



*On Canal Banks: 200 Years of
Economic Development
Opportunities*

“All-Water Link”



The Erie Canal opened vast areas of the upper Midwest to settlement and trade





Spurred Growth: Upstate NY Cities, Towns & Industries

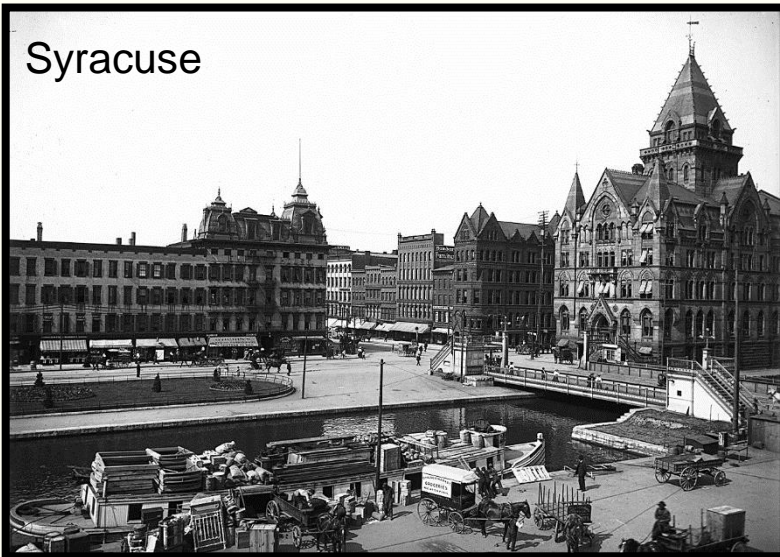
Albany



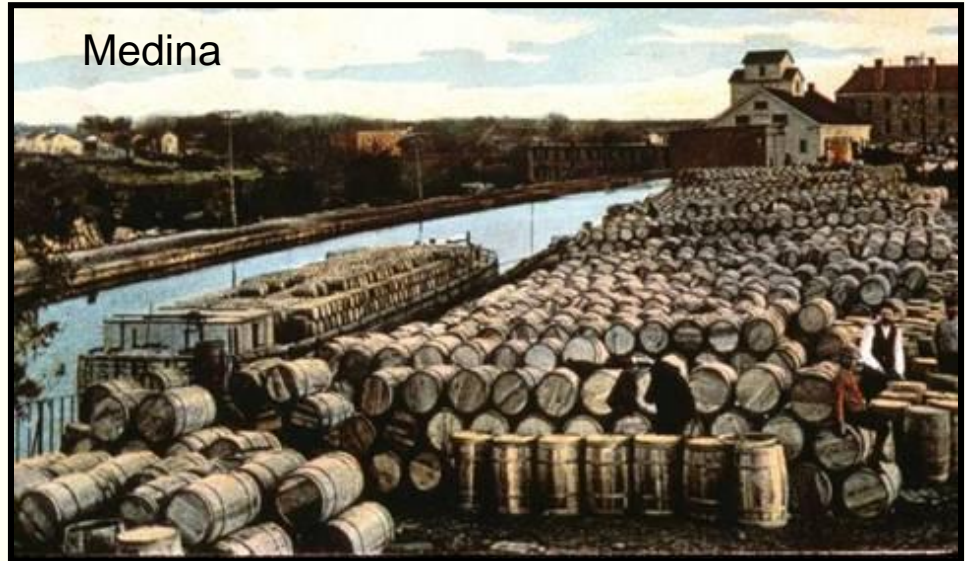
Buffalo



Syracuse



Medina



Erie Canal made New York the Empire State



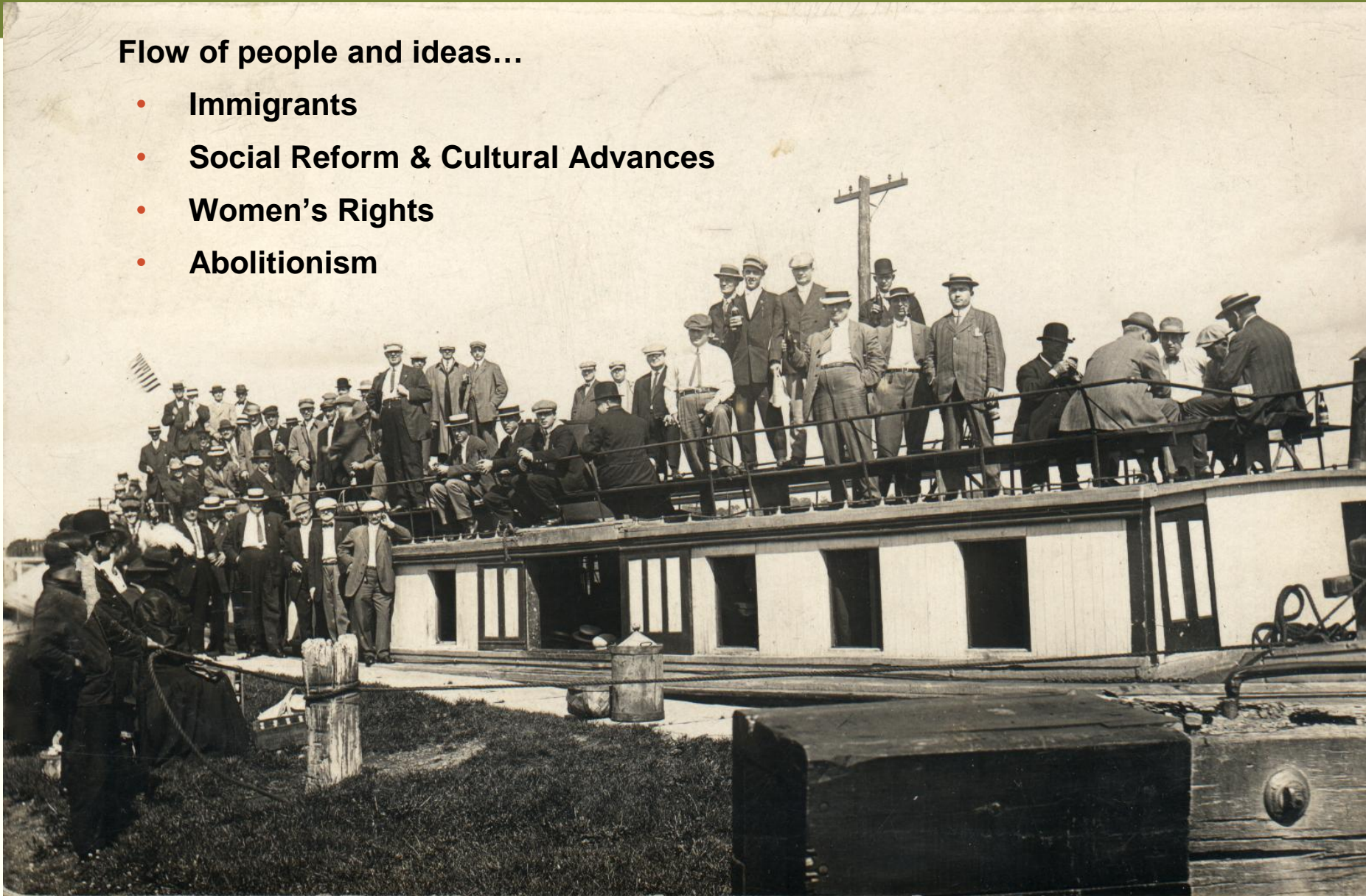
Wedding of the Waters



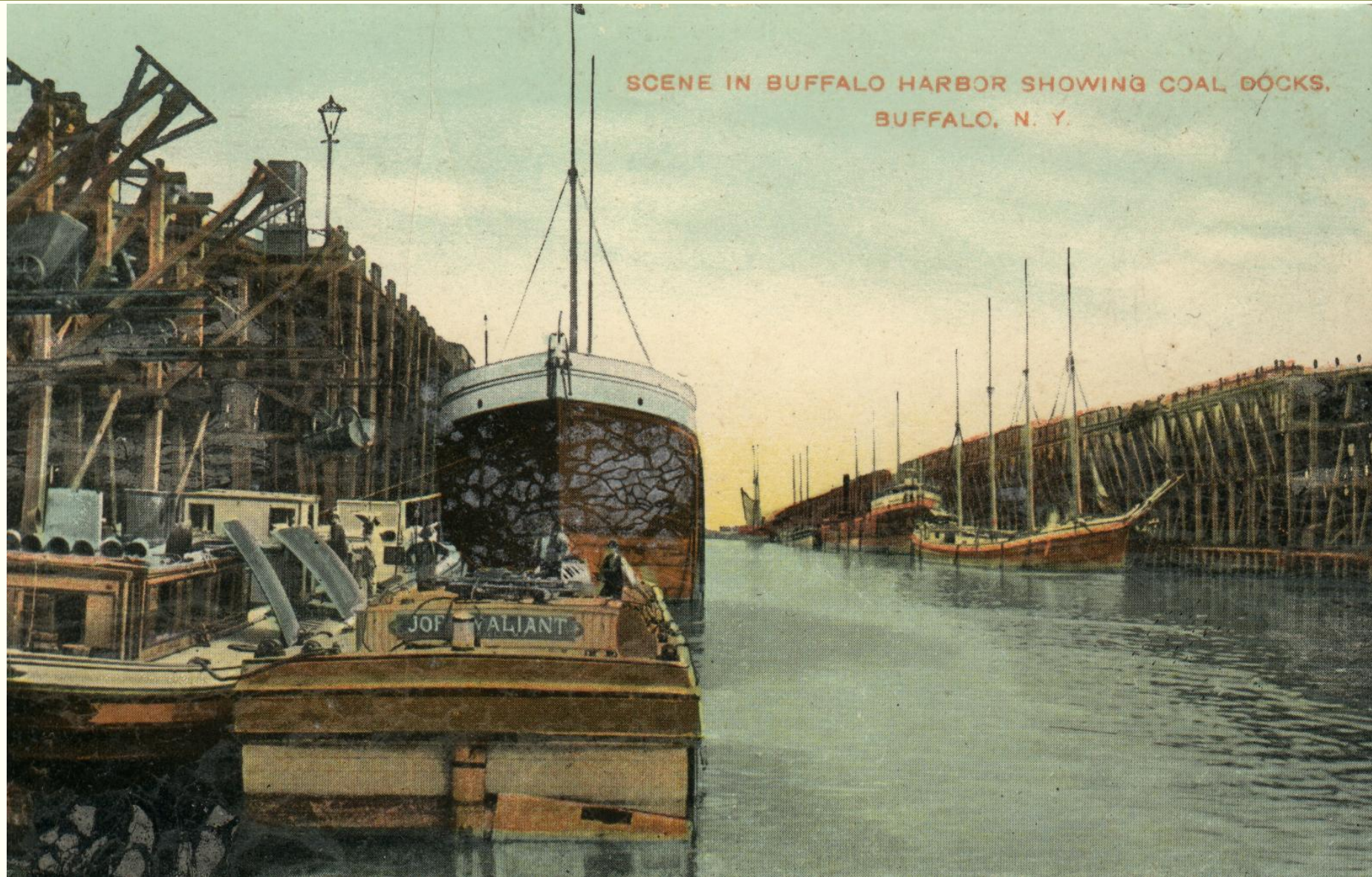
Canal carried more than cargo...

Flow of people and ideas...

- Immigrants
- Social Reform & Cultural Advances
- Women's Rights
- Abolitionism



An Enduring Legacy



NYS Canal System: 200 Years of Continuous Operation



There's no place quite like it.

NEW YORK STATE
CANAL
SYSTEM

HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A

NATIONAL
HISTORIC
LANDMARK

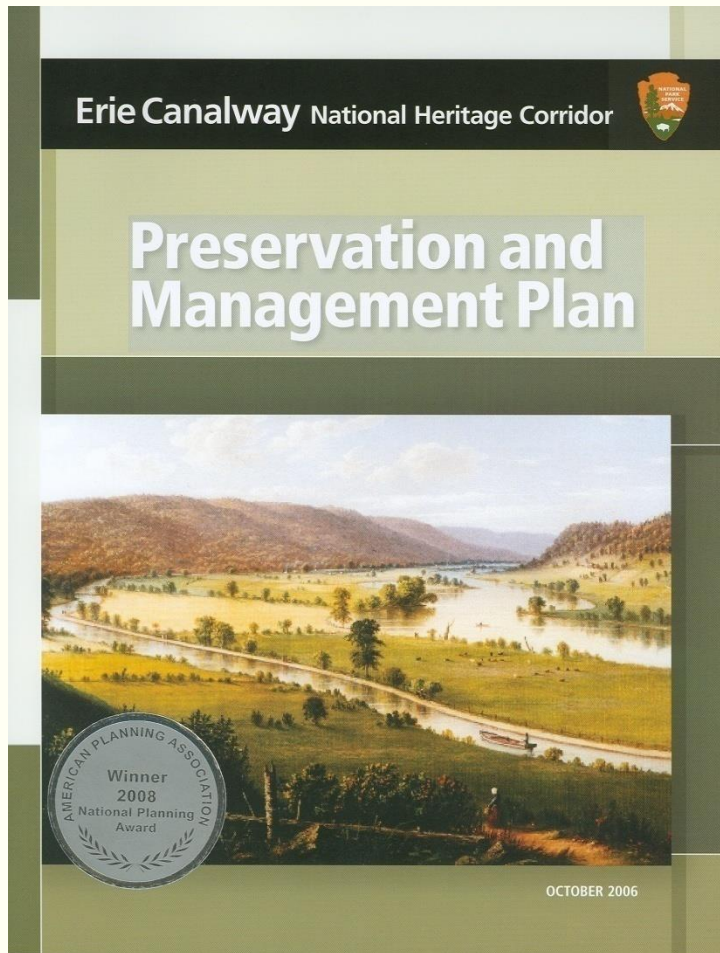


Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor



- Erie, Champlain, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego Canals and “towpath-era” alignments
- 524 miles of navigable waterway
- 230+ municipalities; home to 3.2 million New Yorkers

Our Plan & Goals



- Distinctive **sense of place** expressed & protected
- Current & future generations will value & support **heritage preservation**
- **Recreational** opportunities will achieve maximum scope & be diverse
- Corridor will be a “**must-do**” travel experience
- **Natural resources** will reflect highest standards of environmental quality
- **Economic growth** will be balanced & self-sustaining

A New Kind of Park



Strategic Plan

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

The Erie Canal was America's most successful and influential public works project. Completed in 1825, the 363-mile-long waterway established the first all-water route for navigation between the Atlantic Ocean and the upper Great Lakes, opened the interior of the continent to settlement and trade, and helped make New York City an international center of commerce.

By creating Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, Congress recognized the Erie Canal's leading role in our nation's history. The Heritage Corridor Commission works through public and private partnerships to promote historic preservation, education, recreation, tourism, and economic revitalization in more than 230 canal communities.



Constructed during the 1820s and '30s, the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca canals remain in service as America's oldest continuously operating canal system. The Heritage Corridor includes all of the cities, towns, and villages that line those historic waterways.



Canal boats and tug boats in Buffalo Harbor around 1900.



The 300-mile-long Canalway Trail parallels the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Albany.



Pittsford and other canal towns are great places to explore on foot.



Historic communities and buildings line the banks of New York's canals.



Celebrations provide opportunities to experience living heritage of the canal system.

- **Preserve & Share Extraordinary Canal Heritage**
- **Promote Corridor as World-Class Destination**
- **Foster Vibrant Communities Connected by our Waterways**

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Preserve & Share



Preservation & Adaptive Reuse: Matton Shipyard



Visitor Center:



Preservation & Adaptive Reuse: Matton Shipyard



Preservation & Adaptive Reuse: Matton Shipyard



Interpretation



Erie Canal

The Erie Canal is North America's most successful and enduring man-made waterway. Opened in 1825, it connects the Atlantic Ocean to the upper Great Lakes. The canal runs east and west more than 350 miles between the Hudson River near Albany and Lake Erie at Buffalo. Along the way, locks raise and lower boats more than 700 feet. The canal opened the interior of North America and transformed New York into the Empire State. Settlers and immigrants pressed westward on the Erie Canal, giving rise to cities and new industries in New York and the Midwest. The products of farms and factories moved east to markets along the Atlantic. Bridged over the years to accommodate larger boats, the Erie Canal still operates as an iconic and historic waterway for all to enjoy.

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The Canal System

You can travel the Erie Canal by boat, bike, or on foot across New York State. The Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego, and Champlain canals branch off to form a network of inland water ways connecting the Great Lakes, Finger Lakes, Lake Champlain, and Canadian waters.

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
The Champlain Heritage Trail and Corridor preserve our extraordinary canal heritage. Protected to enjoy and be inspired, and forever shared as a resource controlled by New York Canal System.

NEW YORK STATE CANAL CORPORATION
The New York Canal Corporation operates all four branches of the canal system. It manages 67 miles of waterways, 17 locks, some of historic structures, and a 100-mile trail along the Erie Canal.

Albion Erie Canal

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The Erie Canal in Albion

Albion is the seat of Orleans County. Its depressed courthouse square is ringed by churches and handsome downtown commercial buildings. Many were constructed with distinctive red and tan Medina sandstone. Quipped a few miles west of town, the stone was carried on the Erie Canal to Albion and points east—as far as New York City.

George Pultman worked on the Erie Canal here during the 1840s. He later moved to Chicago and made his fortune manufacturing Pullman Palace Cars. Canal packet boats may have inspired the folding beds and other features of those luxurious railroad sleeping cars.

ALBION N.Y.

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Inspiring the Next Generation



Buffalo

Ticket to Ride



Lockport

Every Kid in a Park



Promote Public Awareness of a World Class Tourism Destination



Fairport

Understanding Visitors

WHO VISITS?

Recent canal visitors skew older, travel in smaller parties and come from higher income households.



- Visitor Profile Study 2017
- Funded by NYS
- Valuable results for us and state and regional tourism partners

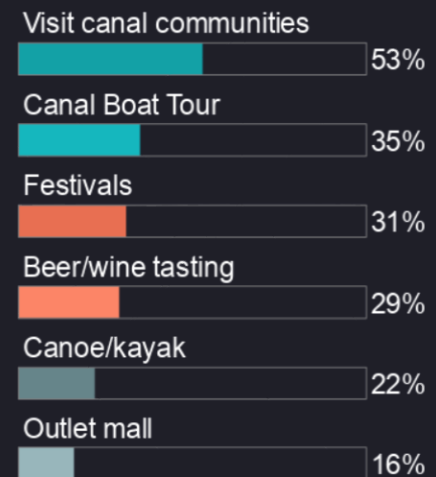
WHAT DID RECENT VISITORS DO HERE?

78%

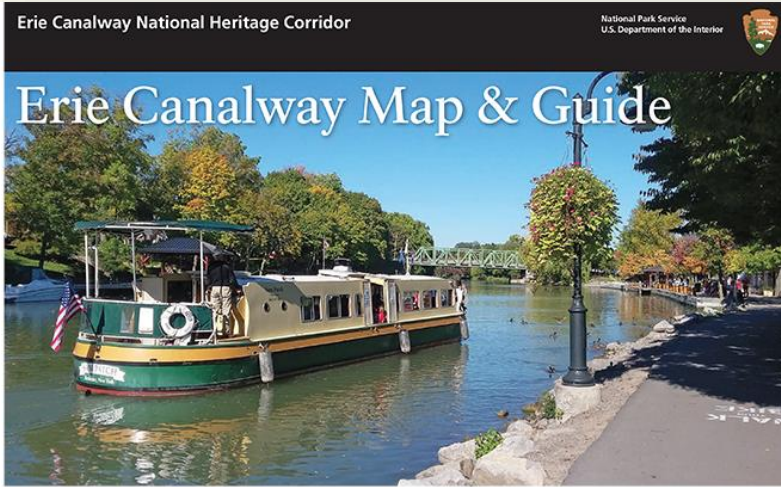
hike or cycle the Canalway Trail

60%

visit historic/cultural sites



Providing Visitor Information



Dig In! Celebrations Begin for Canal Bicentennial

You're invited! This year marks the 200th anniversary of canal construction and exciting bicentennial events are on tap. You'll find boat tours, bike rides, festivals, music, and family-friendly activities all year long. Start here to discover what makes the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor an unparalleled national treasure. Then head out to join the festivities along New York's historic canals!

Building Success

New Yorkers were thinking big when they turned the first shovel of earth to construct the Erie Canal 200 years ago. Fueled by a bold vision and audacious plans, workers toiled mile after mile, year after year. They dug through fields, forests, rocky cliffs,

and swamps to connect the Hudson River at Albany with Lake Erie at Buffalo.

The Erie Canal was America's largest early public infrastructure project—designed, built, financed, and operated by the State of New York. Although Europeans had been building canals for more than 300 years, the Erie Canal was longer and more complex than any other in the world. It crossed rivers on aqueducts and overcame hills with 83 lift locks. It gave rise to the country's first engineering schools, and spurred innovation and invention.

The Erie Canal sped the transport of goods and people across the state and opened up the interior of North America to settlement. Towns and cities grew along the canal's path. It opened markets for mid-western farmers, loggers, miners, and manufacturers and spurred New York City to become the nation's busiest port and financial center. The Erie Canal and a system of connecting waterways populated New York from border to border and generated wealth for the state and the nation.

Equally important, the canal brought a flow of people and new ideas. Social reform movements promoting the abolition of slavery and women's rights arose across New York's canal corridor, along with utopian communities and a number of religious movements. The Erie Canal carried more westbound immigrants than any other trans-Appalachian canal. These newcomers infused the nation with different languages, customs, religions, and foods.

Today, you can still traverse the state via New York's legendary canal system, which has recently been designated a National Historic Landmark. You can see stone locks from the 1800s and cruise through the massive concrete locks that replaced them in 1918. You can ride your bike from Buffalo to Albany along the path mules once trod and explore villages and cities that rose on the banks of the world's Eighth Wonder.

There's a lot to celebrate in 2017! Head to the water and let the fun begin!

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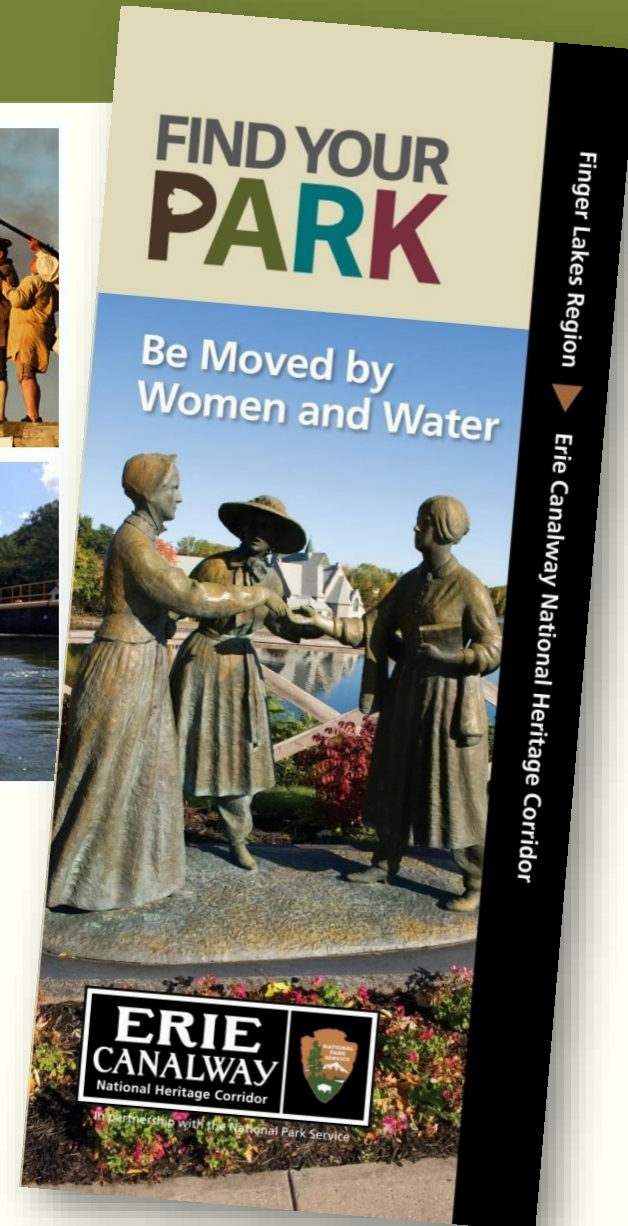
Erie Canalway Map & Guide 2017



Raising Public Awareness

**FIND YOUR
PARK**

Erie Canalway
National Heritage Corridor



- History, Nature, Community, Recreation
- 9 itineraries connect canal historic sites and recreational experiences with nearby national and state parks

Deepening Appreciation of Our Unique Sense of Place



2018 Calendar



In partnership with the National Park Service

NYS Canalway Water Trail



Waterford

New Opportunities

Oswego Canal



Journeys



Corning Museum of Glass Barge: 2018



Lois McClure: 2018 Journey



Empire State Trail



Reimagine the Canals



One of seven finalists

Events & Festivals



Economic Impact



ECNHC generates \$307.7 million in annual economic impact, supports 3,240 jobs & generates \$34.9 million in tax revenue

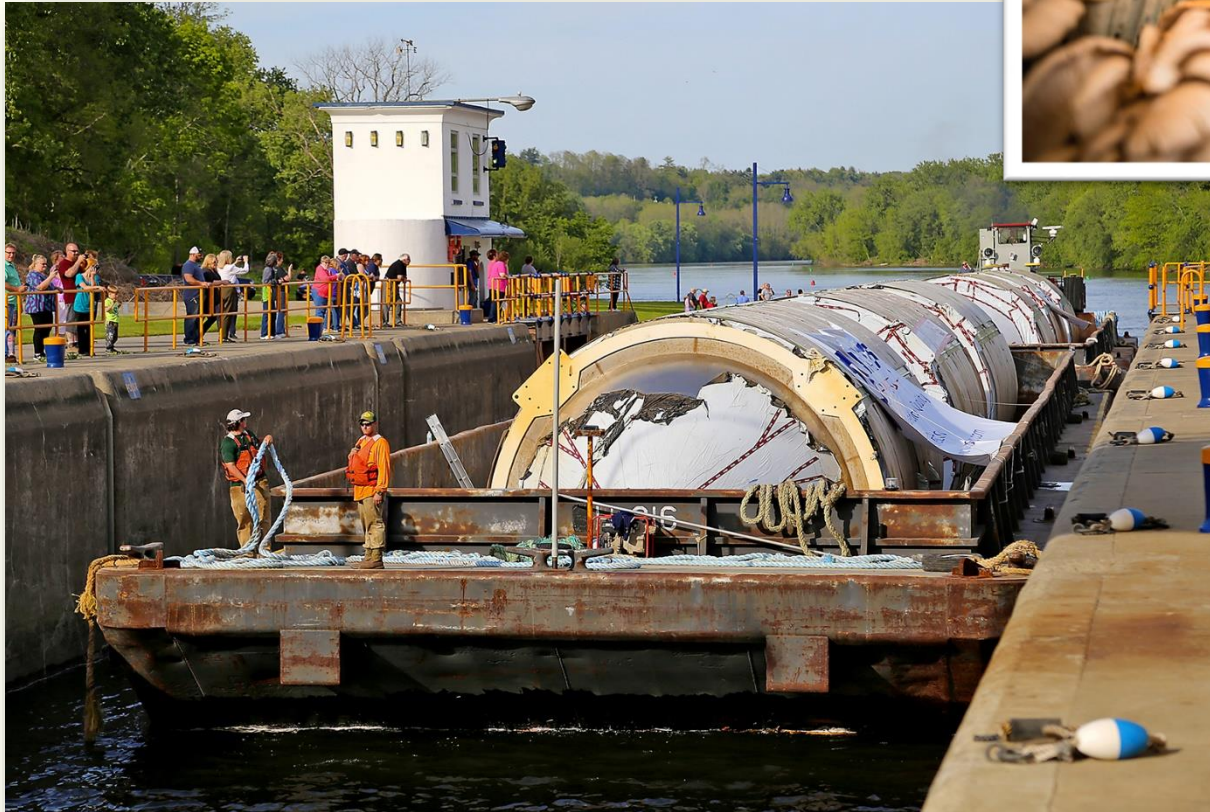
Foster Vibrant Communities Connected by the Waterway



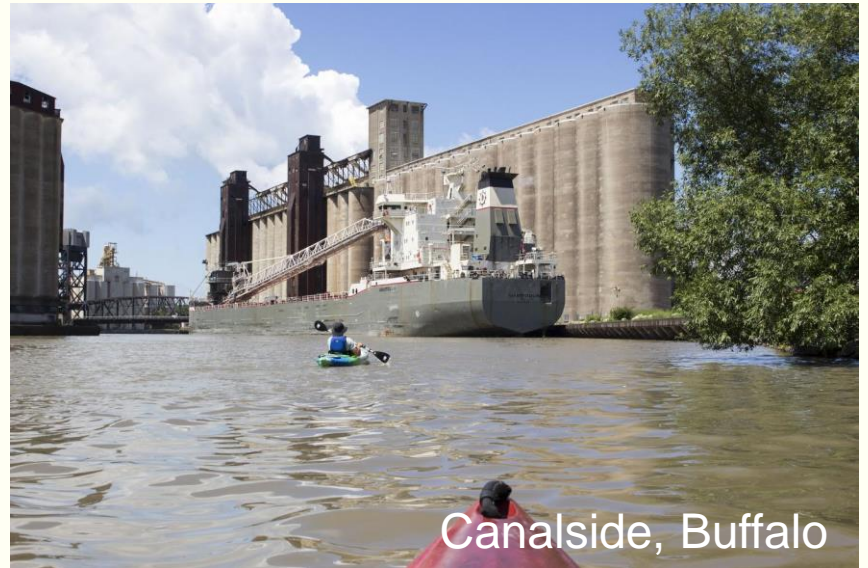
Canajoharie

Commercial Activities & Impact

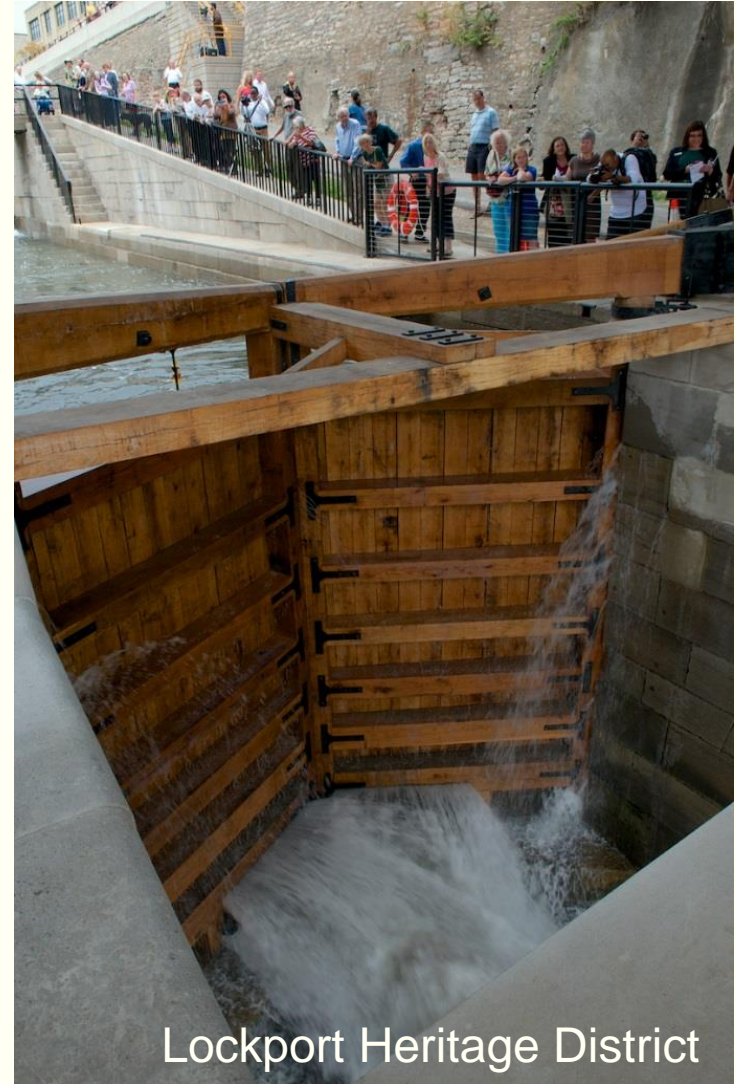
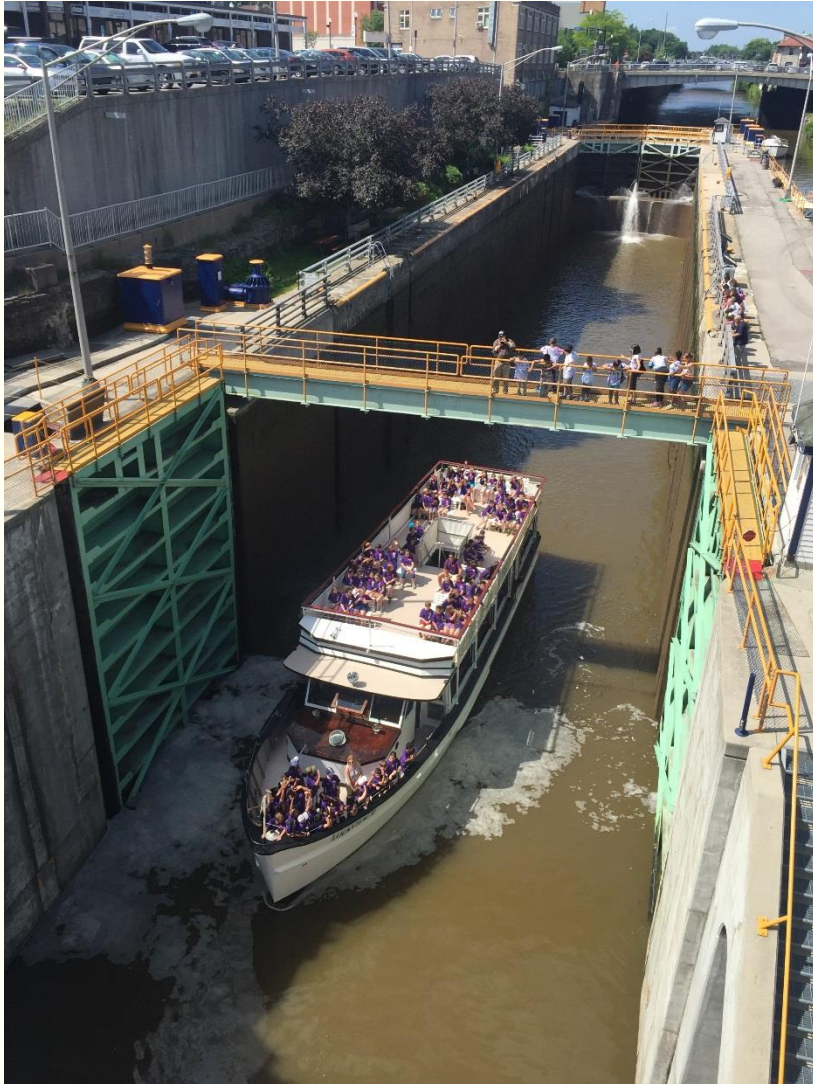
2014 Report: Non-Tourism = \$6.2 Billion



Buffalo: Heritage Development & Economic Opportunity



Lockport: Heritage Development & Economic Opportunity



Lockport Heritage District

Little Falls: Heritage Development & Economic Opportunity



Canajoharie: Heritage Development & Economic Opportunity



Beech-Nut Plant, Canajoharie, N. Y.

218631

Canajoharie

Amsterdam: Heritage Development & Economic Opportunity



Amsterdam

Waterford: Heritage Development & Economic Opportunity



Schuylerville: Heritage Development & Economic Opportunity



Hudson Crossing Park
Champlain Canal

Seneca Falls: Heritage Development & Economic Opportunity



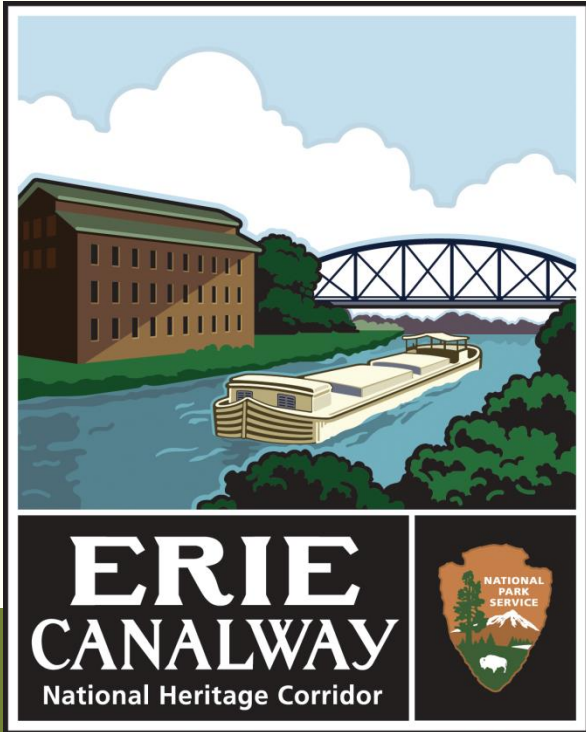
Seneca Falls
Cayuga-Seneca Canal

Canal Banks: Partnerships & Economic Opportunities

Public & private investments reinforce each other to advance entire region



Pittsford



In partnership with the National Park Service

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.eriecanalway.org

(518) 237-7000

Buffalo—Queen City of the Lakes

When the Erie Canal was completed here in October 1825, Buffalo was transformed from a small lakefront hamlet to a thriving muscular metropolis. Buffalo was the port where grain, lumber, and other products from the interior of the American continent were transferred from lake schooners and steamers to canal boats. Manufactured goods traveled west by canal, along with waves of people moving into the interior.

Because all of those products and people had to change from one mode of travel to the next here in Buffalo, the city became the hinge point between the Atlantic and the Great Lakes and the incubator for Cleveland, Toledo, Detroit, Chicago, and Duluth. By the mid-1800's Buffalo was called "the greatest inland immigration port in the world."

Commercial and Residential Neighborhoods

As Buffalo grew and thrived, the city's commercial and residential thoroughfares converged inland on higher ground.

Erie Canal

Commercial Slip and the section of the Erie Canal between Tonawanda and Buffalo were abandoned in the 1920's. Interstate 190 now runs on the old canal bed.



In the 1800s over 6,000 cargo vessels were registered to operate on New York's canal system. Some days it seemed like they were all here in Buffalo.

Canal District

Buffalo's waterfront was a busy place. Grain elevators, flour mills, coal trestles, lumber yards, and commodity brokers served the cargo. Boarding houses and importers, exporters catered to migrants. Boat yards, ship chandlers, and sail lots supplied the needs of lake and canal boats. Taverns and brothels served their crews.



The pillared buildings along Central Wharf housed the Buffalo Board of Trade, grain brokers, wholesalers, insurance companies, and other businesses that profited from lake navigation, canal traffic, and the transfer of cargo between the two.

Industry and Transportation

The transportation and industry activities that funded much of Buffalo's prosperity crowded along the waterfront. A network of slips, side cuts, canals, and basins were cut to facilitate transfer of goods.



Grain elevators were signal elements of the Buffalo skyline. They received Midwestern grain from lake freighters, stored it, and then shipped it to canal boats and rail cars for distribution to New York City and the world beyond.



Rail cars emptied their loads of bituminous coal onto upper levels of trestles that angled into Buffalo harbor. Grey-rod chimneys loaded canal boats that hauled east across New York and Lake vessels that carried fuel to Midwestern industries and homes.



Self-Guided



Long-Term Partnerships



In partnership with the National Park Service



**Canal
Corporation**



**NY Power
Authority**

Celebration of Commitment

