

breaking news

Canal Improvements Underway in Fairport



By: Caroline Tucker

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Through the raindrops Wayside Contractors were digging deep.

"There were steps and some lovely landscaping wood timbers that served as a retaining wall, those are all gone," said Kal Wysokowski, Executive Director for the Fairport OCED.

The construction crew is working on revamping part of the Erie Canal in Fairport.

"South Bank was constructed 35 years ago and it really needs some upgrades and improvements," said Wysokowski.

The Fairport Office of Community and Economic Development is running the show.

It is work that will reshape the area.

"We've got new lights, new boat stations, stone retaining wall, new steps, new concrete brick pavers you name it and we are doing it," said Wysokowski.

Fairport - with it's famous lift bridge - draws in the visitors.

The dock-master clocks in about 2,500 boats every season.

"The ultimate goal is to increase the beauty of our waterfront, to bring visitors and people down to the waterfront," said Wysokowski.

Also part of this project was the removal of several ash trees which were susceptible to the emerald ash borer so those will be replaced with other trees.

The area will also get brand new steel benches and lighting.

The \$325,000 dollar cost is paid for by grants.

Work is expected to wrap up in May.

"We are definitely going to stay on budget and we are going to be on time we have to be. The canal is going to be open soon," said Wysokowski.

Work started last week and will continues for the next 6 to 8 weeks.

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