



New York State Canal System Tourism Infrastructure and Event Grants 2023 Awardees

TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE AND AMENITY IMPROVEMENTS (Listed west to east)

Samuel Center for Canal History Renovation

Canal Society of New York State

Upgrade restroom facilities at the Samuel Center for Canal History to be fully ADA compliant and include changing stations and greener technology.

Awarded: \$18,750

Veterans Canal Park Recreation Amenities Improvements

Town of Amherst

Expand visitor amenities and inclusive recreation at Veteran's Canal Park through new kayak storage racks, a "braille trail," and kiosk.

Awarded: \$21,084

Lockport Rotary Pavilion on the Erie Canal

Lockport NY Rotary Foundation

Improve upon the existing comfort station amenities with a new open air picnic pavilion near the Adam Street lift bridge crossing the Erie Canal in Lockport.

Awarded: \$15,631

Erie Shore Landing Retail Co-op

The Arc Wayne

Create a retail co-op at Arc Wayne's Street of Shops located along the Erie Canal and Canalway Trail in Newark.

Awarded: \$24,000

Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum Grounds Enhancements

Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, Inc.

Upgrade park facilities on museum grounds with new ADA compliant, weatherproof picnic tables, kayak storage racks, benches, and pet waste dispensers.

Awarded: \$9,800

Hudson Crossing Park Shed Construction

Hudson Crossing Park, Inc.

Enhance park maintenance equipment storage through the construction of a new shed, allowing staff and volunteers to address safety, security, and accessibility concerns in a timely manner.

Awarded: \$10,000

Adaptive Boat Launch in Fort Edward

Village of Fort Edward

Installation of an adaptive hand launch dock at the Yacht Basin on the Hudson River in Fort Edwards' downtown.

Awarded: \$24,000

EVENTS (Listed in date order)

APRIL

Oswego County Underground Railroad history Tour

Underground Railroad Consortium of New York State

4/21/23, Oswego

visitoswegocounty.com/historical-info/underground-railroad

Tour eight sites significant to Underground Railroad history across the City of Oswego. Learn about the Oswego Canal's contributions to the spread of ideas and culture pivotal to the Abolitionist movement.

MAY

Mohawk River Living History Weekend

Schenectady County Historical Society

5/5/23 & 5/6/23, Mabee Farm Historic Site, Schenectady

brigade.org/salon2023

Travel back to the 1700s for this immersive event focused on life along the Mohawk River during the American Revolution presented by the Brigade of the American Revolution. Workshops and demonstrations explore all facets of life in the colonial era. Admission is \$15/car for the weekend.

Schenectady County Pedal, Paddle, Run

County of Schenectady

5/13/23, Aqueduct Park, Niskayuna

schenectadycounty.com/special-events/ppr

Participate as an individual or a team in this unique triathlon, 7-mile bike, 2-mile kayak/canoe, and a 5k run.

Erie Canal Historic Hike/Bike

Longhouse Council BSA, William Hillcourt Museum

5/13/23 & 5/27/23, Cedar Bay Park & Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum

williamhillcourtmuseum.org/announcing-a-new-award-that-can-be-earned-the-erie-canal-trail-medal-and-patch

Join this fun and educational hike/bike along the Erie Canalway Trail from Cedar Bay Park in DeWitt to the Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum. All miles count toward the Canalway Challenge and kids age 10 to 18 qualify for the new Erie Canal Historic Trails Award.

Champlain Canalway Trail Family Bicycle Celebration

Town of Fort Ann

5/20/23 & 5/21/23, Waterford Canal Festival, 6/3/23, Mullen Park, Ft. Edward

champlaincanalwaytrail.org

Celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Champlain Canal at the Waterford Canal Festival and Mullen Park in Fort Edward. Children ages 4 to 12 can test their bicycle safety skills on a closed course, and be fitted with a new helmet if needed. A bicycle ride along the Champlain Canalway Trail and a narrative historical walking tour follow the rodeo.

Waterford Canal Festival

Waterford Canal Festival

5/20/23 & 5/21/23, Waterford Harbor

waterfordcanalfestival.com

Kick off the start of the canal season with music, vendors, walking tours, bike rides, and a variety of activities for kids.

The Boilermaker's Erie Canal Races

Boilermaker Road Race

5/21/23, Lock E20, Marcy

boilermaker.com/erie-canal-races/

Run the 10-mile race along a beautiful stretch of the Erie Canalway Trail heading east from the Lock 20 trailhead and back. Complete the race either on your own or with a friend in the relay event. 5k race also available.

Celebrate Commemorate Memorial Day

Celebrate Commemorate Memorial Day

5/27/23 & 5/28/23, Waterloo

waterloony.com/memorial-day/celebrate-commemorate

Visit historic Waterloo, NY, the official birthplace of Memorial Day, for a weekend full of family-friendly activities, music, horse-drawn wagon rides, a parade, fireworks, and much more.

JUNE

Low Bridge, High Water Festival

Village of Brockport

6/10/23, Village of Brockport Welcome Center

brockportny.org/low-bridge-high-water-festival

Celebrate the opening of canal season and the Village of Brockport's bicentennial as the western terminus of the Erie Canal in 1823. This signature festival features water and land-based activities, student artwork, musical performance of classic Erie Canal songs, vendors, kayaking, and a bike rodeo.

NAACP Rome NY Juneteenth Celebration

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Rome

6/16/23 – 6/18/23, Bellamy Harbor Park, Rome

facebook.com/naacprome.nybranch.3

Commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people in America during this 3-day event set alongside the Erie Canal. Learn how the Erie Canal played a role in the Underground Railroad and the history of those in Rome who helped enslaved people.

Wine, Craft Beverage & Artisans Festival/Music on the Erie

Newark Chamber of Commerce

Fridays, 6/16/23 – 8/25/23, T. Spencer Knight Park, Newark

newarknychamber.org/events

Kick off the Music on the Erie concert series with a tasting tent featuring local wine, beer, spirits, and hard cider (paid admission). Outside the tent, browse through arts, crafts, and food vendors with live music (free). Free concerts on the Erie Canal continue on Fridays through 8/25/23.

Old Erie Canal Boat Float

Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum

6/17/23, Cedar Bay, Manlius, Poolsbrook, Recognition Park

chittenangolandng.org/events-at-the-boatyard

Join hundreds of paddlers to celebrate the Old Erie Canal. Start from one of four locations and paddle up to 9.5 miles. Enjoy live music, food trucks, Erie Canal Brewing Company craft beers, demonstrations, and exhibits after the paddle. Count your miles toward the Canalway Challenge.

Beers, Bikes, and Barges: Oswego

H. Lee White Maritime Museum

6/22/23, H. Lee White Maritime Museum, Oswego

eriecanalmuseum.org/event/beers-bikes-and-barges-oswego

Take a 6-mile guided ride from the H. Lee White Maritime Museum along the Oswego Canal with stops at Fort Ontario, three locks, and the Oswego Harbor Overlook, ending with an ice-cold pint from a local pub (must be 21 and show ID). Expect some hills and road riding.

JULY

15 Pretty Darn Good Miles on the Erie Canal

Rochester Accessible Adventures

Weekly, 7/1/23 – 9/15/23, Erie Canal Boat Company, Fairport

rochesteraccessibleadventures.org/event/15-pd-miles

Rochester Accessible Adventures invites people with Parkinson's Disease (PD) and other disabilities to complete 15 social miles of kayaking, walking, or cycling on the Canalway Trail or NYS Canalway Water Trail in the company of a caregiver, friend, family member, or an RAA CanalPal Volunteer. 1/4-mile and 1/2-mile markers will indicate where participants can turn around. All miles count toward the Canalway Challenge. Pre-registration required.

Albany Symphony Freedom Road

Albany Symphony

7/2/23, Mohawk Harbor, Schenectady, 7/3/23, Riverlink Park, Amsterdam

albansymphony.com/upcomingconcerts/2023

Join the Albany Symphony for a free outdoor performance that explores Black American history and culture. Hear world premieres, newly commissioned works, arrangements inspired by great pop music from Black Americans, summer concert pop favorites and more.

Beers, Bikes, and Barges: Albany

Discover Albany

7/6/23, Albany Pump Station, Albany

eriecanalmuseum.org/event/beers-bikes-and-barges-albany-2023

Cycle through Albany for an inside look at the city's Erie Canal and brewing history. The ride begins and ends at C.H. Evans Brewing Company, where you will be treated to a beer and a brief history of the brewery (must be 21 and show ID).

Cycle the Erie Canal

Parks & Trails New York

7/9/23 – 7/16/23, Buffalo to Albany

ptny.org/cycle-the-erie-canal/annual-bike-tour

More than 750 riders of all ages cycle from Buffalo to Albany for this 8-day, 400-mile bike tour.

Wednesday at the Weighlock

Erie Canal Museum

7/12/23, Erie Canal Museum, Syracuse

eriecanalmuseum.org/event/wednesday-at-the-weighlock

Gather at the Erie Canal Museum for a public open house, guided museum tours, blacksmithing demonstrations, and happy hour featuring an educational concert by noted Erie Canal musician and historian Dave Ruch.

TRAID on the Trails

The Joe Family Foundation

7/21/23, Onondaga Park, 9/16/23, Syracuse Inner Harbor Creekwalk, Syracuse

upstatefoundation.org/TRAIDonthetrails

Try out adaptive cycles, participate in the Canalway Challenge, and connect with others in the inclusive recreation community. A pop-up adaptive sport/recreation session in conjunction with Syracuse Parks paves the way for the main TRAIID on the Trails day, a festival style inclusive recreation celebration with live music, adaptive equipment, and more.

AUGUST

7th Annual RiverFest Sponsored by Sticker Mule

City of Amsterdam Tourism Marketing and Recreation Department

8/5/23, Riverlink Park, Amsterdam

amsterdamny.gov/253/7th-Annual-RiverFest

Enjoy free live music, 75 vendors, kids' activities, and a giant firework show over the Mohawk River/Erie Canal.

38th Annual Little Falls Canal Celebration

Little Falls YMCA dba Little Falls Youth and Family Center

8/9/23 – 8/13/23, Little Falls

mylittlefalls.com/36th-annual-canal-celebration

Discover all things canal in the charming community of Little Falls. Choose from a variety of activities showcasing recreation, historic landmarks, geological wonders, heritage, and businesses.

17th Annual Cardboard Boat Races: Magical History Tour

Hudson Crossing Park

8/12/23, Fort Hardy Park, Schuylerville

hudsoncrossingpark.org/cardboard-boat-races

For 200 years the Champlain Canal has been a source of out-of-the-box thinking, and now it's your turn to make history! Will your boat have what it takes to stay afloat? Join the fun or watch from the shore, the Cardboard Boat Races are not to be missed!

SEPTEMBER

5th Annual Color Wayne Fun Run/Walk/Roll

The Arc Wayne

9/2/23, T. Spencer Knight Park, Newark

<https://arcwayne.org/newsandevents.html>

Friends and families are invited to wear white and travel the 2-mile course along the Erie Canal path and return covered by a rainbow of colors. Benefits the Arc of Wayne Foundation.

Macedon Heritage Festival on the Erie

Town of Macedon

9/2/23, Lock 30 Canal Park, Macedon

facebook.com/events/896154404762072/?ref=newsfeed

Celebrate the Town of Macedon and Wayne County's Bicentennial with live music, a children's fun zone, food trucks, horse and wagon rides, craft vendors, European Fife and Drum Corps performance, and a grand firework display.

Waterford Tugboat Roundup

Town of Waterford

9/8/23 – 9/10/23, Waterford Harbor

tugboatroundup.com

Head to the waterfront to celebrate New York's canals and maritime community heritage. The festival features a tug parade, tug tours, boat rides, tug talks, live music, a kayaking event, 5k race, competitions, fireworks, children's activities, vendors, and more.

Roc River Ride

Rotary Club of Rochester, Southwest

9/16/23, Genesee Valley Sports Complex, Rochester

facebook.com/events/500504268901223/

Explore Rochester's history and natural beauty on a bicycle ride along the scenic Erie Canalway and Genesee Riverway Trails. Experienced riders will guide cyclists to five stops that showcase local art, history, and culture. 10-mile and 3-mile options available. Riders ages 8-12 must be accompanied by an adult; those under age 8 can participate in a bicycle rodeo. Rain date: September 23.

Buffalo Maritime Center Whisky Plank Ceremony

Buffalo Maritime Center

9/16/23, Longshed at Canalside, Buffalo

buffalomaritimecenter.org/events

Join the Buffalo Maritime Center as they place the final wooden plank (known as the "whiskey plank") in the hull of the *Seneca Chief*, a replica of the canal boat that traveled from Buffalo to New York City and back to celebrate the 1825 opening of the Erie Canal. Live music, food, and beverages accompany the ceremony.

Locktoberfest Lockport

Lockport Main Street

9/30/23, Canal Street, Lockport

lockportmainstreet.com/locktoberfest

Celebrate the Erie Canal and the community of Lockport that was built on its banks during this festival of food and artisan markets, demonstrations, special partner events, and exclusive dining options. Activities include the Flight of Five Locks demonstration, Locks District tours, and more.

Fairport Reimagine the Canal Plein Air Festival

Village of Fairport Local Development Corporation

9/30/23, Village of Fairport

fairportpleinair.org

Fairport welcomes local and regional artists to spend the morning painting along the historic waterway and Village. Art lovers will be able to observe the artists as they paint. A public reception, exhibition, and sale of the art will take place in the afternoon.

Locktoberfest Phoenix

Village of Phoenix

9/30/23, State Street, Phoenix

villageofphoenix-ny.gov

Enjoy six bands on two stages; plus 75 vendors, crafters, and food trucks; pony rides; children's games; and a large fireworks display to celebrate the NYS Canal System and the arts. Winner of the 2019 SAMMY People's Choice Award for Best Music Festival.

OCTOBER

Locktoberfest Rome

City of Rome

10/7/23, Bellamy Harbor Park, Rome

romenewyork.com

Head to the waterfront to enjoy live music, an artisan craft fair, arts and activities for children as well as local craft beer.

Champlain Canal Bicentennial Concert

Canal Society of New York State

10/8/23, Corning Preserve, Albany

newyorkcanals.org/events

Commemorate the bicentennial of the Champlain Canal with a free public concert by the Albany Symphony Orchestra. The Symphony will present the "The Grand March," written in 1823 for the opening of the Champlain Canal, along with other canal-related and contemporary pieces.

Locktoberfest Fort Edward

Village of Fort Edward Canal Street Marketplace

10/14/23, Canal Street Marketplace, Fort Edward

visitfortedward.com/events/locktoberfest-2022

Celebrate the autumn harvest and the Champlain Canal Bicentennial on the grounds of the Canal Street Marketplace, 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.

Choirs on the Canal and Abolitionist Freedom Walk

National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum

10/21/23, Canal Street, Canastota

abolitionroad.org

Retrace the steps of 104 abolitionists who escaped an angry mob in Utica in 1835, embarked on an Erie Canal lumber barge to Canastota, and climbed the trail to Peterboro where they formed the New York State Anti-Slavery Society. Multiple choirs sing songs of freedom to launch the 2nd Abolitionist Freedom Walk.

5th Annual #CapitalWalls Mural Bike Tours

Albany Center Galleries, Inc.

September & October, Albany

albanycentergallery.org/capital-walls-mural-bike-tours

Take a 2-hour guided bike tour to explore the #CapitalWalls murals and the Empire State Trail. Tours include a mural map, guest artist talks, local food to go and more. Choose from four tour dates in September and October (\$5 deposit requested).