

GreenSpace

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

Winter 2014-2015



Parks & Trails
NEW YORK

www.ptny.org

PTNY Boosts City and Country Trails

We are working with 35 communities statewide to create more than 250 miles of multi-use trails through our Healthy Trails, Healthy People program.

Kingston Trails Hub Breaks Ground

This fall, they were celebrating in the City of Kingston as construction began on the city's first urban rail trail, the Kingston Point Rail Trail.

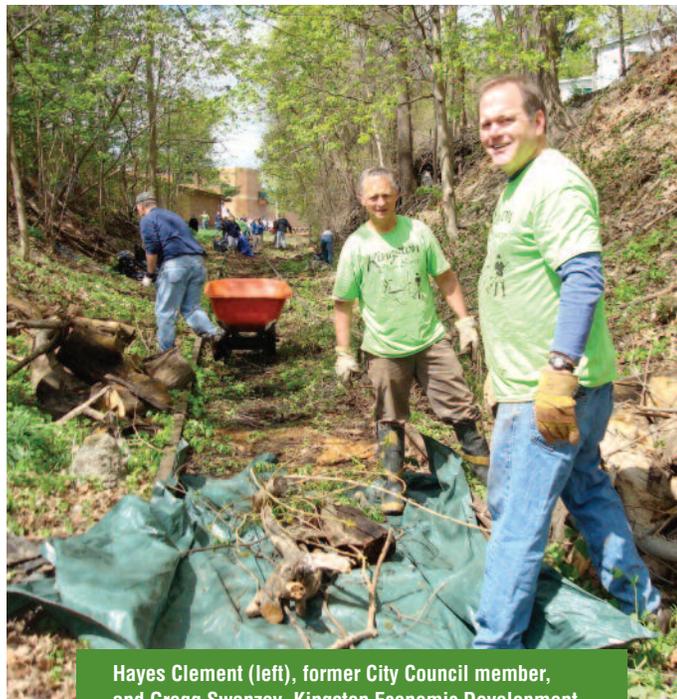
The trail is part of what locals envision as the Kingston Greenline, connecting Kingston's downtown street and sidewalk network to local attractions and rural and suburban trails.

The Greenline, a project of the Kingston Land Trust, has successfully engaged local residents, the municipal administration, and many civic groups, including rail trail organizations in the area.

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Left to right: PTNY Board Member Jim Dawson and local trail advocates Garry Douglas, Adele Douglas, and Emily Douglas celebrate the opening of the Little Ausable River Trail in Peru.



Hayes Clement (left), former City Council member, and Gregg Swanzey, Kingston Economic Development Director, help clean up the Kingston Point Rail Trail.

Town of Peru Achieves its Dream

North Country resident Adele Douglas had a dream that her little town could achieve what big cities and populous suburbs had achieved: the creation of a multi-use trail that would link residential, commercial and natural areas, improve access to historic sites and attractions, and provide safe, off-road recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities in her community.

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Get Involved – Save the Dates

Speak Out and Celebrate New York's Parks and Trails in 2015

Trail Advocacy Day – February 3

Park Advocacy Day – March 3

Canal Clean Sweep – April 17-19

I Love My Park Day – May 2

Cycling the Erie Canal – July 12-19

Visionary Funding Creates Greener Parks and Trails

Since 2009, PTNY's Growing the Grassroots program has provided capacity building grants and assistance to 54 park and trail organizations. The grants have funded membership campaigns, local fundraising efforts, policy forums, and web and other promotional efforts by grassroots park and trail groups.



“We knew that building a strong membership base was essential, and the capacity grant from PTNY was the perfect catalyst to jump-start the process.”

– Meg Fellerath,
Brooklyn Greenway Initiative

These successes would not have been possible without the generous support of one of the program's principal funders, New Yorker Meryll Tisch.

PTNY's Growing the Grassroots grants have helped:

- the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative double its membership with a new outreach campaign
- the Friends of Connetquot River State Park on Long Island print a new brochure and dramatically reverse a membership decline
- the Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail near Buffalo create outreach materials and activities
- the Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct in Westchester County produce a prize-winning video to increase community awareness and engagement.

Contact PTNY at ptny@ptny.org for more information about Growing the Grassroots requirements and deadlines.



Brooklyn Greenway



Connetquot River State Park



Old Croton Aqueduct

We're Not Gambling with the Future of New York's Parks

Will Casinos Win Their Bets Against Green?

Three of the nine proposed sites for new casinos in the Catskills and Hudson Valley could negatively impact the scenic vistas and natural resources enjoyed by millions of New Yorkers.

These include:

- Caesars casino proposal near Harriman State Park
- Nevele Resort, Casino & Spa, at the foot of the Shawangunk Mountains near Minnewaska State Park
- Sterling Forest Casino Resort at Sterling Forest State Park (photo at right)



PTNY has been working to rally New Yorkers to send decision makers this important message: casinos don't belong in state parks. As of press time a decision had not yet been announced.

Subsurface Natural Gas Storage Lease Up for Review

The 50-year lease for a 9,470-acre subsurface natural gas storage facility in Allegany State Park, operated by National Fuels, recently expired. The company is negotiating another long-term lease with the state parks agency as it continues to operate the facility under a month-to-month lease. The natural gas storage site is in the middle of the park, the largest in the state park system.

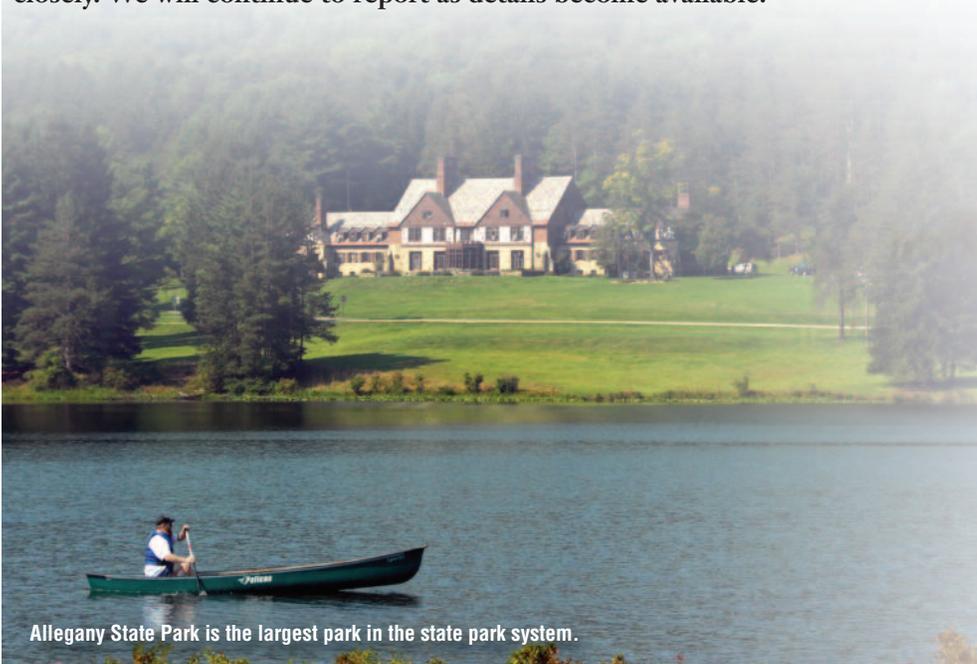
National Fuels wants leeway in the new lease to expand the facility in the future but the state is standing firm in its stance of no expansion, plus a reduction in the lease period. **PTNY supports State Parks' position and is watching the issue closely. We will continue to report as details become available.**

Will Smoke Get In Your Eyes (and Lungs) at State Parks?

The New York State Court of Appeals will soon take up the question of whether the state parks agency has the authority to impose new regulations establishing no-smoking zones in state parks. Last fall, a lower court judge overturned the regulations, siding with a "smoking rights" organization.

Under the regulations, smoking would be prohibited in a limited number of areas, such as playgrounds, beaches, swimming pool decks, nature preserves, and athletic fields.

PTNY has petitioned to appear as a friend of the court and file an appellate brief in support of the parks agency's authority.



Allegany State Park is the largest park in the state park system.

We're On the Move on the Erie Canalway Trail

Bicyclists Bring Business Roundtable Comes to Western New York



Hats off to Tonawanda Mayor Rick Davis (right) and North Tonawanda Deputy Mayor Robert Welch for joining us on our Bicyclists Bring Business Bike-a-Round to explore how the Tonawandas can attract cycling tourists.

An overflow crowd recently participated in the latest bicycling and economic development roundtable in Western New York, as PTNY and the New York State Canal

Corporation held their popular Bicyclists Bring Business Roundtable and Bike-a-Round in the Erie Canalway Trail communities of Tonawanda and North Tonawanda.

For your copy of PTNY's handbook, *Bicyclists Bring Business: A Guide to Attracting Bicyclists to New York's Canal Communities*, go to ptny.org/publications.

The focus was on exploring with local business and community leaders how they can capture and profit from the important and growing local, national, and international bicycling tourism market. The group discovered great potential for a cycling hub at the intersection of several significant trail systems in the Tonawandas.

Close the Gaps Message Delivered to Gov. Cuomo

We're going for 100%!

On August 22, PTNY, together with its partners, made a special delivery to the Governor: bags of personalized messages of support from Cycling the Erie Canal bike tour riders for PTNY's Close the Gaps campaign to complete the Erie Canalway Trail.

Since PTNY launched the Close the Gaps campaign in 2010 in conjunction with U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, interest in completing the Trail has reached an all-time high, and the Trail is now 77% complete. We're going for 100%!

Cycling the Erie Canal Riders – Happy to Meet Up in Albany

Past and future Cycling the Erie Canal cyclists gathered at the Midtown Tap & Tea Room in Albany for an evening of food, drinks, and bicycling conversation in October.

PTNY staff conveyed details about the 2015 Cycling the Erie Canal ride and provided updates on PTNY's advocacy work to complete the Canalway Trail. Thank you to all who participated in this inaugural PTNY cyclists meet-up.

Want to volunteer to help organize a similar get-together for riders in your neck of the woods? Send an email to Rohan at eriecanaltour@ptny.org and we'll work with you to make it happen!



Amex and GE are Great Partners

GE Helps Make I Love My Park Day Accessibility Project a Reality

Trail enthusiasts and state park staff at Saratoga Spa State Park have long dreamed of making the park's Peerless Loop Trail more handicapped accessible. Now, thanks to the work of volunteers, donations from the community, and a state grant through NY Works, the trail will be completely accessible to people with a variety of disabilities.

The project was completed by volunteers on I Love My Park Day in May and other workdays this summer and fall.

Employees from GE, a GE grant, and a contribution of staff and equipment from Salvatore Tree Service helped make it possible. New Yorkers love their parks!

“It was great to see so many people working together on such a beautiful structure. The bridge has already become a very popular addition to the trail.”

– Kent Gonzales, GE Volunteer

GE volunteers at work at Saratoga State Park on I Love My Park Day.



Amex Supports a Greener New York

PTNY is proud to announce that we have been selected to receive a \$25,000 grant from the American Express Foundation to implement improved communications strategies in 2015.

This honor follows PTNY's selection earlier this year as one of only 20 organizations in NYS that received *pro bono* consulting services from Amex marketing and branding experts. PTNY undertook this work in connection with our upcoming 30th anniversary and plans for the next 30 years.

The grant will enable PTNY to implement web, social media, and other outreach and communications strategies developed during the recent consultations.

Thank you Amex and the Taproot Foundation for this incredible partnership and for the opportunity to increase and improve our protection and promotion of New York's parks and trails.

Kingston Trails Hub Breaks Ground

(continued from page 1)

With a solid planning foundation and demonstrated public support, the efforts of the city and the Land Trust have been recognized by a diverse group of public and private funders. Over the past year, the city has received a total of more than \$4 million in grants for trail design and construction and for related city street and sidewalk improvements.

PTNY was an early supporter of the Greenline vision and has been providing technical and planning assistance to the Land Trust since 2010 as part of PTNY's Healthy Trails, Healthy People program.

Town of Peru Achieves its Dream

(continued from page 1)

This fall, she and her neighbors achieved that dream: they celebrated the opening of the Little Ausable River Trail in Peru, New York.

It had been a long road. Eleven years, to be exact. With encouragement and support from PTNY, the town applied for – and won – federal Transportation Enhancement Program funds for the construction of the 1.25-mile trail.

But then there followed many procedural and budget issues for the town to deal with as the grant wended its way through state and federal transportation departments.

The NYS Environmental Protection Fund also supported the trail, and the Peru Lions Club, Stewart's Shops, the North Country Chamber of Commerce, and Aubuchon Hardware generously donated funds for trail amenities.

PTNY continued to provide support through the process, and then followed up with a grant for a display sign at the trailhead.

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Parks & Trails New York works to expand, protect and promote a network of parks, trails and open spaces throughout the state for all to use and enjoy.

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

GreenSpace is published by Parks & Trails New York and is available on the PTNY website at www.ptny.org. Contributions of manuscripts, letters, photographs or other material relating to parks and trails in NYS are encouraged.

Photos courtesy of: Kingston Land Trust; NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; Will Ragozzino, Brooklyn Greenway Initiative; Thomas Tarnowsky, Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct.

Join or Donate to Parks & Trails New York today at www.ptny.org

Dear Friends of New York's Parks and Trails,

The weather may be getting chillier, but at PTNY we're feeling warmer:

- **inspired** by the fervent dedication of park and trail enthusiasts all over New York;
- **passionate** about the increasing recognition parks and trails are receiving for their contributions to our health, quality of life, and economy; and
- **brimming** with pride and excitement as we prepare to celebrate our 30th anniversary in 2015.



We're planning local, regional, and statewide activities that look back at past achievements and help set a course for moving forward during the next 30 years. You – our members, friends, and supporters – are the key to both the past and the future of New York's parks and trails.

It's been an incredible three decades. And, working together, we know we will achieve even greater milestones during the next 30 years.

With gratitude for our continuing partnership,

Robin Dropkin
Executive Director

PTNY Welcomes New Board Members

Deborah Cohen is a long-time prime mover in the Friends of Taconic State Park in the Hudson Valley and currently serves as the group's treasurer. She has worked as a fundraising professional in NYC and Boston.

Charles A. Goldberger is an attorney and serves as Counsel (and was previously Senior Partner) at McCullough, Goldberger & Staudt, LLP in White Plains. A member of the Westchester County Parks and Recreation Board, he is also active in the Westchester Bicycling Club

Alex Rogers is Senior Business Analyst in Operations Risk and Control at Royal Bank of Scotland. He was previously with Morgan Stanley Wealth Management Operations Control Group.

Megan Toohey is Director of State Relations at the University of Buffalo. She recently served as Chair of the Government Relations Committee of the Board of the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper organization.

We mourn the loss of Jane Clark Chermayeff, long-time PTNY Board member, who passed away July 9. Jane was a curator and planner who dedicated herself to the arts, children, and the environment. She founded Architectural Playground Equipment Inc. and was a member of numerous professional associations, including the New York Studio School, the Museum Group, and The Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico. All of us at PTNY will miss her.

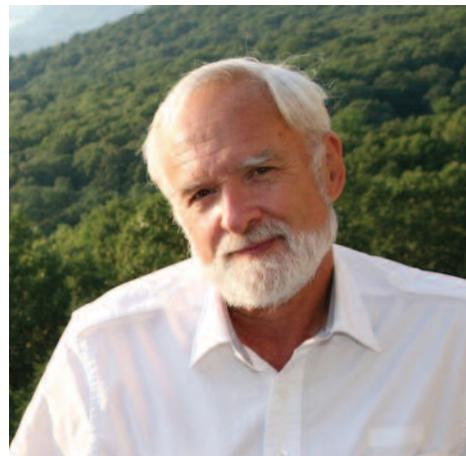
What will your legacy be?

Join PTNY's Legacy Society Today

Fred Osborn III is no stranger to New York's parks and trails. He comes from a long line of conservationists and he and his wife, Anne, have both worked to protect and preserve hundreds of acres of land.

This passion for the outdoors led Fred to Parks & Trails New York. Fred became a member of PTNY in 1990, and after retiring from a career in development with the Episcopal Church Foundation he joined PTNY's board of directors, where his conservation and development expertise has been invaluable to PTNY's work. It was during this time that Fred became the first member of PTNY's Legacy Society.

The Legacy Society is made up of individuals who have shown their commitment to New York's parks and trails by making a planned gift to PTNY. Planned gifts enable donors to make a meaningful contribution to Parks & Trails New York in a way that complements their financial goals. A Charitable Bequest, Charitable Gift Annuity, or Gift of Life Insurance will also reduce the taxable amount of an estate, benefiting the donor's family while ensuring the long-term financial strength of an organization that benefits New York's parks and trails and the people who use them.



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



New York's Parks and Trails Need You!

Make a gift to PTNY today to ensure that all New Yorkers can benefit from and enjoy our beautiful network of parks and trails.

Go to ptny.org/donate today.

Thank you!

Another Way to Support PTNY

PTNY's **Heritage Society** is made up of a special group of park and trail enthusiasts who believe in PTNY's vision of a network of parks, trails and open spaces throughout New York State and have made a personal commitment of \$1,000 or more to help make that vision a reality.

As dedicated and loyal members of the PTNY family, Heritage Society members are provided with regular information and updates on PTNY's work and are frequently given the opportunity to provide feedback and insights on PTNY's top programs. Heritage Society members are also invited to join PTNY's board and staff for exclusive events and excursions throughout the year.

We invite you to become a member of PTNY's Heritage Society by making your gift or pledge today. Gifts of stock or appreciated securities can also qualify you for PTNY's Heritage Society membership.

HERITAGE
SOCIETY



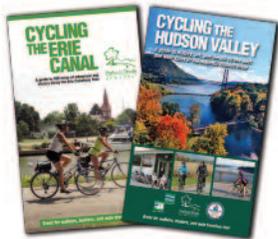
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Erie Canalway Trail — Millions for the Upstate Economy

PTNY's recently released study of the economic impact of the Erie Canalway Trail shows definitively that the trail attracts millions of annual visitors who contribute significantly to the upstate economy.

The study demonstrates an annual volume of more than **1.58 million visits**, which generates more than **\$253 million in annual spending** and supports more than **3,400 local jobs**.

The Erie Canalway Trail extends 360 miles through 14 counties between Albany and Buffalo.

PTNY will use the study results to advance its ongoing effort to "Close the Gaps" and complete the Trail.

The study was funded in part through grants from the New York State Canal Corporation and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

You can access the report at www.ptny.org.

