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Fairport project hoped to spur development

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Crews begin work to construct a cement retaining wall on the Erie Canal in the village of Fairport that will allow boats to dock along a new public promenade just east of the Parker Street bridge. / Jeffrey Blackwell//Staff Photographer

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development on vacant property.

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Crews recently broke ground on a new public promenade on the south side of the canal, just east of the Parker Street bridge. The new stretch of docking facilities for boats and a walkway for pedestrians will link to the public docking facilities just west near Main Street.

“The work is going well in spite of the weather, and things are moving forward,” said Kal Wysokowski, executive director of the Fairport Office of Community and Economic Development.

The cost of the project is budgeted at \$1.5 million and will be funded by the village, a grant of \$158,000 from the Empire State Development Corp., and a matching grant of \$584,000 from the New York State Department of State. Some of that money was used to clean up the site, which was formerly the site of the village



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department of public works.

The cleanup included the demolition of the old buildings and asbestos removal. The new development will include the construction of a concrete wall along the canal with electrical hook-ups for boats. The paved walkway will include new landscaping and later a gazebo. The work is expected to be completed by the end of April.

Village officials are hopeful the public project will lead to private investment on the slice of waterfront property. One proposal called for a mixed-used project of 35 residential units and a retail/commercial building.

"We really are envisioning housing ... just because it is an ideal location and people want to live by the canal," said Mayor Frederick "Fritz" May. "I can't believe it will stay vacant very long because there is so much interest in developing it."

He said there are several developers interested in the site, which could aesthetically accommodate a building of up to five stories. Proposals have included luxury apartments, townhouses or condominiums with possibly an exterior look of an old factory with modern loft units.

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