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Fort George Alliance Awarded Parks & Trails Grant to Promote New Visitors Center

By Mirror Staff

Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort George) Alliance has been awarded a \$2,040 grant from Parks and Trails New York, a non-profit advocate for state parks, to promote the new Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Center.

According to Parks and Trails New York, the funds will be used to develop, print and distribute an updated Battlefield Park Tour Guide and rack card to enhance awareness of the new Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Interpretive Center.

"The new Visitors Center, to be housed on the ground floor of the Lake George Park Commission's headquarters on Fort George Road in Battlefield Park, is now in its final stages of construction," said John DiNuzzo, newly elected president of the Alliance. "The Park and Trail

Partnership Grant will provide the means to 'get the word out' about its contents."

The Partnership Grant to the Lake George Battlefield (Fort George) Alliance was one of five awarded to friends' groups in the state's Saratoga-Capitol District Parks Region, Parks and Trails New York stated.

Together, the five parks were awarded \$97,750 in new funding through the Park and Trail Partnership Grants program, which is supported by the state's Environmental Protection Fund and administered by Parks and Trails New York.

The grants support a wide array of state park-related initiatives, from fund raising for capital projects and maintaining and improving landscapes to providing educational programs and encouraging the use of the parks through special events. Groups awarded grants are required to contribute a 10% match.

"These grants speak to the thriving partnership between State



The entrance to the Lake George Battlefield Park, which is administered by the DEC with support from the friends group, Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort George) Alliance.

Parks and Historic Sites and our individual friends groups," said Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Regional Director Alane Ball-Chinian "As community-focused non-profits, our friends groups are able to execute on unique projects that meet the needs of our patrons, made possible with the Park and Trail Partnership grants. This funding will change the capacity and landscape of our sites for generations to come"

"With more and more people discovering the outdoors, and visitation to our parks, trails, and public lands soaring, the need for strong public-public partnerships has never been greater," said Robin Dropkin, Parks and Trails New York executive director. "The Park and Trail Partnership Grants help bolster the role of friends groups in these vital partnerships."

According to Fort George Alliance president John DiNuzzo, the new Visitors Center will feature artifacts and exhibits highlighting such historically significant events

as the 1755 Battle of Lake George, the massacre that followed the surrender of Fort William Henry in 1757 and the establishment of the Continental Army's smallpox hospital in 1776.

"The Battlefield Park has been an underappreciated historic jewel in the midst of one of America's premier vacation areas—until now", said DiNuzzo. "The State's creation of the Visitor Center establishes the Park as a primary destination."

Parks and Trails New York was established in 1985 to be statewide advocate for parks and trails, dedicated to improving New Yorkers' health, quality of life and economy through the use of the state's 1,500 miles of greenways, bike paths, river walks, and trails.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, which administers all but two state parks in the Adirondacks - Crown Point and John Brown's Farm - has yet to comment on the grant to the Fort George Alliance.