

ALLIANCE FOR NEW YORK STATE PARKS

AN INITIATIVE OF
THE OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE

Governor Cuomo advances second round of state park restoration funding

Proposal renews state's commitment to our treasured state parks.

New York's 214 state parks and historic sites are in line for another round of capital investment, to repair, restore and improve the system's aging and outdated facilities, thanks to a \$90 million infusion included in Governor Andrew Cuomo's proposed state budget for 2013-14.

Building on last year's historic \$143 million parks investment, almost all of which has been spent or is under contract, the Governor is seeking sustained measures to address the state parks' capital backlog, totaling nearly \$1 billion.

For the Alliance program and the work that we do, this second installment is not only an affirmation of the work we've done over the past two years, it also boosts our efforts to raise complementary private dollars for our parks.

As state park visitation continues to rise, up five percent to 60 million visitors in 2012, the Alliance is also appreciative of Governor Cuomo's renewed focus on tourism through a greater emphasis on a more regional approach to marketing the state's tremendous assets – particularly upstate.

Between this renewed and long-overdue attention to state parks, the significant expansion of the Environmental Protection Fund and his thoughtful response to super storm Sandy, both in terms of proposing to shore up infrastructure and employing smart rebuilding tactics, Governor Cuomo is to be commended for making the protection of New York's natural treasures a critical priority.

Save the Date: April 17, 2013

Open Space Institute Luncheon Honoring

Carol Ash and Sam Pryor

(see reverse for additional information)

Update: Winter 2013

The End of the Road... *In a Good Way!*

Campaign to rebuild Minnewaska's Hamilton Point Carriage Road Close to Completion

Construction is expected to start this spring on the restoration of the Hamilton Point Carriage Road at Minnewaska State Park. As the first fundraising project adopted by the Alliance two years ago, a commitment was made to raise \$500,000 toward the cost.

We need to raise the last \$50,000 this spring and hope that our friends and supporters will help.

The Hamilton Point Carriage Road is part of the nearly 70-mile network of historic carriage roads on the Shawangunk Ridge that stretch from the Mohonk Preserve to Minnewaska via the grounds of the Mohonk Mountain House.

The Hamilton Point Carriage Road is particularly dramatic—gracefully tracing the edge of the escarpment and overlooking hundreds of miles of Hudson Valley farmland and the Hudson Highlands to the south. The carriage road system offers a breath-taking outdoor experience to a broad cross-section of seasoned and novice nature lovers and adventures.

Many of the iconic carriage roads are in disrepair, the result of years of deferred maintenance. The Alliance program has partnered with State Parks, Palisades Interstate Parks Commission, Mohonk Preserve and the Mountain House to restore the network.

Leading donors to date include: Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky; the Pew Charitable Trusts; Irene Diamond Fund; Larry Rockefeller; the Mohonk Preserve; the Church Communities; Nancy and Jim Hays; Anne Eristoff; Eliot Spitzer; Friends of the Shawangunks; Kenneth Posner; and Ann MacDougall and Jules Kaufman.

Please help us finish the campaign, and then join us for a celebratory groundbreaking this spring on site (date and details to follow).

Save The Date:

Open Space Institute Luncheon Honoring Carol Ash and Sam Pryor III

The Open Space Institute will honor Carol Ash and Sam Pryor III at this year's Land Conservation Award Luncheon at New York's Metropolitan Club on April 17 from noon to 2:00.

Carol is the former State Parks commissioner and among the founders of the Alliance program at OSI. Sam is a retired partner at Davis Polk & Wardwell and a former trustee of the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and the Westchester Land Trust.

Proceeds from the lunch will go toward construction of a campground at Trapps Gateway, at the foot of the Shawangunk escarpment, to be named for Sam. The campground will alleviate what has become a problem for Minnewaska and the Mohonk Preserve—lack of adequate facilities to serve the needs of the growing number of rock climbers who visit Trapps Gateway each year.

Buy a ticket and show your support for Sam and Carol, and for a great new public campground! Visit the OSI website at www.osiny.org or e-mail Emily Offen at eoffen@osiny.org to learn more.

Legislative News

"Pennies for Parks" legislation (S.1670/A.1148) has been reintroduced by Senator Mark Grisanti and Assemblyman Kevin Cahill.

The Alliance, along with its partners at Parks & Trails New York will be hosting our annual Parks Advocacy Day on Tuesday, March 5.

In addition to voicing support for the Governor's budget, we will be asking individual legislators to join in support of the Pennies legislation.

Anyone interested in participating in Parks Advocacy Day, please contact Mike Baden at 518.427.1564, ext. 121 or mbaden@osiny.org.

Superstorm Sandy

Thanks to all those who responded with concern to damage sustained at New York's state parks as a result of Super Storm Sandy. As you may recall, state parks on Long Island were most severely impacted.

The greatest destruction occurred at Jones Beach, where parts of the boardwalk and several of the seasonal structures were damaged or destroyed. Although parts of the historic park remain off limits, boardwalk repair is quickly proceeding. And, with the support of the Alliance program, design work is underway to replace destroyed lifeguard areas, as well as a number of parking ticket booths which will be replaced with a more historically accurate structure. The park is expected to be more fully open by Memorial Day.

The same is hoped for Orient Beach on Long Island's North Fork and Nyack Beach in Rockland County, both of which sustained severe flood damage. At Roberto Clemente State Park in the Bronx, there was additional damage to the troubled seawall. As with all of the parks, officials continue to work closely with FEMA to make necessary repairs.

Project Updates

Jones Beach: Even as Superstorm Sandy did serious damage to Long Island parks, the Alliance program and OPRHP have affirmed their commitment to the bright future of Jones Beach and the need to restore and, in the case of some of its underutilized structures, reimagine its core attractions.

The Alliance and New York State Parks invited some 30 design and park experts to assist in developing a framework for rebuilding and strengthening the park.

An orientation meeting and tour in December will be followed by another meeting in June, at which the group will be asked to focus such areas as how to restore and reactivate historic structures, enhance visitor and recreational services and consider measures that can be taken to protect the park and its vulnerable shorelines naturally.

Fahnestock State Park: Even as construction begins on the first facility at Canopus Lake Beach being funded by OSI's Alliance program, OSI announced the purchase of two nearby properties, that when combined with the Hudson Highland Land Trust's acquisition of Jaycox Pond, bring the long-dreamed-of trail connection between Hudson Highlands and Fahnestock State Park another step closer to reality.

The acquisition stands as a strong reminder of OSI's broad commitment to the Highlands landscape—both in terms of land protection and providing an excellent experience for the hundreds of thousands of visitors to the park and its recreational facilities each year.