



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jose M. Serrano

Parks & Recreation Senate Budget Hearing

JOSE M. SERRANO February 26, 2025

| ISSUE: **PARKS AND RECREATION; ENVIRONMENT**

| COMMITTEE: **CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM, PARKS AND RECREATION**



Each year, the Legislature conducts a series of comprehensive joint hearings focused on the Governor's Executive Budget proposal, which serves as a critical assessment of state funding priorities. During one of these sessions, Senator Serrano, alongside members of both the Senate and Assembly, listened to expert testimony on the vital role that parks and green spaces play in enhancing the quality of life for New Yorkers.

In addition to hearing from advocates and community leaders, Senator Serrano engaged in a discussion with New York State Parks Commissioner Pro Tempore Randy Simons. They discussed the numerous benefits of spending time in nature, including enhanced mental and physical well-being, as well as improved environmental awareness. The conversation also highlighted the ongoing necessity for capital improvements in state parks to ensure their accessibility, safety, and ecological sustainability. One of Senator Serrano's priorities is to better connect New Yorkers to these valuable natural resources and historic sites, encouraging people to foster a sense of stewardship and appreciation for the state's rich green spaces. To watch the hearing, click [here](#).