



Instructions: Challenge Ends July 8, 2024

Follow the Flow Clues Map and take a Selfie at this exciting moment in history at sites with either a camera or smartphone. By the time you are done you will have learned about 200+ years of Erie Canal history in the Middle Canal Section of New York State.

You must visit all 18 locations between now and July 8, 2024, to be eligible for one of the prizes being donated from each location: Montezuma, Port Byron, Weedsport, Jordan, Camillus, Syracuse. Post your Selfie on your Facebook page and share it at **#ErieCanal2025** Facebook page.

Upon completion, entrants with **ALL** 18 Selfies will be entered for a drawing as one of the prize winners. On **July 15, 2024**, the winners will be announced on our Facebook Page at ErieCanal2025.

DON'T FORGET TO TAG US on Instagram and Facebook at **#ErieCanal2025**



**CHALLENGE ENDS
JULY 8, 2024**

Questions - Email:
ErieCanal2025@gmail.com

"Well may New York rejoice in an achievement that would add glory to the most powerful nation on earth."

- Buffalo Emporium, 1825

Follow the Flow Scavenger Hunt Clues

**Follow the Flow Clues by taking a Selfie and Posting on Facebook from ALL 18 Sites
Post on your Facebook Page and be sure to share at #ErieCanal2025**

SYRACUSE - Erie Canal Museum

1. Muledriver Statue - Canal boats were powered not by engines or sails but by animals, generally horses or mules, that worked two six hour shifts a day on the Canal's towpath, pulling the boats behind them. To keep the animals on track they were always accompanied by muledrivers, usually children between the ages of 8 and 16, many of whom had few options besides this difficult, low-paying job. ***Snap a selfie with Sal and remember the hard work that went into operating the Canal by both animals and humans alike.***

2. 1850 Weighlock Building - The Erie Canal was built by New York State between 1817 and 1825 and then expanded over the next several decades. To pay off the Erie Canal's construction, maintenance, and expansion the state built seven weighlocks along the route to collect tolls on the boats' cargoes. Weighlocks worked by draining water from the weighchamber (where the boat Frank Buchanan Thomson is now located) allowing the boat to rest on a giant scale. Each boat was weighed empty at the start of the season so weighmasters could tell how much cargo was in the boat. Located at the intersection of the Erie and Oswego Canals (today's Erie and Oswego Blvds) the Syracuse weighlock was the busiest on the system. The current weighlock building was Syracuse's fourth weighlock, built in 1850 to weigh the larger boats on the Enlarged Canal. It is now the last remaining weighlock and holds the Erie Canal Museum. ***Take a picture of this one of a kind building!***

3. Jerry Rescue Monument - The Erie Canal allowed people and information to travel faster than ever up to that point in America. As cities and towns sprung up along the banks of the Canal, people brought new ideas with them, resulting in a number of social reform movements. The Canal Corridor became a major center for many of these movements, notably women's rights, temperance, and abolition. Syracuse was an important stop on the Underground Railroad and following the passage of the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act, many more freedom seekers passed through the city while Syracuse became an important location of resistance to the unjust law. This came to a head on October 1, 1851, when William "Jerry" Henry, a freedom seeker living in Syracuse, was arrested under the Fugitive Slave Act and eventually brought to the city jail, which was located across Clinton Street from the monument. As night fell a crowd of several thousand abolitionists gathered in Clinton Square and ultimately stormed the jail and released Jerry, who made it to Canada and freedom a few weeks later. The Jerry Rescue, as the event became known, was a nationally significant moment in resisting the Fugitive Slave Act and the institution of slavery. ***Take a picture of the Jerry Rescue Monument and reflect on the continuing struggle for justice.***

CAMILLUS - Liz & Dave Beebe Camillus Erie Canal Park

4. Sims Store - This replica of one from 1856 is here, but the original was located 2 miles away. It was completely built by volunteers, with the center section being built in 1976 before there was much of a Park. Inside you can see examples of items which were common at the time of the First Enlargement of the Erie Canal, and upstairs you can see and touch items from 1842. ***Please take a picture of yourself at the opening to this structure.***

5. Culvert #59 - 135 feet long, without this structure the canal would have water cascading into it from the nearby hillside. Made of stone, it's marked by a sign on one side and a stone on the other. ***Take your picture by the sign.***

6. Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct - Built the first time in 1842 it was originally one of 32. Now it is the only one of its kind left on the system. It is one of two places in our park where the Canal travels over water. You can take your picture on foot, on bike or on boat. ***Take your picture in front of the arches.***

JORDAN

7. Enlarged Erie Canal Lock #51 Lock-tenders House - Located on the Erie Canal Towpath this structure was operational during the enlarged Erie Canal. In 1988 NYS gifted it to the Jordan Historical Society. Jordan Historical Society restored it, with help from the community (Town of Elbridge) in 1988 and did a partial restoration in 2023, also with the help of the community. It was relocated from Lock #51 to its present location in 1988 where it remains today. *Hint:* Located on the Erie Canal Towpath east of the aqueduct since 1988. It was operational during the enlarged Erie Canal at its original site west of the Village. Look for it and a historic sign on the grounds of one of the favorite annual events held in Jordan. *Not* the local event in May. Riding your bicycle on a trail will take you there as well. ***Snap a selfie in the chamber.***

8. The Munroe Block - Built at the north west corner of Main and Clinton Streets. In 1876 the Munroe Block burned to the ground. The same year it was replaced by the Hendricks Block, this building stands today and currently houses 5 small businesses. *Hint:* Shop for antiques, get your hair done, schedule an appointment with a professional photographer and/or enjoy breakfast or lunch in the shops located in they building. Across the street from this building stop by and have a beer or pizza. ***Snap a selfie in front of the food establishment.***

9. Lock #51 - Constructed in 1847 during the enlargement of the Erie Canal It could accommodate two narrowboats side-by-side, or a single wide-beam canal boat. Located on the Empire Trail its a great place to walk around the many remaining remnants. Onon *Hint:* Located west of Jordan Village on a NYS highway. Constructed during the Enlargement of the Erie Canal. It was a double-chamber, with the south chamber double-length on the west (foot) end. 5.732 foot descent to the west. Remnants remain today. This is the furthest western Onondaga County Park and its right on the Empire Trail (Towpath) ***Snap a selfie in the chamber.***

BRUTUS/WEEDSPORT/CENTERPORT AQUEDUCT PARK

10. Centerport Aqueduct - Just west of Weedsport we find the Centerport Aqueduct. This aqueduct was opened in 1857 to carry the Erie Canal over Cold Spring Brook and North Brook. Aqueduct Park includes a pond, the reconstructed Howard Finley Memorial Bridge (which is what the towpath looked like at this aqueduct), and the Erie Canal Prism itself. Also at the park is the Town of Brutus Veteran's Memorial and the beautiful, newly constructed Cayuga County Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. ***Snap a selfie next to the Historic Erie Canal sign with the Erie Canal Prism (or bed of the Erie Canal) behind you!***

11. Freedom Train Mural - Several hundred yards past the Centerport Aqueduct heading toward Weedsport, you will come across an old bridge abutment with a painting. This abutment was originally built for the West Shore Railroad Bridge to pass over the Erie Canal. Later the bridge was used to carry the railroad over what is now Route 31. The bridge was taken down in 1961, but the remaining abutment was used as a canvas for the beautiful painting by Dawn Jordan and Cheryl Schoonmaker, depicting Franklin Delano Roosevelt's 1941 Four Freedoms Speech which alluded to the four essential freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom of want and the freedom of fear. ***Snap a selfie in front of the Freedom Train Mural.***

12. Old Brutus Historical Society Mural - Old Brutus Historical Society is located at 8943 North Seneca Street in Weedsport. Old Brutus Historical Society was founded and incorporated in 1968 by a group of citizens that wanted to preserve the rich history of the Town of Brutus and Village of Weedsport. This building was constructed in the 1930's and was used as the printing shop for the local Cayuga Chief newspaper. Local artist Dawn Jordan painted this mural in 2007 as it depicts life in Weedsport along the Erie Canal in the early twentieth century. Dawn used several photos to make this mural realistic to the time. ***Snap a selfie next to the Erie Canal Mural at Old Brutus Historical Society and stop in for a visit to our wonderful Museum!***

PORT BYRON/MENTZ

13. Canal Society of New York State Research Center for Canal History - At one time, the faithful would gather in this building that was built in the 1890s. Today, researchers gather here to learn about New York State canals and about canals from around the world. And rightfully so as a part of the building was constructed on top of the 1820s canal. In the backyard you can find the remains of the first Owasco Outlet aqueduct that was in use 1820 to 1857. Be on the lookout for programs and presentations about canal and local history that will be held here. ***Snap a Selfie standing by the sign in front of the building.***

14. Schasel Park - Thousands of trail users park their cars in this lot, but do they ever think about the thousands of boats that floated along the canal in this same spot? The boats were 98 feet long and 17 feet wide, and had a bow stable for the animal teams and a cabin in the stern that was where the crew lived. In the early days of railroading, each boat could carry as much freight as 40 car train! The park was named after the village mayor. ***Snap a Selfie standing in the middle of the parking lot.***

15. Old Erie Canal Heritage Visitor Center - This park was opened in 2016 and was the first of its type offering travelers along an interstate highway the opportunity to visit a historical site. It has been that the stone remains of the old canal are the “Mayan ruins” of New York and these make up a central attraction of the park. The 1895 era hotel tells the story of early Italian settlement in the mucklands of central New York. But did you know that the main entrance to the welcome center was suppose to evoke the feeling on entering a lock? ***Snap a Selfie standing in the middle of the Mayan ruins of New York.***

MONTEZUMA HERITAGE PARK

16. The Montezuma Packet Boat & Mural - Montezuma Heritage Park’s main trailhead is located off State Rte 90 north of the Fire House at 8098 High Street. The town-owned park contains 165 acres with eleven nature trails with the remains of several 19th Century Erie and Cayuga-Seneca Canal historic sites. It was here in 1820 ***the Montezuma***, one of the first packet boats built by early pioneer, Comfort Tyler traveled to Syracuse. The model packet boat and the mural were donated by the Montezuma Historical Society in honor of the 200th Erie Canal Bicentennial. The mural artist, Dawn Jordan recreated a scene with the crossover bridge that connected the towpaths of the Erie and Cayuga-Seneca Canals. The Exchange Hotel in the mural scene once stood on this site, It burned in 1918 around the time of the opening of the Barge Canal. ***Snap a selfie standing on the boat next to the hotel.***

17. Clinton’s Ditch Lock 62 -Locate Trail #3 on the kiosk map in Montezuma Heritage Park, 8089 High Street. Once you enter Trail #3 straight ahead you will come to a BIG ditch—the original Clinton’s Ditch, only 4 feet deep; 40 feet wide. Here a guard lock had to be built for boats to navigate through the Seneca River. This was known as “slack water navigation.” Then the team of mules or horses would pull the boats through the river on a 1440-foot long wooden towpath bridge. Boats would then reenter the canal at Mud Lock on the other side of the River to continue travel on the Canal. ***Snap a Selfie by the sign pointing to the original “ditch.”***

18. Richmond’s Aqueduct - Locate and follow Trail #2 shown on the kiosk map in Montezuma Heritage Park, 8089 High Street. September 4, 2024 marks the 175th anniversary of the beginning construction of the second largest aqueduct of the Enlarged Canal opening in the spring of 1856. The massive structure included 31 arches spanning almost 900 feet across the Seneca River during the Enlargement era of the Erie Canal. It was built to elevate the prior difficult original canal crossing directly through the river. By 1903, the voters of the State approved the plan for the Barge Canal and the Richmond would become an obstruction to navigation and dismantled in 1917. The new Barge Canal we know today used the Mohawk and Seneca Rivers, What remains in the Park are seven arches, a testimony to American engineering ingenuity! ***Take a Selfie in front of the interpretive sign at the site of the Richmond Aqueduct.***