



33 Elk Street
Albany, NY 12207
518-434-1583
ptny.org



**Canal
Corporation**

30 South Pearl Street
Albany, NY 12207
518-449-6000
canals.ny.gov

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Dylan Carey, Project Director, Parks & Trails New York.
518-434-1583 (office), 518-461-1765 (cell), dcarey@ptny.org

Steve Gosset, Media Relations Manager, New York State Canal Corporation (914) 327-9300
(cell), (914) 390-8192 (office) steven.gosset@nypa.gov

Bicyclists Bring Business Report Recommends Measures for Glens Falls and Surrounding Communities to Attract Bicycle Tourism

ALBANY, NY – Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) and the New York State Canal Corporation today announced the release of the [2019 “Bicyclists Bring Business Workshop Report”](#). This report provides recommendations as to how Glens Falls and the surrounding area can use the upcoming completion of the Empire State Trail in 2020 to capitalize on the growing bicycle tourism market. Bicyclists Bring Business is an annual event hosted by PTNY and the Canal Corporation, and features a roundtable discussion and a community bike-a-round in a canal community each fall.

The workshop report summarizes the 2019 Bicyclists Bring Business roundtable, which was hosted by the [Queensbury Hotel](#) on September 10, and the community bike-a-round, held on the streets and trails of Glens Falls the following morning. The report provides five major recommendations, each with a set of underlying strategies. The recommendations are:

1. Identify opportunities to attract cyclists and enhance the Glens Falls area's reputation as a cycling destination.
2. Collect local data to demonstrate need, evaluate economic impact, and showcase user experience.
3. Improve existing bicycle facilities to ensure that cyclists can easily access businesses and attractions from the Feeder Canal and the Warren County Bike Trail.
4. Improve youth bicycle and pedestrian safety education.
5. Secure funding to complete recommendations.

The report can be accessed on the PTNY website at www.ptny.org/b3.

"The state's growing trail network will connect communities across the state, stimulating economic growth and improving quality of life," says Robin Dropkin, Executive Director of Parks & Trails New York. "When complete, the Empire State Trail will be a world-renowned tourist destination, attracting millions of visits and bringing business by bike."

"As the Erie Canalway Trail and Champlain Canalway Trail move closer to completion, it's vital that we ensure the needs of cyclists and bike-friendly communities are being met," said New York State Canal Corporation Director Brian U. Stratton. "We've seen how a positive user experience on the trail can have a ripple effect on the economy in and around the Glens Falls region. Being bike friendly is a great way to showcase the beauty and heritage of the Champlain Canal corridor and encourage more riders year-round."

The 2019 Bicyclists Bring Business roundtable and community bike-a-round was presented by [Parks & Trails New York](#) and the [New York State Canal Corporation](#) and sponsored by the [Warren County Safe & Quality Bicycling Organization](#), [Warren County Tourism](#), [City of Glens Falls](#), [Town of Queensbury](#), [Feeder Canal Alliance](#), [The Queensbury Hotel](#), [Dunham's Bay Resort](#), [Grey Ghost Bicycles](#), [The Hub](#), [Mahoney Alarms](#), [Rick's Bike Shop](#), [Reliable Racing](#), and [West Mountain Bike Park](#).

Economic Impact of the Canalway Trail

The statewide Canalway Trail System attracts cyclists from near and far, and communities along the trail are becoming increasingly aware of the economic opportunities that these visitors provide. According to a 2014 study, the Erie Canalway Trail, the backbone of the statewide network, experiences more than 1.58 million visits per year. Spending by ECT visitors annually generates \$253 million in economic impact and \$28.5 million in sales and income taxes and supports 3,440 jobs.

Trail visits and cycling tourism received a significant boost in 2017 with the announcement of \$200 million in funding to complete the Erie Canalway Trail, and to connect it to New York City and the Canadian border through construction of the Empire State Trail. The new trail system will be the nation's longest. The Empire State Trail will stretch 750 miles, running from the tip of Manhattan to the Canadian Border, and along the historic Erie Canal corridor from the Hudson River in Albany to Lake Erie in Buffalo, linking parks, historic sites, and communities along the way.

Parks & Trails New York is the state's leading advocate for the state's park system and trail network. Since 1998, Parks & Trails New York has been working in partnership with the New York State Canal Corporation to help canal communities plan, develop and promote the Canalway Trail. Parks & Trails New York organizes the Cycle the Erie Canal bike tour, an eight-day ride along the historic Erie Canal now in its 22nd year that attracts more than 650 participants, and publishes the popular guidebook, *Cycling the Erie Canal: A Guide to 400 miles of adventure and history along the Erie Canalway Trail*. Learn more at www.ptny.org.

The New York State Canal Corporation runs the New York State Canal System, which includes the Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca canals. Spanning 524 miles, the waterway links the Hudson River with the Great Lakes, the Finger Lakes and Lake Champlain. In 2017, the Canal Corporation celebrated the 200th anniversary of the groundbreaking for the Erie Canal, which occurred in the city of Rome on July 4, 1817. The Canal System includes the Canalway Trail, a network of approximately 300 miles of multiple-use trails across upstate New York. The Canalway Trail follows the towpaths of both active and historic sections of the New York State Canal System as well as adjacent abandoned rail corridors. Together, the canals and trail create a world-class recreationway that is a vibrant, scenic and unique New York resource. To learn more about the New York State Canal and Canalway Trail System or to obtain a free map, please call 1-800-4CANAL4 or visit the Canal Corporation's website at www.canals.ny.gov.

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