



## **New York State Canal System**

# **Tourism Infrastructure and Events Grants 2025 Awardees**

### **TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE AMENITY IMPROVEMENTS**

#### **Village of Newark**

##### *Revamping Life on the Canal*

Enrich visitors' experience with a new kiosk, wayfinding signage, and landscaping, and install bike racks, a mounted air pump, park benches, and a drinking fountain.

#### **Town of Clarkson**

##### *Sans Souci Park Improvements*

Replace portions of the boat launch with a new ADA-accessible boat dock and install bike racks and a universally accessible park playground.

#### **Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, Chittenango**

##### *Sawmill and Blacksmith Shop Restoration*

Address critical capital improvements to the historic blacksmith and sawmill buildings to ensure their preservation for future generations.

#### **Village of Holley**

##### *Recreational Canal Improvement Project*

Install a kayak launch, new decking, and stairs, providing visitors with better access to launching areas and rest points.

#### **Town of Halfmoon**

##### *Crescent Park Amenities*

Upgrade park amenities, including picnic tables and benches, to enhance visitors' usability, accessibility, and enjoyment.

**City of Rome***Erie Canalway Wayfinding Signage*

Install wayfinding signage to highlight amenities, educate visitors about the canal's history, and connect users to downtown businesses and points of interest.

**Canal Society of New York State, Port Byron***Aqueduct Park*

Build a pocket park with amenities and interpretive signage for one of the last structural remains of the 1819 Owasco Aqueduct in Port Byron.

**Buffalo Maritime Center***Navigating History – Erie Canal Boat “Seneca Chief” Exhibits*

Create historical exhibits for the *Seneca Chief* canal boat to be displayed during its 2025 Bicentennial Voyage from Buffalo to New York City and for its future as a traveling museum on the Erie Canal.

**Genesee Waterways Center, Rochester***Paddling Expansion Initiative: Kayak Kiosk*

Launch a kayak rental program and improve wayfinding signage at water access points to enhance convenience, accessibility, and safety for waterway users.

**Corn Hill Waterfront & Navigation Foundation, Rochester***Waterfront Signage and Displays*

Create signage, displays, and banners highlighting the educational and accessible outdoor recreational activities available to downtown visitors.

**Erie Canal Museum, Syracuse***Outdoor Classroom Pavilion & Garden Restoration*

Restore and expand the outdoor classroom and garden space and install an ADA-accessible pavilion for community use.

## EVENTS

### APRIL

#### **History, Music, Art and Birding Series in the Erie Canal Corridor**

*Great Swamp Conservancy, Inc.*

April 26, May 4 & 17, June 6, July 19 - 20, August 16, and October 25, Canastota

[greatswampconservancy.org](http://greatswampconservancy.org)

Experience the canal's past and present with a series of events celebrating art and nature on the water, from Bicentennial Basics to the Spring Migration Festival to watercolor painting, and more.

### MAY

#### **Waterford Canal Festival 2025**

*Waterford Canal and Towpath Society*

May 16 – 19, Waterford Harbor and Lock E2, Waterford

[waterfordcanalfestival.com](http://waterfordcanalfestival.com)

Celebrate the opening of the Erie Canal's 200th season at its eastern terminus. A weekend filled with boat tours, music, vendors, walking tours, bike rides, and more ring in this milestone season along NYS Canals.

#### **Lockport's Bicentennial Celebration**

*Lockport Main Street, Inc.*

May 17 & September 27, Canal Street, Lockport

[discoverlockport.com/locktoberfest](http://discoverlockport.com/locktoberfest)

Begin and end the City of Lockport's Erie Canal Bicentennial celebrations with two lively events. A festival in May kicks off the Lockport Community Farmers Market for the season. In September, Locktoberfest returns with 50 vendors, food trucks, live music and activities.

#### **The Boilermaker's "Erie Canal Races"**

*Boilermaker Road Race, Inc.*

May 18, Lock 20 to Harbor Lock, Utica

[boilermaker.com/erie-canal-races](http://boilermaker.com/erie-canal-races)

Choose your distance and run a beautiful stretch of the Erie Canal. Races include a 10-miler, 5K (3.1 miles), and a two-person 10-mile relay (5 miles per runner). Register to participate or come cheer on the runners.

## JUNE

### **Brutus Erie Canal Festival**

*Town of Brutus*

June 1, Centerport Aqueduct Park, Weedsport

[townbrutus.digitaltowpath.org:10148/content](http://townbrutus.digitaltowpath.org:10148/content)

Enjoy a free, family-friendly event to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Erie Canal with live music by Erie Canal Folklorist Dave Ruch, a kids fun run along the canal, old fashioned kid's games, educational presentations, local vendors, food trucks, recreational activities, and more.

### **Grand Opening of Harbor Point**

*Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce*

June 5, Harbor Point, Utica

[greateruticachamber.org](http://greateruticachamber.org)

Experience Utica's latest canal-side gem at the grand opening of Harbor Point. This waterfront festival features live music, food, games, kayak rentals, and historical displays.

### **Erie Canal Boat Float and Folk Festival: Living History**

*Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum*

[chittenangoland.org](http://chittenangoland.org)

June 14, Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, Chittenango

Join hundreds of paddlers on the Old Erie Canal for a trip through history to celebrate the bicentennial. After party includes folk music, food trucks, live demonstrations of traditional crafts, and a living history display with interpreters in costume.

### **2025 Watkins Glen Waterfront Festival & Cardboard Boat Regatta**

*Watkins Glen Promotions, Inc.*

[thewaterfrontfestival.com](http://thewaterfrontfestival.com)

June 14, Seneca Harbor Park, Watkins Glen

Enjoy a day of family fun on Seneca Lake with free live music, children's activities, and food.

Don't miss the Cardboard Boat Regatta, where creative minds craft boats out of cardboard and put them to the test on the water.

### **PaddleFest**

*Geneva Downtown Association Inc.*

[genevadowntown.com](http://genevadowntown.com)

June 21, Lake Front Drive, Geneva

Always wanted to try kayaking but don't know how to get started? Now is your chance to try it out! Boats and gear will be provided and you'll have a chance to try equipment and watch demonstrations on how to get started. Free.

### **City of Rome Juneteenth Celebration**

*NAACP – Rome, NY Branch*

[facebook.com/naacprome.nybranch.3](https://facebook.com/naacprome.nybranch.3)

June 21 & 22, Bellamy Harbor Park, Rome

Celebrate Juneteenth, the day enslaved people learned of their freedom, during this day of music, family-friendly activities, and educational opportunities for all. Learn about the Erie Canal's connection to the underground railroad and employment of formerly enslaved people.

### **Clinton's Ditch: The Story of Building the Erie Canal**

*Old Mentz Heritage Center*

[old-mentz.org](https://old-mentz.org)

June 21, 27, & 28, Samuel Center for Canal History, Port Byron

Discover "Clinton's Ditch: The Story of the Erie Canal," a historical drama honoring the Erie Canal's Bicentennial and its monumental influence on New York State. Tickets required.

### **The Erie Canal Family Concert**

*Lee-Whedon Memorial Library*

[leewhedon.org](https://leewhedon.org)

June 23, Lee-Whedon Memorial Library, Medina

Discover a treasure trove of songs and stories that washed ashore with the travelers of "Clinton's Ditch." Designed to entertain and engage, this concert features a variety of stringed and other musical instruments from canal days.

### **Wine, Craft Beverage and Artisans Festival/Music on the Erie**

*Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce*

[newarknychamber.org](https://newarknychamber.org)

Fridays, June 27 – August 29, T. Spencer Knight Park, Newark

Head to Newark on Friday nights from 5:30 to 8:30pm for music and food trucks. Kick off the summer season at the festival. Paid admission covers local beverage tastings or browse artisan goods and enjoy live music for free.

## **JULY**

### **Brockport's Erie Canal Bicentennial Celebration with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra**

*Village of Brockport*

[brockportny.org](https://brockportny.org)

July 8, SUNY Brockport Special Events Recreation Center

Head to the Village of Brockport to hear the iconic Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra perform folk music celebrating the village's unique sense of place and rich canal heritage.

## **Canal-stota 200**

*Village of Canastota*

[canastota.com](http://canastota.com)

July 25 – 27, Canal Street, Canastota

Celebrate the Erie Canal's connection to the Village of Canastota with a fun-filled day of local food, live entertainment, historical talks and reenactments, kayak rentals, and Canalaton, a mini triathlon showcasing the beauty of the Erie Canal.

## **On the Trails - 200 years on the Erie Canal and 35 years of the ADA**

*Joe Family Foundation*

[thejoefamilyfoundation.com](http://thejoefamilyfoundation.com)

July 26, Progress Park, Syracuse

Celebrate the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Erie Canal Bicentennial during this inclusive recreation festival. Try out adaptive recreation equipment and explore the Creekwalk path as you complete the 1st Mile Challenge.

## **Wednesday at the Weighlock**

*Erie Canal Museum*

[eriecanalmuseum.org](http://eriecanalmuseum.org)

July 30, Erie Canal Museum, Syracuse

Get the inside scoop on 200 years of canal engineering and innovations-- historians and engineers will highlight unique canal features and ongoing rehabilitation projects. Live music, local food and beverages, guided tours, and blacksmith demonstrations round out the program.

## **AUGUST**

### **Flotsam River Circus – 2025 Erie Canal Tour**

*Flotsam River Circus*

[rivercircus.com](http://rivercircus.com)

August: multiple dates and locations from Buffalo to Albany

Come one! Come all! A floating circus is coming to town! Catch one of 35 free performances of FLOTSAM: a troupe of musicians, puppeteers, and circus artists on a ramshackle raft traveling the Erie Canal and Hudson River from Buffalo to New York City.

### **19th Annual Cardboard Boat Races Festival**

*Hudson Crossing Park*

[hudsoncrossingpark.org](http://hudsoncrossingpark.org)

August 9, Fort Hardy Park Beach, Schuylerville

Build and race your own cardboard boat inspired by iconic canal communities from around the world in honor of the 2025 World Canals Conference and the Erie Canal's 200th. Whether you're a participant or a spectator, this event is fun for everyone!

### **Erie Canal Heritage Market at Market Square**

*Black Rock Historical Society*

[blackrockhistoricalsociety.com](http://blackrockhistoricalsociety.com)

August 23, Market Square, Buffalo

Experience a recreated canal-era public market at the crossroads of Niagara and Amherst Streets, the historic core of the former Village of Black Rock. Shop with local vendors and enjoy canal-era musical performances, guided tours, children's games, and artisan demonstrations.

### **Montgomery County Kayak-a-Thon/Bicentennial Bash**

*Montgomery County*

[visitmontgomerycountyny.com](http://visitmontgomerycountyny.com)

August 23, Riverlink Park, Amsterdam

Paddle nine scenic miles of the Mohawk River from Fonda to Port Jackson/Amsterdam, then head to Riverlink Park for live music, food, fireworks, historic exhibits and kids activities.

### **Color Wayne Fun Run, Walk and Roll**

*Arc Wayne*

[arcwayne.org](http://arcwayne.org)

August 30, T. Spencer Knight Park, Newark

Celebrate the bicentennial at this colorful 2-mile run/walk/roll for people of all abilities. Wear white and travel the 2-mile course along the Erie Canalway Trail and return covered by a rainbow of colors. Registration required. Benefits the Arc of Wayne Foundation.

## **SEPTEMBER**

### **Waterford Tugboat Roundup**

*Town of Waterford*

[town.waterford.ny.us](http://town.waterford.ny.us)

September 5 – 7, Waterford Harbor, Waterford

Celebrate the Erie Canal bicentennial at this annual maritime festival. Step aboard historic tugboats and browse an eclectic marketplace with crafts, food, and maritime memorabilia. Enjoy family-friendly activities and a spectacular fireworks display.

### **Mohawk Valley Garlic & Herb Festival**

*Local Foods Incubator, Inc.*

[mvghf.com](http://mvghf.com)

September 13, Canal Place, Little Falls

Follow your nose to Canal Place where more than 90 vendors offer local garlic, herbs, produce, food products, artisan goods, and cuisine. Live music all day, plus educational demos and children's activities. Free horse and carriage rides along the Erie Canal. \$5.00 suggested donation.

**Roc River Ride**

*Rotary Club of Rochester – Southwest*

[portal.clubrunner.ca/14431/Page/ShowHomePage](http://portal.clubrunner.ca/14431/Page/ShowHomePage)

September 13, Genesee Waterways Center, Rochester

Explore Rochester's history and culture on a guided bicycle ride along the scenic Erie Canalway and Genesee Riverway Trails. Choose from three, seven, or 10-mile options with stops along the way for cultural presentations. All routes are accessible to wheelchairs. Riders ages 8 to 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry**

*Downtown Seneca Falls Mural Project & Festival*

[senecamuseum.com](http://senecamuseum.com)

September 20, Seneca Falls

Celebrate the impact of the Arts in the Finger Lakes with the dedication of two new murals in downtown Seneca Falls during a family-friendly Art Festival with vendors, performers, and artists.

**Erie Canal Bicentennial Building Bricks Event**

*Village of Medina Tourism Committee*

[orleanscountytourism.com](http://orleanscountytourism.com)

September 20 – 21, Sacred Heart Club, Medina

Create canal-themed boats, bridges, and landmarks using LEGO bricks, while competing for awards based on age and creativity. Open to all ages and abilities.

**Erie Canal Arts & Craft Festival**

*Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council*

[goart.org](http://goart.org)

September 26 – 28, Medina, Albion, & Holley

Enjoy this vibrant celebration of heritage, creativity, and community spirit along the canal in Medina, Albion, and Holley. Featuring over 400 artisan vendors, a Theatre & Car Showcase, headline concert with The Voice's Ddendyl Hoyt, and festive boat parade.

**Doors Open Buffalo 2025**

*Explore Buffalo*

[explorebuffalo.org/doorsopenbuffalo](http://explorebuffalo.org/doorsopenbuffalo)

September 27, Downtown Buffalo

Celebrate the Erie Canal's 200th and experience a day of free public access and tours at Buffalo landmarks and historic sites. Discover the impact of the canal on the City and State-- you will be surprised how many buildings have canal-themed symbolism, artwork, murals, and more.



### **Fairport Reimagine the Erie Canal Plein Air Festival**

*Village of Fairport Local Development Corporation*

[fairportpleinair.org](http://fairportpleinair.org)

September 27, Village of Fairport

Local and regional artists gather in the picturesque Village of Fairport to paint along the Erie Canal. Come watch and enjoy a public reception, exhibition, and art sale.

### **Ringing in the *Seneca Chief***

*Village of Newark*

[www.villageofnewark.com](http://www.villageofnewark.com)

September 30, Port of Newark, Newark

Welcome replica canal boat, *Seneca Chief*, to the Port of Newark as it makes it's commemorative bicentennial voyage down the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Albany. Enjoy live music, food trucks, and village charm while taking part in this historic journey.

## **OCTOBER**

### ***Seneca Chief* Welcome Event**

*Town of Lyons*

[lyonstown.com](http://lyonstown.com)

October 1, Northside Canal Park, Lyons

Welcome replica canal boat *Seneca Chief* to Lyons as it makes its cross-canal voyage. Enjoy family-friendly festivities, including interactive exhibits, music, and cultural performances, guided tours and scenic walks that bring canal heritage to life along the Canalway Trail.

### **Locktoberfest**

*City of Rome*

[romenewyork.com](http://romenewyork.com)

October 8 – 11, Bellamy Harbor Park, Rome

Enjoy live music, food trucks, and vendors and welcome replica canal boat *Seneca Chief* to Bellamy Harbor Park as it makes its bicentennial voyage on the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Albany.

### **Little Falls Canal Festival & Arrival of the *Seneca Chief***

*The Creative Outpost, Inc.*

[thisislittlefalls.com](http://thisislittlefalls.com)

October 11, Canal Place, Little Falls

Come see the *Seneca Chief* and enjoy live music, food trucks, vendors, face painting, and plein air painting, plus a coloring contest for kids. Rock Valley Brewing Company will hold a Country Music Festival and additional events will be held at the nearby Herkimer Home State Historic Site.

**Clifton Park Canal Fest: Bicentennial Celebration**

*Town of Clifton Park*

[cliftonpark.org](http://cliftonpark.org)

October 11 & 12, Vischer Ferry Firehouse, General Store, & Amity Church, Clifton Park  
Step back in time for two days of old-fashioned fun in the quaint hamlet of Vischer Ferry . Enjoy a parade of antique cars, fife and drum band, firetrucks, live music, horse-drawn wagon rides, food trucks, and artisans.

**Locktoberfest**

*Village of Fort Edward Canal Street Marketplace*

[canalstreetmarketplace.org](http://canalstreetmarketplace.org)

October 18, Canal Street, Fort Edward

Celebrate the autumn harvest on the grounds of a renovated nineteenth century canal barn. The festival features regional farm and artisan products, educational booths, fabulous food, free horse and wagon rides, a local beer tasting tent, and live music.