehall. Congratulations to all who worked so hard to make this happen!

Good news for bicycling and walking from U.S. DOT

Goals that foster livable communities are being included



for any cycling route in the world.

Just type in an origin and destination and see what climbs and coasts are in your future.

NACTO Neighborhood Streets Guide

The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) has developed a new [Urban Streets Design Guide](#) which the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is encouraging State DOT's and others to use as they address Complete Streets. The web guide provides excellent images and graphics that make it easy for anyone to understand the design of Complete Streets.

Accommodating bicyclists and pedestrians on rural roads

The Cornell Local Roads Program has written an [excellent article](#) explaining how even the most rural roads in New York State can become Complete Streets, without costing a fortune.

Bike-Ped news from NYSDOT

Check out [NYS DOT's Bike-Ped Newsletter](#) filled with news of state and national bicycle and pedestrian programs and activities.

New federal accessibility guidelines for trails

[New federal guidelines](#) that apply to trails and other outdoor recreation areas managed by the federal government took effect on November 25, 2013. Now any facilities built, altered, or leased with federal funds will be held to the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Standards for Trails, Picnic and Camping Facilities, and Beach Access Routes.

Wondering how much your dream trail or bike lane might cost?

A [new report](#) from the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) provides meaningful estimates of infrastructure costs by collecting up-to-date cost information from states and cities across the country that can be very helpful when you need a cost estimate for a bike/ped grant.

Realtors report: Americans prefer mixed use, walkable communities



Research by the National Association of Realtors (NAR) has consistently

in the update of the U.S. Department of Transportation's [strategic plan for 2014-2018](#). The draft plan says communities should "Promote the use of bicycling and walking for daily activities through investment in on and off street bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and safety enhancements."

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revealed that Americans prefer walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods and shorter commutes.

According to NAR's [2013 Community Preference Survey](#), 60 percent of respondents favor a neighborhood with a mix of houses and stores and other businesses that are easy to walk to, rather than neighborhoods that require more driving between home, work and recreation.



Parks & Trails New York is a member of Earth Share New York, an alliance of leading nonprofit environmental organizations. For more information about workplace giving to Parks & Trails New York and Earth Share, check out www.earthshareny.org.

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