

GreenSpace

For members, supporters, and friends of Parks & Trails New York

Winter 2018-2019



Empire State Trail on the move

And your support of PTNY is making it happen!

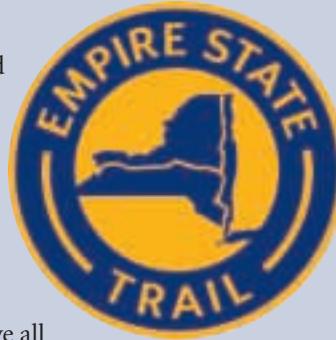
It's an ambitious goal: create the longest multi-use trail system in the nation by 2020. But New Yorkers like to think BIG. At 750 miles long, traversing 27 counties, and hundreds of communities, from NYC north to Canada and from Albany west to Buffalo, the Empire State Trail is most certainly BIG.

It's been almost two years since Governor Cuomo announced the Empire State Trail and the NYS Legislature approved \$200 million for its completion. Today, trail planning, design, and construction are underway across the system.

Closing the Gaps and more

Planning for the Empire State Trail has been in full force since day one. A draft plan, design guidelines, and a guide for construction projects along on-road sections of the route have all been released, plus more detailed reports on several Hudson Valley projects, the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail, the Maybrook Trailway, and the Beacon Line Rail-Trail.

Planning is in progress to close multiple gaps in the Erie Canalway Trail, which will be the east-west spine of the Empire State Trail, including gaps in Wayne, Seneca, Cayuga, Oneida, and Herkimer Counties. In addition, an exciting plan has been finalized to travel through Syracuse by constructing off-road trail between Camillus and Onondaga Lake and using the median of Erie Boulevard to connect Syracuse and Dewitt.



Just last month PTNY helped cut the ribbon on a new 5-mile section of Erie Canalway Trail west of Schenectady. This new segment closes an existing gap and allows cyclists to go off-road through the Mohawk Valley for almost 50 miles.

A golden era of trails

We are in the midst of a golden era of trails, with communities across the state looking to build new trails, connect existing ones, and make it easier and safer for people to walk, run, and bike.

Parks & Trails New York is ready to spring into action! Let us know about your trail project and how we can help you make it happen.

Your support has helped make possible the longest multi-use trail in the United States. Thank you!

For decades, with your help, Parks & Trails New York has been advocating for completion of the 360-mile Erie Canalway Trail between Buffalo and Albany. The actualization of this vision, plus nearly 400 additional miles of connected trail, is truly a dream come true.

Here at PTNY, we can't wait for 2020, when the Empire State Trail will be completed, closing the gaps in the Erie Canalway Trail and connecting it to NYC via the Hudson Valley Greenway and north to Canada.



PTNY wins Reimagine the Canals competition

Parks & Trails New York and our partner, Area4, a NYC event firm, successfully guided the Erie Armada, a water-borne race and craft-brew festival concept, to success in the Reimagine the Canals competition sponsored by the New York Power Authority and NYS Canal Corporation.

We were one of two winners of the competition, which sought transformative ideas that would spur economic development and tourism along the Canal System while celebrating all the region has to offer. The idea of a craft-brew festival along the water alludes to a long history of brewing in Canal towns and throughout New York State, as well as the future of the Canal system as a recreation destination.

As one of two winning proposals, the Erie Armada will be awarded \$500,000 in funding. The goal is to use this initial investment to create a sustainable, annual event that showcases New York's thriving craft-brewing sector, as well as the waterway that made it all possible. New York breweries will have the opportunity to participate by creating special brews and collaborations; their creativity and craftsmanship will also be extended to the actual vessels used in a 15-mile "race" down the Canal. Beer and boating fans from near and far will have multiple ways to join in the festivities, both on and off water.

The Erie Armada is scheduled to hit the water in Fall 2019, with actual dates and locations to be announced in early 2019.

Parks & Trails New York's entry, the Erie Armada, was one of two winners of the Reimagine the Canals competition.

Parks & Trails New York

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Parks & Trails New York is the leading advocate for New York's parks and trails. We provide a voice for park and trail users and supporters with decision makers and the environmental community. We work every day to protect our public lands and keep them accessible, safe, and beautiful.

Parks & Trails New York is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization as defined by the IRS, EIN 14-1753475. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Photos courtesy of:

PTNY staff, New York State Parks, and Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum

Join Parks & Trails New York and sign up for our e-newsletter at
www.ptny.org/get-involved

You Gotta Have Friends



Friends groups love I Love My Park Day

I Love My Park Day, held the first Saturday in May, is an important event for Friends groups as it provides a tool to gain new members and volunteers. 2018 was the biggest year yet for I Love My Park Day, with 125 participating parks, historic sites, and public lands benefiting from the hard work and dedication of 8,000 volunteers.



Kids discover science is fun, thanks to Park and Trail Partnership grant

The Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum in Central New York received a Park and Trail Partnership grant to research Erie Canal water systems, past and present, and create Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) educational programming for the next generation of outdoor lovers.

Thanks to the grant, the museum updated its school education program, created a successful summer STEM camp, and a "Story of the Water" Series of talks.

Campers enjoyed a host of STEM-based activities including water quality testing, a nature walk, hydraulic cement production, and much more! Everyone had a great time, and they can't wait for next year.



Campers at the Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum dig into water projects, thanks to a Park and Trail Partnership grant.



PTNY organized the first statewide park and historic site Friends conference in a decade, with more than 150 participants.

Friends groups boost park renaissance

Non-profit Friends organizations have been supporting New York's state parks and historic sites for nearly a century. And, thanks to your support, Parks & Trails New York is redoubling our efforts to strengthen these dedicated groups.

Among the ways PTNY is fostering Friends groups are our Park and Trail Partnership grants, online resources, networking opportunities such as statewide conferences, and volunteer events like I Love My Park Day.

Growing the grassroots

From innovative educational programs to transformative on-the-ground improvements, our Park & Trail Partnership Program (PTPP) grants have enabled Friends groups to increase their effectiveness, promote outdoor recreation, and enhance stewardship. To date, we have awarded 60 PTPP grants totaling \$1.4 million to Friends groups, leveraging more than \$585,000 in private investment.

Networking encouraged

The first statewide Friends conference in a decade, organized by PTNY, was a great success, with more than 150 participants learning about fundraising, social media, event planning, volunteer management, and more.

Friends groups need YOU

Friends groups are always looking for more volunteers. It's a great way to meet new people and give back to your favorite park or historic site. Give us a call and we'll match you up with a nearby group.

You Make All the Difference for New York's Parks and Trails

AT&T Celebrated for I Love My Park Day Partnership

We were thrilled to honor AT&T and its Northeast Regional President, Marissa Shorenstein, with this year's George W. Perkins Award for Outstanding Environmental Leadership and Public Service. I Love My Park Day is a huge success thanks to the company's generous partnership, environmental stewardship, and commitment to volunteerism.

Since its inception in 2012, I Love My Park Day has grown exponentially in size and impact. The event now engages more than 8,000 volunteers in valuable clean-up and improvement projects at 125 state parks and historic sites across the state. The enormous growth and success of the event would not have been possible without the leadership support of AT&T.

George W. Perkins Award

The award is named for George W. Perkins, who, in his long-time commitment to New York's magnificent state park system, was a model of the best in environmental leadership and public service.



Marissa Shorenstein (middle) with PTNY board members, (left to right) A. Joseph Scott III, Edward Bergstraesser of AT&T, and David E. Bronston, and Robin Dropkin, PTNY Executive Director, at the George W. Perkins Award reception October 11 in New York City.

What will your legacy be?

It's never too early to begin thinking about your legacy. As someone who appreciates the value of nature and green spaces, we invite you to share your passion for New York's majestic parks and beautiful trails by making a legacy gift to Parks & Trails New York. By taking some simple gift planning steps, you will keep PTNY hard at work, advocating and ensuring that your favorite parks and trails will be protected for generations to come.

By making a legacy gift, you will become a founding member of PTNY's Legacy Society, our valued circle of friends for the future. If you have already included Parks & Trails New York in your estate plans, please let us know, so we can thank you!

To learn more about becoming a member of the Legacy Society of Parks & Trails New York, please contact Anne Russell Gregory, Director of Development, at argregory@ptny.org or 518-434-1583.

Save the dates!

- March 4**
Park Advocacy Day
- March 18**
Trail Advocacy Day
- April 19-22**
Canal Clean Sweep
- May 4**
Annual I Love My Park Day!
- July 7-14**
Annual Cycle the Erie Canal Bike Tour



With environmental threats and decreases in funding, New York's parks and trails need your support!

Here's how you can join the cause:

- Become a member of Parks & Trails New York or make a donation by mail, phone, or online at www.ptny.org/donate
- Become a Legacy Society member and name Parks & Trails New York as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance, IRA, or retirement plan
- Double your donation by sending us your employer's matching gift form
- Give at the office via EarthShare New York
- Get involved – join us on I Love My Park Day, Canal Clean Sweep, and Park and Trail Advocacy Days

Visit www.ptny.org/get-involved/ways-to-give-to-learn-more