

## Canal project in Fairport now complete

Written by Jeffrey Blackwell Staff writer  
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Fairport officials will cut the ribbon Friday on a new boat dock and promenade along the Erie Canal, east of the Parker Street Bridge. / Jeffrey Blackwell//staff photographer

### If you go

The ribbon-cutting will be held at the Dockmasters Hut on the south bank of the canal. For details, go to [fairportced.org](http://fairportced.org).

**FAIRPORT** — A new boat docking facility and promenade in the village are complete and ready for use along the Erie Canal, just east of the Parker Street Bridge.

Fairport and state canal officials are scheduled to cut the ribbon on the \$1.5 million project Friday, which includes a new retaining wall, docking and utility stations for boats and a public walkway.

“It’s a big deal for the village because it builds on the existing promenade and increases the ability for boats to dock here,” said Kal Wysokowski, executive director of the Fairport Office of Community and Economic Development. “With the new seawall, we cut out the timbers, and people can sit there and really enjoy the waterfront and the boats.”

Work on the project was started in January. The cost was budgeted at \$1.5 million and was funded by the village, a grant of \$158,000 from the Empire State Development Corp., and a matching grant of \$584,000 from the state Department of State. Some of that money was used to clean up the site, which was formerly the site of the village department of public works.

The cleanup included the demolition of the old buildings and asbestos removal. Village officials are hopeful that 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.

This is one of several canal projects completed in the village and the surrounding town of Perinton in the past year. The town opened a new pedestrian bridge in November that links three popular trails with a safe passage across the canal just east of Turk Hill Road.

It created a crossroads for the Crescent Trail, the Rochester, Syracuse & Eastern Bike-Hikeway and the Erie Canal Heritage Trail, allowing pedestrians and cyclists to travel into the village and out to the trails of Perinton.

Also, repair on the Main Street lift bridge was completed in the spring.

“Our long-term goal, and we will chip away at it, is to create these pedestrian connections from the village to the town, to the crescent trail,” Wysokowski said. “Piece by piece, we’re getting it done.”