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Grant helps Fairport canal facelift

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Written by **Patti Singer**
Staff Writer

An Empire State Development Corp. grant will help transform a stretch of the Erie Canal in the village of Fairport.

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The village received \$156,700 toward preparing the Parker Street bridge area for docks and building a promenade on the south side of the canal that will connect to existing village docks closer to Main Street.

Village administrator Ken Moore said the grant will help turn a down-at-the-heels parcel into a productive site. "The walkway and promenade will add to the list of canal-related activities that Fairport can offer."

Parker Street runs parallel to Main Street, one block east.

The grant was announced last week and was one of two under the Restore New York Communities Initiative, designed to attract residents and businesses by revitalizing urban areas and stabilizing neighborhoods.

The state also provided money for four projects through the Economic Development Fund. All told, the state awarded more than \$11 million for projects statewide.

Moore said Fairport's grant had been in the works for a while. He said the grant would go toward site remediation, which involves asbestos removal, demolishing buildings, and soil clean-up. The site had been used by the village's Department of Public Works

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the Village's Department of Public Works.

The total cost of the remediation is \$229,172.

Later this year, the parcel is expected to be developed into a mixed-used project of 35 residential units and a retail/commercial building.

"It's an interesting concept to merge the commercial and residential uses," Moore said. "Putting a couple dozen residential units abutting the central business district hasn't happened in a long time."

As for the canal, Moore also said that its rocky, sloped side would be replaced with a vertical wall to match the rest of construction of the canal in the village and allow larger boats to dock.

Work on the canal is scheduled for this winter. The rest of the project is expected to be completed by the end of 2013, Moore said.

Moore said the project is a public-private partnership between the Fairport Office of Community & Economic Development and Anco Builders.

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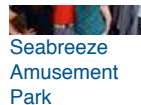
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