



## Park Advocacy Day

March 8, 2023 | Hart Lounge, The Egg Center for the Performing Arts  
Empire State Plaza, Albany

9:00 – 9:30 am

### Registration and Refreshments

9:30 – 11:00 am

### Morning Program

- Welcome – Paul Steely White, *Executive Director, Parks & Trails New York*
- Featured Speakers –
  - Commissioner Erik Kulleseid, *Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation*
  - Senator José Serrano, *Chair, Senate Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation*
  - Senator Pete Harckham, *Chair, Senate Committee on Environmental Conservation*
  - Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell, *Chair, Assembly Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development*
  - Bryan Erwin, *Chair, State Council of Parks*
- Advocating for Parks –
  - Talking Points and Lobbying Tips, *Kathy Moser, Open Space Institute*
  - Today's Logistics and Next Steps, *Will Côté, Parks & Trails New York*

11:15 – 12:00 pm

### Lunch | Meet Your Team

Meet with other members of your team over lunch to prepare for your meetings. *Be sure to leave enough time before your first meeting to get through security!*

12:30 – 3:30 pm

### Appointments with Legislators

*Legislative Office Building (LOB) and State Capitol*

See separate sheet for a detailed schedule of meetings.

4/4:30 pm

### Responsible Happy Hour (Optional)

*Wellington's at the Renaissance Albany Hotel, 144 State Street*



## Talking Points: Park Advocacy Day 2023

**Thank legislators!** Both the Assembly and Senate have been great supporters of state parks and the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) over the past several years.

**The proposed Executive budget provides both good news for state parks & public lands, as well as areas for improvement.**

We encourage legislators to support the items marked in **green** and improve the budget proposals marked in **red**.

1. **Support** a \$400 million Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) with NO offload:
  - **Support** \$25 million for Municipal Parks Grant Program
  - **Support** \$2 million for Park and Trail Partnership Grant Program
  - **Restore** the Open Space line to \$40 million
  - **Reject** agency staffing offloads on the EPF
2. **Restore** capital funding for OPRHP to last year's level of \$250 million
3. **Support** an increase in OPRHP's operations appropriations, allowing for the hiring of 237 FTE's
4. **Support** \$90 million in capital investments for outdoor recreation opportunities at DEC

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### ASK: Support a \$400 million Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) with NO offload

The EPF supports and protects public lands by providing critical funding for stewardship, public access, municipal parks, and Park and Trail Partnership Grants. The Governor's budget maintains **EPF funding at \$400 million**, bolstering communities across the state, addressing environmental justice, and increasing our ability to meet critical climate mitigation goals. EPF programs support more than 350,000 jobs, generate approximately \$40 billion in economic activity annually, and provide a 7-to-1 return on investment.

#### ✓ ASK: Support \$25 million for the Municipal Parks Program

- Funding for municipalities and non-profits to improve open spaces and recreational opportunities that enhance access in local communities, **with 38% of funding allocated for environmental justice.**

#### ✓ ASK: Support \$2 million for Park & Trail Partnership Grants

- A competitive program designed to strengthen grassroots, non-profit Friends groups that champion the state's parks, trails, historic sites and DEC conservation lands.
- Since 2015, **167 grants totaling \$4.5 million** have been awarded, with funds going toward innovative educational programs, capital projects, and capacity-building undertakings. These grants have leveraged more than **\$2 million in private investment.**
- Requests continue to exceed available funding. The current round, now under review, received a record 53 applications, totaling \$4.3 million in requests with \$1.1 million intended as private match.

### ✓ **ASK: Reject agency staffing offloads on the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)**

- State agencies receive General Funds to pay for their staff. Offloading of agency staff costs to the EPF **undermines the integrity of the Fund** and creates a dangerous precedent that weakens this 30-year old fund.

### ✓ **ASK: Restore the Open Space and Land Conservation line item to \$40 million**

- Funding enables the expansion, protection and stewardship of parks and public lands
- This funding will help NY meet its goals in the Climate Action Plan and the NYS 30x30 legislation. We need more protected lands for climate resiliency, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation

### **ASK: Restore State Parks Capital Budget to \$250 million**

Maintaining last year's funding level through New York Works will continue a decades-long revitalization of our iconic parks system to transform flagship parks, address critical infrastructure needs, expand opportunities for local recreation. It is necessary to effectively address the needs made apparent by the **record 79.5 million visits to the park system in 2022- a 43% increase** in the last decade.

- Capital Funding for OPRHP will help ensure that our state's 216 parks and historic sites provide safe and attractive facilities, accessible and affordable services, and quality, welcoming experiences for ALL New Yorkers.
- This investment will enable State Parks to **power its facilities with renewable energy sources by 2030**. This will be achieved by OPRHP generating its own electricity and prioritizing other green resources, including community energy from solar local facilities and this will require more capital.
- With the upcoming **Centennial Celebration of the New York State Park System in 2024**, now is the time to continue last year's level of critical investment to expand accessibility to public lands for all New Yorkers.
- Protecting the current \$250 million is **necessary for achieving the goal of \$300 million in capital funding**, which is required to meet the full needs of our state park system.

### **ASK: Support OPRHP's Operations Appropriation to Allow the Hiring of 237 FTE's**

Increasing OPRHP's operations appropriations will restore some of the agency's capacity to execute administrative duties, reach new and underserved audiences, and more effectively execute capital projects. The current imbalance between capital investments and effectively accommodating a record number of visitors h needs to be addressed.

**Funding will allow 158 administrative positions and 79 in operations.** This increase compliments and supports broader environmental protection, stewardship and preservation strategies, such as the Environmental Bond Act-which was passed by an overwhelming majority of voters-and agency capital programs. (*The Governor's proposed budget recommends appropriations of approximately \$710 million for OPRHP, an increase of about \$36 million*)

### **ASK: Support \$90 Million in Capital Investments at DEC**

The Adventure NY funding will help address a variety of capital needs to improve access to state lands, rehabilitate campgrounds, and upgrade recreational facilities. Supporting this investment will further our state's commitment to the protection and stewardship of our precious open spaces and help ensure our public lands are welcoming and accessible for everyone.



# PARK AND TRAIL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

## \$2 MILLION CAPACITY-BUILDING EPF-FUNDED PROGRAM

The Park and Trail Partnership Grant program, administered jointly by Parks & Trails New York and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), is a \$2 million capacity-building matching grants program funded through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). The program was designed to increase the sustainability, effectiveness, and productivity of non-profit organizations that support public lands affiliated with OPRHP or the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).



In 2022, funding for the grant program doubled to \$2 million. This increase will help groups take on bigger projects, create opportunities that encourage new partnerships, provide resources to organizations to train, educate, and develop action plans to internally address diversity, equity, inclusion and justice, and expand access to more grassroots organizations that champion our public lands.



## OVERVIEW AND IMPACT

Since its inception in 2015, the Park and Trail Partnership Grants have...

- Funded **167 grants** totaling **\$4.3 million**, with funds going toward innovative educational programs, capital projects, and capacity-building undertakings.
- Leveraged more than **\$2 million in private investment**, which has directly benefitted park communities.

In the most recent round of applications (to be announced this spring)

- **53 non-profit organizations** requested funding for projects totaling **\$4.3 million** with **\$1.1 million** intended as private match



## PROJECT EXAMPLES (2021-2022)

### ADIRONDACKS

**Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance (\$7,500)** to hire an experienced contractor to develop activities at the park's new Visitor Interpretive Center.

### LONG ISLAND

**Friends of Connetquot (\$41,000)** to design and install an interpretive exhibit in the observation deck of the hatchery building.

### TACONIC

**Stony Kill Foundation (\$76,104)** to hire a Volunteer and Outreach Manager who will improve the capacity to conduct community outreach and engage volunteers in stewardship of Stony Kill Farm and its associated trails.

### NIAGARA

**Old Fort Niagara Association (\$75,000)** to preserve two iconic historic 18th century redoubt structures.

### SARATOGA/CAPITAL REGION

**Friends of Moreau Lake State Park (\$48,928)** to install an accessible trail with a new trailhead that will include a kiosk and interpretive signs.

### PALISADES

**Friends of Rockland Lake and Hook Mountain (\$68,000)** to create a pilot mentor program for high school students and to fund an effort to bring additional 4th grade students to the parks for hands-on science and history learning, as well as to conduct a longitudinal study of past program participants to assess longer-term impact.

### FINGER LAKES

**Rochester Inclusive Community Rowing (\$11,592)** to install an ADA compliant pathway with environmentally friendly materials that will allow access from the boathouse and DEC lands to the rowing dock.



Parks, Recreation  
and Historic  
Preservation

**Contact Us:**  
[grants@ptny.org](mailto:grants@ptny.org)  
(518) 434-1583 | [ptny.org](http://ptny.org)

# Tague Bio

## Asm. Christopher (Chris) Tague

(R-NY-H-102)

State Assemblyman

**Capitol:** Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12248  
Room: 937 LOB  
Phone: 518-455-5363  
Fax: 518-455-5856  
Email: taguec@nyassembly.gov

**District:** 45 Five Mile Woods Rd.  
Suite 3  
Catskill, NY 12414  
Work Phone: 5189431371  
Home Phone: 5189431371

### Biographical Information:



**Born:**

**Married:**

**Spouse:**

**Began:** 2019

**Home:**

**Reelect:** 2024

**Vote %:** 64

**Religion:**

**Military:**

**Political:** Schoharie Town Supervisor: 2015-2019

**Education:**

**Profession:** General Manager, Cobleskill Stone

### Committees:

#### Position

Member  
Member  
Member  
Member  
Member

#### Committee

Agriculture  
Election Law  
Environmental Conservation  
Real Property Taxation  
Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development

### Counties:

Albany (part), Delaware (part), Greene, Otsego (part), Schoharie, Ulster (part)

### User Defined Fields:

Name	Text
A/S	A
Key PTPG	
No.	102
OPRHP Region	Saratoga / Capital District
R/D	R
State Historic Sites	Hyde Hall SHS, John Burroughs Memorial SHS
State Parks	Betty & Wilbur Davis SP, Glimmerglass SP, John Boyd Thacher SP, Max V. Shaul SP, Mine Kill SP, Robert V. Riddell SP

### Notes:

### Journals:



CHRISTOPHER TAGUE  
MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY  
102<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

LOIS GOBLET  
CHIEF OF STAFF

113 Park Place, Suite 6  
Schoharie, New York 12157  
518-295-7250

Legislative Office Bldg. Room 937  
Albany, New York 12248  
518-455-5363  
FAX: 518-455-5856

EMAIL: gobletl@nyassembly.gov



# Tedisco Bio

## Sen. James (Jim) Tedisco

(R-NY-S-044)

State Senator

**Capitol:** Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247  
Room: 515 LOB  
Phone: 518-455-2181  
Fax: 518-426-6821  
Email: tedisco@nysenate.gov

**District:** 636 Plank Rd.  
2nd Floor  
Clifton Park, NY 12065-2046  
Work Phone: 5188851829  
Home Phone: 5188851829

### Biographical Information:



**Born:** 7/15/1950  
Schenectady, NY  
**Married:** M  
**Spouse:** Mary  
**Began:** 2017  
**Home:** Glenville, NY

**Reelect:** 2024  
**Vote %:** 55  
**Religion:**  
**Military:**  
**Political:** NY State House: 1982-2017  
**Education:** MA, Special Edu, College of St Rose, 1977;  
**Profession:** Author

### Committees:

**Position**  
Member  
Member  
Vice Chair  
Member  
Member  
Ranking Mbr

**Committee**  
Banks  
Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation  
Education  
Libraries  
New York City Education  
Racing, Gaming and Wagering

### Counties:

Saratoga, Schenectady (part), Warren (part), Washington (part)

### User Defined Fields:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Text</i>
A/S	S
Key PTPG	Saratoga Spa (\$87K), Moreau Lake (\$67,578), Grant Cottage (\$67,500)
No.	44
OPRHP Region	Saratoga/ Capital District
R/D	R
State Historic Sites	Grant Cottage SHS
State Parks	Moreau Lake SP, Peebles Island SP, Saratoga Spa SP

### Notes:

### Journals:

Office of Senator James N. Tedisco  
44th Senate District, New York State

Michael J, Kenneally

Legislative Director  
Legislative Office Bldg. Room 515, Albany, NY 12247  
District Office, 636 Plank Rd, Ste. 205, Clifton Park, NY 12065  
518-455-2345 (Legislative Office Bldg.)  
518-885-1829 (District Office)  
mkenneal@nysenate.gov

# Simpson Bio

## Asm. Matthew (Matthew) Simpson

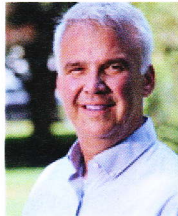
(R-NY-H-114)

State Assemblyman

**Capitol:** Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12248  
Room: 721 LOB  
Phone: 518-455-5565  
Fax: 518-455-5719  
Email: simpsonm@nyassembly.gov

**District:** 140 Glen Street  
Glens Falls, NY 12801  
Work Phone: 5187924546  
Home Phone: 5187924546

### Biographical Information:



**Born:**

**Married:** M

**Spouse:** Judy

**Began:** 2021

**Home:** Horicon

**Reelect:** 2024

**Vote %:** 73

**Religion:**

**Military:**

**Political:** Horicon Town Supervisor: 2013-2021;

**Education:**

**Profession:** Small Business Owner

### Committees:

**Position**

Member

Member

Member

Member

**Committee**

Environmental Conservation

Local Governments

Social Services

Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development

### Counties:

Clinton (part), Essex (part), Fulton (part), Saratoga (part), Warren (part), Washington (part)

### User Defined Fields:

Name	Text
A/S	A
Key PTPG	
No.	114
OPRHP Region	Saratoga / Capital District
R/D	R
State Historic Sites	Crown Point SHS
State Parks	Moreau Lake SP

### Notes:

### Journals:

<b>Date:</b>	2/22/2023	<b>Time:</b>	12:43:00 PM	<b>Duration:</b>	0:00:00
<b>Entry Type:</b>	Note	<b>Author:</b>	Will Cote	<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Office:</b>	Asm. Simpson, Matthew (R-NY-H-114)				
<b>Subject:</b>	Note				
<b>Contacts:</b>					
<b>Categories:</b>					
<b>Text:</b>	His district includes the Friends of Moreau who have received \$67,500 in PTPG awards (2019, 2020, 2022)				



## The Friends of Moreau Lake State Park, Inc.

### 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**  
Mary Knutson

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Paula Lomasney

**TREASURER**  
Jim Pierson

**SECRETARY**  
Malina Stawarz

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**  
Jan Stewart

#### DIRECTORS

Robert Trimarchi

Michael Lesser

Nadine Mayo

Richard Pine

*Mission: To partner with Moreau Lake State Park to enrich the experience for every park visitor by supporting environmental education, events and stewardship.*

The Friends, (FOMLSP), were established in 1997 by a small and dedicated group of community citizens whose goal was to work with the park in protecting our beautiful resource and promoting the park through outreach and education. Fast forward 26 years to 2023 and our membership, programs and events have grown 600% while keeping the grassroots, hands-on, roll-up your sleeves attitude and effort.

Our funding comes from private donations, our 2 annual fundraisers, (NatureFest, Chili Dinner), membership fees and grants from various resources, (PTNY), targeting specific projects. Many of these grants which are funded by the EPA have enabled FOMLSP to fulfill our promise to the community in doing all we can for Moreau Lake State Park.

In the past 5 years, FOMLSP has accomplished the following:

- Funded, installed pet waste stations;
- Funded, installed boot wash stations at trail heads;
- Funded and installed multiple commemorative park benches through our program;
- Donated a laptop to the Personal Observatory Dome for astronomy events, full moon hikes;
- Installed (4) Little Free Library boxes;
- Hands on support for Boy/Girl Scout projects – Lake Ann lean-to, ADA fishing platform; replaced foot bridge for Red Oak Trail;
- Funded and built (8) kayak racks to prevent tree damage at the shoreline;
- Funded and built the split rail fencing around the boat launch;
- Funded and renovated the 60' pedestrian bridge over the causeway at the north end of the lake;
- The "Green Team" of Master Gardeners have spent hundreds of hours, supported by funding in designing, planting throughout the park including rain gardens and enhancement to the entryway;
- Leading in social media – funded and built new website and Facebook presence reaching over 4,000 visitors per month;
- Install Osprey nest;

***\*Continue on the back\****





- Canoe Planter Project – repurpose 8 abandoned canoes involving schools and youth groups to paint, decorate and then planted by the Green Team, placed strategically throughout the park creating a “Canoe Planter Trail”;;
- Designed, funded and built a raptor cage to house non-releasable birds of prey working with local NYS Wildlife Rehabilitators;
- Countless Kid’s programs involving school breaks, holiday and summer time crafts at the beach;
- Annual NatureFest – showcase local organizations and business focused on promoting environmental stewardship; Naturefest set for September 23, 2023;
- Staff the Warming Hut on weekends in the winter – provide docent support;
- Assist with live animal exhibits and support in the Nature Center
- Help organize, manage and lead I Love My Park Day activities;
- Replaced wood benches in front of concession stand;
- Assist with Full Moon hikes, grilling hot dogs and hot chocolate;
- Fund, Installed, configure commercial database for tracking members, non-members – Little Green Light;
- Support, fund Luminary walks, Halloween/Autumn kids events;
- Produce (4) Newsletters highlighting our work through the year;
- Help support Frist Day Hike events;
- Kid’s and general public ice fishing clinics;
- Support fish stocking events;
- 2023- Design, Build, fund new ADA trail;
- 2023- Design, Build new Raingardens;
- And so much more.....

The Friend’s gratefully acknowledge the support through the Environmental Protection Fund which is critical to our well-being.

To learn more about the Friends:

[www.fomslp.org](http://www.fomslp.org)

@fomslp – find us on Facebook!

*Thank you to NYS and the  
Environmental Protection Fund!*