



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jose M. Serrano

## STATEMENT FROM SENATOR SERRANO Re: Fight to Keep Parks Open Pays Off as Park Attendance Goes Up by One Million

JOSÉ M. SERRANO January 11, 2011

| ISSUE: **HISTORICAL PRESERVATION, STATE PARKS**

"After a year of struggling to keep New York State Parks open, I am pleased to hear that The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation announced today that **park attendance went up by one million visits in 2010**. This number not only reflects the enduring popularity of our State Parks but showcases the importance of keeping them open for all New Yorkers who are turning to affordable and convenient destinations for recreation.

"Having served as Chair of the Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation Committee from 2009-2010, I know, first hand, the challenges we faced as our State Parks were threatened to close. However, working with Governor Paterson, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and my fellow colleagues, we successfully stood united to prevent the unprecedented parks closings.

"I applaud all the State Parks advocates for their hard work and dedication to protect these historic sites and for improving the quality of life for our residents. Following today's news of the nearly 57 million visitors to State Parks- an increase of one million visits from 2009, I am confident that parks will continue to be a sound source of revenue for this state and

remain open for all New Yorkers to enjoy."

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