

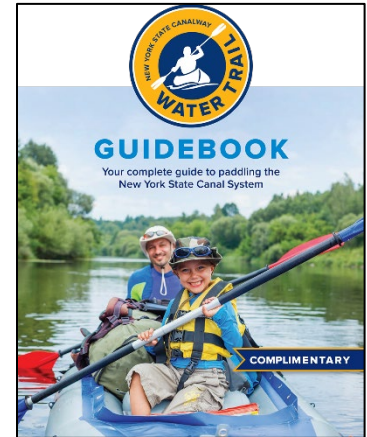


NEW YORK STATE CANALWAY WATER TRAIL

2021 REFERENCE FOR LOCK OPERATORS

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and NYS Canal Corporation have been working to expand use of the canal system by paddlers. The **NYS Canalway Water Trail** consists of the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca canals. Since you are on the frontlines with visitors to your lock, please be aware of the following resources to ensure that paddlers have a safe and enjoyable experience.

- **NYS Canalway Water Trail Guidebook and Navigational Map Set-** This mile-by-mile guide includes launch sites, paddler-friendly facilities and amenities, and places of interest for over 450 miles of the NYS Canal System. Individuals can order a copy online (\$10 shipping/handling fee) or download sections for free at eriecanalway.org/watertrail. You can also use these resources to assist you with welcoming paddlers and answering their questions.
- **Paddling Trips-** Paddlers can find a variety of trip suggestions in the Guidebook and online at eriecanalway.org/watertrail. The online map, **NYCanalMap.com** is also a great resource for paddlers and boaters who would like to plan their own trips.
- **Water Trail Stewardship-** This new program has launched this spring. Volunteers who “adopt” sections of the Water Trail will pick up litter and debris, clean up launch areas, and act as ambassadors for the area. Volunteers will be encouraged to introduce themselves to lock operators and may come to you with questions about the locks and how they can help paddlers coming through.
- **Water Trail Signs for Paddlers-** New signs were installed in 2020 at more than 140 launch sites along the Erie, Champlain, Cayuga-Seneca, and Oswego canals. The signs will help paddlers identify safe put-in and take-out locations from the water and assist with wayfinding to launch sites from land.
- **Paddling Event Planning Guide-** Event organizers can use this new planning guide to navigate the process from permitting to post-event follow up. Available free at: eriecanalway.org/watertrail.
- **Hand Launch Guidelines-** We are developing guidelines to illustrate best practices for adding or upgrading hand launches on the NYS Canal System.
- **Canalway Challenge-** This fitness/adventure challenge invites people to set a mileage goal of 15, 90, 180, or 360 miles and walk, run, cycle, or paddle along the canals to achieve it. Participants earn rewards for completing their challenge. Encourage visitors to sign up: canalwaychallenge.org.



QUESTIONS & CONTACT INFORMATION: Please contact Mona Caron, Program Manager with Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor at mona_caron@partner.nps.gov or 518-237-7000 x204 with questions or comments pertaining to the NYS Canalway Water Trail. Thank you for your assistance and support.

