



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Andrew J. Lanza

## Senator Andrew Lanza Invites New Yorkers to Volunteer at State Parks for Second Annual "I Love My Park Day"

ANDREW J LANZA April 10, 2013

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*Registration Now Open for Volunteer Projects on May 4, 2013*

Senator Andrew Lanza today invited New Yorkers to volunteer at their favorite state park or historic site as part of the second annual "I Love My Park Day" on May 4, 2013. Online registration is now open for volunteers who want to support clean-up and beautification efforts at sites across the state, including areas that sustained much damage from Superstorm Sandy. To register, go to <http://www.ptny.org/ilovemypark/>.

Last year, thousands of New Yorkers turned out to show their support for New York's state parks and historic sites by volunteering at the first-ever I Love My Park Day. Senator Lanza is again inviting New Yorkers to participate in this

annual volunteer initiative to help clean and spruce up these great state assets which play a significant role in our tourism industry and economy. This year, there are especially worthwhile projects at facilities that experienced devastating damage from Superstorm Sandy last fall and can benefit greatly from the efforts of New Yorkers.

Sponsored jointly by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and Parks & Trails New York, 'I Love My Park Day' is a statewide event to improve and enhance New York's parks and historic sites as well as bring visibility to the entire park system and its needs. More than 70 parks and historic sites will participate – nearly double the number from last year. Volunteers will celebrate New York's park system by cleaning up storm damage and other debris on park lands and beaches, planting trees and gardens, restoring trails and wildlife habitat, removing invasive species, and working on various site improvement projects. The New York State Commission on National and Community Service is joining the effort this year to help recruit volunteers, promote the initiative and engage AmeriCorps members to support projects across the state.

Last year, the State committed \$89 million in total funding through the New York Works initiative to rehabilitate dozens of state parks and historic sites, representing the single largest infusion in history of capital dollars for New York's park system. This year, through the next round of New York Works capital program, the Budget provides \$90 million for state parks to address the backlog of environmental capital needs and spur job creation and economic development.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees 179 state parks and 35 historic sites, which are visited by 60 million people annually. A recent study by Parks & Trails New York found that New York State Parks generates \$1.9 billion in economic activity annually and supports 20,000 jobs. For more information on any of these recreation areas, call 518-474-0456 or visit [www.nysparks.com](http://www.nysparks.com), connect on [Facebook](#), or follow on [Twitter](#).

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