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GOVERNOR PATAKI ANNOUNCES NEW STATE PARK ON LONG ISLAND

New Trail View State Park to Include Portion of Long Island Greenbelt Trail

Governor George E. Pataki today announced the creation of the new Trail View State Park -- Long Island's newest State park, which is located along the old Bethpage Parkway right-of-way in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Trail View State Park is the 5th park that the Governor has created on Long Island and one of 17 statewide that have been established since 1995.

"The new Trail View State Park will provide miles of beautiful scenic trails that will enable outdoor enthusiasts to experience the beauty of Long Island's woodlands and unique wildlife habitats," Governor Pataki said. "Whether you're a hiker, a biker, or want to spend time with your family enjoying the great outdoors, the Trail View State Park will offer outstanding recreational opportunities, while also ensuring that this vital open space is protected for the benefit of future generations."

The more than 400-acre linear park, which spans 7.4 miles, running north from Bethpage State Park to Cold Spring Harbor State Park, will offer multi-use trails for hiking, cycling, birding and other trail-related activities.

Senator Carl Marcellino said, "Through the vision of Governor Pataki, we are once again preserving valuable open space. The new Trail View State Park will link recreational and natural features, while providing a pathway for people and wildlife that will have a profound impact on future generations. Governor Pataki's leadership in the conservation of our open space resources has improved the quality of life for Long Island residents."

Assemblywoman Donna Ferrara said, "Turning this land from a parkway to a park demonstrates the scope of the commitment Governor Pataki has made to helping preserve Long Island's rich, natural resources. The addition of this park will provide Long Island with miles of scenic trails to be enjoyed by hikers, bikers and nature lovers of all ages. I look forward to enjoying the splendor of the Fall season with my family at our community's newest park."

Suffolk County Executive Robert J. Gaffney said, "Long Island has some of the most scenic trails to be found anywhere in this country. My thanks to Governor George Pataki for his continued commitment in preserving our landscape. Trail View State Park will afford Long Islanders with yet another opportunity to appreciate the beauty of their own backyard."

Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi said, "As the nation's first suburban and mature county, it is important that we protect our natural assets for future generations because once they are gone they are gone forever. Our many open spaces, our parks and our nature preserves are part of what makes Nassau County one of the greatest places to live on earth. The acquisition of Trail View State Park shows a strong commitment to protecting our suburban way of life."

John Venditto, Supervisor, Town of Oyster Bay, said, "You would have to go back in time to the Town of Oyster Bay's own Colonel Theodore Roosevelt to find a truer friend to our environment than Governor Pataki. Today's announcement will ensure that this property remains in its natural state to be enjoyed by the public and continue as a habitat for the wide variety of birds and animals that can be found there."

Frank Petrone, Supervisor, Town of Huntington, said, "The creation of a new State Park partially located in the Town of Huntington complements our efforts to preserve and protect open spaces while enhancing recreational opportunities for everyone. I commend Governor Pataki for this vision and strong commitment to protecting our environment and improving our quality of life."

Sarah J. Meyland, Executive Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, said, "The decision by Governor Pataki, with the strong support from State Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro, to create this new trail view park is a dream come true for many Long Islander who have hoped for years to see the Old Bethpage Parkway used this way. This beautiful property has something for everyone -- ponds, hills, forests and quiet pathways. The State is to be applauded for the wise transition of this public property that now connects, in a single trail, a travel way from north shore to south shore."

Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club Conservaton Chair Guy Jacob said, "The creation of Trail View State Park is a treasure that will be cherished by future generations as much as it is today. Governor Pataki's action provides for protecting the last vestiges of open space in our State by dedicating these picturesque vistas to State Parks, for our families, for our future."

Nancy Manfredonia, President of the Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference, said, "I'd like to thank Governor Pataki and Commissioner Castro on behalf of hundreds of volunteers who have worked so hard to protect this special greenbelt land."

Since 1995, the State has invested more than \$378 million to preserve more than 394,000 acres of open space. These land holdings offer vast, exciting and diverse new opportunities for the public to enjoy New York's great outdoors. In his State of the State address this year, Governor Pataki committed to preserving an additional one million acres over the next decade.

Commissioner Castro said, "Governor Pataki's efforts to expand the State park system in designating this new linear property as parkland is yet another step forward in his unmatched commitment to safeguarding precious open space in the region. By linking Bethpage and Cold Spring Harbor State Parks with this acquisition, we are providing improved public access to scenic natural landscapes that will enhance outdoor recreation for Long Island communities in one of the most densely populated suburban areas of the State."

Cold Spring Harbor State Park was dedicated in 2000 and comprises 40 acres of hilly terrain that offer scenic vistas of the harbor. The park serves as the northern trailhead of the Nassau Suffolk Greenbelt Trail that extends to Bethpage State Park and eventually the south shore of Nassau County. Bethpage State Park is a 1,475-acre recreation facility that offers five world-class golf courses, picnic facilities, bridle paths, hiking and biking trails, polo and other playing fields, tennis courts and cross-county skiing trails.

The Bethpage Parkway right-of-way was originally acquired in the 1960's with the intent of extending the parkway to the north shore and south from Bethpage State Park to the Southern State Parkway. As a right-of-way, the parcel was under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Transportation for maintenance purposes but will now be cared for by State Parks in partnership with various Long Island trail organizations. ###

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