**Take the Erie Canalway**

**P.L.E.D.G.E.**

While enjoying the New York State’s canals and trails, we pledge to respect & protect these natural treasurers.

* **Please treat it like home:** Hundreds of thousands of visitors enjoy the Erie Canalway each year, but it’s also home to people and wildlife. Please take garbage, recyclables, and fishing gear with you, disposing of them properly when you reach a town or return home. Don’t forget to clean up after your pets!
* **Let’s share the trail:** Be mindful of fellow cyclists, hikers, and runners. Always keep right except to pass. Let people know you’re coming with a friendly “On your left”!” And watch your speed near towns, parks, and points of interest, where the trail gets more use.
* **Enjoy & respect the locals:** Locals love out-of-towners and patronage of their businesses. Be sure to eat, drink and shop the local flavor! When mooring or camping near homes or communities, be mindful that sound carries over water. Watch the volume of your music and conversations, especially at night.
* **Don’t forget to clean, drain and dry:** Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by cleaning your boat and gear after every takeout or before your next trip in a new body of water. Never release fish, animals, or plants from one body of water to another.
* **Give a friendly wave!**: Travelers from around the world have been enjoying the canal for two centuries. Carry on a long tradition of hospitality by waving to passing boats, cyclists, and paddlers-and showing respect for fellow Erie Canalway travelers.
* **Express thanks to volunteers:** Volunteers are the backbone of the canal museums, historic sites, and visitor centers. They also help keep the trail and the waterway safe and tidy. Thank any volunteers you meet on your journey and get involved. Lend your time and talent to help keep the canal vibrant and sustainable destination!