

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

New York State Parks Capital Budget Hearing

NY Parks 2020

Transforming the New York State Park System

Erik Kulleseid, Commissioner

November 21, 2019



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic
Preservation**

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Among the 50 states New York State Parks is the Second Largest Park System

- ✓ First in number of facilities
- ✓ First in number of campsites
- ✓ Second in visitation
- ✓ Top three in total acreage

Attendance at Niagara Falls State Park exceeds that of Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Parks combined.

More than twice as many people visit Jones Beach each year as visit Yellowstone.



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- ❖ 250 Parks, Historic Sites and Recreational facilities
- ❖ 350,000 Acres
- ❖ 74 Million Visitors Annually
- ❖ 5000 Buildings
- ❖ 26 Golf courses
- ❖ 36 Swimming pools
- ❖ 63 Beaches
- ❖ 27 Marinas
- ❖ 40 Boat Launch Sites
- ❖ 25 Nature Centers
- ❖ 830 Cabins
- ❖ 8,355 Campsites
- ❖ 2000 Miles of Trails
- ❖ 104 Dams
- ❖ 604 Bridges
- ❖ Hundreds of Miles of Roads



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We are **Camping**- 9000 campsites and cabins; 645,000 overnight stays statewide

We are **Safe Boating and Snowmobiling**-Thousands of safety courses offered in classroom and online and oversight of 10K miles of snowmobile trails

We are **Golf**—26 Golf Courses including the renowned Bethpage Black

We are **Nature Centers**—25 across the state with expanding environmental education programs

We are **Trails**—2000 miles for hiking, biking and walking



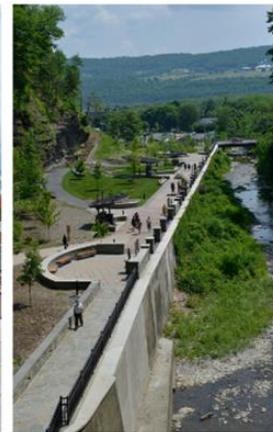
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NY Parks 2020

Renewing the Stewardship
of our State Park System

Governor Cuomo's Historic Investment in the NYS Park System

- Transforming New York's Flagship Parks
- Promoting Healthy, Active Outdoor Recreation
- Connecting People with Parks
- Rejuvenating our world class park system
- Preserving historic sites and cultural assets
- Sustaining New York's natural environment
- Energizing local economies



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New York Parks 2020 Accomplishments: 2011-2020

- \$1 Billion Invested
- Upwards of 200 Parks & Facilities Improved
- 36 Flagship Parks Transformed
- 900 Projects Completed
- 320 New Cabins
- 30 New Nature, Cultural and Visitor Centers
- 108 New and Improved Playgrounds

Governor Cuomo's NY Parks 2020 initiative has directed \$1 billion in public and private funds to revitalize our parks, trails and historic sites across the state, driving a double-digit increase in visitation and expanding access to outdoor recreation.

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Concept

Parks 2020 Budget
Approval(s)

Pre-Project Planning

Project Year One

Project Year Two

6 Months

Months 1-11

Months 11-16

Months 16-28*

PLANNING

- Regional Priorities
- Albany Priorities
- State Needs
- Identification of consultant and status (term or new)

DESIGN

- Concept Design
- Design Review (2 months)
- Construction Drawings & Cost Estimating (3-4 months)
- SEQR and Permits (3-12 months)

PROCUREMENT

- Advertise project (1.5 months)
- RFIs/Addendum & Pre-Bid Meeting (1.5 months)
- Bid Opening
- Contract Review and Approval (2 months)

CONSTRUCTION

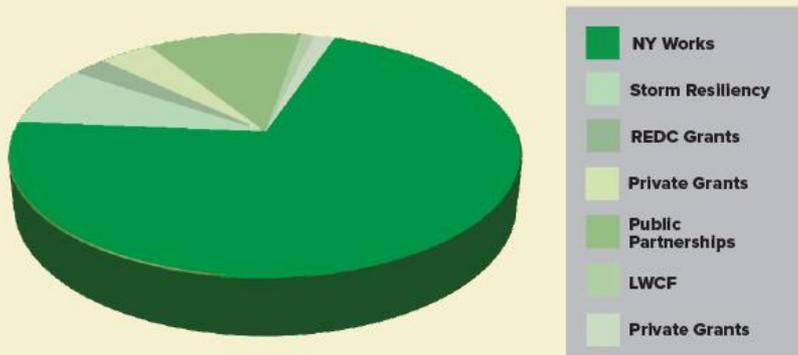
- Second year funding approved
- Pre-construction meeting, mobilization & submittals
- Managing obstacles and unforeseen circumstances including park use scheduling, funding issues, weather, field & change orders, contract issues, remediation

*Timeline fluctuates from 18-28 months depending on project size, funding, weather or procurement issues.

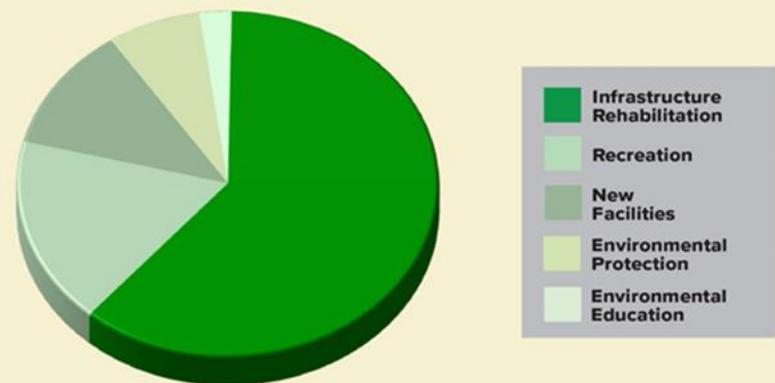
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NY Parks 2020 has leveraged an historic public investment with private funding. More than half of the funding has been dedicated to rehabilitation existing infrastructure

**NY PARKS 2020
HISTORIC PUBLIC FUNDING LEVERAGING GRANTS
AND PRIVATE FUNDRAISING**



**MORE THAN HALF OF NY PARKS 2020
IS DEDICATED TO REHABILITATING
EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE**



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Transforming New York's Most Storied State Parks

2012-2019

Niagara Falls State Park
8 Million Visitors/Year
\$75 Million Invested



2012-2019

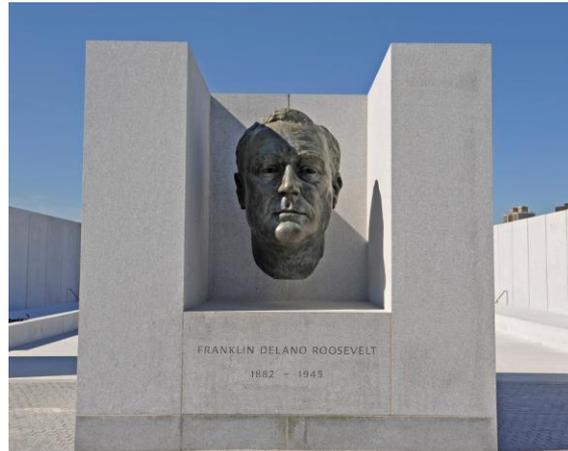
Jones Beach State Park
6 Million Visitors/Year
\$100 Million Invested



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FOUR NEW PARKS CREATED SERVING MILLIONS

**2012-FDR Four
Freedoms, Roosevelt
Island**



**2015—Buffalo Harbor
*First State Park in Buffalo***



**2017-Hallock State Park,
Long Island**



**2019—Shirley
*Largest State Park in NYC***

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Revitalizing State Campgrounds & New Vacation Cottages

- 10 new cottages Sampson State Park
- 10 new cottages Wildwood State Park
- 15 new cottages Heckscher State Park
- 37 restored group camps at Harriman State Park
- 23 new cabins in the Finger Lakes Region
- 75 new cabins at Allegany State Park



**Camping Now at
Record Levels**

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Upgrading and Modernizing Critical Infrastructure

**Total NY Parks 2020
Infrastructure
Invested in:**

**Sewer and Septic
Projects:
\$38,733,000**

**Water Projects:
\$20,385,000**



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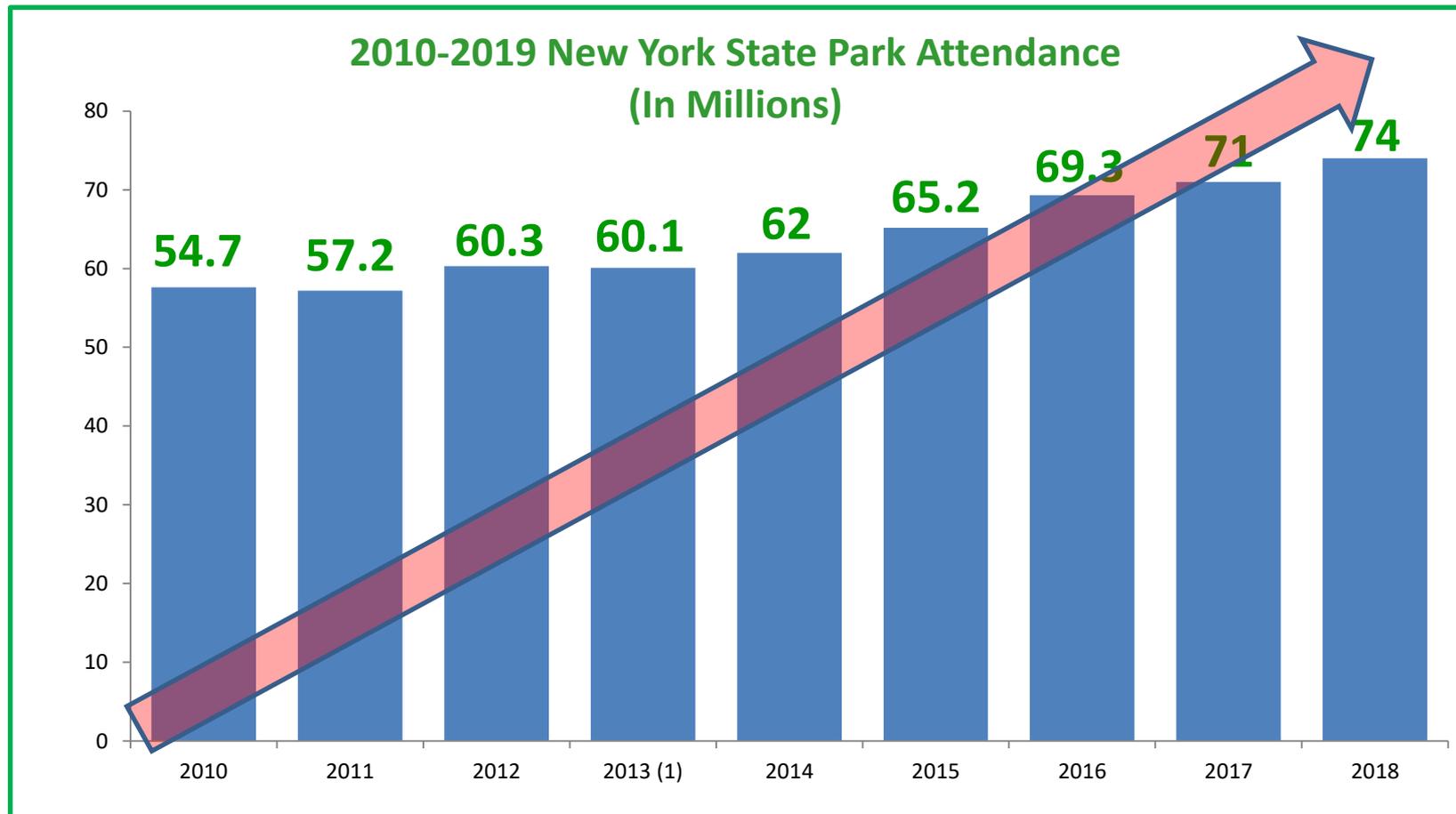
Responding to Climate Change

- Building resiliency along shorelines including Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, and in NYC and Long Island
- Reducing our electrical demand to reduce our carbon footprint. By 2040, 100 percent of our system will be powered by renewable energy sources
- Training park staff to install photovoltaic solar arrays. Solar installations have been completed in 29 state parks
- Adding more plug-in electric vehicles to our fleet, and this year installed 40 charging stations at our facilities with plans for another 40 stations next year.
- Phasing out single-use plastic items from our parks' vendors to reduce the amount of plastic escaping into the environment.



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Parks 2020 Success: Nearly 35% Increase in Visitation

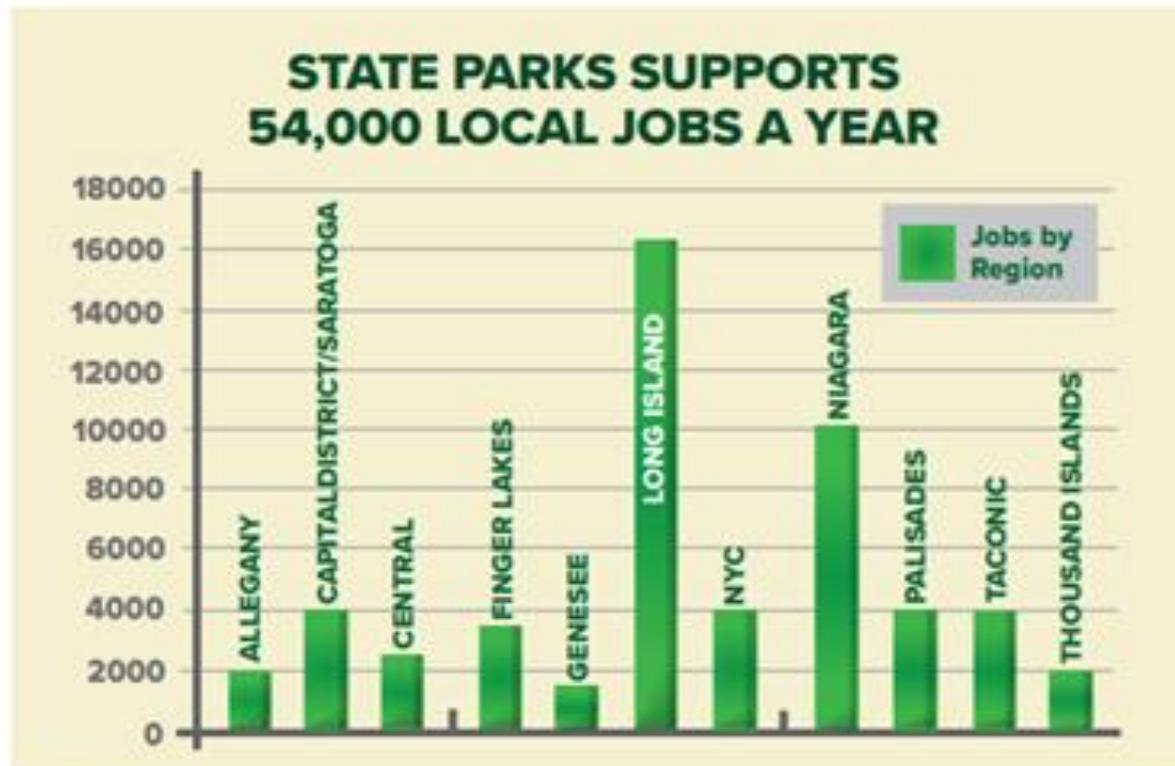


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Parks 2020 Success: Economic Impact

- Supports 54,000 private-sector jobs annually
- Totals \$5 billion in total output and sales annually
- Nets nearly \$2.9 billion in additional state GDP annually

Every \$1 invested in parks supports \$9 in sales statewide



Findings of the 2016 Economic Impact Study by Parks & Trails, New York

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**Parks 2020
2019 HIGHLIGHTS**

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Roberto Clemente State Park

- \$100 Million Transformation
- Storm Resilient
- Access to River
- Rejuvenated ball fields



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Shirley Chisholm State Park-New State Park Opened



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Camp Junior at Harriman State Park-Opened

- Restored historic group camp at Harriman State Park
- Serving kids from the Bronx
- Operating partnership with Fresh Air Fund



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Sampson Marina-Finger Lakes Destination Revitalized



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

Celebrated Jones Beach State Park's 90th Birthday

**Opened new Adventure Course and restored
Meadowbrook Parkway, enhanced gateway**



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Watkins Glen and Allan Treman State Park Trails-New and Restored

- At **Watkins Glen State Park**, park crews restored a badly eroded section of trail to the top of gorge-- more than 4,300 hours of work – nearly all of it by hand!
- At **Allan H. Treman State Marine Park**, we opened accessible 1.7 miles of multi-use trails, connecting to the city's popular trail network



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Walkway over the Hudson—Dutchess Welcome Center

- Adding significant visitor amenities to popular approach
- Phase one of \$10 million improvements planned for east side
- Celebrating Walkway's 10-year anniversary



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Saratoga Spa State Park: SPAC Improvement

Project
modernized the
amphitheater in
time for the
summer concert
season



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Robert F. Smith Center for Performing Arts at Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park

- **\$2.8 million renovation revitalized performing arts space**
- **Hosts major artists and offers youth and community programming throughout the year**
- **Successful capital campaign led by OSI, NYC Regional Parks Commission, SCOP and NHT, with philanthropist Robert F. Smith donating \$1 million**



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Recreation and Historic Preservation**

Parks 2020 Program Highlights

**Hosting Major Events
Meeting Operational Challenges
Connecting People to Parks**



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Hosted the 2019 PGA Championship at Bethpage Black

- Parks 2020 has invested nearly \$2.6 million into Bethpage State Park
- Event spurred more than \$120 million in economic activity
- Black Course will be home to 2024 Ryder Cup
- Governor announced Free Youth Golf Day at NYS Park Golf Courses



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Connect Kids to Parks

Removing Barriers to Access & Nurturing the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards

The **Connect Kids Field Trip Grant** program funds transportation and programs for field trips to state parks, historic sites and public lands for schools in underserved communities.

In just three years...

- **250,000 Students Served**
- **5000 grants to 1000 Title 1 schools in nearly every NY county**



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Learn to Swim at NYS Parks

- More than 20,000 kids served at nearly two dozen parks every summer for seven straight years
- Teaching a valuable life skill and creating a strong community connection to state parks



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I Love My Park Day

- 8 Consecutive Years of Record Volunteerism
- Over 140 participating state parks
- Promoting Stewardship and Land Ethic
- Connect people to parks
- Showcasing Parks 2020



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Vital Brooklyn-5 Playgrounds Complete

Governor Cuomo's Vital Brooklyn Initiative is transforming eight asphalt schoolyards into playgrounds designed by local students with

- new equipment
- multi-purpose fields, grass, trees
- green infrastructure



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Looking Ahead

As the NY State Park system approaches its second century, we must leverage this remarkable transformation to ensure and expand diverse and equitable access to our parks so that people from all communities and across all ages and abilities are included and can fully experience our parks, outdoors, our culture and heritage.



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Looking Ahead: 21st Century Parks Capital Priorities

Expand Access and Enhance the Visitor Experience

Shirley Chisholm Phase 2

Camp Junior Phase 2

Visitor center at Minnewaska State Park

Bathhouse at Southwick Beach State Park

Technology improvements at all parks

Protect NY Parks 2020 Legacy and Continue to invest in infrastructure

Meet Modern Demands and Respond to Changing Demographics

Restoration of FDR Pool

Restore Downstate swimming areas

Pursue open space opportunities in areas of need

Protect Natural, Cultural, Historic Resources

Revive Mother Nature Stewardship (wetland restoration)

Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Operations to Combat Climate Change

Connect all visitors to our past through historic site interpretation that tells untold stories and celebrates
our diverse history

National Purple Heart of Hall Honor Expansion

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Thank you

**Erik Kulleseid,
Commissioner**

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