



New York State Canal System

Tourism Infrastructure and Event Grants 2024 Recipients

TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE AMENITY IMPROVEMENTS

Canal Society of New York State

Transportation of the Canal Schooner Lois McClure

Transport the historic replica canal schooner, *Lois McClure* to the Erie Canal Heritage Park in Port Byron for public interpretation.

Awarded: \$24,000

Schenectady County Historical Society

Capital Improvements to the 1795 Inn at Mabee Farm

Address critical capital improvements to preserve the 1795 inn at the Mabee Farm and maintain public accessibility.

Awarded: \$24,000

Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry

Seneca Falls Harbor Boater Amenities Improvement Project

Enhance the experience of visitors to the Seneca Falls Visitor Center by repairing floors, improving restrooms, painting walls, and installing free public Wi-Fi.

Awarded: \$9,979

Town of Greenwich

Greenwich Hudson Riverside Park Improvements

Create a picnic pavilion and other park improvements to enhance the visitor experience along the Hudson River and Champlain Canal.

Awarded: \$24,000

Town of Lyons

Erie Canal Tourism Improvement Project

Replace aging and unsafe wooden benches throughout the town's canal parks with weather resistant commercial grade equipment.

Awarded: \$12,245

Village of Brockport

Kayak Rentals on the Erie Canal

Launch a new kayak rental program to provide convenient, accessible, and safe recreational experiences for waterway users.

Awarded: \$9,500

Village of Clyde

Amenities Along the Canal

Add benches and picnic tables along the Empire State Trail near the Village of Clyde.

Awarded: \$8,000

Village of Schuylerville

Repair and Restoration of the Empire State Trail

Repair a section of the Empire State Trail located near Fort Hardy Park to improve safety and recreational experiences for cyclists.

Awarded: \$9,675

EVENTS (listed in date order)

MAY

Explore Buffalo Canalside Tours

Explore Buffalo

May – October, Canalside, Buffalo

<https://www.explorebuffalo.org>

Take a walking tour of Canalside, the Erie Canal's 1825 western terminus. See Buffalo's new waterfront attractions and learn about the history of the Erie Canal in Buffalo. Choose a 90-minute adult or 60-minute family-friendly tour geared for kids 5-10. Free.

Champlain Canalway Trail Family Bicycle Celebration

Town of Ft. Ann

May 18, Waterford Canal Festival; June 1, Hudson Falls to Fort Edward

<https://champlaincanalwaytrail.org>

Take a guided bike ride or a narrated walking tour along the Champlain Canal. Children ages 4 to 12 can participate in a bike safety rodeo to test their skills and be fitted with a new helmet if needed.

Waterford Canal Festival

Waterford Canal and Towpath Society

May 18 – 19, Waterford Visitor's Center and Lock 2

<https://waterfordcanalfestival.com>

Experience the charm of New York's historic waterways with a weekend filled with boat tours, music, vendors, walking tours, bike rides, and a variety of activities for all ages.

Boilermaker's Erie Canal Races

Boilermaker Road Race

May 19, Lock 20, Whitesboro/Utica

<https://www.boilermaker.com/erie-canal-races/>

Choose your distance and run a beautiful stretch of the Erie Canal. Erie Canal Races includes a 10-miler, 5K (3.1 miles), and a two-person 10-mile relay (5 miles per runner).

Celebrate Commemorate Memorial Day

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May 24 – 26, Multiple locations, Waterloo

<https://waterloony.com/memorial-day/celebrate-commemorate/>

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

Inauguration of the Erie Canal boat “Seneca Chief”

Buffalo Maritime Center

May 25, Canalside, Buffalo

<https://buffalomaritimecenter.org>

Join the Buffalo Maritime Center as they inaugurate 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. The festivities will include entertainment, historic information, and fun.

JUNE

Music in the Park

Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry

Thursdays, Jun 6 – August 29, People’s Park, Seneca Falls

<https://sfheritagetourism.com/events/>

Pull up a seat for live music, local eats, and kid’s activities every Thursday on the banks of the Erie Canal. Free.

Seneca Falls Canal Fest

Seneca Falls Business Association

June 7 – 9, Cowing Street, Seneca Falls

<https://canalfest.senecafallsba.com/>

Head to Seneca Falls for a three-day festival along the canal featuring vendors and food trucks, live music, fireworks, midway rides, kids’ activities, annual Duck Race, and more.

River Rock Music Fest

Cornell Cooperative Extension

June 8, Lauraville Landing, Clyde

<http://www.riverrockmusicfest.com/>

Dock your boat, ride your bike, or rent a kayak and spend the day listening to live music from jazz to classic rock. Games, food, and kids’ activities including a playground and bounce house round out the fun. Stay for the day or camp at the Lauraville Loop camp sites.

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

Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce

Festival: June 14, Music: Fridays, June 14 – August 25, T. Spencer Knight Canal Park, Newark

<https://newarknychamber.org/events-2>

Kick off the Music on the Erie concert series with a tasting tent featuring local wine, beer, spirits, and hard cider makers (paid admission). Outside the tent, browse through arts, crafts, and food vendors with live music (free). Enjoy live music every Friday night through August 25.

31st Annual Waterfront Festival & Cardboard Boat Regatta

Watkins Glen Promotions, Inc.

June 15, Seneca Harbor Park, Watkins Glen

<https://thewaterfrontfestival.com>

Dive into the magic of the Finger Lakes with a day of family fun on Seneca Lake with 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.

Accessible Adventures Extravaganza on the Erie Canal

Rochester Accessible Adventures

June 15 & 16, Fairport

<https://rochesteraccessibleadventures.org/event/accessible-adventures-extravaganza-on-the-erie-canal/>

Enjoy a two-day adventure along the Erie Canal especially inviting individuals and families living with disabilities. Try out adaptive kayaking and cycling equipment and learn more about adaptive recreation, including birding, fishing, pickleball and other sports, at a Community Access Wellness Fair. Participate in the 1st Mile Challenge or log miles toward the Canalway Challenge.

City of Rome Juneteenth Celebration

NAACP Rome, NY Branch

June 15 & 16, Bellamy Harbor Park, Rome

<https://www.facebook.com/naacpromenybranch.3/#>

Commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people in America during this 2-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.

Old Erie Canal Boat, Float and Folk

Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum

June 15, Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum & Old Erie Canal State Historic Park, Chittenango

<https://chittenangoland.org/new-page>

Bring your kayak, paddleboard, or canoe and join hundreds of paddlers to celebrate the Old Erie Canal. Enjoy live folk music, food trucks, Erie Canal Brewing Company craft beers, demonstrations, and children's activities afterward. Count your miles toward the Canalway Challenge.

Learn to Kayak Ice Cream Social

Genesee Waterways Center

June 28, Genesee Waterways Center, Rochester

<https://www.geneseewaterways.org/events-classes/learn-to-kayak-ice-cream-social>

Learn how to paddle, enjoy live music, participate in nature-based activities and savor a free Lugia's ice cream. Kayaks are provided by Genesee Waterways Center. An adult must accompany children ages 6 -17. Registration required. The center is accessible by bus, car, and bike.

Erie Canal Historic Trail Event

Longhouse Council BSA

June 29, Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, Chittenango

July 27, Camillus Erie Canal Park, Camillus

October 5, Salt Museum/Onondaga Park, Syracuse

<https://www.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 in three different locations. All miles count toward the Canalway Challenge and kids ages 10 to 18 qualify for the new Erie Canal Historic Trails Award.

JULY

Taste of Wayne County

Village of Newark

July 16, T. Spencer Knight Park, Newark

<https://www.tasteofwaynecounty.org>

Taste the flavor of local culinary businesses as you sample signature dishes, unique local food products, and craft beverages. Presale tickets include a Taste of Wayne County cup/glass and a commemorative spork. Tickets also available at the door.

Jam on the Canal: Food Truck Rodeo

Homesteads for Hope

July 19 & August 16, Homesteads for Hope, Ogden

<https://www.homesteadsforhope.org/events>

Enjoy an entertaining evening of local food trucks and live music at this inclusive event on the Erie Canal.

Canastota

Village of Canastota Recreation Commission

July 20, Canal Street, Canastota

<https://www.canastota.com>

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.

Exploring Diversity, Social Reform, and Innovation along the Erie Canal

Slow Roll Buffalo

July 20, Buffalo

<https://slowrollbuffalo.org>

Pedal through history, exploring the social reform movements that were ignited by the Erie Canal. From the fight for workers' rights to the struggle for civil rights and gender equality, this ride will reflect on the challenges and triumphs of those who sought to create a more just and equitable society. Cyclists of all skill levels welcome.

Oswego Harbor Festival

Oswego Harborfest

July 25 – 28, East Park, Cahill Park, and Breitbeck Park, Oswego

<https://oswegoharborfest.com>

Celebrating its 35th year, this four-day festival features live music, fireworks, children's parade, food and craft vendors, and wine tasting.

TRAID on the Trails

The Joe Family Foundation

July 26, Inner Harbor Creekwalk, Syracuse

<https://www.upstatefoundation.org/TRAIDonthetrails>

Try out adaptive cycles, participate in the Canalway Challenge, and connect with others in the inclusive recreation community during this celebration of adaptive recreation on the 24th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Event includes music, food, and fun for individuals and families.

Wednesday at the Weighlock

Erie Canal Museum

July 31, Erie Canal Museum, Syracuse

<https://eriecanalmuseum.org/events/>

Explore and commemorate immigration's role along the canal. Discover the region's diverse cultures through a panel discussion, live music, blacksmith demos, guided tours, and food samplings from local businesses and heritage groups.

AUGUST

37th Little Falls Canal Celebration

Little Falls YMCA

August 7 – 13, Multiple locations, Little Falls

<https://mylittlefalls.com>

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

Sylvan Beach Canal Fest

Oneida Lake East Shore Merchants Association

August 9 – 11, Multiple locations, Sylvan Beach

<https://www.Sylvanbeachny.com>

Head to the lively community of Sylvan Beach for a celebration of summer and our location on the historic Erie Canal and the East Shore of Oneida Lake. Events include a water ski show, fireworks, helicopter tours, musical entertainment, fishing derby, and an art expo.

18th Annual Cardboard Boat Races: Great Explorations

Hudson Crossing Park, Inc.

August 10, Fort Hardy Park, Schuylerville

<https://www.hudsoncrossingpark.org/cardboard-boat-races>

Use your ingenuity to construct a boat out of cardboard and duct tape and race it across the Champlain Canal. Enjoy live music, food from local vendors, and activities throughout the day.

Carnegie Art Spree Festival

Tonawandas Council on the Arts, Inc.

August 17 & 18, Webster/Canal Streets, Tonawanda & North Tonawanda

<https://www.carnegieartspree.org>

Get ready for a weekend brimming with artistic brilliance as the historic Erie Canal becomes the backdrop for this juried art festival with a captivating array of artist booths, food trucks, live music and dance performances. Accessible by car, bus, boat, bike, and on foot.

Color Wayne Fun Run, Walk and Roll

Arc of Wayne

August 31, T. Spencer Knight Park, Newark

<https://arcwayne.org/foundation/>

Wear white and travel the 2-mile course along the Erie Canalway Trail and return covered by a rainbow of colors. Disability awareness event benefits the Arc of Wayne Foundation.

SEPTEMBER

Waterford Tugboat Roundup

Town of Waterford

September 6 – 8, Waterford Harbor and Lock 2, Waterford

<https://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, competitions, fireworks, children's activities, vendors, food, and more.

Roc River Ride

Rotary Club of Rochester – Southwest

September 14, Genesee Waterways Center, Rochester

<https://www.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. Three-, seven-, and ten-mile options available. Riders ages 8-17 must be accompanied by an adult; those under age 8 can participate in a bicycle rodeo.

Mohawk Hudson Folklife Community Celebration

New York Folklore

April 2, August 23, and September 21, Schenectady

<https://nyfolklore.org/events-exhibitions/>

Experience the region's rich artistic heritage and cultural diversity, including musical and dance performances and foodways and arts demonstrations, in this series of free, public events in Schenectady.

Locktoberfest Lockport

Lockport Main Street

September 28, Canal Street, Lockport

<https://www.discoverlockport.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, a community bike ride, and exclusive dining options. Activities include the Flight of Five Locks demonstration, Locks District tours, and more.

Fairport Reimagine the Erie Canal Plein Air Festival

Village of Fairport Local Development Corporation

September 28, Multiple locations, Fairport

<https://www.fairportpleinair.org/>

Fairport welcomes local and regional artists to spend the morning painting along the historic Erie Canal and throughout the Village. Art lovers will be able to observe the artists as they paint en plein air (outdoors). A public reception, exhibition, and sale of the art will take place in the afternoon.

OCTOBER

Locktoberfest Rome

City of Rome

October 5, Bellamy Harbor Park, Rome

<https://romenewyork.com>

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

Locktoberfest Fort Edward

Village of Fort Edward Canal Street Marketplace

October 19, Canal Street, Fort Edward

<https://canalstreetmarketplace.org/special-events/>

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.