

NEWS RELEASE
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**New York’s Largest Earth Day Celebration Kicks Off Friday, April 19 with
Canal Clean Sweep**

More than 190 Canal Clean Sweep Events Scheduled Across New York State

Community organizations, volunteer groups, businesses, and students across New York State are making final preparations for the [19th annual Canal Clean Sweep](#), April 19-21, 2024. Canal Clean Sweep, organized by Parks & Trails New York and New York State Canal Corporation, is an annual clean-up event held across the NYS Canal System and Canalway Trail. More than 190 Clean Sweep events are scheduled across the 400-mile-long Canalway Trail system and the 524-mile-long Canal system, providing opportunities for thousands of residents to give back to their local communities and to show pride in one of New York’s most iconic cultural and recreational resources.

Canal Clean Sweep coincides with New York’s annual Earth Day celebrations, representing one of several events held around the state dedicated to improving the health of our natural environment, in addition to being part of a nationwide celebration to encourage people to get outside and enjoy our exceptional trails and trail systems.

Over the last few years, the Canalway Trail system has seen unprecedented use thanks to significant investments made as part of the completion of the Empire State Trail, not to mention the staggering increase in outdoor recreational activities due to COVID-19. Thanks to volunteers across the state participating in Canal Clean Sweep 2024, the Canalway Trail system will remain a pristine recreational resource for locals and visitors alike.

To learn more about Canal Clean Sweep, and to view a map of scheduled events, visit:
www.ptny.org/events/canal-clean-sweep.

New York State Canal Corporation Director Brian U. Stratton said, “As we prepare to welcome recreational enthusiasts along the Canalway Trail and Empire State Trail this season, hundreds of volunteers will come together this weekend at Canal Clean Sweep events to ensure the trail is spruced up and ready for visitors traveling from near and far. I cannot thank our dedicated volunteers from Albany to Buffalo enough for taking time away from their own personal responsibilities and families to pitch in and care for one of New York’s most treasured recreational resources. Together we are keeping our Canal system and the Canalway Trail clean and healthy for all to enjoy.”

“The goal of Canal Clean Sweep is to strengthen the bond between our communities, the waterway, and adjacent greenways. By working together to take care of these cherished assets, we are improving our mental and physical health as well as our public lands. We want to thank every volunteer that will dedicate their time this weekend. They are leaving a legacy of environmental stewardship that will impact generations to come” said **Paul Steely White, Executive Director of Parks & Trails New York**.

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About Parks & Trails New York

Parks & Trails New York is the state’s leading advocate for parks and trails. Since 1998, PTNY has been working in partnership with the New York State Canal Corporation to help canal communities plan, develop, and promote the Canalway Trail. PTNY organizes Cycle the Erie Canal, an eight-day bicycle tour along the historic Erie Canal that attracts more than 650 participants each year. In 2021, the PTNY published an updated version of its popular guidebook, *Cycling the Erie Canal: A Guide to 360 miles of Adventure and History along the Erie Canalway Trail*. Learn more at www.ptny.org.

About the New York State Canal System

The New York State Canal Corporation runs the New York State Canal System, which includes the Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca canals. Spanning 524 miles, the waterway links the Hudson River with the Great Lakes, the Finger Lakes and Lake Champlain. The Canal System includes the Canalway Trail, a network of approximately 400 miles of multi-use trails across upstate New York. The Canalway Trail follows the towpaths of both active and historic sections of the New York State Canal System as well as adjacent abandoned rail corridors. Together, the canals and trail create a world-class recreationway that is a vibrant, scenic, and unique New York resource. To learn more about the New York State Canal and Canalway Trail System or to obtain a free map, please call 1-800-4CANAL4 or visit the Canal Corporation’s website at www.canals.ny.gov.