

Midway Park – Fun for All on Chautauqua Lake Since 1898

Originally opened as one of the thousands of “trolley parks” across the country that offered respite and recreation for families in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Midway Park has endured as a destination for family fun and now ranks as the 16th oldest continually operating amusement park in the country. At the peak of its popularity in the 1920s, Midway Park hosted events that attracted thousands of visitors who enjoyed swimming and bathing, roller skating, the dance hall, and rides that included the thrilling “Jack Rabbit” roller coaster.

Ownership of Midway Park was held by the JW & NW railroad until 1939, Thomas Carr until 1951, and the Walsh family until the park was purchased by the State of New York in 2007 and continues operations today as Midway State Park. Under the Walsh family and through a growing relationship with the Allan Herschell Co. in nearby North Tonawanda, a complete Herschell kiddyland of rides was installed in the 1950s, soon supplemented by “Dodgem” cars, the “Tilt-A-Whirl”, and the carousel, still the anchors of ride activity at Midway. The games arcade, located in the former trolley depot on the grounds of the park, remains as the other focal point of park activity in the 21st century.



The Friends of Midway State Park is a nonprofit organization launched in 2010 whose mission is to work with the State of New York to promote, preserve, maintain, and financially support this historic amusement park that has been enjoyed by children of all ages since 1898. The Friends pursue this mission by:

- Serving as ambassadors and advocates for the park in the wider community by recruiting friends and volunteers, developing corporate and community partners, and networking with the talent and enthusiasm that is needed to keep the park relevant and vital.
- Raising funds to support specific projects through membership, donations, events, grant writing, and other fund development efforts.
- Striving through volunteer service to preserve, maintain, and interpret the park’s historic character and beauty.

Among the priorities to be pursued by the membership in the near future are assisting the state and park management to restore treasured traditions like park fireworks and preserve the:

- Herschell Carousel and its roundhouse shelter.
- Roller Skating “hippodrome” and dance hall.
- Picnic pavilions, group meeting facilities, shoreline, and walking trails.

If Midway Park has touched you as a resident or vacationer in Chautauqua County, the Friends of Midway State Park need you as a member.

Membership

Annual Membership Levels:

Individual/Family	\$25.00
Business/Professional	\$50.00

Benefactors and Enthusiasts:

Chautauqua Choo-Choo	\$100.00
Smokin’ Token	\$200.00
The Dragon	\$300.00
Jackpot	\$500.00



All members receive invitations to Friends Events, including discounts on ride tickets and park attractions during selected days and the opportunity to support the preservation and restoration of treasured features at Midway.

To join, please complete the information on the back of this panel and send with your check to:

Friends of Midway State Park

Post Office Box E

Maple Springs, NY 14756

www.friendsofmidwaystatepark.org

Sign Me Up as a Friend of Midway!

Name: _____

Business Name (if any): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Amount Enclosed payable to "Friends of Midway State Park": _____

To help facilitate your involvement in activities that are meaningful to you, please indicate your interests:

- Board of Directors
- Fundraising events and activities
- Serving as an ambassador and advocate
- Organizing and staffing Friends events
- Maintenance and restoration activities
- Historical interpretation and preservation
- Writing: Newsletters, Blogs, Grants, etc.



Friends of Midway State Park



The Friends of Midway State Park works with the State of New York and a growing family of park enthusiasts and supporters to preserve, protect, and restore this historic amusement park on Chautauqua Lake. If Midway Park has offered you fun and memories that occupy a special place in your life, and if you want to play a role in preserving this timeless local resource, please join us to pursue the bold mission of this nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration and celebration of Midway Park.