LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ALONG THE EMPIRE STATE TRAIL

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Erie Canalway Trail visitors contribute **$253 million** to the New York economy each year

Visit www.pny.org to read our full report
Erie Canalway Trail visitors contribute $253 million to the New York economy each year. Visit www.parks.ny.gov to read our full report.

- **Total Impact**
  - Annual Visits: 1.6 Million
  - Total Sales: $253 Million
  - Total Taxes: $28.5 Million
  - Total Jobs: 3,440

- **Spending Breakdown**
  - Clothing & Sporting Goods: $11.50
  - Lodging: $45.84
  - Transportation: $14.55
  - Souvenirs, etc.: $4.90
  - Restaurants & Bars: $42.85
  - Groceries, Take-out Food/Drinks: $10.97
  - Admissions & Fees: $2.62
GAPS IN THE ERIE CANALWAY TRAIL

Syracuse

360 miles
PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS
PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS
THE BOULEVARD AREA

Covering roughly four miles, ideas explored how to best incorporate multiple transportation modes, green infrastructure, and new patterns of development along the corridor.

SITE SPECIFIC CONCEPTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>BOULEVARD</th>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Branch</th>
<th>Bridge</th>
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THE BOULEVARD AREA

NEXT STEPS

TOWN OF DEWITT AND CITY OF SYRACUSE
UPDATING ZONING TO ALLOW MIXED USE

TOWN OF DEWITT AND CITY OF SYRACUSE
BIKE LANE DOWN ERIE

SITE SPECIFIC CONCEPTS

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THE BLOCK SITE

Located in the city of Syracuse, proposals were asked to consider strategies that could be replicated along the route while also leveraging the unique opportunity of the extreme width at this location.

THE BRANCH SITE

Here a remaining section of the historic Erie Canal is all but completely hidden from view. This is where the Canalway Trail could intersect with Erie Boulevard.

SITE SPECIFIC CONCEPTS

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MAJORITY OF RESPONDENTS SAID

REVEALING THE CANAL

★★★★★★★
Old Erie Canal Community Working Group
Old Erie Canal Corridor

- 36 miles; Town of DeWitt to City of Rome
- Longest intact portion of historic NYS Canal System
- Towpath trail maintained by NYS Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
- Canal waterway maintained by NYS Canal Corps
- Designated a National Recreational Trail by the United States Department of the Interior’s National Park Service
- Part of 363-mile Erie Canalway Trail that stretches from Buffalo to Albany!
Connectivity

3 Counties:
- Onondaga
- Madison
- Oneida

5 towns, 4 villages, 2 cities:
- Town of Dewitt – Butternut Creek Trail
- Town of Manlius
- Town of Sullivan
- Town of Lenox
- Town of Verona
- Village of Fayetteville – Limestone Creek Trail
- Village of Chittenango – Chittenango Creek Walk
- Village of Canastota – Link Trail/ NST
- Village of Wampsville – Oneida Rail Trail
- City of Oneida – Oneida Rail Trail
- City of Rome – Mohawk River Trail

Connects:
- History
- Nature
- Recreation
- Tourism
- Business
- Communities!
Canal = Unique Asset
THE MANY VISITORS
A couple from New Zealand who flew their bikes to NYS to ride the whole Erie Canalway Trail:

“What brought you to the Erie Canal?”
“Isn’t it the most famous trail in the world?”
Challenges
Coordinate efforts and resources to create a more cohesive and more utilized Old Erie Canal corridor in order to better preserve and share canal history and leverage it as a catalyst for economic vitality of surrounding communities.
Municipalities

Canal-related non profits
- Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum
- Canastota Canal Town Museum
- The Erie Canal Museum (Syracuse)
- Camillus Canal Society
- Camillus Erie Canal Park

Others
- Great Swamp Conservancy
- Chittenango Creek Walk
- Oneida Rail Trail
- Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council
- Madison County Tourism
- Erie Canal Bike Tours
- Blacksmiths and Bicycles
- VOLUNTEERS!!

Operators
- NYS Parks
- NYS Canal Corporation

State-wide Groups:
- Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
- Parks & Trails NY
- Canalway Trails Association New York (CTANY)

Meetings are the last Thursday of every month.
OEC CWG Goals and Accomplishments

- Reconnect to the Old Erie Canal waterway and reassert it as a state-wide asset
- Increase coordination and partnerships both within and outside the corridor
- Unify the corridor to create a more cohesive 36-mile destination
- Leverage and market the Old Erie Canal to bring tourism and economic development to canal-side communities and businesses
- Repurpose and maximize canal-side properties
OLD ERIE CANAL BOAT FLOAT
- 4 launch locations; 500+ paddlers
- 93% had never paddled the Old Erie Canal before
- 97% of Participants said the Event made them want to paddle the Old Erie Canal again
- Favorite part: nature, history, wildlife, quiet, calm and easy paddle
Reconnecting to the waterfront

- Education
- Hand-launch feasibility study
- USGS study of the water
- Kayak rentals
Contract with USGS to study water

- Study Summer 2018; Report forthcoming
- Provide data to NYS Canal Corporation on status of the waterway to inform improvements
Community Wayfinding

- NYS Canal Corporation Grant - $30,000
- 7 signs
LWRP – Old Erie Canal Corridor

- NYS DOS LWRP grant - $83,000
- Opportunity to create a land and water use plan for the Old Erie Canal Corridor
A canal-side pocket neighborhood leverages the quality of life amenities of the Erie Canal and combines it with the design of a pocket neighborhood. The result is a unique living experience that can only be created in New York State.

**Erie Canal**
- Trail system
- Waterway
- Recreation
- Non-motorized transportation
- Unique viewshed of the historic and scenic canal
- Runs through the downtown of many NY communities

The Erie Canal is a special place that attracts and inspires the imagination of people from all over the world. People also want to live next to trails according to the National Association of Homebuilders, trails are the number one amenity that potential homeowners cite when choosing a new community. The Erie Canal represents one of the largest, intact off-road trail networks in the country (in fact, when the Empire State Trail is completed, it will be the largest connected trail system in the entire country).

**Pocket Neighborhood**
- Homes surround a common greenspace
- Location and layout promotes walkability and neighbor interaction
- Emphasis is on the entire space created not just the house

**Canal-Side Pocket Neighborhood**

This type of housing and neighborhood is in demand. Numerous trends have shown that millennials, empty-nesters, couples, families, and seniors are looking for a different lifestyle than that which comes with conventional housing. Preferences have shifted and the ability to access greenspace, live within walking distance to services and amenities, have a shorter commute time to work, age in place, and have a sense of community are all priorities and concerns of a growing demographic.

Unique living experience like no other to retain and attract new residents to canal-side communities throughout New York State.

By linking new desirable housing choices to the Erie Canal, this proposal would help reinvent the canal by leveraging the quality of life aspects the canal is uniquely poised to play in its post-industrial role as a one-of-a-kind trail system and waterway.
Get Involved with the Old Erie Canal Community Working Group

www.facebook.com/OldErieCanal

www.TourtheTowpath.com

Join the OEC CWG mailing list

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Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency

City Planning Division

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ReZone Syracuse Project

- A Comprehensive Zoning update
  - Focus on transportation corridors to:
    - Allow greater density, and additional uses
    - Improve design and site layout
    - Minimize parking requirements
  - Update zoning along *Erie Blvd. East* and the *Empire State Trail* route to encourage economic development
Erie Blvd East – Corridor
Empire State Trail - Segment 4

**Erie Boulevard**
Two Lane Roadway with Two-Way Left Turn Lane and 10-foot Side Path

[Existing Image] [Proposed Image]

**Erie Boulevard**
Four Lane Divided Roadway with 12-foot Median Trail

[Existing Image] [Proposed Image]
Syracuse Creekwalk: Phase I

- Connection from Onondaga Lake to Armory Square
- Will provide a connection between Empire State Trail & Loop the Lake Trail
Syracuse Creekwalk: Phase II

- 2.2 mile extension
- Improve connection between Downtown & Southside neighborhoods
- Will further extend the reach of the Empire State Trail and Loop the Lake Trail into neighborhoods
Creekside Platform

- Kirk Park - Fishing; Views
- Future canoe/kayak launch
Bike Share Program
Onondaga County

EMPIRE STATE TRAIL
Local Economic Opportunities Plan

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EMPIRE STATE TRAIL

Local Economic Opportunities Plan

34.8 miles of trail across Onondaga County
OBJECTIVES

- Make it easy for trail users to exit the trail and access local businesses and attractions.
- Identify facilities needed in centers.
- Make safe connections.
- Market available services and attractions.
EMPIRE STATE TRAIL

Local Economic Opportunities Plan

PARTNERS/FUNDING

- County Executive
  Room Occupancy Tax
  Legislature-approved
- Contracted with CNYRPDB
- Partnership with SMTC
  Part of Unified Planning Work
  Program (UPWP)
EMPIRE STATE TRAIL

Local Economic Opportunities Plan

STAKEHOLDER/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Prepare analysis maps for communities near trail
  Preloading information before outreach
- Review maps and possible connections to trail
- Refine analysis maps
- Compile a list of projects and resources
Geddes

(explore potential creek nature trail) State Fair Blvd.

Warners, Airport, Armstrong Rd.
Creekwalk & CNY Peacemaker Trail
Wayfinding

Dewitt

Butternut Creek Trail & Genesee St.

Dewitt East

Butternut Creek Trail
EMPIRE STATE TRAIL

Local Economic Opportunities Plan

NEXT STEPS

• Outreach to Stakeholders to fill in gaps.
• Synthesize Draft Maps and Strategy
  Projects: connections, facilities, improvements
  Programs: maintenance, community, wayfinding
  Future planning: tourism, greenway development
• Public review of plan
• Refine plan
• Implement