

NY: \$21M UPGRADES FOR LI STATE PARKS

Region is home to some of state's busiest parks

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At least six Long Island state parks were selected for \$21.3 million in improvements — from modernized children's games to safer driveways and renovated restrooms — their share of the \$110 million the new state budget set aside for all state parks.

Long Island, home to some of the state's busiest parks, will receive more than twice as much as any region; Hudson Valley state parks come in a distant second, slated for \$10 million, followed by the Capital region at \$9.2 million, officials said in a statement last week.

"State parks are central to New York's thriving tourism economy and millions of New Yorkers turn to these world-class natural treasures each year for fun, exercise and community engagement," Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's statement said.

The governor's administration plans to invest as much as \$1 billion in public and private funds in state parks over the 10-year period ending next year, making up for years of underfunding during lean budgets that threatened their future.

"This significant investment will help enhance and modernize our cherished state parks while promoting healthy outdoor recreation, preserving our environment and lifting up local economies," Cuomo continued.

In addition to miniature golf, the overhaul of games at Jones Beach State Park in Wantagh includes shuffleboard and pickleball, officials said.

A number of major projects already have been finished at the 1929 park, including the new Boardwalk Café; now, visitors can look forward to new



Several projects have been completed at Jones Beach State Park in Wantagh, including a new cafe, landscaping and upgraded restrooms.

landscaping, improved lighting, repaired tile, and upgraded restrooms at the Central Mall, they said. The budget for these and other projects, most of which will not be finished until next year, is \$15.25 million.

That amount dwarfs the second most expensive improvement planned: improved septic systems at several parks that will cost \$2 million.

At Hempstead Lake State Park, \$1 million will be spent rehabilitating the comfort station at Field 1. Work will start later this year and finish next year.

More buildings will be remediated at Nissequoque River State Park in Kings Park, which is being gradually created out of the former Kings Park Psychiatric Center, a sprawling campus where dozens of houses and office buildings were looted and allowed to fall into disrepair.

The new budget includes

\$800,000 for this North Shore park whose bluffs overlook Long Island Sound.

At Great River's Bayard Cutting Arboretum State Park, both the parks department and the nonprofit group that supports it are contributing \$1 million to improve the visitor center and parking lot.

And at Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve in Lloyd Harbor, the parking lot will be improved and the driveway widened so there is room for cars that exit and enter to pass each other; and a cafeteria offering prepackaged snacks will be installed in one of the dairy barns. The price for these projects is \$750,000.

Additional improvements, which will cost \$500,000, are planned for the golf courses at Bethpage State Park in Farmingdale, which is hosting the 101st PGA championship from May 13 to 19.



Newsday employees pose with their awards Saturday night at the 62nd annual New York Emmys in Manhattan.

Newsday wins six New York Emmys

Newsday Staff

Newsday won six New York Emmy awards for video and multimedia packages Saturday night, including for the documentary "When You're Ready," about a young man with a rare degenerative disorder and his mother's mission of hope.

The New York chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences announced the winners at a ceremony at The Marriott Marquis in Times Square.

"It was an incredible night celebrating our Newsday team. I couldn't be prouder that all of their hard work was honored," said Debby Krennek, publisher of Newsday.

Newsday's winning entries in the 62nd annual competition were:

■ In the Magazine Program category: "North Fork's Prodigal Son." Jessica Kelley, producer; Randee Daddona, Chris Ware and Jeffrey Basinger, photographers; Susan Elder, media manager; Miguel Cubillos, graphics; Caroline Curtin, research; Pervaiz Shallwani, host.

■ In the News Special category: "Life on the Bays." Arnold Miller, Jeffrey Basinger and Bobby Cassidy, producers; Matthew Golub, media manager; Rachel Brightman, Randee Daddona and Chris Ware,

photographers; Caroline Curtin, research; David Olson, reporter.

■ In the Lifestyle Series category: "Feed Me TV Season 2." Arnold Miller and Jessica Kelley, producers; Megan Miller and Gregory Inzerillo, editors; Chris Ware, photographer; Pervaiz Shallwani, host.

■ In the Documentary category: "When You're Ready." Arnold Miller, Bobby Cassidy and John Keating, associate producers; Alejandra Villa and Megan Miller, producers; Jeffrey Basinger, music; Debbie Vigliotti, additional footage.

■ In the Editor / Program category: Jeffrey Basinger.

■ In the Photographer / Short Form category: Chris Ware.

Newsday had 14 nominations this year in 13 categories.

News 12 Long Island won six Emmys on Saturday. Sports anchor Kevin Maher won two, for Talent: Reporter and Talent: Anchor, and was named in a third. The station also won for coverage of topics including witchcraft on Long Island and esports.

News 12 Networks collected 51 nominations for work done at five of its outlets in the region: 21 on Long Island, 20 in Westchester, five in Connecticut, three in New Jersey, and one each in the Bronx and Brooklyn. The networks received a total of 16 Emmys.