

Fairport, Pittsford get grants for canal work



Meaghan M. McDermott, Staff writer 7:57 p.m. EST December 30, 2014



(Photo: SHAWN DOWD/@sdowdphoto/, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Erie Canal projects in Pittsford and Fairport are among 11 statewide getting nearly \$1 million economic development grants from the state Canal Corp., the agency announced on Tuesday.

The funding is part of \$709.2 million in awards announced earlier this month for Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Councils.

The Fairport Industrial Development Agency (<http://www.fairportoced.org/industrial-development-agency/ida-projects.htm>) will receive \$50,000 in order to expand the Thomas Creek Wetland Walk, a 13-acre recreation and historical site that features a connection trail, elevated boardwalk, observation platform and interpretive signs. The money will be used to improve existing amenities there and expand connections to the Canalway Trail.

A \$50,000 grant will help the village of Pittsford build a commemorative pavilion on an existing concrete dock along the Erie Canal. [The Bicentennial Pavilion](http://townofpittsford.org/files/publications/pittsford-village-canal-bicentennial-pavilion.pdf) (<http://townofpittsford.org/files/publications/pittsford-village-canal-bicentennial-pavilion.pdf>) will mark the 200th anniversary of the canal. Construction on the waterway began in 1817 and it was in use by 1821.

The Pittsford grant will fund the last major component of a larger revitalization along the Canalway Trail at Schoen Place, according to the Canal Corp. The new pavilion will overlook the canal and will fit in scale and design with nearby structures. It will include an informational sign detailing Pittsford's canal history.

The canal and trail system are an important piece of the state's prosperity, said Canal Corp. Director Brian U. Stratton in a written statement.

"The significant funding will offer valuable opportunities for the upstate canal communities to continue improving the canal system and Canalway Trail in efforts to assure that both remain as premier tourist destinations."

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