

FIRST DAY HIKES FEATURED AT LOCAL STATE PARKS

New York State Parks proudly announces our participation in a program celebrating the New Year with a winter walk on the wild side. First Day Hikes originated over 20 years ago at the Blue Hills Reservation, a state park in Milton, Massachusetts to promote both healthy lifestyles throughout the year and year round recreation at state parks. Many other states have offered outdoor recreation programs on New Year's Day, however, through the efforts of an organization called America's State Parks, this is the first time all 50 state park systems have joined together to sponsor First Day Hikes.

Local State Parks hosting First Day hike events include Beaver Island State Park on Grand Island and Niagara Falls State Park in Niagara Falls, New York. Specific information about these hikes follows:

Sunday, January 1

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

First Day Hike

Beaver Island State Park

Start the New Year on a healthy note and connect to the great outdoors on a fun hike along the Niagara River. In winter, the unfrozen waters of the mighty Niagara attract arctic waterfowl and other birds in great numbers including Tundra Swans, Canvasback, Long-tailed, Goldeneye and Bufflehead ducks. In the event of deep snow we will outfit everyone with snowshoes to look for animal tracks and wildlife along the wooded trails.

For information and registration call (716) 549-1050.

Sunday, January 1

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

First Day Hike

Niagara Falls State Park

Join a naturalist at the oldest state park in our nation for a winter walk. We'll visit the Falls and Goat Island to see if they are decked out in winter white. Our discovery hike will also look to see if Niagara River's 2012 Ice Bridge is forming. ***For information and registration call (716) 282-5154.***