

New York State Parks highlights Black History Month

Events, places, programs & virtual content features African American impacts on state history

Niagara Falls to be illuminated
New Yorkers can help celebrate contributions to state history through a series of events, programming and visits to State Parks and historic sites during Black History Month.

"We support Gov. Andrew Cuomo's commitment to better telling the untold stories of African Americans who helped shape our state's diverse history," said Erik Kulleseid, commissioner of State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. "During Black History Month in February, I welcome visitors to take advantage of our displays, events, virtual programming and online content, as well as through safe, socially distanced outdoor visits to our sites related to this important aspect of our common heritage."

Under Cuomo's "Our Whole History" Initiative, which aims to broaden interpretations at state historic sites, parks this year will designate Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site as the first state historic site dedicated to the 400-year experience of Black individuals in New York.

The Westchester County former Colonial estate was once home to enslaved Africans who labored there. Exhibitions at the site will be expanded to include interpretation of that enslavement, the Underground Railroad abolitionist effort, emancipation, the Great Migration, and the civil rights movement to celebrate the countless ways in which Black persons have contributed to New York's shared culture.

Black History Month traces its origins to 1915 and the national 50th anniversary emancipation celebration in Chicago, where historian, author and journalist Carter G. Woodson staged a history exhibit. In 1926, Woodson selected the second week in February for Negro History Week as a nationwide event. It grew into a monthlong celebration and was federally recognized by President Gerald Ford in 1976 during the U.S. Bicentennial.

To learn more about Woodson's life and work, and his founding of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), visit <https://asalh.org>.

At Niagara Falls State Park, the falls will be illuminated in red, black and green to mark Black History Month on Feb. 13, beginning at 6 p.m., for a 15-minute period at the top of the hour (continuing through 11 p.m.).

As part of Cuomo's initiatives to better recognize contributions of prominent Black persons, State Parks opened Shirley Chisholm State Park in Brooklyn, named for the first African American Congresswoman and first woman to run for U.S. president; dedicated Marsha P. Johnson State Park in



Brooklyn (the former East River State Park) in honor of the transgender woman of color who advocated for the LGBTQ+ and HIV/AIDS communities; and installed a statue of 19th century abolitionist and suffragette Sojourner Truth at the walkway over the Hudson State Historic Park in Highland.

In-person Black History Month events and programming scheduled for February include:

√ Old Fort Niagara State Historic Site, Youngstown: A Feb. 6 tour highlighting military service at the post from the 18th through the 20th centuries, including the story of formerly enslaved Richard Pierpoint, who served during the American Revolution. The tour will also address the history of the 24th Infantry Regiment, a unit of African American "Buffalo Soldiers" raised after the Civil War. Tour size is limited to 20 persons, and preregistration is required by contacting Erika Schrader at 745-7611, ext. 221, or eschrader@oldfortniagara.org.

Virtual events include:

√ John Jay Homestead State Historic Site: A Zoom lecture on the history of enslavement in this prominent Colonial-era family, starting at 7 p.m. Feb. 24. Registration is available at johnjay-homestead.org The website also includes virtual exhibits, school programs and tours to explore the Jay family's history as enslavers, and the dedication of later generations of Jays to the abolitionist cause.

√ Olana State Historic Site: A webinar on the life of 19th century African American and Ojibwe sculptor Mary Edmonia Lewis, presented by University of New Mexico professor Kristin Buick. Starting 6 p.m. Feb. 24. This re-

quires paid membership in The Olana Partnership, which is available at olana.org/membership.

√ Jay Heritage Center: A Zoom lecture by Dr. Gretchen Sorin, director of Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies, on her new book, "Driving While Black: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights." Registration is available online.

√ Clermont State Historic Site: A Facebook Live event at 2 p.m. Feb. 20 hosted by comic artist Emily Ree on how the Red Scare of the 1950s led to blacklisting in the comic book industry, which at the time supported a diverse workforce of people of color and women.

The State Parks blog also has recent posts on African American historical items, including the Dutch colonial-era African American holiday of Pinkster, 19th century abolitionist Sojourner Truth and her life in the Hudson Valley, the 19th century emancipation holiday of Juneteenth, and the role of African American leadership in the Civilian Conservation Corps in New York during the Great Depression.

State Parks is posting a webpage outlining these items and more online at <https://parks.ny.gov/history/black-history/default.aspx>.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees more than 250 individual parks, historic sites, recreational trails and boat launches, which were visited by a

record 78 million people in 2020. For more information on any of these recreation areas, call 518-474-0456 or visit parks.ny.gov.

Celebrating Black History Month: Though not in a state park, the Freedom Crossing Monument in Lewiston's waterfront park. It was developed by the Historical Association of Lewiston and created by Susan Geissler as a tribute – to the enslaved who sought a new life of freedom in Canada, and to the local volunteers who helped them cross the Niagara River. It has become one of the most popular attractions in Lewiston, as people take time to study the scene portrayed in bronze, read the plaque and learn more about the Underground Railroad.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING POWER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

The Power Authority of the State of New York (Authority) will hold a public hearing as detailed below on a proposed form of Contract for the sale of hydropower to Trek, Inc., Suco Real Estate NY LLC, Stavatti Aerospace Ltd., Mono-Systems, Inc., and Niagara Specialty Metals, Inc.

Copies of the proposed Contract forms may be inspected at the Authority's office at the address below, or online at the Authority's Web site, www.nypa.gov.

Those wishing to make oral statements at the hearing are asked to provide to the Authority, in writing, in advance of the hearing, their name(s) and the name of the organization or group they represent. Oral statements should be limited to five minutes. Speakers should also bring two hard copies of their oral statements to the hearing.

Hearing Date: March 10, 2021
Hearing Times: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Hearing Location: 535 Washington Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Buffalo, New York 14203

Written statements provided to the Authority by close of business on Thursday, March 11, 2021 will also become part of the record of the hearing. For further information, including the address of other Authority offices at which copies of the proposed Contract forms may be inspected, contact:

POWER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
Karen Delince, Corporate Secretary
123 Main Street, White Plains, New York 10601
(914) 390-8085 | secretarys.office@nypa.gov



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WED 6AM-8PM - Stuffed Peppers, Hot Turkey Sandwich or Fish.
THURS 6AM-8PM - Schnitzel w/Potato Pancake and Sauerkraut or Fish

FRI 6AM-2PM - Haddock, Fish Sandwiches, Tuna Melts & New England Clam Chowder
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