



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Old Croton Aqueduct State Historic Park

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Ride Along With History

(Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., August 22, 2017) On Saturday September 23, join Old Croton Aqueduct Park to celebrate the centennial of Women's Suffrage in New York State with "Woman on a Wheel," a history ride program. Guest historian Kjirsten Gustavson will visit the site at 10:00 A.M. in her reproduction 1890s bicycle costume to talk about the impact of the bicycle on women's social status in the years before the vote. After a short discussion, visitors will be invited to jump on their own bikes to join Ms. Gustavson on a 40 minute trip north on the Aqueduct trail, stopping at several neighboring historic properties, including two of prominent women. Lemonade and treats will be served at in the Keeper's House in the ride's end. Email steven.oakes@parks.ny.gov to reserve your spot. The event is free, with donations accepted. Children fourteen years and younger are required to wear a helmet.

During the late 1890s, bicycles changed the popular notion of what American femininity could be. Thousands of women in New York and beyond began to challenge their bodies in ways that had never been acceptable before. They adopted clothing reforms and gained new independence with unfettered travel and even mechanical training. Susan B. Anthony once said of the bicycle, "I think it has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world. It gives women a feeling of freedom and self-reliance." This program will celebrate both the bicycle and the spirit of women's independence.

The **Old Croton Aqueduct State Historic Park**: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation purchased 26.2 miles of the original 41 mile aqueduct from New York City. Presently, Old Croton Aqueduct State Historic Park is a linear park which runs from Van Cortlandt Park at the Bronx County/City of Yonkers border to the Croton Dam in Cortlandt. It passes near numerous historic sites, preserves, a museum highlighting the construction of the Aqueduct, and many homes. The Aqueduct's grassy ceiling provides abundant recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. While primarily for walking and running, parts of the trail are suitable for horseback riding, biking (except during "mud season"), bird watching, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing.

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