



NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE
July 11, 2014

**500 Cyclists make 400-mile cross-state bicycle trip
to experience Upstate New York
—16th annual Cycling the Erie Canal tour starts in Buffalo on July 13—
--Cyclists arrive July 12—**

ALBANY, N.Y. –On July 13, more than 500 cyclists will leave their cars behind as they pedal along the historic Erie Canalway Trail from Buffalo to Albany on the 16th annual 400-mile *Cycling the Erie Canal* tour, organized by the statewide nonprofit Parks & Trails New York.

Covering between 40 and 60 miles per day, cyclists travel along the Erie Canalway Trail, which is three-quarters complete. When the Trail is finished, it will be the longest multi-use trail in the United States. A recent study shows that the Trail annually receives more than a million and a half visits and generates an economic impact of \$253 million.

“The 16th annual *Cycling the Erie Canal* tour is a wonderful way to explore the Erie Canal and Upstate New York. Plus it’s fun, healthy, and good for the economy,” says Parks & Trails New York Executive Director Robin Dropkin. “We have cyclists aged 9 to 90 from 35 states and as far away as Israel and Australia, and they all get to experience what makes the Erie Canal and Upstate New York so special.”

The NYS Canal Corporation is the Premier State Sponsor of *Cycling the Erie Canal* for the 16th straight year. The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor is the event’s Heritage Sponsor. First Niagara is the Official Bank Sponsor. Supporting sponsors include CSEA, Brookfield Renewable Energy Group, and Nalgene. Other sponsors include Wegmans, 11 regional tourism agencies, and I LOVE NY.

Parks & Trails New York is New York’s leading statewide advocate for parks and trails, dedicated since 1985 to improving our health, economy, and quality of life through the use and enjoyment of green space.

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<http://www.ptny.org/canaltour>

Schedule of Events for Buffalo:

Saturday, July 12–Buffalo–Pre-tour activities- registration, reception, orientation

Tent City Location: Nichols School, 1250 Amherst St, Buffalo

Sunday, July 13–Buffalo to Medina

7:45am – Brief kick-off ceremony at Nichols School

8:00am – Start of ride

8:30am – 12:00pm – Morning Rest Stop, Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village (formerly Amherst Erie Canal Museum)