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Contact: Shane Mahar | 518-603-0791 | shane.mahar@nypa.gov

CANAL CORPORATION ANNOUNCES OPENING OF THREE EMPIRE STATE TRAIL SEGMENTS IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY

Projects Close Gaps in Trail between Utica and Little Falls

The New York State Canal Corporation today announced the opening of three new trail segments along the [Empire State Trail](#) in the Mohawk Valley. These new sections fill gaps in the trail allowing users to travel between the City of Utica in Oneida County and Town of Little Falls in Herkimer County.

“The opening of the Empire State Trail further demonstrates Governor Cuomo’s commitment to invest in canalside communities and compliments the Reimagine the Canals initiative,” **said New York Power Authority President and CEO Gil C. Quiniones.** “Together, these investments safeguard the Canal’s role as a driver of economic growth. The Empire State Trail also will improve the quality of life of New Yorkers, while simultaneously showcasing the historic beauty that already exists in the landscape surrounding the canals.”

“Governor Cuomo’s vision for the newly-completed Empire State Trail merges economic development with the beautiful views along the Canal system to create exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities, both for residents of canalside communities and for visitors from across New York and beyond,” **said New York State Canal Corporation Director Brian U. Stratton.** “These new segments of the Empire State Trail reintroduce New Yorkers to the historic towpaths of our state’s storied waterways and connect a new generation to the rich heritage of the New York Canal system.”

The three new segments of trail include a 3.8-mile trail from Harbor Lock Road in Utica to Dyke Road in Schuyler, a 1.25-mile trail from Acme Road in Frankfort to the Ilion Marina in Ilion, and a 2-mile trail from the Ilion Marina to East Main Street in Mohawk. In addition to these new trails, a [fourth trail project](#) in the Mohawk Valley was opened in November between Erie Canal Lock E-18 in Jacksonburg and State Route 167 in Little Falls. All of these projects have created off-road trails where none previously existed and offer users a safe place for recreation along the iconic Erie Canal.

Empire State Trail Director Andy Beers said, “Completion of these trail construction segments dramatically improves the Empire State Trail route in the Mohawk Valley, creating stunning new outdoor recreation opportunities for local residents and creating a world-class tourism destination.”

Senator James L. Seward said, “The Empire State Trail will expand recreation opportunities across New York for generations to come. While I may be a bit biased, I am confident that the Erie Canalway Trail section will receive rave reviews and serve as a true tourism draw, showcasing the best of the Mohawk Valley. Overall, the blend of history and recreation that exists across the state is now accessible to all and it couldn’t come at a better time.”

Assemblyman Brian Miller said, “I am pleased to join the Canal Corporation in celebrating the completion of this project in our community. With the three sections completed on the Erie Canalway Trail and Empire State Trail there is now a continuous trail from Utica to Mohawk. The connected trail will provide endless opportunities for outdoor activities, as well as helping to bring much-needed tourism and economic development through Herkimer County.”

Governor Cuomo announced the Empire State Trail in January 2017. It is the longest multi-use state trail in the nation. The Empire State Trail provides a safe place for outdoor recreation while supporting tourism and community revitalization across the state. Information about the trail, including an interactive map detailing the route, designated parking areas, and nearby attractions is available on the project [website](#).

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About the New York State Canal Corporation

New York’s Canal system includes four historic canals: the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca. Spanning 524 miles, the waterway links the Hudson River with the Great Lakes, the Finger Lakes and Lake Champlain. The canals form the backbone of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and connect hundreds of unique and historic communities.

The New York State Canal Corporation is a subsidiary of the New York Power Authority.

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