

# Transforming Our New York State Parks System

**NY Parks 2020**  
Renewing the Stewardship  
of our State Park System

**New York State Parks Friends Groups  
Statewide Conference  
Gideon Putnam Hotel, Saratoga Spa State Park  
December 1 & 2, 2017**

**Agency Priorities, Progress and Plans**



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

# New York State Park System

250 individual parks, historic sites, recreational trails, golf courses, boat launches and more.

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**Allegany:** 7 parks



**Central:** 20 parks,  
7 historic sites



**Finger Lakes:** 25 parks, 2  
historic sites



**Genesee:** 9 parks



**Long Island:** 26 parks,  
1 historic sites



**New York City:** 7 parks



**Niagara:** 19 parks  
2 historic sites



**Palisades:** 20 parks  
7 historic sites



**Saratoga-Capital District:**  
12 parks, 8 historic sites



**Taconic:** 13 parks,  
6 historic sites



**Thousand Islands:** 26 parks,  
1 historic site



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## Among the 50 states New York State Parks Ranks:

- ✓ First in number of facilities
- ✓ First in number of campsites
- ✓ Second in visitation
- ✓ Fifth in total acreage

Attendance at Niagara Falls State Park is greater than that of Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Parks combined and more than twice as many people visit Jones Beach each than visit Yellowstone. Recognized nationally as among the nation's best parks.





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We are **Camping**- 9000 campsites and cabins; 645,000 overnight stays statewide

We are **Safe Boating and Snowmobiling**-Thousands of safety courses offered in classroom and online

We are **Golf**—26 Golf Courses include renowned Bethpage Black

We are **Nature Centers**—25 across the state with expanding environmental education programs

We are **Trails**—2000 miles for hiking, biking and walking



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***“Far and away the best prize life has to offer is working hard at work worth doing.”—Theodore Roosevelt***

## **Commissioner Harvey’s Priorities**

- Fixing and Transforming New York’s State Parks and Historic Sites into a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Parks System, as set forth in our NY Parks 2020 Plan
  - Increasing, Deepening and Improving the Visitor Experience
  - Connecting the Next Generation to the NYS Park System
- Celebrating history and promote historic preservation to strengthen preservation efforts across the state.

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## NY Parks 2020 CAPITAL PROGRAM

*“Parks are essential to who we are as individuals and what we are as a State”*—Governor Andrew Cuomo

### ***2012-2017***

Projects completed or scheduled  
for completion: **700**

Number of parks & historic  
sites: **176**

- Transforming New York’s Flagship Parks
- Promoting Healthy, Active Outdoor Recreation
- Connecting People with Parks
- Rejuvenating our world class park system
- Preserving historic sites and cultural assets
- Sustaining New York’s natural environment
- Energizing local economies



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## 4-Point Plan to Connect the Next Generation

**Remove Barriers:** Provide Free Entry for 4<sup>th</sup> Graders and their families and offer free/low-cost transportation for schools in underserved communities

**Educate:** Bring more youth to state parks for NYS learning-standard-approved programming at nature centers and historic sites

**Be Active:** Focus on Youth-Friendly Recreation

**Get Involved:** Support and Encourage Youth Service



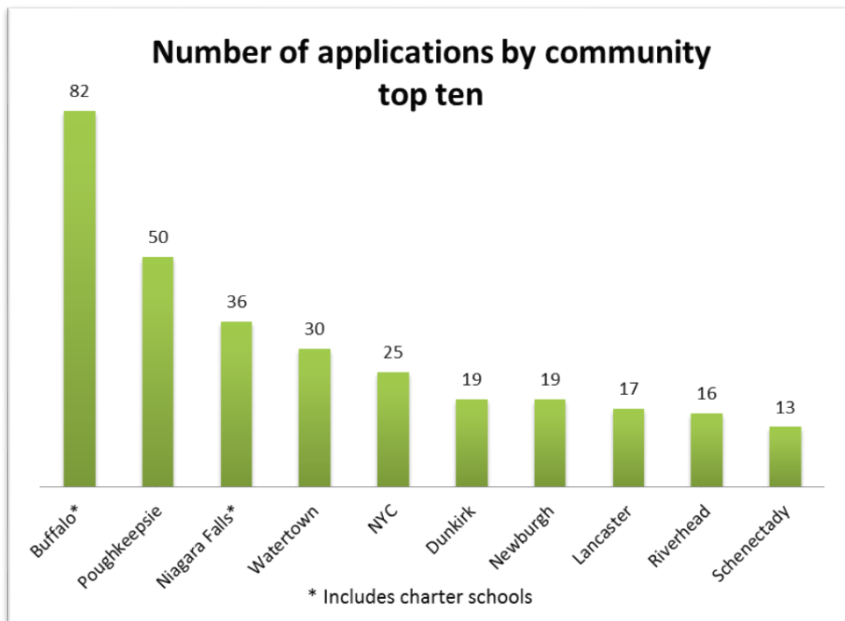


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## Connect Kids Field Trip Grant Program

To date, over **1300** field trip grants were awarded to Title 1 classrooms in New York State public schools. Nearly **60,000** New York public school students have visited state lands as part of the program. A total of \$1.5 million in EPF funding has been invested in the grant program.

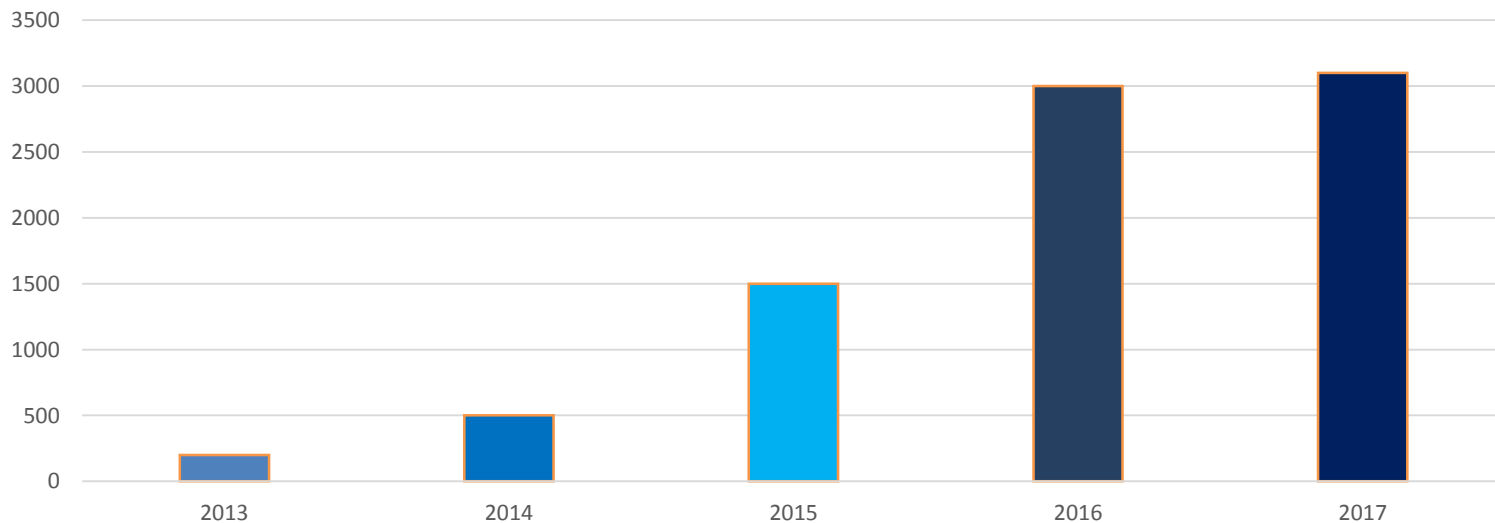


# We are Connecting Kids NYS Parks Learn-to-Swim Programs

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## NYS Parks Learn to Swim Program Swimmers 2013-2017





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## Our Visitors Are Responding



4 of top 10 winners in the  
category **Best New York Attraction:**

**Letchworth State Park**

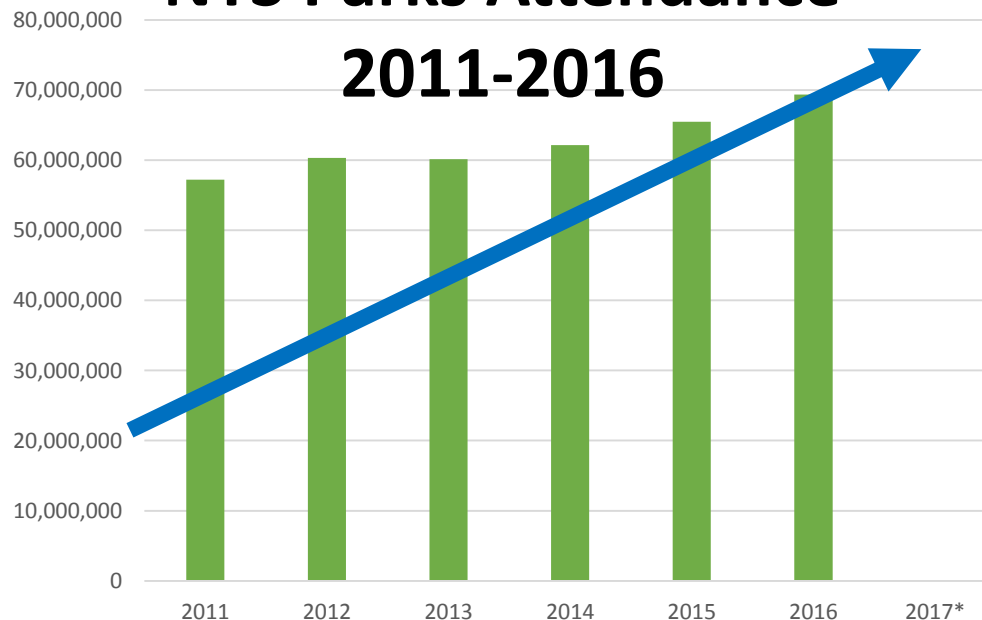
**Watkins Glen State Park**

**Frank Lloyd Wright's Martin House  
Complex**

**Niagara Falls State Park**

### NYS Parks Attendance

**2011-2016**

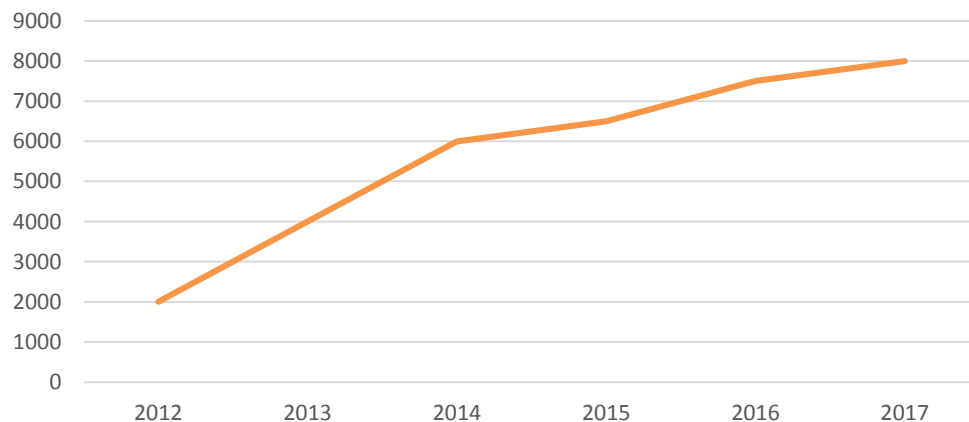


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## I Love MY Park Day Volunteers 2012-2017



## I Love My Park Day 2017

- 8000 Volunteers
- 125 State Parks & Historic Sites
- 250 Projects



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## Making Change Happen, Together

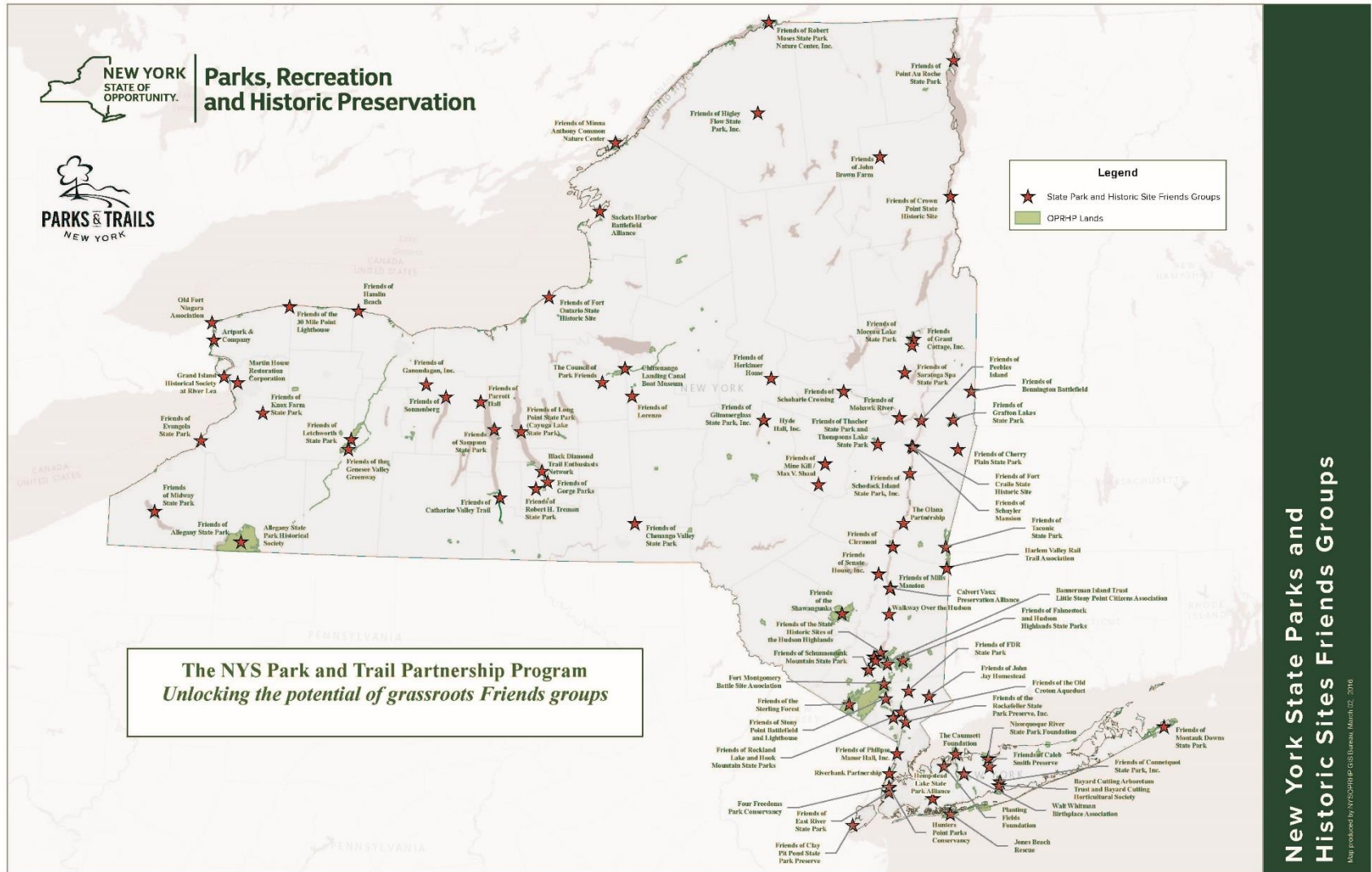
- Nearly 90 formal friends groups
- Thousands of volunteers
- State Council of Parks and Regional Commission members
- Local businesses who lend a hand or donate supplies
- Community organizations
- Statewide environmental, educational and recreational organizations



***"Culture does not change because we desire to change it. Culture changes when the organization is transformed; the culture reflects the realities of people working together every day." -Frances Hesselbein***

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*“Today we are recapturing the bold vision and determination that created the most ambitious parks system in the nation, and preserving and enhancing our natural treasures for generations to come.”--Governor Andrew Cuomo*

**Your Work is Building the Foundation  
of a Remarkable 21<sup>st</sup> Century NYS Park System**

