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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 8, 2016

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### **650 Cyclists make 400-mile cross-state bicycle trip to experience Upstate New York**

**—18<sup>th</sup> anniversary Cycle the Erie Canal tour starts in Buffalo July 10,  
cyclists arrive July 9—**

ALBANY, N.Y. – On July 10, more than 650 cyclists will leave their cars behind to pedal along the historic Erie Canalway Trail from Buffalo to Albany. They will arrive in Buffalo July 9 to prepare for the launch of the 8<sup>th</sup> annual 400-mile *Cycle the Erie Canal* tour, organized by the statewide nonprofit group Parks & Trails New York. The tour kicks off on July 10.

Covering between 40 and 60 miles per day, cyclists travel along the Erie Canalway Trail, which is 80 percent 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 18th annual *Cycle the Erie Canal* tour is a wonderful way to explore the Erie Canal and Upstate New York. Plus its fun, healthy, and good for the economy,” says Parks & Trails New York Executive Director Robin Dropkin. “We have cyclists aged 3 to 92 from 38 states and as far away as 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 *Cycle the Erie Canal* for the 18th straight year. The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor is the event’s Heritage Sponsor. Supporting sponsors include CSEA, Brookfield, Currin Compliance Services, CDPHP, Wegmans, Hodgson Russ, Taste of NY, Buffalo-Niagara Heritage Village, and Nalgene. Eleven regional tourism agencies also sponsor the ride.

*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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**Schedule of Events for Buffalo:**

**Saturday, July 9–Buffalo–Pre-tour activities- registration, reception, orientation**

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

**Sunday, July 10–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, Amherst

**11:00pm – 4:00pm** – Afternoon Rest Stop, Middleport Municipal Park