

New York State Council of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

2010 Annual Report



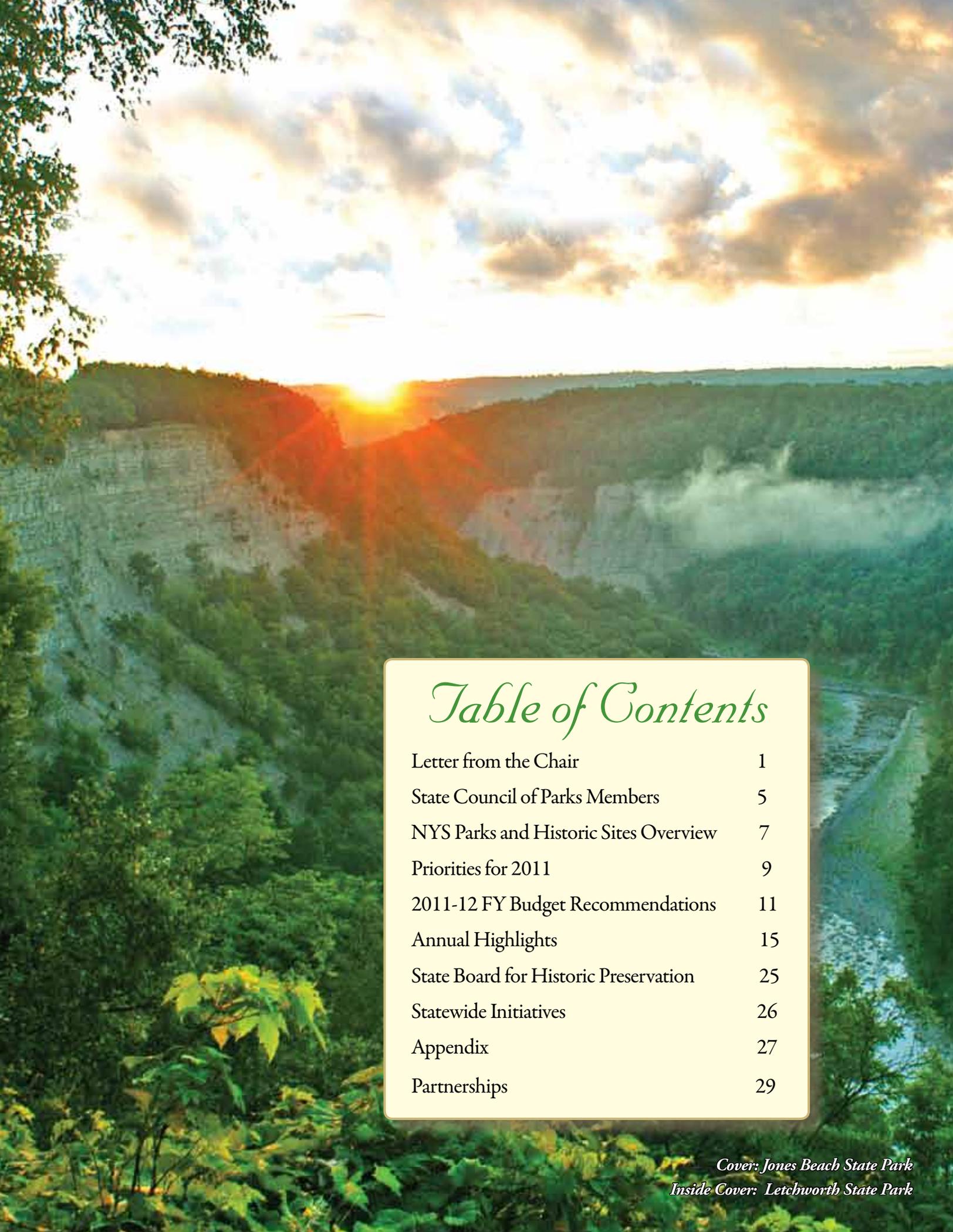


Table of Contents

Letter from the Chair	1
State Council of Parks Members	5
NYS Parks and Historic Sites Overview	7
Priorities for 2011	9
2011-12 FY Budget Recommendations	11
Annual Highlights	15
State Board for Historic Preservation	25
Statewide Initiatives	26
Appendix	27
Partnerships	29



New York State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

David A. Paterson
Governor

Andy Beers
Acting Commissioner

Lucy R. Waletzky, M.D.
State Council Chair

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor-elect
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

December 16, 2010

Dear Governor-elect Cuomo,

The State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is pleased to submit its 2010 Annual Report. This report highlights the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's achievements during 2010, and sets forth recommendations for New York's state parks and historic sites for the coming year.

Our state park system faces a crisis. In February, 2010, Governor Paterson announced that as the result of budget cuts, as many as 88 state parks and historic sites would be closed. This was the first time New York threatened to close parks in the 125-year history of our magnificent state park system.

Fortunately, the citizens of our state voiced universal opposition and outrage to the proposed park closings – and in May, Governor Paterson and the Legislature restored \$11 million to OPRHP's operating budget, avoiding the need for park closures. This summer, New Yorkers flocked to our state parks – attendance this year will exceed 57 million, an increase of two million visitors over the past two years.

However, our state park system remains in a precarious position. Over the past three years, OPRHP's operating budget has been cut by a total of \$35 million (even after the \$11 million restoration), and the agency has eliminated 1,500 permanent and seasonal workers. Service reductions – reduced season, days, and hours of operations – have been implemented at more than 100 state parks and historic sites. A number of agency programs have been curtailed or eliminated. Purchase of park supplies, replacement vehicles, and computer equipment have been cancelled.

I was thrilled to read the recognition, in your "Cleaner, Greener New York" statement issued in October, of the economic and environmental benefits of parks – and your commitment to ensure that our state parks stay open for the benefit of all New Yorkers.

To keep our 213 state parks and historic sites open, the State Council urges you to reject further cuts to parks funding in your 2011-12 Executive Budget.

In addition to keeping our state parks and historic sites open, New York must also renew its commitment to making capital investments to repair and revitalize the system. As detailed in this report, the state park system faces a capital backlog exceeding \$1.1 billion – including immediate health and safety needs totaling \$460 million. In the face of this need, OPRHP’s 2010-11 capital budget was slashed to \$30 million. The Council respectfully requests that New York reinstitute the State Parks Capital Initiative to invest \$100 million annually to rehabilitate failing park facilities and address pressing health and safety needs in our parks and sites.

Investments in our state parks can be a key component of your efforts to promote economic development and job growth, from upstate New York to Long Island. A recent study documented that New York’s park system generates \$1.9 billion in economic activity every year. Our state parks and historic sites are a vital component of New York’s tourism industry – providing some of the major draws for tourists to visit New York State. Similarly, park capital projects create an immediate economic boost in local communities – creating construction and engineering jobs for small and mid-sized companies.

The State Council agrees that enhanced public and private partnerships are needed to support our parks and historic sites – and we’ve been doing our part. Since 2009, \$5.6 million in private contributions have been secured to support New York’s state parks and historic sites. However, private support cannot replace the state’s responsibility to provide the base funding needed to operate and maintain our state parks for the people of our state.

Thank you for considering the recommendations set forth in this report.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lucy R. Waletzky M.D." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky, M.D., Chair



The State Council of Parks has adopted five priorities for 2011:

- 1. Park Operations Funding – Keep Our Parks Open!** New York State must provide adequate funding to keep our 213 state parks and historic sites open to the public and to provide safe, clean and affordable recreational and educational experiences to the 57 million people that visit our facilities each year.
- 2. State Parks Capital Budget – Reinstigate the \$100 Million Commitment.** New York State must reinstitute the State Parks Capital Initiative to provide \$100 million annually in capital funding to begin to address the \$1.1 billion backlog of park rehabilitation and health & safety needs in our state parks and historic sites.
- 3. Dedicated Parks Funding Mechanism.** New York State should establish a new dedicated funding source to provide sustainable funding for the state park system.
- 4. Public-Private Partnerships.** The State Council and Regional Commissions will continue to help establish new “Friends Groups” – 16 new organizations have been started since 2007 – and to help strengthen existing Friends Groups to increase private support for state parks and historic sites. The State Council of Parks also continues to encourage partnerships with for-profit, non-profit and governmental entities for a wide range of support, from direct monetary contributions and formal concession agreements to operations and programming. A list of such active and recent partnerships appears as an appendix to this report.
- 5. Private Fundraising Campaign.** During 2011 the State Council will continue to pursue private funding from individuals, corporations, and foundations – building upon the \$5.6 million in private support that has been raised since 2009 to support the State Park System.

State Council of Parks

LUCY ROCKEFELLER WALETZKY,
Chair and Taconic Commission

DALTON BURGETT,
Allegheny Commission

EDWARD AUDI,
Central Commission

DAVID BANFIELD,
Finger Lakes Commission

PETER HUMPHREY,
Genesee Commission

BRYAN ERWIN,
Long Island Commission

JANET FELLEMAN,
New York City Commission

JEAN KNOX,
Niagara Frontier
Commission

SAM PRYOR,
Palisades Commission

HEATHER MABEE,
Saratoga-Capital District
Commission

HAROLD JOHNSON II,
Thousand Islands
Commission

ROBERT MACKAY,
State Board for
Historic Preservation



*Walkway Over The Hudson
State Historic Park*

State Council of Parks and Regional Park Commissions

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The State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation – known simply as the “State Council of Parks” – is a 14-member body established by Article 5 of the state Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law (PRHPL). The State Council is comprised of the chairs of the eleven Regional Park Commissions, the chair of the State Board for Historic Preservation, and the Commissioners of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Department of Environmental Conservation.

As defined in PRHPL Section 5.09, the State Council’s powers and duties are to: a) review the policy, budget and statewide plans of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and make appropriate recommendations regarding their amendment or adoption; b) submit reports to the Governor, not less than once each year, concerning progress in the area of state parks, recreation and historic preservation, including recommendations for the future, and covering such other matters as the council may deem

appropriate; and act as a central advisory agency on all matters affecting parks, recreation and historic preservation.

The eleven Regional Parks Commissions, created by Article 7 of PRHPL, represent each of the state parks regions, with the exception of the Palisades (which is represented by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission) and the Adirondack & Catskill Park Region (which is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation). Regional Commission members must be residents of the state and are appointed to seven year terms by the Governor confirmed

by the Senate, and serve without compensation. Regional Commissions serve as a central advisory body on all matters affecting parks, recreation and historic preservation within their respective regions, with particular focus on the operations of the state parks and historic sites. The Commissions are



Back Row (left to right): Andy Beers, Acting Commissioner-OPRHP, Harold Johnson II, Robert MacKay, Peter Humphrey, David Bansfield, Bryan Erwin, Dalton Burgett. Front Row (left to right): Janet Felleman, Carol Ash, former Commissioner-OPRHP, Heather Mabee, Lucy Waletzky, Edward Audi. Missing from photo: Sam Pryor, Jean Knox

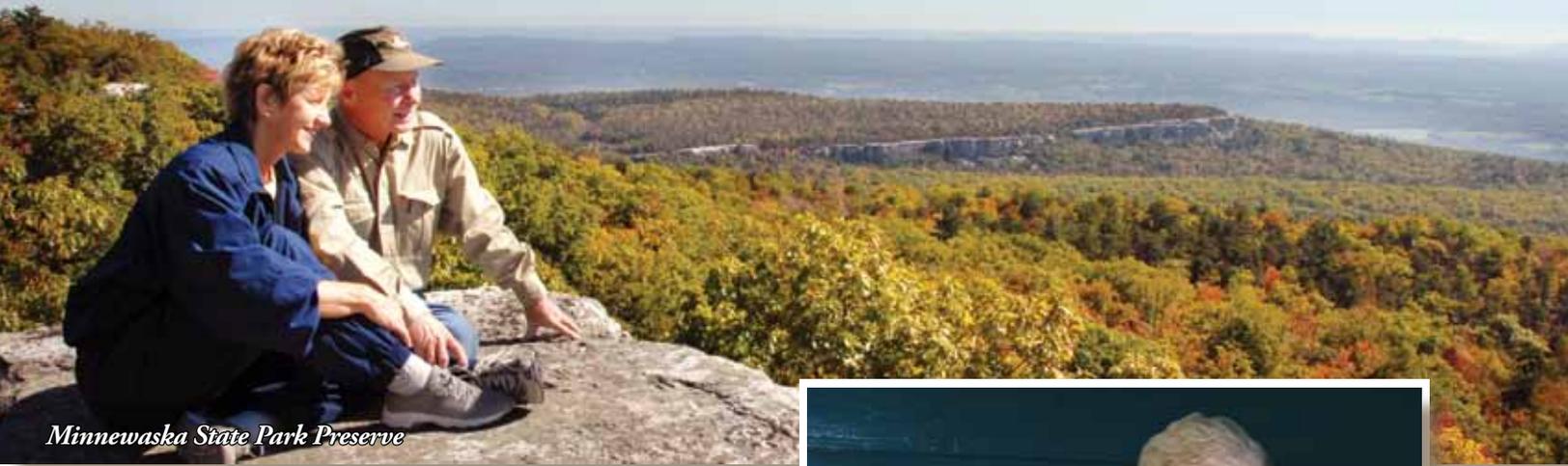
also charged with reviewing and approving the region’s annual budget request prior to its submission to the Commissioner of State Parks.



Montauk Point State Park

OVERVIEW

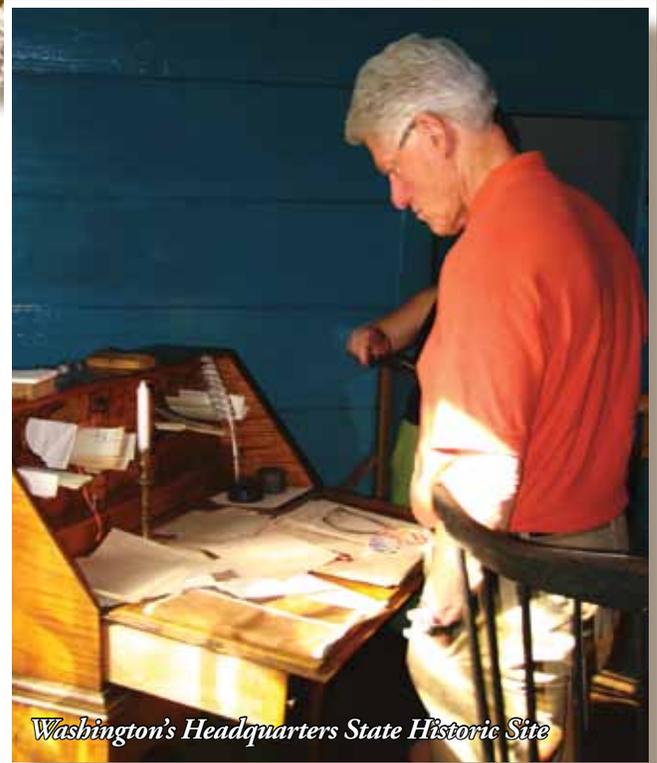
2010



Minnewaska State Park Preserve



Taconic State Park



Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site

New York State Parks & Historic Sites Overview

The State Park System is one of New York's greatest treasures. In July, 2010, New York celebrated the 125th anniversary of the creation of Niagara Falls State Park – the first state park in the nation. Today, the system has grown to 213 state parks and historic sites encompassing nearly 350,000 acres. New York's parks and historic sites provide affordable outdoor recreation and education opportunities to more than 57 million visitors each year. These facilities contribute to the economic vitality and quality of life of local communities and directly support New York's tourism industry. Parks also provide a place for families and children to recreate and exercise, promoting healthy lifestyles and helping combat childhood obesity.

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) is responsible for the operation and stewardship of the state parks system, as well as advancing a statewide parks, historic preservation and open space mission. The agency has an "all funds" operating and capital budget of approximately \$200 million (FY2010-11 adjusted budget) and is staffed by 1,785 permanent employees and more than 4,200 seasonal positions. Drawing on these resources, OPRHP is

responsible for operating an extensive network of public recreational facilities that includes 5,000 buildings, 28 golf courses, 53 swimming pools, 76 beaches, 27 marinas, 40 boat launching sites, 18 nature centers, 817 cabins, 8,355 campsites, more than 1,350 miles of trails, extensive utility systems, 106 dams, hundreds of miles of roads and 604 bridges.

New York's state park system has long been recognized as one of the best and most diverse in the nation. Among the fifty states, we rank first in the number of operating facilities and first in the total number of campsites. We are fifth in total acreage and third in total annual visitation. 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 year than visit Yellowstone. Niagara Falls is the oldest state park in the nation and Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site is the first property acquired with public funds for the express purpose of historic preservation and patriotic visitation.

¹ The term "state park system" as used in this report refers to New York's 179 state parks and 35 state historic sites.



Wellesley Island State Park

PRIORITIES

2010



John Boyd Thacher State Park



Moreau Lake State Park



Gantry Plaza State Park

State Council of Parks Priorities

The State Council of Parks has identified five priorities for 2011:

1. Park Operations Funding – Keep Our Parks Open!

New York State must provide adequate funding to keep our 213 state parks open to the public and to provide safe, clean and affordable recreational and educational experiences to the 57 million people that visit our facilities each year.

2. State Parks Capital Budget – Reinstitute the \$100 Million Commitment.

New York State must reinstitute the State Parks Capital Initiative to provide \$100 million annually in capital funding to begin to address the \$1.1 billion backlog of park rehabilitation and health & safety needs in our state parks and historic sites.

3. Dedicated Funding Mechanism.

New York State should establish a new dedicated funding source to provide sustainable funding for the state park system.

4. Public-Private Partnerships.

The State Council and Regional Commissions will continue to help establish new “Friends Groups” – 16 new organizations have been started since 2007 – and to help strengthen existing Friends Groups to increase private support for state parks and historic sites. The State Council of Parks also continues to encourage partnerships with for-profit, non-profit and governmental entities for a wide range of support, from direct monetary contributions and formal concession agreements to operations and programming. A list of such active and recent partnerships appears as an appendix to this report.

5. Private Fundraising Campaign.

During 2011 the State Council will continue to pursue private funding from individuals, corporations, and foundations – building upon the \$5.6 million in private support that has been raised since 2009 to support the State Park System.



Minnewaska State Park Preserve

BUDGET
2010



Darien Lakes State Park

State Parks Operating Budget

OPRHP is a “direct operations” agency – it runs facilities, not programs. Ninety percent of the agency’s operating budget goes to pay the direct costs incurred by operating New York’s 213 state parks and historic sites.

Our state park system faces a crisis. In February, 2010, Governor Paterson announced that as the result of budget cuts, 55 state parks and historic sites would be closed, and that an additional 33 parks and sites would also be closed unless the Legislature agreed to fund their operation from the Environmental Protection Fund. This was the first threat of park closings in the 125-year history of New York’s magnificent state park system.

Fortunately, the citizens of our state voiced universal opposition and outrage to the proposed park closings, and in May, the Governor and Legislature restored \$11 million to OPRHP’s operating budget, avoiding the need for park closures. And the public responded – attendance at our state parks will exceed 57 million this year.

However, our state park system remains in a precarious position. Even after accounting for the \$11 million restoration, OPRHP’s operating budget has been deeply cut over the past three years:

1. In April, 2008, OPRHP’s annual operating budget was \$195 million. Since then the budget has been cut eight times. The agency’s operating budget is now \$160 million. In other words, the agency has absorbed \$35 million of recurring budget reductions since May, 2008.
2. Over the past three years, OPRHP has lost nearly 500 permanent staff positions – falling from 2,271 positions in April, 2008 to a new target of 1,785 positions as of December 31, 2010 – which translates to a 21 percent reduction in staff. The agency has also eliminated 1,000 seasonal staff. All told, next summer OPRHP will operate our state parks, historic sites and agency programs with 1,500 fewer employees than it had in 2008.
3. Service reductions – reduced seasons and hours of operations at campgrounds, swimming beaches, nature programs, historic sites, and other facilities – at 100 state parks and historic sites were instituted for the 2010 operating season.
4. The State Park Police have been heavily impacted. In 2003 the agency’s summer police force numbered 590 officers. Today, the Park Police force is down to 245 officers – the lowest number in modern history. And because budget cuts have forced the cancellation of the Park Police Academy for three years running, the agency continues to lose officers to attrition. The reduction has impacted agency operations; most noticeably the cancellation of the 2010 Fourth of July Fireworks at Jones Beach.
5. Over the past two years State Parks has instituted \$10 million of park fee increases, which have avoided the need for deeper service reductions. Rates have been increased for park entrance, camping, golf, marinas, picnic shelters, and the annual Empire Passport. Senior discounts have

been scaled back, as has the Access Pass program for individuals with disabilities. State Parks has reached the end of the road on fee increases. They are now at “market rate” – further fee increases will drive down visitation, meaning the agency won’t generate additional revenue.

6. Due to staff reductions, individual park managers are now overseeing multiple parks, (For example, in the Saratoga Region, one park manager is now responsible for six facilities). Across the system, basic park functions – such as maintaining facilities, assisting park visitors and cleaning bathrooms – are not being adequately maintained. We risk damaging the State Parks’ “brand” of providing safe, clean, well-managed facilities.

If OPRHP is directed to absorb additional budget cuts in 2011, the closure of state parks and historic sites will become a reality. While the State Council recognizes the difficult financial challenges facing New York State, closing state parks would be bad economic policy:

- A recent study documented that New York’s state park system generates \$1.9 billion in economic activity each year. Closing state parks will hurt local tourism industries and create

negative economic impacts much greater than the modest savings to the state budget.

- State parks generate state revenue (entrance fees, camping fees, picnic shelter rentals, etc.). Park revenues account for a third of OPRHP’s operating budget. When a park is closed to reduce costs, the agency also loses revenue. Every \$1 million “saved” through park closings generates only \$650,000 in net budget savings.
- More than 57 million residents and tourists visited state parks in 2010. At a time when many New York families are struggling due to the economic downturn, our state parks provide affordable, close-to-home recreational and vacation opportunities.

FY2011-12 Operating Budget

Recommendation: The State Council urges the Governor and the Legislature to avoid any further cuts to OPRHP’s operating budget. The agency has already absorbed \$35 million of operating cuts and eliminated 1,500 permanent and seasonal staff. Further cuts will result in closing state parks and historic sites – something that New York has never done before in the 125-year history of the state parks system.



Chittenango Falls State Park

State Parks Capital Budget

During 2010, OPRHP completed a comprehensive assessment of the park system's most pressing capital rehabilitation needs and developed a detailed list of priority projects at New York's 213 state parks and historic sites. The primary finding of this exercise is that our state parks continue to fall further behind in addressing critical capital projects.

OPRHP has identified a capital backlog of 1,070 projects with a total cost exceeding \$1.1 billion. Of this amount, more than \$1 billion is needed to address essential health & safety needs and rehabilitate deteriorated park facilities and infrastructure:

1. Health & Safety: \$461 Million (40% of the list).

Health and safety needs include drinking water systems, sewage treatment facilities, electrical systems, non-compliant petroleum storage tanks, substandard dams and inactive landfills that were never properly closed. This category also captures bathhouses, restrooms, campgrounds, playgrounds

and other facilities that do not comply with state building code and Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

2. Park & Historic Site Rehabilitation: \$595 Million (52% of the list). Investments are needed to revitalize deteriorated and worn-out public use facilities that have exceeded their operational life, including campgrounds, rental cabins, picnic shelters, recreation facilities, swimming pools, bathhouses, beachfronts, visitor centers, boat launches, contact stations, roads, bridges, parking areas and trails. This category also includes a significant backlog of repair and maintenance needs for historic buildings and structures in our parks and historic sites.

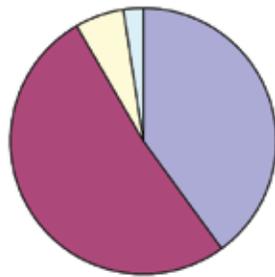
The remainder of the list is comprised of: a) New Facilities (\$67 Million) including park entrances, roads, parking areas, restrooms, trails and day-use facilities needed to make undeveloped parks accessible to the public; and b) Environmental Stewardship Projects (\$28 million) to improve water quality in lakes, ponds and streams; address invasive species; and enhance wildlife and endangered species habitats.

The vast majority of the state parks and historic sites capital backlog falls into two categories – Health & Safety and Facility Rehabilitation – which together comprise 92% of the total \$1.1 Billion Capital Needs List.



Niagara Falls State Park, Goat Island

State Parks \$1.1 Billion Capital Needs



■ Health & Safety (40%)
 ■ Rehabilitation (52%)
 ■ New Facilities (6%)
 ■ Environmental Stewardship (2%)

Significant capital investments are needed in all eleven State Parks Regions:

Allegheny Region	\$80 million
Central Region	\$53 million
Finger Lakes Region	\$100 million
Genesee Region	\$80 million
Long Island Region	\$260 million
New York City Region	\$60 million
Niagara Region	\$138 million
Palisades Region	\$121 million
Saratoga-Capital Region	\$67 million
Taconic Region	\$87 million
Thousand Islands Region	\$22 million
Statewide Needs	\$84 million

Total Capital Needs \$1.15 Billion

In recognition of the deteriorated condition of our state parks and historic sites, in 2008 the Governor and the Legislature created the State Parks Capital Initiative to revitalize the park system. Over the past ten years OPRHP's actual capital spending over the past ten years has ranged from a low of \$33 million in 2004-05 to a high of \$96 million in 2009-10. The highest levels of capital funding were in 2008 and 2009 – a total of \$190 million of capital projects were completed over these two years – reflecting the State Parks Capital Initiative that targeted Bonded Capital funds at critical state park needs.

Unfortunately, due to the state's fiscal condition, the bonded State Parks Capital Initiative was eliminated from the state budget in 2010-11.

OPRHP's capital budget for 2010-11 has been slashed to only \$30 million – the lowest level over the ten year period. In fact, after accounting for inflation, the \$30 million allocated for capital projects in 2010-11 is the lowest capital budget in OPRHP's forty year history.¹ At this level of funding, the agency is not making meaningful progress on the \$1.1 billion list of Capital Project Needs. If anything, the backlog is getting larger.

FY2011-12 Capital Budget Recommendation: The State Council requests that Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature reinstitute the State Parks Capital Initiative to invest \$100 million annually to rehabilitate failing park facilities and address pressing health and safety needs in our parks and sites. This investment will enable OPRHP to address a number of pressing health and safety concerns in the state parks and historic sites. It will also directly support economic development by creating local construction jobs in communities across the state and strengthening recreation and cultural tourism, which is one of the state's largest industries.

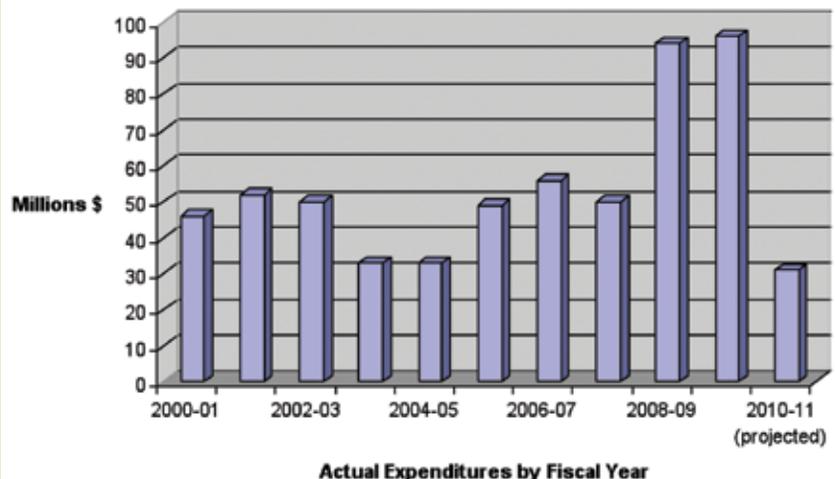
Dedicated Funding Mechanism

Keeping our state parks open and addressing the system's urgent capital needs will require a sustained commitment of state funds.

In 2011, New York State should establish a new dedicated funding source to provide sustainable funding for the state park system.

¹To put OPRHP's \$30 million capital budget in context, the New York City Parks Department's annual capital budget is more than \$200 million annually.

State Parks Capital Expenditures Over the Last Ten Years





Niagara Falls State Park

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

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Annual Highlights

Letchworth State Park



The mission of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) is to provide safe and enjoyable recreation and interpretation opportunities for all New York State residents and visitors and to be responsible stewards of our valuable natural, historic and cultural resources. Below is a short sampling of highlights and successes achieved over the past year in each of the eleven OPRHP Regions and several statewide programs.

Allegheny Region

- **Allegheny State Park.** The agency continued restoration of the historic Red House Administration Building including replacement of the building's slate roof, installation of a new emergency generator, and the refurbishment of the public lobby area. A water



Allegheny State Park

line replacement project in the Red House area is anticipated to be completed, as well. The demolition and replacement of Camp 5 barracks buildings in the Quaker area began late this summer. The new sleeping quarters are expected to be completed by June of 2011. The Congdon cabin restorations were completed, as were bridge repairs across Red House Creek and Quaker Run.

- **Midway State Park.** Substantial maintenance and refurbishment repairs to the park's historic amusement rides were accomplished this past year. The Region anticipates initiating repairs this year to the historic Carousel building. The formation of a new not-for-profit Friends Group is currently in progress.
- **Lake Erie State Park.** OPRHP initiated the stabilization and partial restoration of the 1930s era bathhouse adjacent to the beach at this popular day-use and camping park.

- **National Public Lands Day.** In celebration of National Public Lands Day on September 23rd, more than 130 volunteers participated in "Team Up for Allegheny," assisting park staff in trail work, gardening, invasive species control and wildlife habitat improvement projects.

Central Region

- **Verona Beach State Park.** In July, OPRHP completed replacement of 1,800 linear feet of failing seawall on the park's Oneida Lake shoreline. The old concrete seawall was demolished and used as a base for the new sloped barrier. The beach walk and some camp roads were repaved, failed storm drains were replaced and trees were planted along the beach walk. The total project cost was \$450,000.



Verona Beach State Park

- **Chenango Valley State Park.** In April, construction of a new underground electrical distribution system was completed in the park. This \$715,000 project replaced old overhead electric lines with more than 2.5 miles of underground primary cables and 4,500 linear feet of secondary wiring, along with new transformers and electrical equipment in park buildings. NYSEG also upgraded the main service into the park.

- **Chenango Valley State Park.** In May, OPRHP completed relocation of the Page Brook camping loop, which was damaged by a major flood several years ago. The project included construction of 27 new campsites; a universally accessible shower building; rehabilitation of an existing restroom; and improvements to water, septic and electric system. A new play area was created and campground roads were resurfaced. A number of existing campsites were also rehabilitated, including accessibility features for individuals with disabilities and electric service hookups. The project came in under budget at \$920,000.

- **Selkirk Shores State Park.** Work is nearly complete on the installation of a new drinking water distribution system connected to the Town of Richland’s municipal supply. More than 3.5 miles of new underground water piping was installed, providing a clean and safe source of water to park visitors. New drinking fountains and spigots were installed in the campgrounds. The bike path along the shore of Lake Ontario was also repaved. The projected cost is \$600,000.

- **Pixley Falls State Park.** In July, OPRHP completed a \$350,000 project to replace the heavily deteriorated, 70-year-old stone and concrete Lansing Kill bridge that provides access to the park’s campground and day-use area. The new bridge, which is faced in stone to match the park’s character, meets current highway safety standards and provides better access for park visitor and staff needs.



Pixley Falls State Park

Finger Lakes Region

- **Taughannock Falls State Park.** OPRHP completed construction of a \$1.8 million project to drill a new drinking water well and install new water distribution lines throughout the park. For the past two years all drinking water sources in the park have been posted as being “under the influence of surface water” by order of the county

health department. These postings have been removed, and the park is now in full compliance with all health department regulations. A private fundraising effort is underway to restore the Overlook and make it accessible to people with disabilities.



Bonavista State Park Golf Course

- **Bonavista Golf Course.** When faced with the prospect of closing this golf course as the result of budget reductions in the spring of 2010, State Parks issued an RFP seeking a private operator for the course. At the end of June, the agency awarded a five-year management agreement to Boeff Golf and the course reopened.
- **Ganondagan State Historic Site.** In June, OPRHP, the Friends of Ganondagan and the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing to a research and education partnership. The partnership will promote the study of Native American technologies and will seek funding to provide facilities at Ganondagan for the use of RIT students and researchers.
- **Keuka Lake State Park.** The Finger Lakes Museum of Cultural and Natural History, a new non-profit organization chartered for the purpose of building and operating a major museum of the Finger Lakes, has selected Keuka Lake State Park as the preferred location for the museum. The museum has now begun its \$40 million fundraising campaign, and the agency has signed a letter of intent describing how the two organizations will work together to develop a museum plan.

Genesee Region



Letchworth State Park

- **Letchworth State Park.** OPRHP completed an \$884,000 construction project to install two new drinking water treatment/distribution systems on the east side of the park in the Cabin Area D and E areas, replacing antiquated spring collector/reservoir systems that were found to be affected by surface water runoff. More than 5,000 feet of water pipes were replaced, bringing these systems into full compliance with safe drinking water standards. The Friends of Letchworth have also been active with fundraising for improvements to park facilities. They secured approximately \$18,000 in donations for the purchase and installation of three new playground units at the Middle Falls, Tea Table and Cabin Area A which were completed this spring. The Friends also donated \$3,000 and in-kind architectural services for a small parking area and landscaping improvements done at the CCC Statue site in Lower Falls.
- **Darien Lakes State Park.** For the last three years there have been serious water quality and turbidity issues at Harlow Lake beach, necessitating numerous beach closures – including closure of the swimming area for the entire 2009 season. Using Regional Maintenance staff, OPRHP dredged sediments that had accumulated in the swimming area, replaced the beach sand, and addressed runoff that was impacting the beach and lake. In addition, Parks staff developed a waterfowl management plan. With these measures, the swimming beach reopened in June and operated all summer without a single closure.

- **Hamlin Beach State Park.** Volunteerism is alive and well at Hamlin Beach. A group of highly motivated individuals has been working diligently to uncover and interpret the former CCC camp site at the park. Much of the vegetation that had overgrown the site has been cleared, building foundations and other features have been excavated, pathways have been reestablished and artifacts have been documented and secured. Work on the site continues and a plan to develop interpretive signage for the site is underway. Additionally, some members of this group along with other interested individuals have also been working to establish The Friends of Hamlin Beach State Park.

Long Island Region

- **Robert Moses State Park.** OPRHP completed an emergency sand replenishment project at the Field 4 & 5 ocean beaches at Robert Moses. Winter storms over the past several years had severely



Robert Moses State Park

eroded these beaches, to the point where the tide line was cutting into dune areas and beaches were closed to the public. In May, 150,000 cubic yards of sand was moved from a stockpile to the beachfront. This \$1 million project allowed millions of visitors to enjoy the park's beaches this year. A portion of the cost will be reimbursed by the federal government (the park is within a declared disaster area from a 2007 nor'easter storm). State Parks and the NYS Department of Transportation also placed 30,000 cubic yards of sand along Ocean Parkway at Gilgo Beach, where storms had eroded the beachfront to within 60 feet of the roadway.

- **Montauk Point State Park.** Construction of a new comfort station was completed in May. The new facility, which replaced an extremely deteriorated restroom, will be open year-round to serve park visitors and the fishing community who enjoy Montauk's renowned surfcasting beaches.
- **Orient Beach State Park.** The park's drinking water system has been refurbished including the installation of two new wells. This \$200,000 project replaced an antiquated system dating to the 1950s.
- **Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park.** Renovations were completed to the Italian Garden. More than \$500,000 in private support was provided by the Planting Fields Foundation and the Gary Foundation. The newly renovated garden, which is the centerpiece of the formal gardens and can be seen from Coe Hall, features an Italianesque tile reflecting pool, raised brick walls and bluestone pathways, statuary and a four-season herbaceous and woody plant collection.

- **Jones Beach State Park.** OPRHP reached agreement with Nassau County to connect the park's sewage treatment plant to the county's outfall pipe to the Atlantic Ocean. Currently, the Jones Beach sewage treatment plant discharges to the South Shore Estuary. Relocating the outfall to the ocean will improve the shallow estuary's water quality, shellfish and marsh habitats. The project's \$2 million project cost is funded through the State Parks capital program.



Jones Beach State Park

- **Public/Private Partnerships.** The Long Island Region received contributions from a number of private partners to restore park services threatened by the state's fiscal situation. Citibank donated \$100,000 to fund children's summer theatre, cultural concerts and extended operating seasons at several swimming facilities. The Jones Beach Airshow, which hosted 400,000 visitors over the Memorial Day weekend, received more than \$200,000

in private support, led by the Bethpage Federal Credit Union. Other sponsorships included Emblem Health for a childhood obesity prevention program and the State Parks' summer run series program.

- **Foundation for Long Island State Parks.** The Foundation raises funds to enhance parks and activities for visitors across Long Island. Fundraising events include an annual gala which this year raised \$54,000. Foundation funds have been used for playground equipment, Park Police equipment, nature trails and recreation programs.

New York City Region

- **Gantry Plaza State Park.** This summer was full of the sweet sounds of music, movies, the Bard, and children's laughter at this beautiful waterfront park. The park hosted weekly concerts called "Live at the Gantries," a series of four outdoor films on the lawn, two professional Shakespeare productions, and a new children's playground. OPRHP also established a school garden for local school children.
- **Roberto Clemente State Park.** In 2010 OPRHP completed an extensive reconstruction of the park's popular aquatics complex, including construction of new locker rooms, a refurbished Olympic pool and dive tank, new spray grounds with landscaping and shade structures, and reconstructed revenue and first aid areas. This major project was entirely funded through a \$20 million contribution provided by New York City, as part of the City's mitigation fund for construction of its water treatment plant in Van Cortlandt Park.

- **East River State Park.** A new play area was completed and opened through the generosity of Nestlé Juicy Juice and private donations. This unique park includes a wooden train, where real trains once took on cargo. The park has also been very busy this summer with a series of ticketed and free concerts



East River State Park

in partnership with the Open Space Alliance of North Brooklyn. These concerts will help provide OPRHP with funds to install solar lights allowing the park to remain open after dusk.

- **Riverbank State Park.** At Riverbank State Park, a new organization called the Riverside Partnership is forming as a not-for-profit to provide fundraising support for the park. This organization, formed of various user groups, is planning on a full spectrum of fund-raising events and assistance for park purposes.

- **Play Me, I'm Yours.** Through the auspices of Sing For Hope, a public art project installed decorated upright pianos throughout New York City for a two week period in late June. OPRHP was fortunate to have pianos placed at Gantry Plaza and Riverbank for visitors to enjoy.



Gantry Plaza State Park

producing the film which recounted the history of the park and its natural, recreational and economic values.

- **Beaver Island State Park.** A new canoe and kayak launch, accessible to people with disabilities, was installed in the park. Funding for the project was provided through the New York Power Authority Relicensing Agreement with support from the Niagara River Greenway Commission. In addition, construction was completed for the new Spaulding Trail that connects the launch area to the park entrance, providing alternative access for cyclists, hikers, joggers and runners.
- **DeVeaux Woods State Park.** A new outdoor ice skating rink was constructed and opened this past winter by OPRHP staff. The rink was very well received by the public and was constructed in partnership with the City of Niagara Falls, which provided \$16,000 in materials to support the project.

Niagara Frontier Region

- **Niagara Falls State Park.** The nation's oldest state park, Niagara Falls marked its 125th anniversary this summer. On July 15, the park commemorated its official birthday with a free concert on Goat Island by the Buffalo Philharmonic and the dedication of Heritage Park, a small pocket park celebrating the history of Niagara Falls State Park. The Region also



Niagara Falls State Park

released a documentary film, produced by Niagara County Community College, to celebrate the park's anniversary. Niagara Region Commissioner Cindy Abbott Letro narrated and was instrumental in

- **Fort Niagara State Park.** Five historic buildings received new roofs and electrical and communications system upgrades were installed in the Old Fort Niagara complex. These capital improvements were completed using funds from New York Power Authority Relicensing Agreement, with support from the Niagara River Greenway Commission.
- **Niagara Region – Energy Conservation Program.** The Niagara Region is participating in National Grid's Energy Conservation Program at its 1410 Buffalo Avenue maintenance and trolley barn facility. Under the program, the agency is replacing outdated light fixtures with new, energy efficient units, which will result in annual energy savings exceeding \$13,000. National Grid will provide approximately two-thirds of the cost of the improvements (estimated at \$43,000). Through participation in this program, CO2 emissions will be reduced by 133,155 pounds annually.

Palisades Region

- **Sterling Forest State Park.** OPRHP and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC) completed and adopted the Sterling Forest Comprehensive Trails Plan and Environmental

Assessment. The trails plan codified and approved more than 70 miles of trails in the 20,000 acre park. In addition, PIPC expanded the park through the Arrow Park acquisition, purchasing an additional 278 acres in fee and 43 acres in conservation easement.

- **Bear Mountain State Park.** PIPC engaged Guest Services Inc., a major hospitality management firm in business since 1917, to be the new operator at the Bear Mountain Inn Complex. Management of the complex includes the Inn, Overlook Lodge, Cliff House and four stone



Bear Mountain State Park

cottages. Guest Services completed renovations of Overlook Lodge and the stone cottages and is providing \$1.5 million towards the completion of the Bear Mountain Inn.

- **Bear Mountain Zoo.** PIPC was recipient of \$1.75 million bequeathed by the estate of Robert J. Drew of Camano Island, WA for the Trailside Museums and Zoo in Bear Mountain State Park. A portion of the funds will be used to modernize several wildlife enclosures in the zoo.
- **Harriman State Park.** On June 3, 2010, the Palisades Parks Conservancy hosted their eighth annual dinner at the Ross Dock Section of the Palisades Interstate Park. The Conservancy recognized the 100th anniversary of the family's gift of 10,000 acres and \$1 million dollars that formed Bear Mountain and Harriman State Parks. The Conservancy raised \$140,000 at the event toward funding priority projects such as Harriman Group Camps, Trailside Zoo and Minnewaska carriage roads. In addition, PIPC added 482 acres at the southern end of Harriman State Park with addition of the Torne Valley property, in a cooperative partnership between the Commission and Rockland County.

- **Minnewaska State Park.** PIPC and the Mohonk Preserve are launching a cooperative initiative to rebuild the 100 year old historic Smiley family carriage roads in New York State's Shawangunk Mountains. Minnewaska State Park has 21,000 acres with 24 miles of carriage roads.

Saraoga-Capital Region

- **Saratoga Spa State Park.** In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the state's preservation of the mineral springs, volunteers stepped forward to champion the rehabilitation of the Geyser Springs area of the park.



Saratoga Spa State Park

- The Saratoga-Capital Commission led a fundraising effort to secure \$250,000 in donations and in-kind services to rehabilitate pavilions, pathways and overlooks. New interpretive signage will welcome visitors from around the world and explain the natural wonder of the waters, the only spouting mineral springs east of the Rockies.
- **Saratoga Spa State Park.** With a sustainability grant through the federal ARRA Stimulus program, OPRHP completed two stormwater management projects to protect Geyser Brook, a designated trout stream, and enhance the sustainability of the park. The projects involved repaving a degraded asphalt parking lot with porous paving made in part from recycled tires, and building a storm-water detention basin that stores and infiltrates storm-water runoff before it discharges into the stream.
- **Washington County Trailway.** In partnership with the Town and Village of Granville and local snowmobiling clubs, an abandoned and dangerous railroad bridge spanning the Mettawee River was replaced with a new steel bridge designed for pedestrians and snowmobilers. The bridge is an important link in the 25-mile trail connecting Granville to Salem. It is located in the heart of Granville's revitalized downtown, a destination for bicyclists and snowmobilers.

- **Grafton Lakes State Park.** With the help of interns and volunteers, educational programming at this Rensselaer County park has reached an all time high. Hundreds of programs are offered during all four seasons for young and old reaching



Grafton Lakes State Park

over 8,000 people per year. Kayaking, swimming, hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, star gazing, bird watching, snowshoeing and skiing – this park has programs for every interest.

- **Hudson-Mohawk Trail.** OPRHP acquired a critical five mile gap in the rails-to-trails project from Rotterdam to Amsterdam as part of the Erie Canalway Trail. Working in partnership with Parks & Trails New York, NYS Canal Corporation, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and numerous local partners, OPRHP is helping complete what will ultimately be a 524-mile continuous trail along New York’s historic Erie, Oswego, Cayuga-Seneca and Champlain canals.

Taconic Region

- **Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park.** October 2nd marked the first anniversary of the opening of this remarkable park, which has been an unqualified success and continues to exceed all expectations. The park has become the cornerstone of the revitalization of downtown Poughkeepsie and, indeed, is of major significance to the economic revitalization of the mid-Hudson Valley. In its first year more than 750,000 visitors enjoyed this wonderful park. In addition, this year the Governor and Legislature enacted legislation authorizing transfer of ownership of the bridge to the New York State Bridge Authority, which will partner with OPRHP in the long-term management of the park.
- **Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park.** A generous private contribution is funding improvements to the park’s recreational facilities. The park’s deteriorated basketball court has been replaced with two new courts, complete with benches and bleachers. A new picnic shelter is currently under construc-



Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park

tion, providing a welcomed addition at this park which hosts many group, corporate and family picnics.

- **Taconic State Park.** OPRHP completed a \$1 million rehabilitation of the park’s drinking water system. Aging waterlines and treatment facilities were replaced with new systems meeting all current health standards.
- **Staatsburgh State Historic Site.** The relocation of the Regional Headquarters to the historic Staatsburgh School created the opportunity for the transformation and restoration of the basement of the Mills Mansion,



Staatsburgh State Historic Site

which is one phase of a larger \$1 million restoration initiative by the Friends of Mills Mansion and OPRHP. The basement will be opened to

the public offering a fascinating glimpse of the “downstairs” operations at a gilded age mansion, showcasing the kitchen, pantry and quarters for the servants and bachelor guests.

- **Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks.** The newly formed Friends of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks have produced a promotional video highlighting the two parks. A professional filmmaker donated his services to film, edit, and produce the video which was narrated by Taconic Commission member and actress Jane Alexander.

Thousand Islands Region

- **Thousand Islands Campgrounds.** The Region's campgrounds had a banner year. Camping reservations were very strong, causing "No-Vacancy" signs to be hung a record number of times across the Region's 21 camping parks. Day-use visitation was also very strong, showing an increase of 25 percent over the comparable period for 2009.

- **Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site.**



Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site

On July 31st and August 1st, the Historic Site was the host location for the North American War of 1812 Grand Tactical. Supported by 75 volunteers and OPRHP staff, the site's Friends Group (the Battlefield Alliance) coordinated the week-end's events. Over 400 re-enactors and 6,500 visitors enjoyed land and water battle tactical maneuvers at the battlefield site overlooking Lake Ontario. This Grand Tactical was a "dry run" for an even larger event celebrating the bicentennial of the Battle of Sackets Harbor to be held in 2013.

- **Robert Moses State Park.**

On March 2nd, the Region suffered a devastating fire at Robert Moses State Park which destroyed the park's staff office, Park Police office, and woodworking and paint shop, and forced the Nature Center to vacate the building. All functions have been temporarily relocated and plans are progressing for establishing winter quarters for park management, Park Police, and the Nature Center. The New York Power Authority (which owns the land the park sits on) and the Friends of Robert Moses State Park are proving invaluable partners as we seek to rebuild lost facilities.



Robert Moses State Park

- **Wellesley Island State Park.** Wellesley Island was the recipient of one of the seven playgrounds sponsored by

Nestlé Juicy Juice's statewide donation of \$350,000. The new equipment, with multiple climbing, sliding and interactive play features, provides play areas for children near the popular Acorn camping area of the park.



Wellesley Island State Park

New York State Park Police

State Park Police officers, public safety rangers, forest rangers and other staff had a particularly busy year in 2010. Extremely hot summer weather (the hottest summer in twenty-five years) and very high numbers of visitors throughout



the state created a high demand for police and public safety services.

State Parks hosted numerous special events that attracted tens of millions of spectators and required special planning and the

deployment of police and public safety resources across the state. Four major concert venues are operated within State Parks – at Jones Beach, Saratoga, East River (in Brooklyn) and ArtPark (in Niagara). On some days Park Police personnel were deployed to multiple locations to maintain adequate police staffing for these events.

In 2010 the State Park Police initiated a consolidation effort to centralize police administrative functions and to facilitate the use of police staffing across greater areas with more efficiency. Park Police operations in the Hudson Valley – previously divided into three regional commands were consolidated into one. Park Police operations in the Niagara, Genesee and Allegany regions were consolidated into the Western District and operations in the Central, Thousand Islands and Finger Lakes regions have been consolidated into the Mid-State District.

The Park Police continue to manage difficult challenges imposed by agency operating budget reductions. OPRHP has not held a Police Academy – the mechanism by which the agency trains and hires new officers – since 2008. The Park Police is currently at 245 officers, the lowest force number in modern history. Moreover, scheduled replacement of high-mileage Park Police patrol vehicles has not occurred for two years.

A large, two-story brick building with a prominent central tower and multiple wings, surrounded by a green lawn and trees. The building is the Darwin Martin House State Historic Site.

Division for Historic Preservation

Darwin Martin House State Historic Site

The Division for Historic Preservation (DHP) consists of the Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau and the Bureau of Historic Sites. The Division provides a wide range of services to individuals and communities as well as state parks and historic sites.

State Tax Incentive Expanded

The Division for Historic Preservation administers the state's historic preservation tax credit program which offers commercial properties that qualify for the federal preservation tax credit a state income tax credit equal to 20 percent of the approved rehabilitation work. The program also offers tax incentives for owner-occupied residential properties listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. This year, Governor Paterson signed legislation amending the existing state tax incentives. The amendment allows banks and insurance companies to be eligible for credits on income-producing properties. Since these entities are the most active investors in the parallel federal program, expanded participation in the state program will follow -- offering further incentives to revitalize New York's older commercial centers, underused industrial properties and existing residential neighborhoods.

To promote the tax credits, the division offered an informational webinar and participated in workshops across the state. Over the past year, the number of state historic preservation tax credit applications has increased significantly.

Preservation Program Review Update

Over the course of the past year, the Division has initiated an internal program review to examine the agency's preservation mission, to map a course for improving preservation services to municipalities and other stakeholders and to facilitate the integration of the two bureaus.

The program review, which followed the Division's federally mandated, statewide preservation planning initiative, included regional forums to evaluation of programs, data collected from various sources and the preparation of an interim report. The interim report identified short and long term recommendations and actions that are organized under five primary theme, including resource identification, interpretation, and education; regional preservation capacity building; preservation training; stewardship; and marketing.

This year the Division's focus is on meeting community needs and improving local preservation services; better integrating preservation into the agency's operations; working to ensure that state historic sites are vibrant community assets for the 21st century. Activity highlights include:

- A new DHP data management system. This three-year project, funded through the federal Transportation Enhancement Program, will substantially expand the Division's electronic information systems and improve public access to its online resources.
- Short histories of the state parks are being developed for inclusion on the agency website.
- The existing state park historic resources inventory will be updated to foster a better understanding of the historic assets under the direct care of the agency.
- A new guide to maintaining older homes with a special focus on preservation and weatherization is now available in the preservation section of the agency's website.

State Historic Site System Review Underway

A comprehensive review of the state historic site system is currently underway. This system-wide assessment is a critical component of the preservation planning process for several reasons:

- The system has not been thoroughly examined since 1973.
- The sites are valuable assets that have the potential of supporting a variety of community revitalization and local economic development efforts, in addition to their core education and preservation missions.
- As thousands of historic sites across the country are struggling with declining attendance and revenues, it is important that the agency evaluate the state historic sites in an effort to determine how they can better serve the public, including assessing their best use, their potential for attracting and educating 21st century audiences and their most effective and efficient operation.

The system review is considering a variety of factors, including: the administrative, fiscal, operational, and programmatic elements of each property; the breadth, depth, and significance of the historic, cultural and material resources; the effectiveness of its Friends group; and, the relevance of its activities in the community.



Statewide Stewardship Initiatives

- **Natural Resource Stewardship :** Agency efforts continue to protect the rich biological assets in our parks, especially threatened and endangered species. Our regional biologists are integrating their work into the day-to-day operations of the agency, which has important ramifications. Forty three percent of all rare species in New York State are found in State Parks. Twenty of New York's rare species are only found in our Parks and one of those, the Chittenango Ovate Amber Snail, is found nowhere else in the world. The Environmental Management Bureau oversees the following projects among many others across the state for the agency:

- Statewide invasive species control with a focus on the most critical threats, which include Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and both Black and Pale Swallowwort.
- Stream-bank improvement projects that both abate erosion while creating suitable habitat for plants and wildlife.
- Watershed monitoring in Allegany State Park due to the extensive natural gas drilling in Pennsylvania which is upslope from the Park.
- Improving habitat for threatened and endangered species including the Harts-tongue Fern, the Ovate Amber Snail and the Karner Blue Butterfly.
- Increased and improved beach monitoring along Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River through a Federal grants program.

- **Master Planning.** The Master planning process remains an important initiative for the agency. The master plan establishes long-term direction and implementation strategies for individual parks and historic sites. The process reaches beyond the physical development of facilities to include: an overarching vision, land use practices, resource management and interpretation, operations and boundary protection, as well as program services that require a broader strategy for the development and management of each park's natural, cultural, and recreational resources. The Agency has completed six master plans to date, which include: Caumsett State Historic Park

Preserve, Allegany State Park, Saratoga Spa State Park, Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Hallock State Park Preserve and Midway State Park. Three more plans will be completed by year's-end including Green Lakes State Park, Fahnestock-Hudson Highlands State Park and Wehle State Park. Master Plans are now underway at Sampson State Park, Sunken Meadow State Park, Mills Norrie State Park and Grafton Lakes State Park.

The Hugh L. Carey Empire State Games

In 2010, OPRHP organized four specific Empire State Games' programs:

- **The Empire State Summer Games** returned to Buffalo in July. Corporate sponsors led by First Niagara contributed and raised \$950,000 to help underwrite the Summer competition. OPRHP and our Local Organizing Committee successfully recruited thousands of coaches, officials, and volunteers needed to stage the event. More than 15000 spectators and nearly 6,000 participants packed the University at Buffalo stadium for an opening ceremony, which set the stage for four full days and nights of competition in 28 sports.
- **The Empire State Winter Games** were conducted in February in Lake Placid, where world-class Olympic venues have been the permanent home of the Winter Games since its inception in 1981. Nearly 1,200 athletes competed in 12 winter sports and celebrated the 25 ESG alumni who competed on the US Olympic Team in Vancouver. Two former Games' participants also won gold medals in the 2010 international Paralympic Games
- **The Empire State Games for the Physically Challenged** held its 26th Games on Long Island in early June, with more than 1,200 young athletes competing in a variety of adapted sports, clinics demonstrations and events specifically geared toward their level of ability. In October, a regional competition involving 300 participants was held at SUNY Brockport.
- **The Empire State Senior Games** was conducted in mid-June at SUNY Cortland for 1,600 men and women age 50 plus, featuring competitive events, fitness clinics, and a "Wellness Fair" stressing a healthy and fit lifestyle. Through this program more than 200 New Yorkers qualified for the 2011 National Senior Games, which will be held next summer in Houston, Texas.

Appendix 1:

Roles & Responsibilities of State Council and Regional Commission Members



Roles and Responsibilities: Members, State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation October 16, 2007

The State Council, created by Article 5 of PRHPL, consists of the Chairs of the eleven Regional Parks Commissions (including a representative of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission), the Chair of the State Board of Historic Preservation, the Commissioner of State Parks, and the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation. The Governor appoints the Chair and Vice Chair of the State Council. The Council meets at least four times per year through in-person meetings and conference calls. The Council's statutory responsibilities include:

- Act as a central advisory agency on all matters affecting parks, recreation, and historic preservation.
- Review the policy, budget, and statewide plans of the agency and make appropriate recommendations regarding their amendment or adoption.
- Submit reports to the Governor, not less than once each year, concerning progress in the area of state parks, recreation, and historic preservation.

**To advance these responsibilities,
State Council of Parks members shall:**

1. Endeavor to attend all State Council of Parks meetings.
2. During State Council meetings and through other channels, educate other Council Members, the State Parks Commissioner, and other Executive and OPRHP Staff about issues, priorities, challenges, and opportunities within their respective regions.
3. Communicate State Council and agency priorities and initiatives to all Regional Commission members. Encourage, motivate, and support fellow Regional Commissioners to enable them to fully engage in state parks issues.
4. Become educated about statewide parks, recreation, and historic preservation issues.
5. Develop and submit a written annual report to the Governor each October.
6. Undertake all responsibilities of Regional Parks Commissioners (attached).



Regional Park, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commissions Members' Roles and Responsibilities October 16, 2007

The ten Regional Park, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commissions, created by Article 7 of PRHPL, represent each State Parks region, with the exception of the Palisades (represented by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission) and the Adirondack/Catskill park region. Each Regional Commission consists of seven to fourteen members (the number for each commission is set in law). All Commission members, who must be residents of the state, are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for seven-year terms. The Governor designates the chair of each Commission. Each Regional Commission meets at least four times per year. The Regional Commissions are charged with acting as a central advisory body on all matters affecting parks, recreation, and historic preservation within their respective regions, with particular focus on the operations of the state parks and historic sites.

To advance these responsibilities, Regional Parks Commissioners shall:

1. Endeavor to attend all Regional Parks Commission meetings.
2. Learn about the operations, priorities, and programs of the region, and participate in the annual review and approval of the regional budget. Remain in regular contact with the Regional Director. Visit as many state parks and historic sites in the region as possible, and become acquainted with regional staff and park managers.
3. Serve as an advocate for the state parks and historic sites within the region, including:
 - “Adopt” one or more state parks, or historic sites, so that every park and site in the region has a Regional Commissioner with whom they have a special relationship.
4. Actively participate in the formation or enhancement of Friends Groups, including considering making personal financial contributions, and assisting in fundraising efforts.
 - Meet with State Legislators and other elected officials to educate them about issues, challenges and opportunities facing state parks and historic sites and advocate for state park funding and policy priorities.
5. Enlist the support of parks user groups, environmental and historic preservation organizations, land trusts, local community and business leaders, tourism officials, and other partners to advance state parks goals and priorities.
6. Become educated about parks, recreation, and historic preservation issues throughout the region, with particular emphasis on issues – such as inappropriate development, sprawl, illegal ATVs, climate change, invasive species, etc. – that threaten state parks and historic sites. Testify or appear as appropriate at environmental review hearings, local planning meetings, etc. regarding proposed projects that impact park and historic site resources.
7. Participate as appropriate in continuing education opportunities such as: attending the annual Facilities Managers conference; participating in park master planning, trailway development, and parkland designation efforts (such as Bird Conservation Areas and Natural Heritage Areas) for individual parks; and attending parks, open space, and historic preservation conferences and training programs.
8. Assist in identifying qualified individuals to fill vacant Regional Commission positions.

Appendix 2: Partnerships

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation actively engages in a range of partnerships with for-profit, non-profit and governmental agencies. Below is a sample list of those organizations with which the agency has or has recently had such a partnership.

Corporate Partners

Bethpage Federal Credit Union
Bonacio Construction
Brookfield Power
Cablevision
Cascadian Farms
Citibank
Clear Channel Broadcasting
Cox Broadcasting
D.A. Collins
Dasani
David Lerner Associates
Dick's Sporting Goods
DirectTV
Dowling College
Drake Bakeries
Dunkin Donuts
Emblem Health
Entenmann's
Farmingdale College
First Niagara Financial Group
Fisheye Virtual Tours
FUZE Beverage
Geico
Government Solutions Group
Hard Rock Café
Long Island Radio Group
Macy's
Naudus Communications
National Grid
Nestle/ Juicy Juice
New Living Magazine
New York Islanders
Newsday
Nissequogue River Fly
Fishing School
Odwalla
Cablevision
Radio Disney
Red Bull
Runner's Edge Sporting Goods
Sony PlayStation
Sports Authority
Stewarts
Street Gear Inc.
Super Runners Shop
The Fisherman Magazine
Thompsons Water Seal
TV 10/55
Verizon
WABC-TV
Zippo Manufacturing Co.

Concession Partnerships

Balloons over Letchworth
Bethpage Associates
Delaware North Parks & Resorts
Destination Cinemas Inc.
Golf/ Confer Bethpage Guest Services
J&B Restaurant Partners
Maid of the Mist Corp.
Nikon at Jones Beach Theater/ Live Nation
Professional Golf Inc.
ReserveAmerica/Active Network
Rich Products/Be Our Guest, Ltd.
Tower Optical

Non-Profit Partnerships

Adirondack Mountain Club
Adirondack Mountain Club
Alliance for New York State Parks
Audubon New York
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Concerned Mountain Bikers of Long Island
Dyson Foundation
Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society
Harriman Group Camps
Home Made Theater
Islip Arts Council
Long Island Philharmonic
Mohonk Preserve
National Museum of Dance
New York Restoration Project
NY/NJ Trail Conference
Parks and Trails New York
Saratoga Automobile Museum
Saratoga Performing Arts Center
Scenic Hudson
The Nature Conservancy
United States Golf Assoc.

Long Island Power Authority
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police
MTA Long Island Bus
National Park Service
New York Lottery
New York Power Authority
Niagara Tourism and Convention Corporation
Orleans County
Oswego County
The Nature Conservancy
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Town of Babylon
Town of Brookhaven
Town of East Hampton
Town of Hamburg
Town of Hempstead
Town of Islip
Town of Lewiston
Town of Oyster Bay
Town of Schodack
Town of Sodus
United States Fish & Wildlife Service
Wantagh Fire Department

Inter-governmental and Municipal Partnerships

Cattaraugus County
Economic Development Department
City of Niagara Falls
Empire State Development Corporation

Friends Groups

Allegany State Park Fire Tower Restoration Committee
Allegany State Park Historical Society
Artpark & Company
Bannerman Castle Trust
Bayard Cutting Arboretum Trust and Bayard Cutting Horticultural Society
Black Diamond Trail Enthusiasts Network
Calvert Vaux Preservation Alliance
The Caumsett Foundation
Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum
The Council of Park Friends
Dutchess County Historical Society
Fort Montgomery Battle Site Association
Foundation for Long Island State Parks, Inc.
Friends of Bennington Battlefield SHS
Friends of Brentwood
Friends of Caleb Smith Preserve
Friends of the Catharine Valley Trail
Friends of Chenango Valley State Park
Friends of Cherry Plain State Park
Friends of Clay Pit Pond State Park Preserve
Friends of Clermont
Friends of Connetquot State Park, Inc.
Friends of Crown Point State Historic Site
Friends of East River State Park
Friends of Evangola State Park
Friends of Fahnestock & Hudson Highlands State Parks
Friends of John Brown Farm
Friends of Fort Crailo State Historic Site

Friends of Fort Ontario
Friends of Ganondagan, Inc.
Friends of Gantry Neighborhoods Parks
Friends of Genesee Valley Greenway
Friends of Glimmerglass State Park, Inc.
Friends of Grafton Lakes State Park
Friends of Grant Cottage, Inc.
Friends of Herkimer Home
Friends of Higley Flow State Park, Inc.
Friends of Hudson Trail
Friends of John Jay Homestead
Friends of Johnson Hall
Friends of Knox Farm State Park
Friends of Letchworth State Park
Friends of Lorenzo
Friends of Midway State Park
Friends of Mills Mansion
Friends of Mine Kill /Max V. Shaul
Friends of Minna Anthony Common Nature Center
Friends of Mohawk River
Friends of Montauk Downs State Park
Friends of Moreau Lake State Park
Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct
Friends of Parrott Hall
Friends of Peebles Island
Friends of Philipse Manor Hall, Inc.
Friends of Point au Roche State Park
Friends of Robert H. Treman State Park
Friends of Robert Moses State Park Nature Center, Inc.
Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Inc.

Friends of Rockland Lake & Hook Mountain State Parks
Friends of Sampson State Park
Friends of Saratoga Spa State Park
Friends of Schodack Island State Park, Inc.
Friends of Schoharie Crossing
Friends of Schuyler Mansion
Friends of Senate House, Inc.
Friends of the Shawangunks
Friends of Sonnenberg
Friends of the State Historic Sites of the Hudson Highlands
Friends of the Sterling Forest
Friends of Stony Point Battlefield and Lighthouse
Friends of Taconic State Park
Friends of Thacher State Park and Thompsons Lake State Parks
Friends of the 30 Mile Point Lighthouse
Grand Island Historical Society at River Lea
Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association
Hyde Hall, Inc.
Jones Beach Rescue
Lloyd Harbor Historical Society
Martin House Restoration Corporation
Nissequogue River State Park Foundation
The Olana Partnership
Old Fort Niagara Association
Palisades Park Conservancy
Planting Fields Foundation
Riverbank Partnership
Sackets Harbor Battlefield Alliance
Walkway Over the Hudson
Walt Whitman Birthplace Association



**New York State Council of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation**

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