



2014 Annual Report

Creating and protecting parks and trails for generations to come

www.ptny.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judith C. Mower, *Chair*
David Bronston, *Vice Chair*
A. Joseph Scott III, *Vice Chair*
John G. Hunter, *Secretary*
Edward Doherty, *Treasurer*

Edward Bergstraesser
B. Deborah Cohen
James C. Dawson
Veronica Fitzgerald
Charles A. Goldberger
Kristen Heath
Robert J. Kafin
Seymour H. Knox IV
Kevin M. Lanahan
Doug Logan
Richard P. Morse
Richard Remmer
Alexander T. Rogers
David F. Shaffer
Susan Stashower
Megan E. Toohey

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Edward A. Ames
Kent L. Barwick
Anne Perkins Cabot
Joan K. Davidson
Henry L. Diamond
Douglas Durst
John Hanna, Jr.
Barnabas McHenry
Lynden B. Miller
Fred Osborn
Larry Rockefeller
Anne Sidamon-Eristoff
Diana L. Taylor

STAFF

Robin Dropkin, *Executive Director*
Aimee Beaudette, *Arthur Savage Intern*
Laura DiBetta, *Director, Parks Program
& Government Relations*
Greg Francese, *Project Coordinator*
Jonathan Duda, *Administrative/
Communications Coordinator*
Frances Gotcsik, *Director of Programs
& Policy*
Margaret McGivern, *Director of
Administrative Services*
James Meerdink, *Project Coordinator*
Rohan Parikh, *Assistant Bike
Tour Director*
Tiffany Soricelli, *Director of Development*



“PTNY works so hard for so many of us. Outstanding job on getting the word out and making great things happen for today and tons of tomorrows!”

– Friends of Catherine Valley Trail

Dear Friends of New York's Parks and Trails,

Thirty years ago a group of park advocates got together and decided that our magnificent state park system here in New York merited its own advocacy group. Thus Parks & Trails New York was born. The organization's purview quickly grew to include trails—or linear parks as we think of them.

We're proud of our successes over the years. In 2006, we came out with our landmark report, *Parks at a Turning Point*, which drew attention to the dire capital need at state parks. And because of that exposure, state parks today are in the midst of an unprecedented revitalization. In 2012, we launched the popular I Love My Park Day to make it easier for people to give back to the parks they love.

On the trail side, we're effectively working from the ground up – helping 38 communities across the state develop more than 250 miles of greenways, bikeways and community trails. And, we're making steady progress in our campaign to Close the Gaps in the Erie Canalway Trail between Albany and Buffalo. At 360 miles, when complete it will be the longest and most historic of all NYS multi-use trails.

As we consider these achievements, we are ever mindful that our successes are dependent on friends and supporters like you, who are as passionate as we are about parks and trails. Thank You!

Here's to another 30 years of protecting our precious outdoor spaces.

Best regards,

Robin Dropkin *Judith C. Mower*



Robin Dropkin
Executive Director



Judith C. Mower
Chair of the Board

Photo credits: cover – Niagara Falls State Park, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation/ J. Rozell; above- Watkins Glen State Park, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; other pages- Friends of Connetquot River State Park, Friends of Philipse Manor Hall.

I Love My Park Day Builds a Movement

When Parks & Trails New York launched I Love My Park Day we knew New Yorkers would embrace the opportunity to give back to the parks they love. But even we couldn't have predicted the tremendous success and growth of the event in such a short amount of time. Since the first event in 2012, the number of parks involved in I Love My Park Day has more than doubled, with the number of volunteers tripling.

Each year on the first Saturday in May, I Love My Park Day engages thousands of New Yorkers in celebrating and improving New York's state parks and historic sites. Volunteers in every region of the state, from Montauk Point to Niagara Falls, now look forward to participating in local park projects—planting trees and flowers, restoring trails and wildlife habitat, and performing a variety of other site maintenance and improvement activities.

I Love My Park Day is not only making real improvements to state parks and historic sites—it's building a movement, engaging new volunteers in the stewardship of these treasured places.



Volunteers participating in I Love My Park Day 2014.



BY THE NUMBERS

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Volunteers	2,000	4,000	6,000	6,500
Volunteer hours contributed	6,000	10,000	12,000	16,000
Participating Parks	40	78	83	95

Supporting Park Friends

In 2014, Parks & Trails New York wrapped up two years of one-on-one support provided through PTNY's Friends Technical Assistance Program (TAP) to two Friends groups that support state parks and historic sites.

PTNY staff worked with the Friends of Caleb Smith Preserve on Long Island to grow its board and build their membership, as well as enhance communications. The Friends have recruited two new energetic board members and are working on a membership outreach plan. Last fall the Friends group hosted its first fundraising event at the Preserve. The event was a huge success, drawing 600 visitors, most of whom had never visited the Preserve previously.

The Friends of Philipse Manor Hall in Yonkers worked with PTNY staff on board development, enhanced communications, and new member and volunteer acquisition. The results have been fruitful; the Friends have added new board members and have been hosting more events at the site which has increased visibility in the community. In addition, the Friends invested in marketing materials, launched a new website, and now sends regular email communications. The

“The advice and guidance we've received from PTNY has been invaluable as we reorganize our board and build stronger connections in the community.”



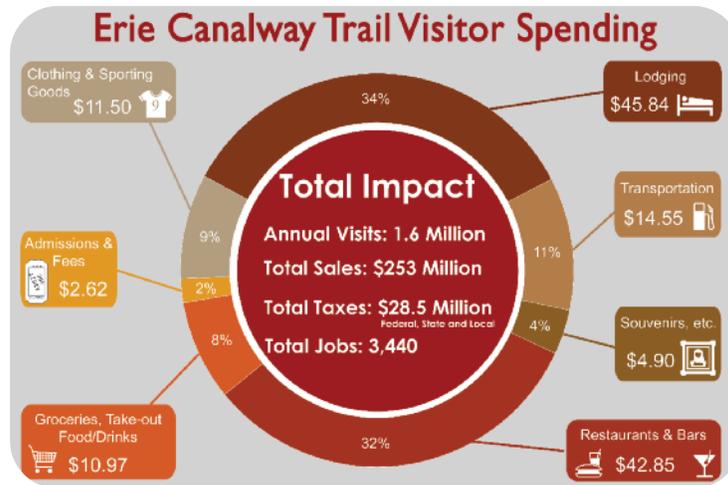
Philipse Manor Hall 2014 Board of Directors.

Friends hosted a successful fundraising concert gala and have organized three art exhibitions at the site's community gallery.

“The TAP program has been a gift to the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall,” says Shannon Daugherty, president of the Friends' board. “The advice and guidance we've received from Laura DiBetta and PTNY has been invaluable as we've reorganized our board and built stronger connections in the community. TAP gave us the tools we needed to focus on our strengths, pinpoint our weaknesses, and plan for the future.”

Promoting the Growing Cycling Tourism Market

In July, PTNY released *The Economic Impact of the Erie Canalway Trail: An Assessment and User Profile of New York's Longest Multi-use Trail*, the first-ever report analyzing the importance of the Erie Canalway Trail to New York's economy. Commissioned by Parks & Trails New York and supported by the NYS Canal Corporation and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, the study found that the Erie Canalway Trail experiences 1.6 million visits per year, generates approximately \$253 million in economic impact, and supports 3,440 jobs in the local economies within the



360-mile trail corridor. Data obtained from surveys of more than 500 trail users also revealed much about the demographics and preferences of Erie Canalway Trail visitors.

PTNY is using the study results to support its “Close the Gaps Campaign” on the Erie Canalway Trail and to inform its new multi-faceted Erie Canalway Trail marketing program aimed at adventure travelers and national and

international cyclists. Supported by a grant from Empire State Development – I Love New York, the marketing campaign will include a new Cycle the Erie Canal website and other materials aimed at attracting and assisting cycling tourists.

Impacting Communities' Bottom Lines and Waistlines Through Local Trail Development

When PTNY helps communities with trail development, the assistance that staff provides is often thought of as a long-term investment that may take years to pay off. In 2014, two projects did just that. In the North Country town of Peru, Parks & Trails New York celebrated a trail opening that was nearly 10 years in the making when the ribbon was cut on the first 1.25 miles of the Little Ausable River Trail. In 2005, through its *Healthy Trails, Healthy People* program, PTNY provided Adele Douglas and other Peruvians advice on trail easements, routing, and community engagement that set them on a course that helped them finally realize their vision of a trail that connects the town's schools and parks.

In the Hudson Valley City of Kingston, another long-range trail vision nurtured through the *Healthy Trails, Healthy People* program took shape, with work beginning on the Kingston Point Rail Trail. The 1.5-mile trail is the first part of a larger, city-wide concept called the Kingston Greenline, which aims to provide bike and pedestrian accessibility throughout the city, as well as serve as a central connection point to several other rail trails in Ulster County. These trails will not only provide residents with new recreational opportunities, they will also establish corridors for active transportation, increasing residents' physical activity levels and reducing auto-dependence.



Volunteers cut the ribbon on the first 1.25 miles of the Little Ausable River Trail.

Bicyclists Bring Business... to the Tonawandas



Tonawanda Mayor Rick Davis (right) and North Tonawanda Deputy Mayor Robert Welch seeing their cities from a new perspective on the Bike-a-Round.

In October, the 2014 edition of PTNY's Bicyclists Bring Business workshop pedaled into the Western New York cities of Tonawanda and North Tonawanda. This popular event, organized in partnership with the NYS Canal Corporation and Canalway Trail communities, engages businesses and local leaders in a roundtable discussion regarding ways to capitalize on the important and growing local, national, and international bicycle tourism market. The two-day workshop also featured a Bike-a-Round – a bike trip for community leaders through the host communities to showcase current strengths and help identify opportunities to improve efforts to market to cycling tourists. Among the items discussed at 2014's conference was additional wayfinding signage and the creation of a cycling hub near the intersection of the Erie Canalway Trail and the area's growing trail network.

The Year in Review: *Erie Canalway Trail Edition*

The Erie Canalway Trail is fast becoming one of the most popular tourism destinations for cyclists from throughout the country and the world thanks in part to PTNY's almost two-decade partnership with the NYS Canal Corporation. In 2014 these partnership activities yielded impressive results.

- PTNY's **Close the Gaps Campaign** continued to promote the need to finish the 360-mile Erie Canalway Trail so that all canal corridor communities can enjoy the trail's considerable economic and quality of life benefits. With three new miles of trail added in 2014, only 79 miles remain before it is finished. PTNY's goal is for all the remaining miles of trail to be finished or in process by the 2017 bi-centennial celebration of the start of Erie Canal construction.

- Biking or walking the entire 360-mile Erie Canalway is a major achievement that the **Erie Canalway Trail End-to-End Program**, is designed to celebrate. In 2014, 494 persons joined more than 1,300 others who have completed the entire trail between Buffalo and Albany since 2012.



- Who's on the Trail? The annual **Canalway Trail Count** has amassed ten years of important data on patterns of usage along the Canalway Trail which helps to confirm the trail's popularity and inform discussions regarding trail improvement and maintenance. Counts taken in 2014 resulted in estimates of annual visits to the trail of 208,500 in Tonawanda, 52,991 in Chittenango, and 8,063 in Oneida.

Volunteers Get Dirty *to Keep the Canal Clean*

Each year, Canal Clean Sweep weekend brings thousands of adults and children to more than 100 volunteer clean-up events along the NYS Canal System in celebration of Earth Week. Volunteers come from municipalities located along the Canal System to pick up trash and debris, weed and trim brush, and enjoy some quality time helping their communities prepare for the hundreds of thousands of annual visitors each season. Canal Clean Sweep is organized by Parks & Trails New York and the NYS Canal Corporation.



Volunteers from Brockport are helping to beautify their community during Canal Clean Sweep.

What will your legacy be?



Planned gifts enable donors to make a meaningful contribution to Parks & Trails New York in a way that complements their financial goals.

It's never too early to begin thinking about your legacy. As someone who appreciates nature and green space, you're invited to share your passion for New York's majestic parks and beautiful trails by making a planned gift to Parks & Trails New York and ensuring that your favorite parks and trails will be protected for generations to come.

To learn more about becoming a member of The Legacy Society of Parks & Trails New York, please contact Tiffany Soricelli, Director of Development, at tsoricelli@ptny.org or 518-434-1583.

The Legacy Society is a group of individuals who have shown their commitment to New York's parks and trails and the people who use them by making a planned gift to PTNY.

Ways to Support New York's Parks and Trails

Visit www.ptny.org to learn more

- **Get involved** – join us on I Love My Park Day, Canal Clean Sweep, and Park and Trail Advocacy Days, or join a Friends group, and **help make New York greener, from the ground up**
- **Become a member of Parks & Trails New York or make a donation**, online, by phone or mail
- **Double your donation** by sending us your employer's matching gift form
- **Remember Parks & Trails New York in your will**
- **Give at the office** via EarthShare New York

We are accountable to you!

Thanks to the generosity of our members and donors, in 2014 PTNY was able to do even more to protect, sustain and promote New York's green network of parks and trails. Thank you!

Financial Statement

Statement of Activities for the year ended June 30, 2014

Support and Revenue

Individual contributions	\$ 249,824
Grants	328,833
Corporate contributions	152,205
Special events	53,125
Program revenue	460,797
Other	2,409
Total support and revenue	\$ 1,247,193

Expenses

Program services	
Conservation	\$ 781,960
Public education	137,683
Membership	126,209
Total program services	\$ 1,045,852

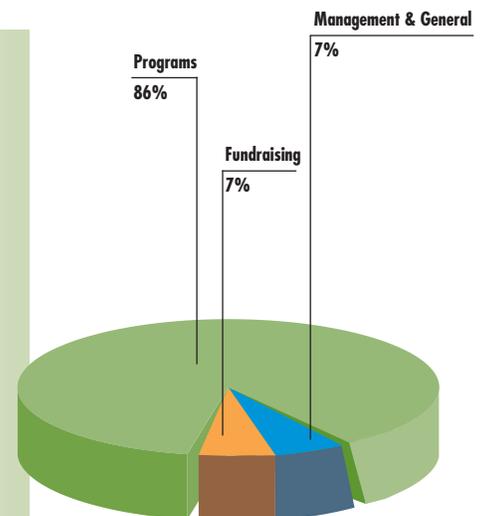
A copy of our most recent audited financial statement is available upon request to Parks & Trails New York

Expenses (continued)

Supporting services	
Management and general	\$ 80,313
Fundraising	91,789
Total supporting services	\$ 172,102
Total expenses	\$ 1,217,954

Net Assets

Change in net	29,239
Net, beginning	1,017,901
Net, end of year	\$ 1,047,140



Source: PTNY FY14 Audited Financial Statements

Thank You Members and Donors

Gifts of \$100 or more

Parks & Trails New York is deeply grateful to the members and donors whose gifts of \$1 to \$99 also made our work possible.

GEORGE W. PERKINS CIRCLE

\$5,000+

Anonymous
EarthShare Donors
Ernest E. Keet
Merryl H. Tisch
Lucy R. Waletzky, M.D.

STEWARDS

\$1000-4999

Robert Arnow
Jeffrey Bender
Anne Boehm
David Bronston
Edward Doherty
Douglas Durst
Charles Goldberger
Mr. & Mrs. Kirk P. Gregg
Jeffrey R. Gural,
Newmark & Company
Alan Hastings
Thomas J. Hubbard
John Hunter
Robert Kafin
Leonard Litwin
Doug Logan
Edgar Masters
& Deborah Cohen
Judith C. Mower
Larry Rockefeller
A. Joseph Scott III
David F. Shaffer
Charles O. Svenson
Elaine Vedette Tack
Robert W. Tafel
Michael Tannen

PROTECTORS

\$500-999

Eleanor F. Brown
Veronica Fitzgerald
James A. Goodwin
Thomas Holmes
Keith Hynes
William C. Janeway
Shoshana Keller
& Deborah Reichler
Harvey & Debbie Kilman
Thomas Lyons
Candace & John Marsellus
Susan McCuen
David & Lori Moore
Constance M. Neel
Heidi Nitze
Gail S. Port, Esq.
Harriet Savage
Richard Steamer, Basin Trading Co.
Stephanie H. Wacholder
Ted & Betsy Wheeler

SUPPORTERS

\$250-499

Rose & Hans Bethé
Andrew M. Blum
Robert J. Boylan
Sheryl Bringman
Elizabeth Brody
James C. Dawson
Charles E. Dorkey
Michael Doyle
Lloyd Dropkin, M.D.
Bud & Nancy J. Gearhart
Catherine Morrison Golden
Lorraine J. Gudas
Walter F. Harrison III
Barry Hartglass
Kristen Heath
Harold S. Jacobowitz
Dale Jeffers
Keith & Judy Kroon
Joshua Levy
& Pamela Magnuson

Barbara Rall Lowrey
Neal & Dorothy Madden
Kenneth Mann
Barnabas McHenry
Charles Miers
Nancy Pettibone
Karina R. Ricker
Nicholas A. Robinson
Nancy Sall
Steven Schmidt
Kevin Smith
Jeff Swain & Nancy Anderson
Paul & Mary Beth Terry
Alfredo Torres
Helen Tucker
Alan Vincent
Edward Wojtaszek

FRIENDS

\$100-249

Cy A. Adler
Kevin Albert
Theodore T. Anderson
Stuart H. Angert
Kamel Bahary
Robert & Susan Baker
David Bean
Alene Ball Chinian
Steven Banks
Franklin Barnett
& Evelyn Rommel
Karl Beard
Stephen Beauvais
David Bechtle
Andy Beers
Elwin & Florence Bigelow
Francis & Annette Birdsall
Cynthia Boardman
John J. Bolebruch
Richard & Karen Botjer
Paul Breslin
Deirdre Brown
Sally T. Butler
Albert K. Butzel
J. Martin Carovano
Tom Casey
Gary Cherson
Mark Chertok
Thomas L. Cobb
Bruce Cohen
Alan Cole
Janice M. Coleman
Susan Coleman
Audrey Cooper
Charles Copeland
Jeffrey Corbin & Janette Schue
Raymond & Claire Costantino
Christian Cullen
Edward P. Curtis
Walter & Jane Daniels
William & Catherine Davies
Len Davis
Janet Denman
Henry L. Diamond
Beverly Dolly
Joseph A. Donovan
Dana C. Drake
Chris Dudley
Edward Duncanson
Fran Dunwell & Wes Natzle
Colleen Dwyer-Bonura
Fred Eames
Richard & Hildegard Edling
Amy Epstein
Sheila Ewall
Charlotte Fahn
Mary Ann Fastook
Joe Finetti
Peter & Elizabeth Finn
Katherine Flack
E. Curtis Fleck
Vicki Ford

Carl W. Foss
Thomas E. Francois
Jeanne Gainsburg
Linda D. Garramone
Paul Gazzo
Michael J. Geiss
Henry Gerstenblitt
Ellen Gibson
Sharon L. Gilbert
Alan Ginsberg
Max & Elisabeth Gitter
Alain Golay
Joy Goodman
John Gorman
Frances S. Gotsik
Molly Gurney
David Haase & Esther Schwalb
David Hackett
Howard B. Halstead
& Melissa A. Engler
Dr. & Mrs. Donald P. Harrington
Katherine C. Hastings
Martin Helmer & Patricia Liddle
Harry Helmus
Adam Hinge
Deborah Hollm & Stanley Pollak
Andrew A. Hood
Robert Hoover
Douglas H. Humm
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Huntington,
M.D.

Margaret Iwobi
Tom & Bonnie Jackson
Jeffrey J. Janowsky
& Joan M. Tardif
Jocelyn R. Jerry
Lillian C. Jewett
Patricia H. Keesee
Katharine Kelly
Patricia Kelly
Elizabeth & John Kennedy
Kevin P. Kilgallen
John Kilroy & Christine Gervasi
Ray Klein
Raymond G. Klein
Phyllis Knight
Carl W. Kohls
Henryka Komanska
Deborah Koop
William Krisak
Sarah E. Kuehl
Marc & Amy Lancialut
Kalista Lehrer
Paul N. Leitner
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin
Deane Leonard
Frederick & Micki Lieber
Louise Lindenmeyr
Rose Linscott
David & Nancy Lippert
Ola Allison List
Janet Little
Christopher Lowery
Veronica Lyons
Diana Marek
Dorothy Marshall
Sandra Masur
Shelia Martin
Maureen W. McCarthy

Henry A. McCartney
Scott McClintock
Richard McCluskey
Jim McCrea
Mark McDonald
Jayne McLaughlin
Ann McPartlin & Family
Donald Meeker
David D. Meisel
David Michael & Linda Buskus
Edward Miller
Lucinda Miller
Russell Scott Miller
Vincent J. Mirrione, Jr.
John & Marianne Mizel
Julie Morrissey
Frederick Murphy
Sigrin Newell
Lincoln P. Nutting
Gregory F. Nye
Jeff & Margo Olson
Nancy L. Olsen
David Osswald & Crystal Bunch
Stephen Pagano
Peter S. Paine
Fay Pallen
Nicholas Parslow
David & Michelle Pastel
Haden A. Patten
Francesca Paugh
James Peacock
Nancy Peterson & Ed Kautz
William Pollak
Devina Prakash
Bert Prohaska
Mark Quackenbush
Joan Ragland
Joshua Redfeare
Elizabeth Regan
Richard Remmer
Stephen J. Renison
Robert Ringlee
David C. Riordan
Lawrence Ritchie
Eric Roccario
Edward Roffman
Richard K. Rogers
Jim Rolf
Paul A. Rosenberg
Marie Rosenwald
Janet C. Ross
Jerry Ross
Karen Ross
Elizabeth Russell
Susan Russell-Leone
David Ryan
Mark T. Ryan
David C. Saalfrank, Sr.
Ruth Sadinsky
Raymond N. Satter
Louise Schachter
Gretchen Schauss
Carol A. Schmelz
Randolph Schmitt
Mary-Jane Schneider
Margaret F. Schuhle
Susan Schuur
David Schwartz
Neil & Linda Shapiro

Donald E. Sharp
Fumiko Shido
Monte Silberger
Maida Snapper
Jason Solarek
Tiffany L. Soricelli
Susan Sorotsky
John & Mary Alice Spencer
Aaron Spital
Rowland Stebbins
Irving & Margaret Steenrod
Bruce Stern
Michael Steve
Michelle Bennett Stieglitz
Gregg Swanzy
Stephen Tabb
Al & Stephanie Tarkington
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Tepfer
Amy Tetrault
William Thompson
Katharine L. Tomasi
Robert Van Buren
John J. Vargo
John Voulgaris
& Andrea Jurgrau
Kathleen Wagner
Nancy A. Ward
Robert Ward
Linda Warnowicz
Larry & Shirley Warren
John P. Waugh
Philip Weinberg
Sue Wendelgass
Ronald C. White
Richard White-Smith
Charles Whitfield
Tracy J. Williams
Mark Winsberg
& Diane S. Morse
Barbara J. Wood
David & Julie Woods
Hubert J. Wright
Terry Ziegler
Lisa M. Zimmerman

CORORATE, FOUNDATION & ORGANIZATION SUPPORT

A. Lindsay & Olive B. O'Connor
Foundation
American Conservation
Association
American Express Foundation
America's Best Value Inn
Amica Companies Foundation
AT&T
Brookfield
The Business Council
of NYS, Inc.
Chenango Canal Association
Central Hudson Gas & Electric
Corporation
Comfy Campers
The Community Foundation for
the Greater Capital Region
Consolidated Edison Company
of NY
Corning Incorporated
CSEA, Inc.
Erie Canalway Heritage Fund

First Niagara Bank Foundation
Fleishman Hillard
Friends of Great Bear
Friends of Letchworth State Park
Friends of the Genesee
Valley Greenway
Friends of Glimmerglass
State Park
GE Foundation
Harney & Sons Fine Teas
Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc.
IBM Foundation
L.L. Bean, Inc.
Price Chopper
The Walbridge Fund, Ltd.
Walkill Valley Rail Trail
Association
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.

GOVERNMENT

Albany County Convention
& Visitors Bureau
Buffalo Niagara Convention
& Visitors Bureau
Cayuga County Convention
& Visitors Bureau
Columbia County Tourism Dept.
Dutchess County Tourism
Greater Rochester Visitors
Association
Hudson River Valley Greenway
Madison County Tourism
Montgomery Chamber
of Commerce
NYS Environmental
Facilities Inc.
NYS Canal Corporation/NYS
Thruway Authority
NYS Department of Health
Oneida County Tourism
Orleans County Tourism
Putnam County Tourism
Seneca County Tourism
Town of Gorham
Town of Ithaca
Ulster County Tourism
Wayne County Tourism

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS A. BOEHM

Anne Boehm

IN MEMORY OF ARTHUR V. SAVAGE

John Hunter
Neal & Dorothy Madden
Judy & Eric Mower
Nicholas A. Robinson
A. Joseph Scott
The Walbridge Fund, Ltd.

IN KIND

All U
Google
I Love New York
REI
Stewart's Shops
Village of Pittsford

PTNY thanks the thousands of I Love My Park Day and Canal Clean Sweep volunteers who joined us last year to build and maintain our state parks and local trails; served as trail ambassadors on community trails; and helped our bicycle tour participants safely and happily experience the pleasures of the Erie Canalway Trail and Hudson Valley byways. Thank you!

Every effort has been made to produce an accurate listing of PTNY supporters.
Please contact us at ptny@ptny.org about any corrections.

To donate or join visit www.ptny.org



29 Elk Street
Albany, New York 12207

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 118
Albany, NY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Support New York's
parks and trails**

**Join or donate to
Parks & Trails New York
today**

**Stay informed
sign up for free E-NEWS at
www.ptny.org/e-news**



Printed on Recycled Paper



Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

Unlocking the Potential of Grassroots Groups

Parks & Trails New York's Growing the Grassroots program has provided capacity building grants and assistance to park and trail organizations around the state since 2009. The 2014 Growing the Grassroots grant awardees were: Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, Friends of Allegany State Park, Friends of Astoria Heights Park, Friends of Connetquot State Park, New Baltimore Conservancy, Victor Hiking Trails, and Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association.

PTNY has been so impressed with what our Growing the Grassroots grant recipients have been able to accomplish that we have long dreamt of being able to provide organizations with a more significant amount of funding. We are excited to announce that we will soon be able to do just that.

Included in the 2015-2016 final state budget is \$500,000 for a new capacity-building grants program for organizations that promote and support

“ PTNY has long dreamt of being able to provide friends organizations with significant capacity- building grants. We're excited to announce we will soon be doing just that. ”

the state's parks, trails and historic sites. This public-private capacity-building grants program will be administered by PTNY in partnership with the NYS

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. It will unlock the potential of Friends organizations across the state by increasing their effectiveness, productivity, and volunteer and fundraising capabilities. This will enhance park, trail and historic site stewardship, leading to even greater economic benefits from outdoor recreation and healthier, more sustainable and resilient communities.

PTNY applauds Governor Cuomo and state legislative leaders for supporting this landmark investment in grassroots Friends organizations.

