

SECTION 5.

Action Items

This section identifies next steps based on the findings and recommendations from this study.

Action Items

The following action items have been identified based on findings and recommendations of the existing amenity conditions analysis, best practices, and needs assessment. These actions will help to build on recent and ongoing investments in the recreational user experience to promote the Corridor's distinct sense of place, enhance the recreational user experience, and increase access for a wide range of users.



Establish an Implementation Plan

Based on the needs and opportunities identified in this study, it is recommended that Erie Canalway work with owning jurisdictions to develop an implementation plan that prioritizes investments, establishes roles and responsibilities, identifies an implementation schedule, and aligns investments with capital budgets and grant funding opportunities. An implementation plan for Canal Corporation-owned land may be more specific than one for land owned by other entities, which would require buy-in from partner communities.



Complete an Accessibility Assessment of Hubs and Nodes

Since hubs and nodes have been identified as places where investment should be focused, these locations are recommended as a first priority for detailed accessibility evaluation. The assessment would evaluate these areas against ADA standards, provide order of magnitude cost estimates to achieve compliance, and prioritize investments by location. Investments identified through this assessment could be included in the implementation plan.



Engage with Community Partners

The findings and recommendations from this study should be shared with partner communities and stakeholders for their awareness and guidance on enhancing the recreational user experience. This will help communities understand where need for new investment has been demonstrated and help to focus investment on the system. This would also help position these communities to take advantage of future grant applications.



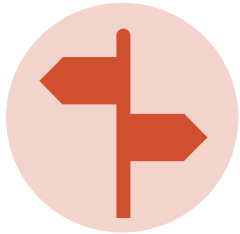
Prepare Cost Estimates

Based on the needs identified in hubs and nodes in Section 4 and the above-noted accessibility assessment, Erie Canalway should work with owning jurisdictions to prepare an itemized priority list for amenity investments, assign a unit cost to each, and prepare an overall budget for amenity investments across the system. These estimates will provide a basis for obtaining additional funding for investments through grants and other programs. Order of magnitude unit cost ranges for key amenities are provided at the end of this section.



Explore Opportunities for Private Partnership

Communities like Fairport have benefited greatly from private rental vendors operating along the Erie Canal/NYS Canalway Water Trail and the Erie Canalway Trail. Not only do these businesses fill a need by offering rental equipment that reduces barriers to first-time trail use, but they also activate the trail and trailside communities, serve as eyes and ears on the ground to identify unmet needs, and can become advocates to further enhance the system. With logical locations for rentals identified through the needs assessment, entities interested in investment are positioned to explore these opportunities and potential models.



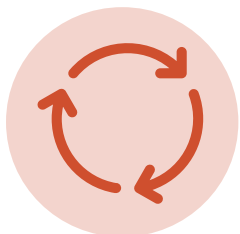
Develop a Signage and Wayfinding Guidance Document

Enhanced wayfinding was one of the key needs identified through this study. A wayfinding guidance document would provide consistent guidelines to all trail jurisdictions as to signage typologies, level of detail for information included on signs, identify logical locations for signs, and identify opportunities for signage investment. Canal Corporation is in the process of developing wayfinding standards for signage on land they own. OPRHP also has wayfinding and signage standards for the Empire State Trail, which have been implemented on parts of the Erie Canalway Trail. Recognizing that there are many other jurisdictions along the Corridor who would not use these standards, this document could enhance consistency among jurisdictions while understanding that some amount of variation is likely across the trail system. Coordination among all entities installing signage on the trail is critical to achieving greater consistency of signage. This document would serve as a tool to aid in coordination.



Establish Amenities Design Guide

Increased standardization of amenities along the Corridor through design guidelines would foster continuity along the Corridor and contribute to its distinct sense of place. Canal Corporation has already developed standards for amenities on land they own. While a design guide cannot be used to compel other entities who own land along the Corridor to comply, it can offer best practices for amenity types, grouping of amenities, and placement along the trail. The guide could also incorporate best practices for accessible and inclusive design, which would make it easier for the many communities along the Corridor to contribute to this goal. Erie Canalway has created a valuable resource in its *Hand Launch Facility Design Guide*. While it does not prescribe exactly the types of launches that must be installed, it provides details on the types of hand launch components that work well in various contexts. Similarly, an amenities design guide could expand this type of information to additional amenities.



Develop a Workflow for Maintaining Data

In order to ensure the inventory completed for this study remains useful in the future and does not become outdated, a regular data maintenance workflow should be established. Best practices for data maintenance were identified in Section 3. A protocol that determines who will maintain data, how it will be maintained, and how frequently it will be updated should be established. Erie Canalway and Canal Corporation have discussed using volunteer resources and mobile data collection apps to support data maintenance. A potential first step would be to establish a pilot program with the Water Trail Stewards to train them on data maintenance and test out the process for making updates.

Unit Costs

The following unit costs were developed to serve as a reference for planning and budgeting for amenity investments. The following caveats should be considered:

- This table reflects rough order of magnitude estimates.
- Costs presented are in 2024 dollars and do not account for escalation or inflation.
- Costs do not take into account the specific site characteristics of a given location. Further evaluation would be required through design to arrive at exact project cost estimates.
- Estimates include the cost of the amenity and shipping. Costs associated with installation, such as labor, supporting materials like concrete pads and footings, and any necessary infrastructure are not included. Costs associated with installation can be significant and must be considered in the total cost of installing any new amenity.
- Estimates do not include the cost of extending water or sewer infrastructure. The cost of extending water/sewer infrastructure will increase the total cost of drinking fountains and restrooms. The added cost of infrastructure will depend on proximity of existing public utilities, among other factors.

TABLE 5.1. Amenity Unit Costs

Amenity	Unit Cost Range of Equipment (not including installation)
Permanent Restroom	\$650,000+
Temporary Restroom	\$800 - \$2,000
Self-Composting Restroom	\$5,000 - \$15,000
Drinking Fountain	\$7,000 - \$8,500
Adaptive Hand Launch	\$30,000 - \$75,000
Bike Rack	\$1,000 - \$2,000
Bike Repair Station	\$2,200 - \$3,500

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