

### New York State Canal System: The Empire State's Original Main Street

Upstate New York Roundtable – Linking Community Revitalization  
And Environmental Restoration in the Great Lakes Region  
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### What is the New York State Canal Corporation?

- The New York State Canal Corporation, a subsidiary of the New York State Thruway Authority, is responsible for the maintenance, operation, and promotion of the historic 524-mile New York State Canal System.
- As stewards of the Canal System, there are 542-full time and 200 seasonal employees that work along the waterways.


### Canal System Overview

- The Canal System is comprised of four waterways:
  - The Erie Canal – 338 miles long
  - The Champlain Canal – 60 miles long
  - The Oswego Canal – 24 miles long
  - The Cayuga-Seneca Canal – 12 miles long
- The System includes approximately 1,800 structures, including 57 locks, 16 lift bridges and other dams, walls, etc.
- A portion of the Canal System is part of the Great Lakes Basin. This portion includes: the Erie Canal West of Lock 20, the Oswego Canal, and the Cayuga-Seneca Canal.


### Canal Revitalization: Accomplishments to Date

- In conjunction with other state agencies, the Thruway Authority/Canal Corporation has implemented more than \$250 million in local projects along the Canal System.
  - \$13 million to develop seven Canal harbors: Whitehall, Waterford, Little Falls, Rochester, Oswego, Seneca Falls, Tonawanda, and North Tonawanda
  - \$18 million for Canalway Trail projects
  - More than \$200 million in local Canal Service Port projects across the State
- In addition, the Corporation works closely with the Department of State as technical advisors to all canal communities who are implementing Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs under DOS's EPF funded LWRP program.


### Revitalization Projects




Tonawanda Twin Harbors



Lockport




Brockport




Fairport


### Revitalization Projects (cont.)




Seneca Falls



Oswego Harbor



Baldwinsville



Sylvan Beach

## Canalway Trail

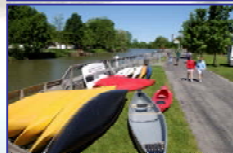
- **Erie Canalway Trail**

Upon completion in 2010, the Trail will be the longest multi-use trail in the United States.



- **Erie Canal Greenway Water Trail**

More than 130 access points have been identified for canoes and kayaks.



## Erie Canal Greenway Grants

- In November 2006, 54 Erie Canal Greenway grants, totaling nearly \$8.4 million in capital projects were announced.



- The projects enhance and promote tourism, recreation, historic interpretation, and community revitalization in 19 counties along the New York State Canal System.

- The projects will expand upon amenities and include projects such as new trail, restrooms/shower facilities, and docking.



## Erie Canal Greenway Grant Projects Sample Projects

Buffalo River Park Project \$225,000 grant

- 2.5-linear acre park with dock space;
- food concessions & picnic area;
- lavatory & showers; and
- interpretive center highlighting Buffalo River's historic past.

City of Rochester Greenway Water Trail/Canalway Trail Improvement Project \$224,100 grant

- new lighting;
- new amenities;
- historic interpretation; and
- new non-motorized boater access.

## Erie Canal Greenway Grant Projects Sample Projects Cont.

City of Rome Canal Greenway Access: Main Street Connections \$225,000 grant

- canal Community Infrastructure Project;
- parking;
- public docks; and
- interpretive signage.

Village of Phoenix Henley Park, North and Lock Island Improvements \$112,500 grant

- enhancement of boat launch facilities;
- kayak/canoe ramp and shoreline stabilization; and
- interpretive signage and trail improvements at Lock Island.

## It's All About Partnerships

- **Federal Level**
  - Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
- **State Partners**
  - New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
  - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
  - New York State Department of State
- **Local Level**
  - Municipalities
- **Non-Profits**
  - Parks and Trails New York
  - Canal New York

## Tourism: Economic Engine

- **2002 Economic Impact Study**
  - Concluded \$384 million generated annual from Canal-related tourism.
  - The Corporation plans to update this study in 2008.



- **Statewide Annual Events** such as Cycle the Erie, Canal Splash!, and Canal Clean Sweep draw large crowds



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