



Parks & Trails
NEW YORK

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NEWS RELEASE

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Friends of Schodack Island State Park Awarded Parks and Trails NY Grant

The statewide advocacy group Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) today awarded almost \$14,000 in Growing the Grassroots capacity building grants to 10 not-for-profit park and trail organizations including the Friends of Schodack Island State Park. The groups will use the funds to increase organizational visibility, generate community support, grow membership, and attract additional volunteers. Since it initiated the awards program in 2009, PTNY has assisted 46 organizations in 26 New York counties.

Friends of Schodack Island State Park received a \$1,000 grant to develop a website. “Our group is excited to receive these funds, which will help broaden our community outreach and enlist more volunteer support for the park,” said Dan Odell, President of the group.

The Friends group for Schodack Island State Park was incorporated in 2010 when the park was threatened with closure from state budget cuts. The group has presented educational programs and provided volunteers for service projects in the park such as river side clean-up, flower planting, and trail maintenance. In 2012, they raised over \$7,000 to sponsor a major event celebrating the park’s 10th anniversary. Schodack Island State Park includes a boat launch on the Hudson River, picnic pavilions, playgrounds and game fields, and miles of trails. “Partnering with the Friends is critical to the successful operation of this park, especially in hosting community events and programming that bring in so many people to experience this gem on the Hudson”, said Alane Ball Chinian, regional director of State Parks. About 75,000 people visit the park every year.

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