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Cyclists Along the Erie Canal` + SHARE

Alex Crichton (2009-07-14)

ROCHESTER, NY (WXXI) - Around 500 cyclists from 39 states and two other countries are taking part in the 11th annual "Cycling the Erie Canal" tour.

It's a 400-mile trek from Buffalo to Albany.

Robin Dropkin is Executive Director of Parks and Trails, New York, a non-profit group that advocates for parks, greenways and trails statewide.

She says the annual tour showcases all the resources along the Canalway Trail, and canalside communities benefit from the event.

That includes cyclists staying at bed and breakfasts, patronizing restaurants, shops, museums and seeing the local sites.

Dropkin says the Canalway Trail will be the longest intra-state trail in the nation when it's completed.

She says her group envisions a day when hundreds or even thousands of cyclists make this trip regularly during the cycling season.

The cyclists are heading out of Pittsford today, heading to Waterloo.

The Cycling the Erie Canal tour wraps up Sunday.

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