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Erie Canalway News Release

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New Guidebook Unlocks New York State Canal System for Paddlers

WATERFORD, NY - When the NYS Canal System opens on May 17, kayaks and canoes will share the waterway with cruisers and powerboats, thanks to the **New York State Canalway Water Trail Guidebook and Navigational Map Set** released by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. The complimentary guidebook and maps includes a mile-by-mile description of launch sites, paddler-friendly facilities and amenities, and places of interest for over 450 miles of the NYS Canal System, including the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego and Champlain canals.

The guidebook and maps are available to order (\$10 shipping and handling fee) or download online at: eriecanalway.org/watertrail

“This guidebook is an invitation to paddlers to discover the history, beauty, and adventure of paddling the canals,” said **Bob Radliff, Executive Director of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor**. “Paddlers will navigate century old locks, pass stunning stone aqueducts, and experience narrow flatwater stretches and wide river segments.”

The guidebook includes features to help beginners to seasoned paddlers plan a trip and enjoy the waterway for a few hours or a paddling vacation.

- Best bet paddling day trips with mileage charts
- Step-by-step instructions for locking-through
- How to plan and prepare for a paddling trip
- Maps and descriptions of the more than 140 public access points
- Things to do and see on and off the water

“More people are discovering that New York’s canals are an ideal venue for a fun and leisurely day on the water,” said **New York State Canal Corporation Director Brian U. Stratton**. “Going through a canal lock in a canoe or kayak is a unique experience and this guidebook will help paddlers get the most out of their trips.”

Paddlers are also encouraged to participate in the **Canalway Challenge**, a new initiative that invites people to trace history while tracking miles walking, running, cycling or paddling on the New York State Canal System and Canalway Trail. The free program includes a range of mileage options--15 miles, 90 miles, 180 miles, and 360 miles—so that people at all fitness levels can choose a mileage goal that suits their ability and participate. Details and sign up are available at <http://www.canalwaychallenge.org/>.

The NYS Canalway Water Trail Guidebook and Navigational Map Set were funded in part by a grant from Market NY through I LOVE NY, New York’s Division of Tourism, as part of the State’s Regional Economic Development Council Initiative.

ABOUT THE ERIE CANALWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

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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