

2013-J4623

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION recognizing Saturday, May 3, 2014, as I Love My Park Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by the availability of exceptional recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize Saturday, May 3, 2014, as I Love My Park Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, I Love My Park Day is an exciting statewide event to improve and enhance New York's parks and historic sites and bring visibility to the entire park system and its needs; volunteers from across the state will participate in cleanup, improvement, and beautification events at New York State parks and historic sites; and

WHEREAS, Volunteers will celebrate New York's park system by cleaning up park lands and beaches, planting trees and gardens, restoring trails and wildlife habitat, removing invasive species, and working on various site improvement projects; and

WHEREAS, Parks & Trails New York is the leading statewide organization working to preserve and enhance a network of parks, greenways and trails for all New Yorkers for generations to come; since 1985, its influential reports and advocacy efforts have been critical to keeping parks and historic sites open and protecting New York's natural, recreational, cultural and historical resources; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites oversees New York's 214 state parks and historic sites ranging from the shores of Long Island to the mighty Niagara Falls; and

WHEREAS, Parks & Trails New York, in partnership with the New York

State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, will coordinate the event on the statewide level; friend groups and park staff will oversee cleanup, improvement and beautification projects as well as work with volunteers; and

WHEREAS, The legacy of New York's park system is unparalleled; the State of New York is home to such iconic parks and historic sites, including Niagara Falls, the oldest state park in the country; Olana, the 19th century home of Hudson River School artist Frederic Edwin Church; and Jones Beach, a world-class swimming destination visited by twice as many people as visit Yellowstone Park; and

WHEREAS, Today, the New York State Park System includes 179 state parks and 35 state historic sites, covering a total of 330,000 acres of protected lands and water; the park system includes a valuable collection of natural and recreational assets, including 1,350 miles of hiking trails, over 8,000 campsites, numerous swimming pools, beaches, boat launches, nature centers and golf courses; this collection of resources contributes significant benefits to New York State's economy, health, environment and history; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body, representing the people of the State of New York, supports this vital day and encourages the citizens of this great Empire State to participate in the I Love My Park Day activities scheduled throughout the State to strengthen their commitment to preserving the natural, scenic, and recreational qualities of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize Saturday, May 3, 2014, as I Love My Park Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Parks & Trails New York, and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.