

## **Marinas and Public Docks Near the NYS Canal System**

Since 1825, the Erie Canal, the predominant component of the modern New York State Canal System, has had a special place in history as an engineering marvel that opened up trade and transportation to interior parts of the country by connecting the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Seaboard. The Erie Canal was constructed as a navigation system used for commercial shipping, spurring development across New York State as it attracted new businesses and industries to locate along its banks. Towns and villages were established along the Canal, changing theories of land use and altering the notion of land value based on proximity to the Canal not only for transporting goods but for access to a reliable source of water for power generation, irrigation, water supply, and industrial purposes. Today, nearly 80% of upstate New York's population lives within 25 miles of the Erie Canal.

The New York State Canal System and its watershed includes four historic waterways – the Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca Canals. In addition, the 524 mile Canal System includes 39 smaller feeder canals and reservoirs, as well as natural waterways regulated streams, and lakes which comprise approximately 40 percent of the freshwater resources of New York State. The New York State Canal Corporation is responsible for all Canal System operations, with many other agencies sharing a role in making the system work. For instance, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation oversees wildlife, water quality, and natural resources along the system, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulates canal dredging projects. The Canal Corporation maintains the water levels in the Canal System through dredging methods, and operates all locks and riverflow-regulating structures such as guard gates and dams.

The Canal System's primary use for commercial shipping has changed over the years with the growth of the railroads and highways. While barges transporting large equipment and products are seldom seen on the Canal, it remains a viable waterway for recreational boating. In fact, the Canal System is a world-class destination for tourism and recreation. Thousands of recreational boaters travel along the far reaches of the waterways that comprise the Canal System. Segments of the Canalway Trail extend approximately 290 miles and are used by outdoor enthusiasts throughout the year.

While the main focus on the Canal System today is for its recreational and tourism use, many communities, businesses, industries, and farming operations still rely on the Canal System as in historic times for its abundant, reliable, and inexpensive supply of water. The Canal Corporation's management of the system's infrastructure provides land- and water-based opportunities that still flourish and significantly contribute to the economic well-being of New York beyond its use for recreational purposes.

### **Data Description**

This data set contains a list of all marinas and public docks near the NYS Canal System.

### **How the Data is Collected**

The NYS Canal Corporation maintains a list of marinas and public docks near the canal which is available on the NYS Canal Corporation website. Companies not on this list can contact the NYS Canal Corporation's Marketing Department at 518-471-4260 and ask to be added to the list.

### **How this Data Might Be Used**

This data can be used to help tourists plan their vacations. When combined with the data sets "Lodging Near the NYS Canal System" and "Boats for Hire Near the NYS Canal System", tourists can plan both their activities and their lodging for a vacation on the NYS Canal System.