

Trail in Greece gets heavy use

More than 100,000 walkers, bikers and joggers visited a stretch of the Erie Canalway Trail at Henpeck Park in Greece in 2011, according to a report released Thursday by New York State Canal Corp. and Parks & Trails New York.

The 365-mile multi-use trail, which runs from Buffalo to Albany adjacent to the historic waterway, drew an estimated 1.7 million users.

The trail is about 75 percent connected.

In August and September, a team of volunteers counted trail visitors at Henpeck Park, located on Elmgrove Road near Ridgeway Avenue. A total of 107,143 trail users were tabulated — 53 percent walkers, 37 percent cyclists.

A calculation methodology used by the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project was used.

Canalway officials have been tabulating trail use since 2005. Four previous locations in Monroe County have been part of the count, including Lock 33 off Edgewood Avenue in Henrietta, which drew 190,591 visitors in 2007.

Niawanda Park in Tonawanda, Erie County, located close to a significant population base, had an unprecedented 605,000

visits in 2011.

Compared to past years, use of the Canalway Trail by cyclists was down. Trail counts are used in decisions regarding maintenance, trail surfacing, **funding** and marketing.

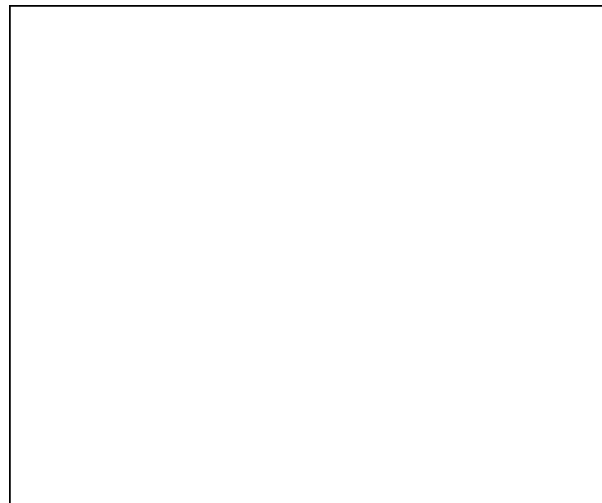
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A mural on the underside of a bridge at Henpeck Park. A trail there got a lot of use. / Kris J. Murante/staff photographer

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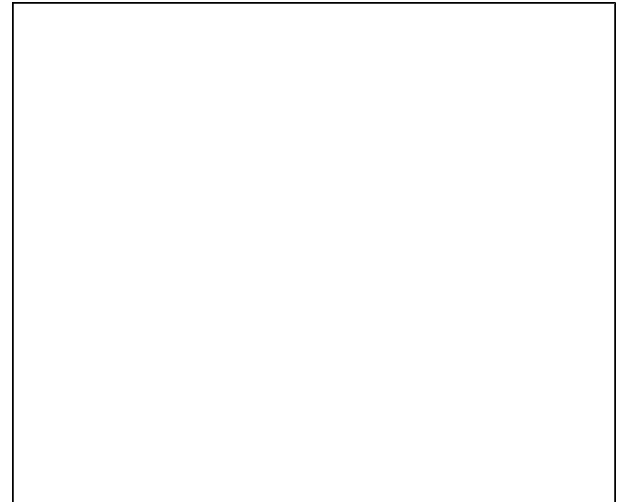
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