

FIGHTING FOR **PARKS & PUBLIC LANDS** FOR 20 YEARS



Park and Public Lands Advocacy Day

February 25, 2026 | Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Albany

8:00 am

Doors open and Refreshments

We encourage attendees to arrive early, as parking in the Visitor Lot under the Empire State Plaza will fill up quickly. To accommodate, you're welcome to join us as early as 8AM for networking and refreshments.

8:30 – 9:15 am

Registration, Refreshments, and Networking

9:30 – 11:00 am

Morning Program

Welcome –

- Erik Kulleseid, *President & CEO, Open Space Institute*
- Paul Steely White, *Executive Director, Parks & Trails New York*

Featured Speakers –

- Kathy Moser, *Acting Commissioner, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation*
- Amanda Lefton, *Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation*
- Ronald Zorrilla, *Co-Chair, New York Outdoor Recreation Coalition*
- Bryan Erwin, *Chair, State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation*

Advocating for Parks, Talking Points and Lobbying Tips –

- Michaela Roberts, *Project Manager, Open Space Institute*
- Will Coté, *Deputy Director, Parks & Trails New York*

11:00 – 12:00 pm

Lunch | Meet Your Team

Meet with other members of your team over lunch to prepare for your meetings.
Be sure to leave enough time before your first meeting to get through security!

12:30 – 4:30 pm

Appointments with Legislators

Legislative Office Building (LOB) and State Capitol
Meeting Details to come!

4:30 pm

Responsible Happy Hour (Optional)

The City Beer Hall, 42 Howard Street, Albany

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Important Notes for Advocates:

- **Arrival & Registration**

Traveling a long distance? No problem! Registration will remain open throughout the morning program so you can check in when you arrive. Please let us know in advance (if possible) if you expect to arrive later in the morning.

- **Personal Belongings (New This Year!)**

You may leave your belongings in the morning program room—no need to take them through security. A staff member will monitor the room until 5:00 PM. You'll also receive a 20th anniversary commemorative tote bag to carry items to your legislative meetings.

- **Materials & Networking**

Advocates are welcome to bring organizational or coalition materials to share. One table will be available during the morning program. Business cards are encouraged—you'll be making new connections.

- **Learning & Engagement Opportunities**

Explore new learning and networking opportunities, including a table hosted by the New York State Commission on National and Community Service to learn more about volunteerism across New York, and interactive displays in the Legislative Office Building, including NYS OPRHP's new 250th American Revolution pop-up exhibit.