

QUESTION 7 — PAGE 1

The Erie Canal: New Parks for New York



When the Barge Canal was constructed between 1905 and 1918 most of the older Erie Canal was destroyed or abandoned.

Filling in Old Canal to Create Erie Boulevard, North Albany, Photograph, Glen S. Cook, Albany, NY, c. 1920, Albany Institute of History & Art, PC 1, n156



In 1966 the Governor of New York called together a group of architects and engineers to help New York State determine the ways in which the lands along side the traces of the Old Erie Canal could be turned into educational, historic, and recreational resources. Just as the New York State Legislature helped to create the Erie Canal in 1817, 150 years later they passed a law creating the park. Today, the Old Erie Canal State Historic Park preserves the historic resources of the Erie Canal as it was enlarged in 1836. There are 36 miles of trails along the old tow paths and eight sites where the architecture of the enlarged canal is preserved.



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Old Canal Erie Canal State Historic Park

<http://nysparks.com/parks/17/details.aspx>

Museums and living history sites like the Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum and the Erie Canal Village enable visitors to get a sense of the obstacles that were overcome to build the canal and how its construction changed the landscape of New York State. You can hike, picnic, ride horses, canoe, fish and even snowmobile in winter along the old tow paths.



Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, Chittenango, NY



Erie Canal Village, Rome, NY



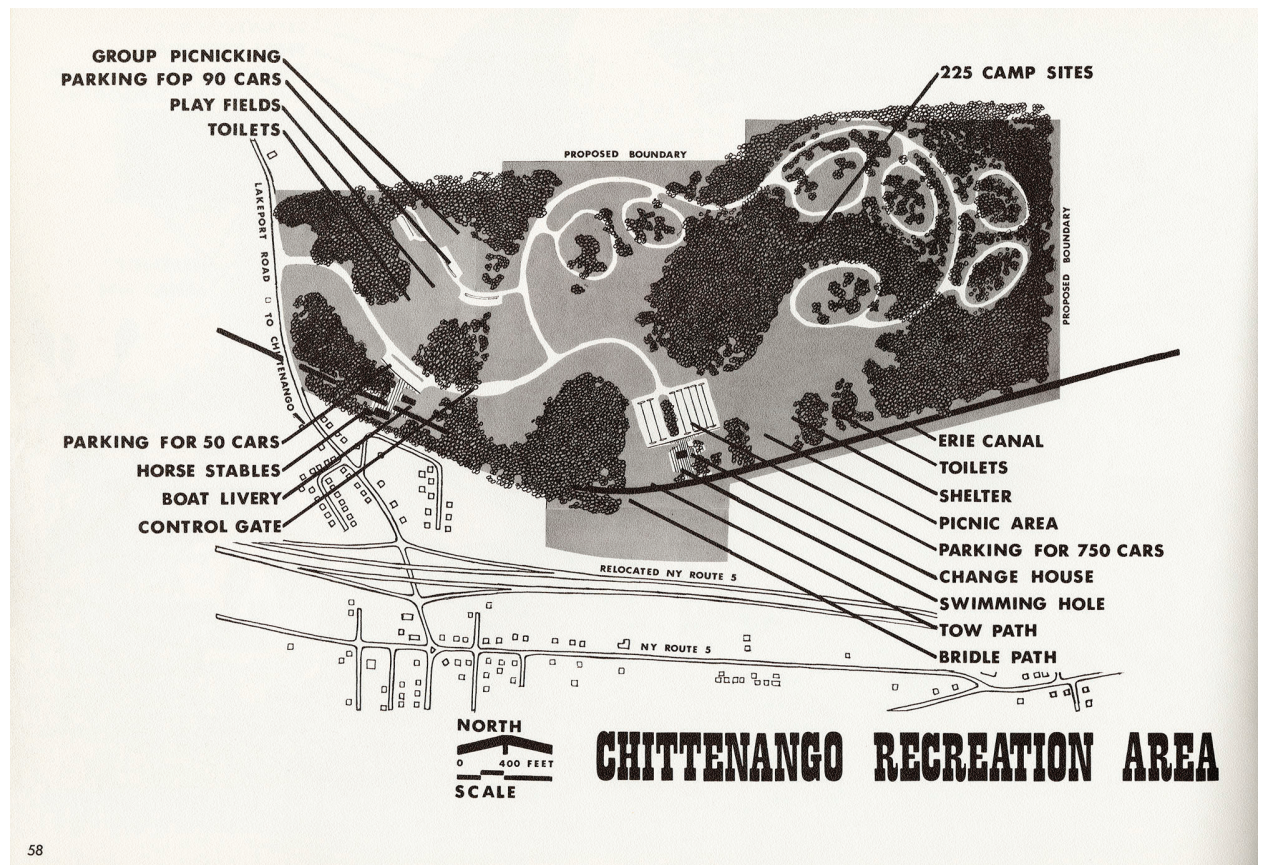
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A Proposed Park

The map for the Chittenango Recreation Area, as it was proposed in 1966 appears below. Look carefully at the proposed map. In the spaces below, list five things that you could have done at this park.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



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In Your Backyard

When most people visit the Erie Canal today, they are visiting the Barge Canal that was constructed between 1905 and 1918. You may have visited the Barge Canal on a school field trip or with your parents.

Imagine the Barge Canal is in your backyard and your community wants to build a new park alongside the Canal. What resources would you like to see the park include?

List at least five things below. Think about all of the natural and historic resources the Canal has to offer before you make your list.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Historic Erie Canal, Postcard, c. 1970, Joe Connors & Sons, Albany Institute of History & Art Library

