



In partnership with the National Park Service



2016 Annual Report

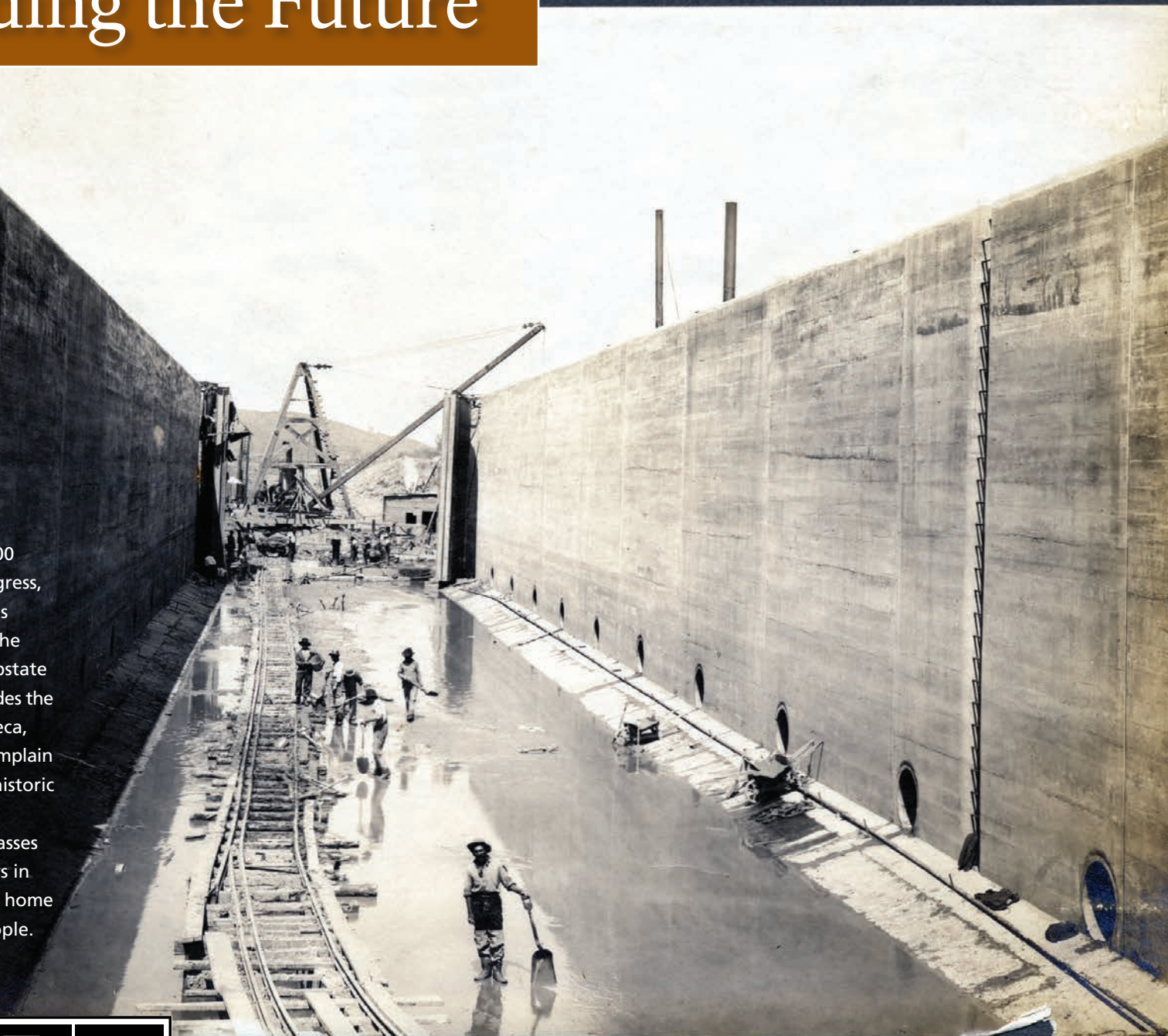
Building the Future

Established in 2000 by an Act of Congress, the Corridor spans 524 miles across the full expanse of upstate New York. It includes the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego, and Champlain canals and their historic alignments. The Corridor encompasses 4,834 square miles in 23 counties and is home to 3.2 million people.

**ERIE
CANALWAY**
National Heritage Corridor



In partnership with the National Park Service



Lock 11, Comstock, 1909 | New York State Archives

On the cover: Erie Canalway Trail | Keith Boas

We love the story of the Erie Canal: its heroic engineering and construction; its hard-working laborers; its visionary leaders; its transformative impact on New York and the nation. Wrapped in the history of the Erie Canal is the story of America itself: a nation that imagined big, pursued a bold agenda, and persevered to achieve greatness.

At the end of the day though, the story resonates only if it rings true. The story lives on if we envision how this iconic waterway will serve the next century and if we are the architects and laborers that build the canal's future.

That is what we strive to do every day at the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. Drawing from the canal's playbook and our own award-winning management plan, we are championing the Corridor's distinctive sense of place and protecting its heritage resources. We are working to maximize recreational opportunities for those who live here and for visitors from afar. And we are fostering economic sustainability and vibrant communities connected by our treasured waterways.

Together with our partners and thousands of people across the state and nation who care deeply about this place, we are making significant and steady progress. You will read about it in this report and, better still, you can see it for yourself in communities across the Erie Canalway Corridor.

We thank you for your involvement and support. Let's keep building.

PRESERVE AND SHARE OUR EXTRAORDINARY CANAL HERITAGE



Fairport | Keith Boas

Making an Impact

Ten years ago, the Governor of New York and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior approved the Erie Canalway Preservation and Management Plan. Since that time, the wide-ranging plan has served as a crucial blueprint for revitalizing this nationally significant corridor through heritage preservation and sustainable development.

Today, there is much to celebrate. 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.

The study measured the economic and employment impacts of national heritage area operations specifically, and included data on visitor and tourism spending at heritage sites, operational and capital expenditures, and grant-making. The study did not include impacts related to all canal-related activities, such as annual festivals or non-tourism uses of the canal system, which measure in the billions of dollars.

As we look ahead to the next 10 years, there is still much to be done. We are committed to “sticking with the plan” to fully achieve its goals. As we celebrate the bicentennial of Erie Canal construction in 2017, we will continue to build

The Erie Canalway’s economic impact is the result of diverse partners working together to preserve the best of the past, while ensuring a vibrant future along our canals and waterways.

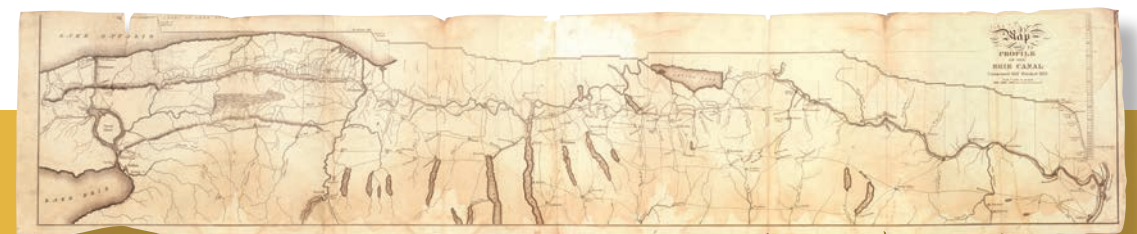
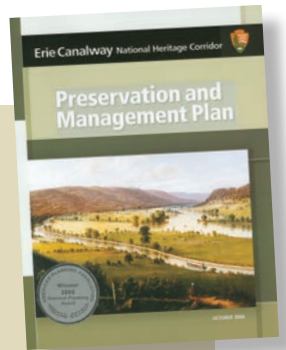
on our proud heritage. Our priorities include:

- Raise the stature of the National Heritage Corridor with designation of the NYS Canal System as a National Historic Landmark.
- Improve wayfinding and services for diverse visitors, including boaters, paddlers, cyclists, day trippers, and vacationers.
- Inspire the next generation of canal stewards through engaging education programs and volunteer opportunities.
- Enhance the National Heritage Corridor as a world class destination by continuing to “connect the dots” between communities, attractions, and recreational experiences along more than 500 miles of waterway.
- Identify, support, and promote key Canalway Corridor projects.

THE ERIE CANALWAY PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Outlines goals and strategies to protect the significant historical, cultural, natural, and recreational resources of the Erie Canalway Corridor.
- Identifies ways to employ these assets to stimulate economic development and improve the quality of life for Canalway communities.
- Offers guidance and provides direction for federal and state agencies, individual communities, nonprofit and private organizations that are formulating policies and taking action to achieve the National Heritage Corridor’s full potential.

Review or download the plan at eriecanalway.org or call us to request a copy.



Survey of Clinton’s Ditch Historic Structures Complete

We have completed an inventory documenting the original 1825 Erie Canal, fondly known as Clinton’s Ditch, in the Mohawk Valley between Albany and Rome. We engaged noted canal expert and retired NYS Museum Senior Historian Craig Williams for the project. Williams used historic maps and new remote sensing technologies to locate key canal features. This is the first step in evaluating resources for a National Register “Multiple Property” nomination.

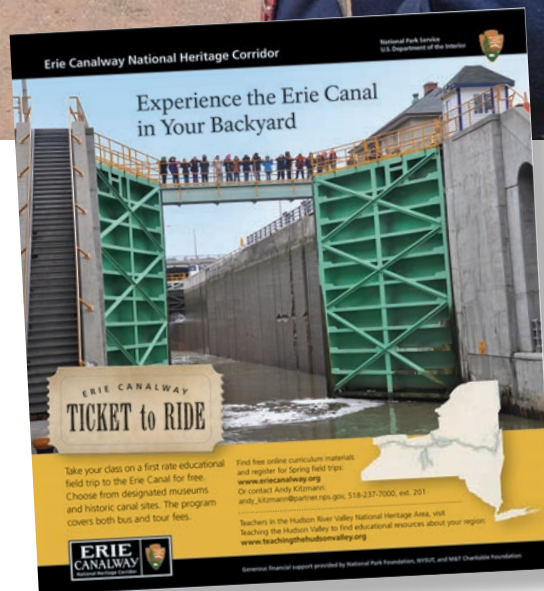


Fort Stanwix, Rome | NPS FOST

Giving Kids a Ticket to History

What better way to bring history to life and thread past to future than giving children an opportunity to experience the places where history was made? Thanks to the Erie Canalway's innovative partnerships and ability to secure financial support, thousands of 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.

Through our Ticket to Ride Program, nearly 7,500 fourth graders from 113 schools visited 13 canal sites and museums in 2016. The program provided funding for transportation and educational programs so that schools could take advantage of these field trips free of charge.



In addition, more than 1,200 fourth graders visited four national parks in upstate New York in 2016, thanks to our participation in the White House youth initiative Every Kid in a Park. We partnered with Fort Stanwix National Monument in Rome, Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site in Buffalo, Saratoga National Historical Park in Stillwater, and Women's Rights National Historical Park

TICKET TO RIDE BY THE NUMBERS

7,445

students visited

13 sites and museums

1,200

students visited 4

national parks in Corridor

167

unique schools from 93

different school districts

served since 2012

27,250

total students engaged

to date

in Seneca Falls to bring students to these nationally-significant places.

In the coming year, we will continue to refine and grow these programs so that as many children as possible throughout the Corridor can get this special ticket to history. Participation in Ticket to Ride and Every Kid in a Park was made possible with generous support from our partners, including the National Park Foundation with support from Disney, M&T Bank/ M&T Charitable Foundation, NYSUT, and the Central New York Community Foundation.



Bringing the World to New York

WORLD CANALS CONFERENCE SET FOR 2017

In September 2017, thousands of New Yorkers will join more than 500 delegates from around the globe for the World Canals Conference in Syracuse. To support this world-renowned event, Erie Canalway and its partners have launched a new website, kicked off a social media campaign, and engaged organizations from around the world to build a dynamic program.

In addition to events celebrating the Erie Canal's bicentennial, conference tours and mobile workshops will bring delegates to numerous canal sites and communities in Central New York. Topics will include economic development, tourism, waterway management, historic preservation, and environmental quality.

We are leading conference organizing and fundraising, along with co-hosts NYS Canal Corporation and Visit Syracuse, and Honorary Chair Dr. Neil Murphy, former president of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Our extended team includes Dixon Schwabl and DanaEvents. WCC2017 is dependent upon the generous donations of sponsors, including Presenting Sponsor National Grid, with support provided by Market NY through I LOVE NY, New York State's Division of Tourism, as a part of the State's Regional Economic Development Council awards. (See additional sponsors on page 16.)

Please visit the conference website to sign up for updates or to sponsor this exciting global event.

2017 World Canals Conference, September 24-28, 2017
www.wcc2017syracuse.com

PROMOTE THE CORRIDOR AS A WORLD CLASS TOURISM DESTINATION



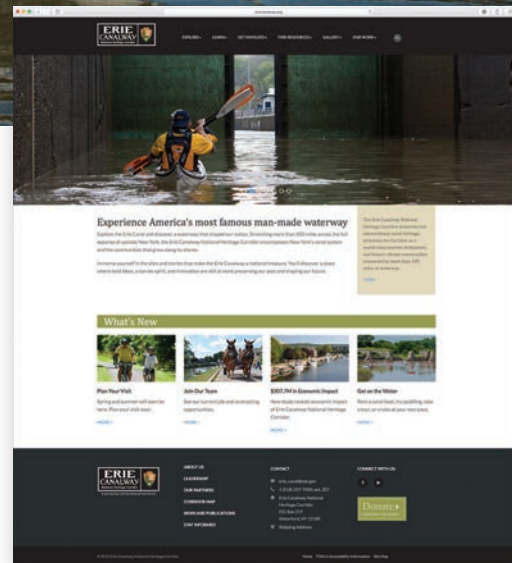
Baldwinsville | Kristin Mosher

It's All Right Here: Erie Canalway Online

NEW WEBSITE PROVIDES
A WEALTH OF RESOURCES

Visitors, residents, students, municipal leaders, preservationists, and journalists are just a few of the people who seek out our website each day. The new and improved www.eriecanalway.org makes it even easier for them to find informative content with impressive new images and interactive maps. In 2016 alone, more than 100,000 users viewed 350,000 pages on the website.

The website is designed to meet a diversity of needs. It includes extensive trip planning resources, in depth information on canal



history, and ways to preserve and share the Corridor's wealth of heritage assets. Users can easily view the website using their computer, tablet, or smart phone.

Thanks to 2k Design and Web Instinct for their web design and development services.

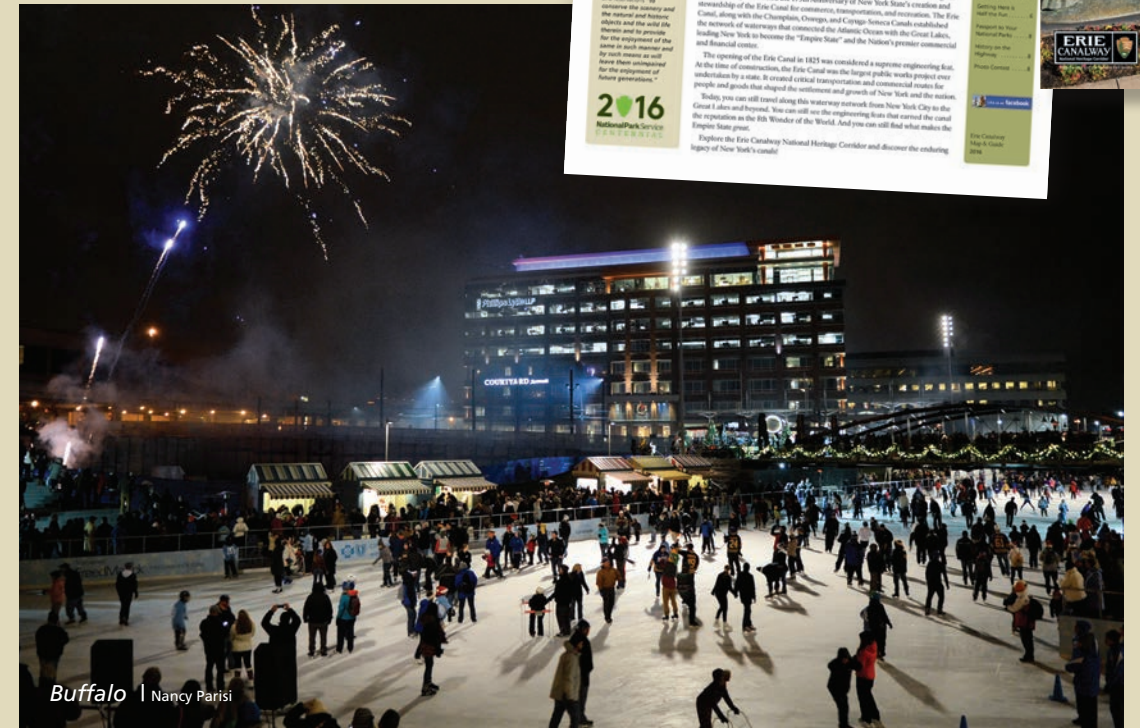
Celebrating the National Park Service Centennial

As the National Park Service (NPS) commemorated 100 years of sharing America's special places in 2016, Erie Canalway proudly joined the celebration. Our participation in the Find Your Park campaign helped thousands of visitors, students, and residents find their way to New York's legendary canals, Erie Canalway Trail, historic sites, and canal communities.

We produced five themed itineraries, gave out 100,000 Erie Canalway visitor guides and site directories, and supplied brochures to more than 75 visitor centers, as well as tourism trade shows. Designed with the NPS arrowhead logo and signature black band, these materials bring together the Erie Canalway's authentic

stories, historic canal system, and significant sites under the strong, recognized NPS brand.

Look for new itineraries, along with an updated site directory, and an Erie Canal bicentennial-themed Map & Guide in 2017.



Buffalo | Nancy Parisi



Mays Point | Phil Scalia

“Worth a Thousand Words”

PHOTO CONTEST AND CALENDAR SHOWCASE THE ERIE CANALWAY'S UNIQUE SENSE OF PLACE

Canal fans participating in our popular photo contest used creative expression to shine a spotlight on what makes the Erie Canalway such a distinct and significant place. More than 300 photos were submitted by 117 contest participants—and the winners once again graced each month of the Erie Canalway calendar. Thanks to an anonymous donor, we were able to award cash prizes to winners. We distributed 17,500 free calendars throughout the Corridor with the help of 80 libraries and museums and financial support from the NYS Canal Corporation.

To supplement photo contest images, we also deployed a team of professional photographers in 2016 to take pictures of people, places and events throughout the canal corridor. We've begun to use these images in both print and electronic media—including this report—to enhance our ability to attract new visitors

and showcase the incredible sites and experiences found along the waterway.

Special thanks to these talented photographers:

- Capital Region: Jesse Matulis and Alana Sparrow, The Foundry, Cohoes
- Mohawk Valley: Phil Scalia, Fort Plain
- Central New York: Kristin Mosher Photography, Syracuse
- Greater Rochester: Keith Boas, Fairport
- Western New York: Nancy Parisi, Social Documentation Photography, Buffalo
- Champlain Canal: Jim McKnight, Schuylerville

The project was made possible from funding support provided by Market NY through I LOVE NY, New York State's Division of Tourism, as a part of the State's Regional Economic Development Council awards.

Drawing a Crowd

EVENT AND FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP MEANS BUSINESS

Canal-related festivals and events draw more than half-million people each year and invite residents and visitors to discover great places, regional foods and beverages, and fun experiences along the waterway. They also generate millions of dollars in economic impact for Corridor communities. For the third consecutive year, we partnered with the NYS Canal Corporation to sponsor exciting community events and cross-Corridor tours. In addition, local businesses, nonprofits, villages and towns, along with an army of volunteers invested over \$730,000 in their communities for these events.



Cycle the Erie Canal, Little Falls | Phil Scalia

SPONSORED EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Bridging the Canal 2016, Rochester
- Elevating Erie Public Exhibit, Syracuse
- 150th Anniversary of Memorial Day, Village of Waterloo
- Pedal-Paddle-Run and Mabee Farm Canalfest, Schenectady
- Low Bridge, High Water, Village of Brockport
- Canal Fest: History Comes Alive, Chittenango
- Paddle Along the Mohawk and Canal Days, Fort Hunter
- Summer Sunday Night Concerts at the Gazebo, Spencerport
- Community Concert Series, Macedon
- Music on the Erie Summer Series, Newark
- Little Falls Cheese Festival and Little Falls Canal Celebration, Little Falls
- The Great Big FANY Ride, Cross-Corridor Cycling Trip
- The Erie Canal Landscape Photography Exhibit, North Tonawanda
- Adaptive Paddling Extravaganza, Fairport
- Cycle the Erie Canal, Buffalo to Albany
- Towpath Day, Camillus
- Hudson Crossing Park's Cardboard Boat Race, Schuylerville
- Mohawk Valley RiverFest, Amsterdam
- River Through Time, Fort Plain
- Bicycle Fun Day on the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Trail, Niskayuna
- Tour the Towpath, DeWitt to Rome
- Summer Send-Off, Ames
- Waterford Tugboat Roundup, Waterford
- Locktoberfest, Phoenix



Paddling Into the Past

WATER TRAIL PLAN COMPLETED

We're working to make it easier for paddlers to explore and enjoy the Erie Canal, starting with the creation of a Historic Water Trail from Rome to Waterford. In 2016, we worked with the NPS's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, the NYS Canal Corporation, and consultants at C.T. Male Associates to identify existing water trail assets and gaps, complete a water trail plan, and begin a public awareness campaign for the 128-mile trail.

When completed, the water trail will connect communities along the Erie Canal and Mohawk River and assist paddlers in finding places to get off the water to explore historic and cultural sites. Online and printed maps, a guidebook, site markers, and end-to-end recognition are a few of the features that we aim to have in place as the water trail takes shape.

And the timing seems just right. The NYS Canal Corporation reported nearly 8,000 non-motorized vessel lockings in 2016, a whopping 52-percent increase over the previous year.



"It is an incredible experience to paddle back into the past. As you glide down the waterway so important to the growth of this country, it is impossible not to feel the spirit and strength of those who traveled so early in our nation's history also by their own power."

—Paul Comstock of Houston, Texas, about his travels on the canal system.

Originally from Brockport, Comstock's grandfather once worked on the canal. Now, he's connecting to his roots by paddling and leading trips along the Erie Canal. He's also become a major donor and is contributing his considerable expertise to help us develop the Historic Water Trail as part of our trail advisory group.

FOSTER VIBRANT COMMUNITIES CONNECTED BY THE WATERWAY



Transforming Matton Shipyard

SAVE THE SHIPYARD CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Like the tugs and barges once built and launched at Matton Shipyard, it has taken a mighty effort to initiate the preservation and transformation of this historic shipyard in Cohoes. Erie Canalway has rallied state agencies, municipal leaders, consultants, and funders to save the shipyard from further deterioration, while envisioning a vibrant future for the site.

Erie Canalway is leading the charge to transform Matton Shipyard as a hub for recreational, educational, and cultural activities. Located in Peebles Island State Park at the junction of the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers, the shipyard is strategically linked to several land and water-based recreational trails.

A site assessment team worked at Matton in 2016 to inventory and analyze the condition of buildings and the landscape, and delve into the site's history and archaeology. Led by Fisher Associates, the team includes Bero Architects,

The historic Matton Shipyard is a rare surviving example of an early 20th century ship building and repair facility. From 1916 to 1983, Matton workers built more than 340 tug boats, barges, police boats, WWII submarine chasers, and other vessels. The shipyard is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Ryan Biggs, Hartgen Associates, Adirondack Studios, Popli Design Group, and MJ Engineers.

We also initiated an extensive fundraising campaign to support the project. To date, we have secured grants for the evaluation phase from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the John E. Streb Fund for New York of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Albany County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and other private and public funds.



Seneca Knitting Mill,
Seneca Falls

Getting Projects Off the Ground

GRANTS ADVANCE ERIE CANALWAY'S MISSION

As part of our mission to spur growth along the Corridor, we proudly support communities, organizations and businesses that are the life blood of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. In 2016, we awarded \$43,870 in grants for ten innovative education and preservation projects that advance the goals of the Erie Canalway Preservation and Management Plan. These awards leveraged an additional \$164,889 in private and public project funding raised by grant recipients.

Erie Canalway has awarded nearly **\$500,000 in small grants to date, which has leveraged an additional \$1.65 million in project funding that benefits canal communities.**

In addition to our own grants, we are pleased to boost funding for preservation projects in Erie Canalway communities by providing financial support for Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and the Preservation League of New York State. Funds will be awarded in 2017.

2016 GRANT RECIPIENTS

- **Camillus Canal Society, Inc.** designed and produced an Erie Canal-themed mural in the town.
- **The Canal Society of New York State** is publishing a teacher's guide to Erie Canal Lock 52 and the Erie House, a former lock-side tavern located within the Port Byron Heritage Park. The park is a new NYS Thruway rest area eastbound between Exits 41 and 40.
- **Cohoes Local Development Corporation** is developing interpretive signs for its visitor center and at important canal sites along the city's walking trail.
- **Explore & More Children's Museum** in Buffalo created Life on the Erie Canal, a program conducted at Buffalo's Canalside and other venues to help students explore the early decades of the Erie Canal.
- **Friends of DeWitt Parks & Recreation, Inc.** hosted the 2016 Tour the Towpath bike ride.
- **Friends of Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site** is constructing a scale model of the site's significant canal features to be used in its education and outreach programs.
- **Mural Mania** organized the Erie Canal Heritage Mural Expo, a public exhibition where local and international artists painted murals during the 2016 Global Mural Conference held in Fairport in September.
- **National Women's Hall of Fame** is developing interpretive panels to be part of the permanent exhibition located at its new location in the former Seneca Knitting Mill in Seneca Falls.
- **The Village of Baldwinsville** is installing two new "memory markers" to add to its outdoor interpretive exhibits highlighting stories and experiences of Baldwinsville residents.
- **Waterford Historical Museum & Cultural Center** is creating a walking tour for Lock E-2 as part of its Canalways Program for students.



Tour the Towpath, Verona

Sustaining Our Work

How the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund Helps

The Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, Inc. works collaboratively with the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission to plan, direct, and fund the work of the National Heritage Corridor. This 501(c)(3) nonprofit solicits grants, donations, and in-kind services to maximize our mission in the communities we serve.

We asked several donors about their decision to contribute to the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund. Their commitment to community and desire to build upon our canal heritage motivate their generosity. We thank all who support the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund; see a full list of contributors on pages 16-17.

JOHN MCGLONE, PALATINE BRIDGE

"The most fascinating aspect and my biggest appreciation of the Erie Canalway is the human dimension—how the impact of the canal still reverberates through our villages and how many can trace their roots to relatives that were stone masons, lock tenders, or in other ways made their livelihood from the canal. Many of their descendants still reside in these canal villages, contributing to the fabric of the area."

John McGlone is a resident of Palatine Bridge who spent a career in strategic consulting and who is passionately committed to leveraging

assets of the Mohawk Valley region and contributing to its future. In addition to being a generous individual donor to the Heritage Fund, John also is a board member of the Montgomery County Industrial Development Agency and a Commissioner with the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

"I support the Erie Canalway for its talented staff and the efforts they continue to build on. I see tremendous local, regional, and statewide benefits of the Canalway's work and want to support its ability to achieve even greater impacts."

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF HERKIMER AND ONEIDA COUNTIES, UTICA

Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation, we have made significant progress on the development of the 128-mile Erie Canal–Mohawk River Historic Water Trail that weaves through many communities in Herkimer and Oneida Counties.

"We believe the Water Trail offers good economic development and tourism opportunities for our communities," says Jan Squadrito, the Foundation's Senior Community Investment Manager. "Our support fits well with the Foundation's mission to create innovative partnerships and investments that have lasting impact on the quality of life for residents in this two-county region."

BROOKFIELD RENEWABLE, QUEENSBURY

Brookfield owns and operates one of the world's largest renewable power portfolios, anchored by more than 215 hydroelectric facilities. The company has a strong presence in New York with 74 hydro-power plants, of which approximately a dozen are located on the NYS Canal System.

According to Andy Davis, Director, Stakeholder Relations, North America, "We partner with the Erie Canalway on the popular Map & Guide as part of Brookfield's commitment to contribute positively to the communities in which we work, live and manage our operations and to protect and enhance the ecosystems affected by our activities. This commitment is integral to our operations, management systems and performance metrics."

"The Noses," Mohawk Valley | Phil Scalia

FINANCIAL REPORT*

October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016

SUPPORT & REVENUE

■ Federal & State.	\$855,092
■ Contributions, Grants & Sponsorships	\$45,063
■ In-kind Contributions	\$256,724
Total.	\$1,156,879

By working with municipal and nonprofit partners, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor leveraged more than \$1.09 million in FY 2016 in support of program and project activities, consistent with our award-winning Preservation and Management Plan.

EXPENSES

■ Preserve & Share	
Our Extraordinary Heritage	\$635,791
■ Promote the Corridor as a	
World Class Destination	\$260,540
■ Foster Vibrant Communities	
Connected by the Waterway	\$120,247
■ Program Support, Management &	
Resource Development	\$86,761
Total.	\$1,103,339

* The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor benefits from the work of two entities – a federal Commission and the nonprofit Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, Inc. These simplified financial statements reflect a summary of both entities. The Commission auditor is Nathan & McKenzie Forensic Accountants, Inc. The Heritage Fund auditor is Cusack & Company, CPAs LLC. More detailed and audited financial statements for both entities may be requested by contacting our office. In addition, financial statements for the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund may be obtained from the NYS Office of the Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10271.

DONATIONS, GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Erie Canalway Leadership Circle (\$10,000+)

Central New York
Community
Foundation, Inc.,
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Empire State
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I LOVE NEW YORK

Honeywell
M&T Bank / M&T
Charitable Foundation
National Grid
National Park
Foundation, through
the generous support
of Disney
New York State Canal
Corporation

Erie Canalway Legacy Partners (\$5,000-9,999)

Albany County
Convention and
Visitors Bureau of
The Community
Foundation for
the Greater Capital
Region
Brookfield Renewable
Erie Canal Bike Shuttle,
LLC
John & Michele
McGlone
National Trust for
Historic Preservation
O'Brien & Gere
Engineers, Inc. I OBG
Rome Community
Foundation

The Community
Foundation of
Herkimer & Oneida
Counties, Inc. and
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W.H. Smith Fund
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Pomeroy Foundation

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James McKnight

National Park Service
Rivers, Trails and
Conservation Assistance
New York State Canal
Corporation
New York State Office of
Parks, Recreation &
Historic Preservation
New York State United
Teachers (NYSUT)
Phil Scalia Photography
Visit Syracuse (and
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Dorian Wells

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Peter Anderson
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H. Andrew Batty
Thomas Beardsley
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Lynne Whetzel
Julie & Troy White
M. John White
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Lori Williams
Lynne Williamson
W. Brian Yates
John Zoni

Note: individual donations through 11/30/2016. Our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions. Please contact us at 518-237-7000 x 207 with any corrections.

Thanks to Lela Katzman/Full Spectrum Communications for assistance with this annual report.



Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
P.O. Box 219
Waterford, NY 12188
(518) 237-7000
www.eriecanalway.org

LEADERSHIP

CORRIDOR COMMISSION

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Vice Chair Barbara Blanchard, Albany
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Vice Chair Robert Elliott, Croton-on-Hudson
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**Commission representative*

STAFF

Rosemary Button, Director of Financial Administration
Duncan Hay, Historian
Diane Jennings, Director of Administrative Services
Andy Kitzmann, Assistant Director
Jean Mackay, Director of Communications & Outreach
Bob Radliff, Executive Director
Brian Yates, Program Manager

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

U.S. Senators

Kirsten Gillibrand
Charles Schumer

U.S. Representatives

Chris Gibson (19th District)
Paul Tonko (20th District)
Elise Stefanik (21st District)
Richard Hanna (22nd District)
Tom Reed (23rd District)
John Katko (24th District)
Louise Slaughter (25th District)
Brian Higgins (26th District)
Chris Collins (27th District)

TRANSITIONS

After 14 years on the Commission, Chair Russ Andrews retired at the annual meeting in June. Russ was a founding commissioner who served as Chair since 2013. Russ will be remembered for his passion for community involvement and his enthusiastic contribution to events and projects. We also thanked outgoing commissioners and board members for their service, including: Anthony Giardina, Mark Peckham, Peter Snyder, and Dorian Wells.

Hannah Blake, Director of Planning & Heritage Development, was detailed to a special assignment with the Northeast Region of the National Park Service in 2016.