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## Erie Canalway News Release

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## NYS Canalway Water Trail Interactive Website Launched

**Paddler's invited to follow in history's wake from Rome to Waterford**

**(WATERFORD, NY)** The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor is pleased to announce the launch of a new [online NYS Canalway Water Trail map](#) to help paddlers enjoy the Mohawk River/Erie Canal. The interactive map covers 128-miles from Rome to Waterford and includes launch sites, canoe/kayak rental facilities, camp sites, amenities, and attractions. Plans are underway to expand to the entire NYS Canal System within two years.

"Many people don't realize that the canal isn't just for power boats. **Kayaks, canoes, rowing shells, and stand up paddle boards are all welcome.** The interactive map makes it easy for paddlers to get on the water for an afternoon or several days," said Brian Yates, Project Manager for Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

The website also includes information on paddling safety and how to go through a lock.

Paddling presents a unique way to follow in history's wake and discover the waterway's many treasures. Paddlers can find traces of the past everywhere along the route, from Native American heritage to Revolutionary War sites to places that fueled the Industrial Revolution to engineering feats of canal construction.

"It is an incredible experience to 'paddle back into the past'. As you glide down the waterway so important to the growth of this country, it is impossible not to feel the spirit and strength of those who traveled so early in our nation's history also by their own power," said Paul Comstock of Houston, Texas, who has paddled the length of the entire canal system.

A grant from Market NY through I LOVE NY, as a part of the State's Regional Economic Development Council awards, is being used to develop and produce a printed water trail guide book, navigational maps, and website that will include the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Waterford, as well as the Oswego, Cayuga-Seneca, and Champlain Canals.

When complete, the NYS Canalway Water Trail will link seamlessly with the [Hudson River Greenway Water Trail](#), offering 780 miles for paddlers to enjoy.

Erie Canalway NHC is developing the NYS Canalway Water Trail in partnership with the [National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program](#) and the [NYS Canal Corporation](#).

The NYS Canal Corporation reported nearly 8,000 non-motorized vessel lockings last year, a whopping 52-percent increase over the previous year.

**Find the new interactive website at <https://eriecanalway.org/watertrail>.**

The NYS Canal System is a **[National Historic Landmark](#)** that includes the Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca Canals. Spanning more than 500 miles, the waterway links the Hudson River with the Great Lakes, the Finger Lakes, and Lake Champlain. The canals form the backbone of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and connect hundreds of unique and historic communities.

#### **ABOUT THE ERIE CANALWAY**

The **Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor** preserves our extraordinary canal heritage, promotes the Corridor as a world-class tourism destination, and fosters vibrant communities connected by more than 500 miles of waterway. It achieves its mission in partnership with the National Park Service, New York State agencies, non-profit organizations, local residents, and more than 200 communities across the full expanse of upstate New York.

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ATTACHED IMAGE: Paddler on the Erie Canal/Mohawk River near Utica