



In partnership with the National Park Service

2010





Pulling together

The going gets hard sometimes, but it's made much easier with a strong team. In 2010, we had just that. Despite a tough economy and fractured political climate, numerous people and organizations pulled together to protect and promote the nationally-significant assets of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

By collaborating with partners on federal, state, and local levels, our efforts to preserve and interpret our history, provide world-class recreational and educational opportunities, and revitalize canal communities are getting us where we want to go. The canal corridor is increasingly a thriving place to be.

Leadership, innovation, hard work, and perseverance in the face of obstacles—the very things that built the canal more than 185 years ago—are driving change throughout the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor today. This report is as much a reflection of the Commission's accomplishments as it is of *all of our efforts* to make the places we care about within the Erie Canalway the best they can be.

Let's continue to pull together in 2011. By drawing upon our past and using innovative approaches to address today's challenges, we will continue to create a vibrant future for all in the canal corridor.

Sincerely,

Judith Schmidt-Dean

Commission Chair

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

A boat parade arrives in Rochester to kick off the 2010 World Canals Conference. See page 4.
Photo: Thomas Harvey

2010

"National Heritage Areas not only preserve our history and create a sense of pride, but they serve as economic engines for many communities, generating tourism and creating jobs."
— Congressman Paul Tonko (NY-21)

National Support for Heritage Areas

National Heritage Area Congressional Caucus

Backed by dozens of National Heritage Area (NHA) supporters from across the country, Congressman Paul Tonko (NY-21) and Congressman Charlie Dent (PA-15) spearheaded the creation of a new National Heritage Area Caucus. With 49 NHAs currently designated by Congress, the group will help facilitate improved cooperation among numerous members of Congress interested in promoting regional conservation and sustainability. The caucus will also provide a permanent forum for all members to share information and learn about issues affecting budgets, funding, and policy for NHAs.

The National Park Service (NPS) has also shown tremendous support for the National Heritage Areas Program under the leadership of Director Jon Jarvis. Jarvis met several times with NHA executive directors, including Erie Canalway's Beth Sciumeca, to convey his support for heritage areas and his desire to make them part of the NPS family as described in the National Park Service's Second Century Commission report.

2010

4 million visitors

Canal Corridor Highlights

- Over **4 million visitors** annually are estimated to have an economic impact of **\$380 million**.
- Visitors to heritage sites in the Mohawk Valley and Capital Region generate an estimated **\$38 million in sales** annually at local businesses, which support **507 jobs providing \$14 million in wages** to local residents.
- More than 300 events and festivals** were held, compared with 80 just five years ago.
- Lockings**, the yearly measure of canal boat traffic, were **up 2 percent** overall compared with 2009, though some individual locks saw much greater increases (29% in Macedon; 9% in Pittsford).
- The majestic 88-foot canal schooner, **Lois McClure**, traversed the Erie Canal and the New York State Canal System, offering free tours to more than **15,000 people at 20 ports-of-call**.
- Canal Splash!**—an annual celebration of the canal's history, culture, and recreational appeal held the second weekend in August—offered over **120 events**.
- More than **400 delegates from 17 countries** attended the World Canals Conference in Rochester from September 19th to 23rd. An estimated **10,000 people** participated in pre-conference public events, including a community fair, and a boat parade and group cycling event that converged at the Rochester waterfront.
- More than **550 cyclists** participated in **Cycling the Erie Canal**, the 11th annual 8-day cross-state bike tour from Buffalo to Albany, organized by Parks & Trails New York.
- Eighteen projects in the canal corridor benefitted from **Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Awards totaling \$5.4 million**. These projects reflect a **total investment of \$15.5 million** in waterfront planning and infrastructure improvements.



\$380 million economic impact 300 events

Schoen Place, Pittsford. Photo by Carl Crumley

The **Mighty Waters Conference**, sponsored by Congressman Paul Tonko, brought together 125 stakeholders to develop a regional vision for waterfront development and historic preservation in New York's greater Capital Region.

The New York State Canal System became a federally designated **No Discharge Zone**, helping to ensure cleaner waters and improved wildlife habitats throughout the waterway.

A grand opening celebrated the newly restored **Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct** at the Camillus Erie Canal Park in Camillus.

The **New York State Canalway Water Trail** with more than 100 launch and landing sites and an online water trail map was established by the New York State Canal Corporation.

25 miles of the **Erie Canalway Trail** were rehabilitated.

\$30,000 in grants was awarded to local communities to improve tourism through the bi-annual matching grant program managed by the New York State Canal Corporation.

More than **5,000 children from 65 schools**, as well as thousands at canal festivals throughout the summer months, learned about canal history thanks to the **Tug Unger Program**.

The **Oswego Visitor Information Center** in Fulton and recently completed improvements to **Lock Island in Phoenix** enhanced visitor services and access along the Oswego Canal.

Sources: Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, New York State Canal Corporation, NYS Department of State-Division of Coastal Resources, Parks & Trails New York, and the Rivers Organization.

Build awareness and understanding

Raising awareness and understanding of the region's nationally significant history and diverse cultural and recreational assets is among the primary strategies for ensuring that current and future generations of residents and visitors will value and support preservation of the Corridor's heritage.

400 delegates **17** countries



Visitors were treated to the sight of *Lois McClure* under full sail on Seneca Lake in August. The crew lowered the mast for all other stops to accommodate low bridges along the canal.

▶ 2010 Accomplishments

2010 World Canals Conference

More than **400 delegates from 17 countries** attended the World Canals Conference in Rochester from September 19th to 23rd. The conference focused on economic development, tourism, operation, and interpretation of canals and waterways worldwide. An estimated **10,000 people participated in pre-conference public events**, including a community fair, and a boat parade and group cycling event that converged at the Rochester waterfront.

The World Canals Conference was presented under the auspices of Inland Waterways International, hosted by the Canal Society of New York State, and sponsored by the New York State Canal Corporation, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, Monroe County, Visit Rochester, and a number of private companies. In addition to providing funding, Erie Canalway staff played an integral role in conference planning and kick-off events, and led study tours and gave presentations during the conference.

▶ Among conference highlights was "Dinner in the Ditch," a reception inside the old Erie Canal aqueduct that now lies underneath Broad Street. Photo: Thomas Harvey



◀ Our Shared Heritage: World Canals Tour 2010

Erie Canalway played a supporting role among a cast of great organizations that made this year's journey of the *Lois McClure* a resounding success. The majestic 88-foot canal schooner, *Lois McClure*, traversed the Erie Canal and the New York State Canal System this summer, offering free tours to **15,000 people at 20 ports-of-call**. September's World Canals Conference in Rochester marked a high point of the voyage.

The tour provided a unique opportunity to rediscover the legacy of our shared heritage all along the canal and the role of the region's waterways in our history. The *Lois McClure* previously toured the canal system in 2007 and the Champlain Canal during the 2009 Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial celebration.

The expedition was made possible by a partnership among the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, the National Park Service, New York State Canal Corporation, Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership, and Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, with additional funding support from voyage sponsors, including Cabot Creameries.

Volunteer in Parks (VIP)

The National Park Service's VIP program connects volunteers with nearly 400 national parks. Erie Canalway began to shape its own VIP program this year thanks to participation from volunteers who served in 2009 on the Quadricentennial Voyage of the *Day Peckinpaugh*. This group helped us envision how volunteers might serve a 500-mile long corridor and, like all volunteers, they got to work right away:

- 22 volunteers attended training sessions and offered **guided walking tours** of the Erie and Champlain Canals in Waterford in August and September.
- Six VIPs participated in the **Trails and Rails Program**, offering programs about the canal to 7,500 passengers on trains running between Albany and Syracuse.
- Three VIPs were onboard the *Lois McClure* during stops in Fort Plain, Rochester, and Waterford.

Eriecanalway.org

Our website continues to be an essential vehicle for increasing visibility of the National Heritage Corridor and promoting its unique "sense of place" and nationally-significant cultural, historic, and recreational assets. The site received an average of 24,000 visits each month, up from 17,000 per month in 2009.

We added a number of new sections in 2010, including:

- **Explore: Underground Railroad**—Explores how the canal system became a pathway to freedom and lists prominent Underground Railroad sites to visit in the Corridor.
- **Gallery: Guide to Common Canal Structures**—A quick and easy photo reference to the most commonly seen historic and current-day working structures along the New York State Canal System.
- **Things to Do: Cycling with Kids**—What better way to learn about the canal than to see it first hand? This new section provides tips for cycling with children, plus five suggested itineraries along the Erie Canalway Trail.
- **Boating: Clean Vessels, Clean Water**—Reinforces the new No Discharge Zone designation for the NYS Canal System and provides steps for boaters to protect water quality along the canal.
- **Get Involved: Awards Program/Case Studies**—Ten case studies share successful strategies for heritage development from our Heritage Award recipients.

Keep coming back! Watch for the addition of more great online features in 2011, including: **Canal Stories**—nine videos featuring people who worked and lived along the canal; **Explore the Arts**—an extensive inventory of museums, galleries, historic theaters, and great places to make art; **Plan Your Visit**—improved maps and links with historic and cultural sites, nature preserves, parks, and engineering marvels throughout the National Heritage Corridor.

Strengthen community capacity

The many people working to preserve and enhance Corridor resources and local economies are eager to learn new skills, get help from new sources, and identify successful pathways. The Commission is fostering a climate of creativity and cooperation so that innovative ideas, expertise, and resources are shared and strengthened.

25 canal-related museums and heritage sites



Erie Canal Discovery Center, Lockport



Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry, Seneca Falls

2010 Accomplishments

Erie Canalway Partner Program Launched

In 2010, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission announced the selection of 25 canal-related museums and cultural heritage sites for participation in its newly created **Erie Canalway Partner Program**. The program aims to offer increased visibility and technical assistance to canal-related sites spread across more than 500 miles within the National Heritage Corridor.

The program designates partners into one of three categories based on their facilities, hours of operation, and significance as a canal site. Each site shares a different aspect of the canal's role in shaping New York and the nation. Some have important works of engineering, others have works of art or artifacts, and some highlight the value of the canal today. By working together, each place can provide a bridge to the next, offering a more complete picture for residents and visitors.

In the coming year, we will implement the core components of the program: a Peer to Peer Network, Signage and Identity, Partner Collaboration and Promotion, and Training/Technical Assistance. Additional sites will have an opportunity to become partners in a second round of selection planned for 2011.



Camillus Erie Canal Park, Camillus

2010 SITE DESIGNATION

Erie Canalway Heritage Partners

Arkell Museum at Canajoharie, Canajoharie
 Burden Iron Works Museum, Troy
 Camillus Erie Canal Park, Camillus
 Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, Chittenango
 Eastern Gateway to the Canal System at Waterford Harbor, Waterford
 Erie Canal Discovery Center, Lockport
 Erie Canal Museum, Syracuse
 Historic Palmyra, Palmyra
 Mohawk Towpath Byway, Waterford and Cohoes to Schenectady
 North Tonawanda History Museum, North Tonawanda
 Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester
 Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site, Fort Hunter
 Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry, Seneca Falls

Erie Canalway Affiliate Sites

Fort Plain Free Library, Fort Plain
 Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum, North Tonawanda
 Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester
 Rochester Public Library, Rochester
 Schenectady Museum & Planetarium, Schenectady
 Spencerport Depot & Canal Museum, Spencerport

Erie Canalway Points of Interest

A number of organizations maintain valuable Points of Interest throughout the National Heritage Corridor. The Commission will be working with the following organizations to further enhance these sites:
 New York State Canal Corporation
 NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
 Town of Halfmoon
 Town of Montezuma
 Western Monroe Historical Society (Morgan Manning House), Brockport
 Watervliet Shaker National Historic District, Watervliet

500
miles



Bicyclists Bring Business Guide

A joint effort by Parks & Trails New York, the New York State Canal Corporation, and Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor led to the development of a new guide for attracting bicyclists to New York's canal communities. The guide offers advice for capitalizing on the growing number of bicycle tourists using the Erie Canalway Trail.

Interpretive Weighlock Exhibit, Syracuse

The **Erie Canal Museum** in Syracuse, located in the only remaining weighlock building on the Erie Canal, unveiled a new interactive exhibit to acquaint young visitors with how to weigh boats and collect tolls as they operate a weighlock. The interactive exhibit was funded, in part, by a grant from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, awarded in 2007 as part of its Pilot Grants Program.

Technical Assistance

Our staff offers assistance to help communities and organizations meet their heritage development goals. This year, we reviewed several Local Waterfront Revitalization Plans, fielded requests for funding sources, offered advice on planning and preservation issues, and worked with staff at the New York Department of State, Empire State Development Corporation, and New York State Canal Corporation to facilitate community collaboration.

Stimulate economic revitalization and heritage tourism

In the 19th century heyday of the canals, public and private investments that were intended to advance individual competitiveness ultimately reinforced each other and advanced the entire region. Today, the Commission is leveraging its federal budget allocation to help Corridor communities generate economic growth through the preservation, enhancement, and interpretation of their heritage resources.



▶ 2010 Accomplishments

Economic Impact of Historic and Cultural Sites

Results of a study released in 2010 by the Commission showed that cultural and historic sites and museums in the eastern part of the National Heritage Corridor have a significant economic impact on the region. Visitors to heritage sites generate an estimated **\$38 million in sales** at local businesses, which support **507 jobs providing \$14 million in wages** to local residents. These results came from a major surveying effort begun in 2008 to collect data on the travel and spending patterns of tourists to heritage sites in the National Heritage Corridor. The survey was conducted in partnership with Dr. David Lewis of the University at Albany Geography and Planning Department and Camoin Associates.

Tourism Development and Marketing

Strategic partnerships forged among tourism promotion agencies and canal-related organizations enabled us to more effectively market the canals of New York State to international and national audiences in 2010. By pooling resources and working closely with I Love New York, New York State Canal Corporation, Canal New York, and tourism promotion agencies throughout the corridor, we attended premier travel shows, including the US Travel Association's **International Pow Wow** and **World Travel Market**. We also exhibited at the Empire State Tourism Conference and National Train Day. In addition, these partners co-hosted a "Familiarization Tour" for Israeli media and tour operators and a media familiarization luncheon for 32 travel media representatives from New York City.

We also sponsored three workshops on **Preparing for the International Market** for tourism professionals and destinations in the National Heritage Corridor. Nearly 170 tourism stakeholders in all attended the workshops in Geneva, Sylvan Beach, and Latham.

Above: Little Falls. Photo: Phil Scalia



Event Sponsorships

In 2010, Erie Canalway co-sponsored **five Corridor-wide events and 13 community-based events** that brought more than a half-million visitors to the canal, the Erie Canalway Trail, and canal communities. Partnerships with New York State Canal Corporation, Parks & Trails New York, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Western Erie Canal Alliance, and community partners were essential to the success of these events. Canal-wide events included: Canalway Trail Celebration (June), Cycling the Erie Canal (July), Canal Splash! (August), and the World Canals Tour of the *Lois McClure* (July-October).

Events and festivals throughout the National Heritage Corridor, including the World Canals Conference, were counted as a **key factor in boosting overall canal traffic** in 2010. Lockings, the yearly measure of canal traffic numbers, were up 2 percent overall compared with 2009, though some individual locks saw much greater increases (29 percent in Macedon; 9 percent in Pittsford).

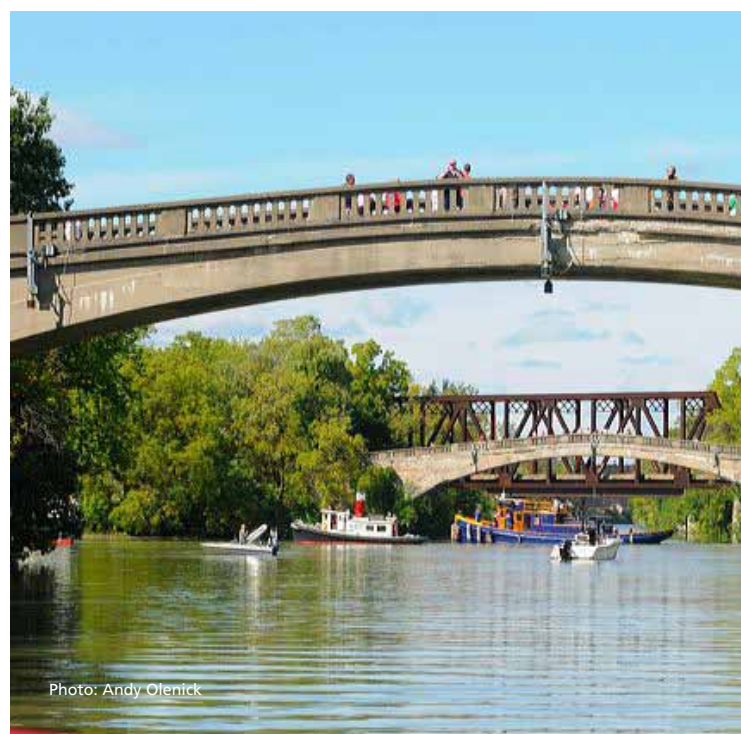


Photo: Andy Olenick



40,000
copies

New Erie Canalway Map and Guide

The Commission distributed **40,000 copies** of a new Erie Canalway Map & Guide to introduce visitors to the many things to see and do in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. The eight page guide, modeled after national park guides, was the **first of its kind** to give people a sense of the whole National Heritage Corridor and offer direction for day trips and excursions. **Seventy sites**—including visitor centers, locks, and cultural heritage sites—all along the New York State Canal System partnered with the Commission to distribute the free guide.

"I want to repeat how impressed everyone is with Erie Canalway Map and Guide. You hit a home run with this wonderful publication!"

Victoria Schmitt, President, Corn Hill Navigation

Alternative Transportation Planning Project

The National Park Service awarded the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor a **\$225,000 grant** to study opportunities for an interconnected alternative transportation network including bus, rail, and bicycle and pedestrian trails within the Corridor. A week-long site visit kicked off the planning process, which will be administered by Erie Canalway staff in partnership with the National Park Service's Denver Service Center-Transportation Division and Wilbur Smith Associates. The project team has begun to gather input from transportation professionals, community leaders, trail advocates, and others on possible projects for future investment.

Reinforce the canalway corridor's distinctive sense of place

The Corridor's historic, cultural, and natural resources deserve protection on their own merits, but also as contributors to a distinctive sense of place that appeals to residents, tourists, and others making place-based investment decisions.



2010 Accomplishments

Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence

Our awards program recognizes outstanding places in the Canalway Corridor where people have taken positive actions toward achieving the goals set forth in the Preservation and Management Plan. The awards raise visibility and show positive local impacts of heritage development activities. Commissioners and staff facilitated an independent jury who selected finalists based on written applications and rigorous site visits involving not only project sponsors, but community members, stakeholders, and municipal leaders.

2010 Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence

- Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, Chittenango

2010 Honorable Mention

- Historical Murals of Lyons, Lyons
- Mohawk Towpath Byway, Cohoes and Waterford to Schenectady





National Register District Nomination for New York State Canal System and the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER)

HAER is a program of the National Park Service charged with inventorying and documenting sites and structures that are significant to the nation's industrial and engineering history. This year, HAER worked with Erie Canalway staff to refine the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the New York Barge Canal System and document three distinct phases of canal navigation around Cohoes Falls. When completed in 2011, the documentation package of written history, measured drawings, and large format photographs will be deposited in the Library of Congress and will be available online.

▲ The HAER team used a variety of high-tech and old-fashioned techniques to document the multilayered history and rare elements of the "original Erie Canal" hidden in tunnels below the City of Cohoes.

Protecting the Mohawk River Watershed

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor is collaborating with stakeholder groups involved in three initiatives taking place in the Mohawk River watershed: the **Mohawk Watershed River Basin Program** (spearheaded by Soil and Water Conservation Districts), the **Mohawk Action Agenda** (initiated by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation), and the **Mighty Waters Initiative** (spearheaded by Congressman Paul Tonko). Though each has a different scope and focus, all three bring long overdue attention to the critical role of water in the region's future development and prosperity.

Photo Contest and 2011 Calendar

Now in its fifth year, our photo contest continues to grow more popular each year. The number of participating amateur and professional photographers has **more than doubled** since the contest's inception. This year's contest drew **169 entrants who submitted 445 images**. Needless-to-say, our judges' job is ever more challenging. Winning images are

featured in our 2011 Erie Canalway Calendar, which was distributed free by 65 libraries and heritage sites throughout the Corridor.

445
entries



2010

Financial Report 2010

Federal Appropriation . . . \$757,000

Other Federal Funding . . . \$226,000

Program Area Spending:

Interpretation, Outreach,
and Orientation \$201,561

Preservation of Historic,
Cultural, and Natural
Resources \$165,294

Economic Revitalization \$152,929

Heritage Tourism and
Recreation \$246,216

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor leveraged an additional \$1.6 million in 2010 to support projects and programs throughout the Corridor by working with federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

For more information about the programs and projects in this report, visit us online at www.eriecanalway.org.



Schuylerville Cardboard Boat Race. Photo: Jim McKnight

Corridor Commission

OFFICERS

Chair	Judith Schmidt-Dean, Schuylerville
Vice Chair	Russell S. Andrews, Syracuse
Secretary	Alan N. Vincent, Little Falls
Treasurer	Peter J. Welsby, Lockport
Ex Officio	Dennis Reidenbach, Secretary of the Interior Designee

COMMISSIONERS

John W. "Wint" Aldrich, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Clinton Brown, Buffalo
Honorable Victoria W. Daly, Palmyra
Robert Elliott, Croton-on Hudson
Pete Grannis, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Thomas X. Grasso, Canal Society of New York State
Carol B. Greenough, Whitehall
Mary E. Ivey, NYS Department of Transportation
Carmella Mantello, NYS Canal Corporation
Robert A. McNary, Empire State Development Corporation
Norval "Chip" Pratt, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
NYS Assemblyman Robert P. Reilly, Newtonville
Robert Shibley, Buffalo
Pieter W. Smeenk, Fairport
Stuart W. Stein, Ithaca
Peter Wiles Jr., Macedon

Many thanks

After years of dedication and service to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission, most recently in the leadership role as Chair, Joseph Callahan stepped down in 2010. Also departing the Commission due to changes in state agencies are former Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Pete Grannis and former Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Deputy Commissioner Wint Aldrich. Their leadership will be missed.

Standing from left: Hannah Blake, Rosemary Button, Duncan Hay, Lori Solomon-Duell, Andy Kitzman, Diane Jennings; Seated from left: Jean Mackay, Beth Sciumeca



STAFF

Beth Sciumeca, Executive Director
Hannah Blake, Director of Planning and Heritage Development
Rosemary Button, Budget Analyst
Duncan Hay, Historian
Diane Jennings, Office Manager
Andy Kitzmann, Project Manager
Jean Mackay, Director of Communications and Outreach
Lori Solomon-Duell, Director of Tourism Development and Marketing

2010 Congressional Delegation

U.S. SENATORS

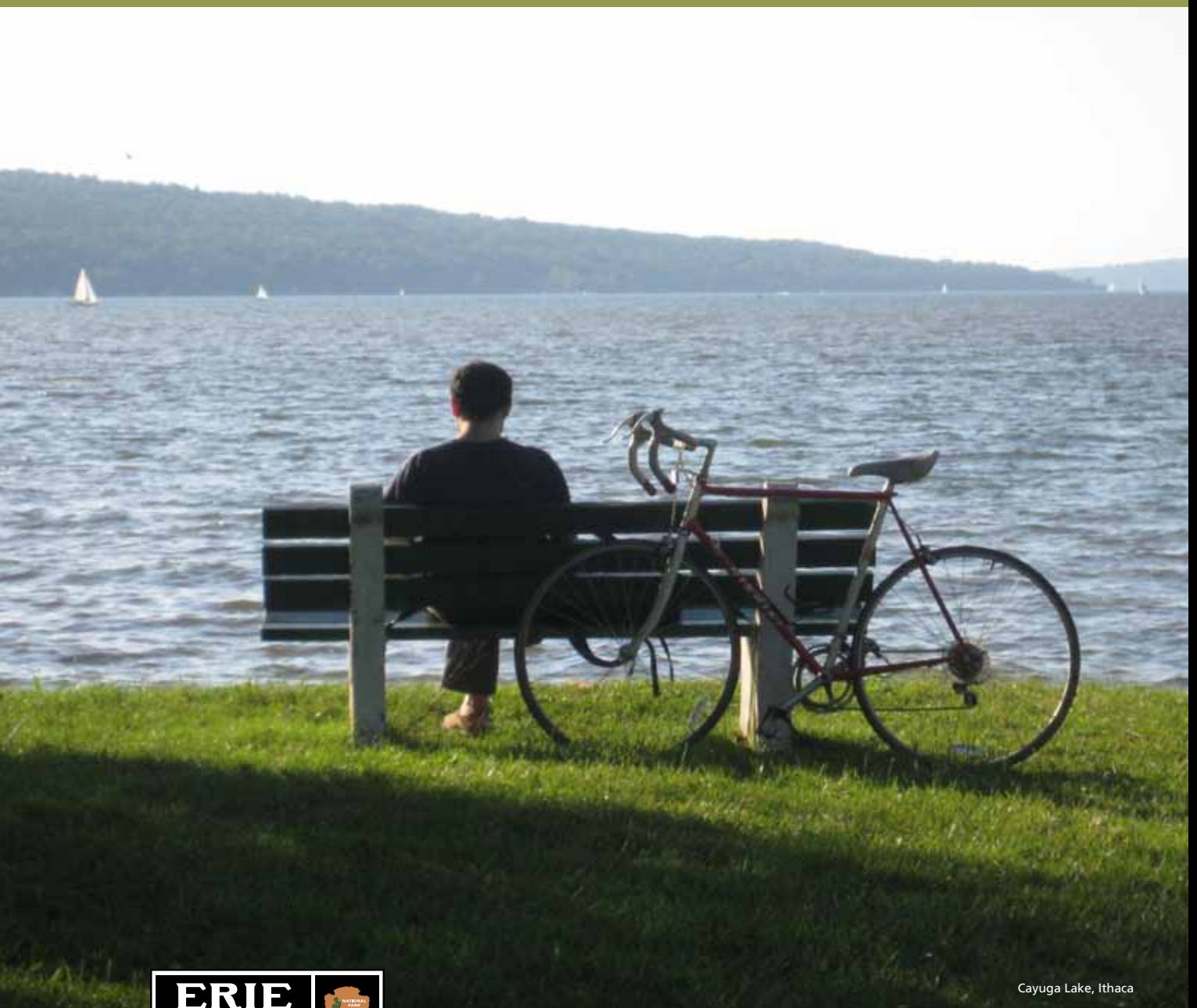
Charles Schumer
Kirsten Gillibrand

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

Michael Arcuri
Brian Higgins
Maurice Hinchey
Chris Lee
Dan Maffei
John McHugh
Scott Murphy
Louise Slaughter
Paul Tonko



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



Cayuga Lake, Ithaca

P.O. Box 219, Waterford, NY 12188
(518) 237-7000
www.eriecanalway.org

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, established in 2000 by an Act of Congress, 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 2.7 million people.