



Erie Canalway News Release

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WATERFORD -- As the National Park Service embarks on its second century of service, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor in New York is celebrating the significant accomplishments of its centennial celebration and engagement with the [Find Your Park](#) / [Encuentra Tu Parque](#) initiative.

Erie Canalway NHC programs and visitor information helped thousands of visitors, students, and residents find their way to New York's legendary canals, Erie Canalway Trail, historic sites, and canal communities in 2016.

- [EveryKid in a Park](#) - More than 8,600 students took free field trips to 13 historic canal sites and four national parks in the Erie Canalway thanks to innovative partnerships and funding spearheaded by Erie Canalway NHC. Students stood on the battlegrounds of the American Revolution, witnessed the place where women's rights were first declared, and saw firsthand the innovation and grit that built the Erie Canal.
- [Find Your Park](#)- Erie Canalway NHC produced five themed itineraries, released a new website, and gave out 100,000 Erie Canalway visitor guides and site directories in 2016 to help people find their way to great canal experiences.
- [Canal Events and Celebrations](#)- Erie Canalway NHC partnered with the NYS Canal Corporation to sponsor 25 community events and cross-corridor tours. This sponsorship was augmented by contributions from local businesses, nonprofits, villages and towns, along with an army of volunteers who invested over \$730,000 in their communities for these events. Canal-related festivals and events drew more than half-million people to the canal corridor to discover great places, regional foods and beverages, and fun experiences along the waterway.
- [National Historic Landmark nomination](#)-The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, in partnership with the NYS Canal Corporation, spearheaded nomination of the NYS Canal System as a National Historic Landmark in 2016. Final review by the Secretary of the Interior is underway and a determination is anticipated early in 2017.
- [Economic Impact](#)- An economic impact study of the Erie Canalway conducted by Tripp Umbach and released in 2016 found that the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor generates \$307.7 million in economic impact, supports 3,240 jobs, and generates \$34.9 million in tax revenues.

"We are honored to carry out the mission of the National Park Service here in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and to celebrate 100 years of stewardship of our nation's most significant sites and stories," said **Bob Radliff, Executive Director of the Erie Canalway NHC**. "2016 has been an exceptional year and we expect the upcoming **bicentennial celebrations** of the Erie Canal and the [2017 World Canals Conference](#) in Syracuse to draw even more attention New York's extraordinary canal heritage in the New Year."

Erie Canalway NHC's Programs Contributed to Overall Success of the NPS Centennial

Across the country, centennial programs resulted in a significant level of public interest and social media engagement with the National Park Service and National Park Foundation. The NPS, NPF, and partners nationwide reached hundreds of millions of people with the centennial's Find Your Park message, and engaged the public in the NPS stewardship mission.

"I like to say the NPS is the only federal agency with a mandate to ensure the public has fun, and the centennial has been a lot of fun," **said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis**. "But more importantly, it has inspired and engaged a new generation to take on the mantle of responsibility for the most important places and stories that define us as citizens of the United States of America."

More information about the success and long term legacy of the NPS Centennial is available online here: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/centennial/success.htm>.

About the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

Nearly 200 years after its construction, the Erie Canal remains an iconic symbol of American ingenuity and determination. 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. We achieve our 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. www.eriecanalway.org

About the National Park Service

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 413 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at www.nps.gov, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice, Twitter www.twitter.com/natlparkservice, and YouTube www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice.

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