



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Mark Grisanti

## Governor Cuomo Announces East Canal Project in Buffalo Now Open to the Public

MARK GRISANTI December 18, 2013

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Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced that the ribbon was cut on the \$5 million East Canal project in Buffalo, signifying its on-schedule completion and that the public space stretching between Washington and Main streets is now open to the public. It is the latest component of the Canalside development on Buffalo's waterfront.

"Every day, we are making more progress in the transformation of Buffalo's waterfront and today, the Erie Canal project is complete," Governor Cuomo said. "This project preserves public access to the waterfront, with a new outdoor space for locals and visitors to

enjoy, and it also serves as a catalyst for private investment and development. It has been completed on budget and on schedule, just in time for the holidays, and I encourage New Yorkers to come see and celebrate the new East Canal.”

“I was here when this project broke ground just eight months ago and today I’m so pleased to hear the project is complete, complementing the continuing progress being made at Canalside,” said Lieutenant Governor Robert J. Duffy. “The people of Western New York have demanded public access and the state delivered by creating this beautiful urban destination that will attract additional development to the surrounding area. Governor Cuomo has placed an extraordinary emphasis on Buffalo’s revitalization and we are now seeing the results.”

The Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation-driven East Canal project creates an outdoor public space that features a granite plaza, a shallow pool of water, fountains, seating, lighting and a shaded tree grove. It is located just south of One Canalside – the former Donovan State Office Building – where a ribbon cutting was recently held for the upper four stories occupied by Phillips Lytle, the second largest law firm in Buffalo. The lower four floors of One Canalside will open this spring as a Courtyard by Marriott. Next to the East Canal will be further private investment possibilities between One Canalside and HARBORCenter projects.

The third annual ECHDC waterfront holiday celebration will be held at the East Canal on December 20 and 21. A 30-foot holiday tree and holiday landscaping will be featured, along with music and programming inside heated tents, food trucks and a visit from Santa. For more information, visit [www.canalsidebuffalo.com](http://www.canalsidebuffalo.com).

“Although the East Canal represents just one component of the overall Canalside project, it is a critical one that depicts Buffalo’s historic canals and lays the foundation for our future,” said Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation Chairman Robert Gioia. “This year-round activity space, which was once blighted and underutilized, is now open to the people of Western New York and visitors. I especially invite you take part in our holiday celebration December 20 through 21 at the new East Canal.”

Canalside has attracted more than \$200 million in private investment that continues to grow within the district, which includes the renovation of One Canalside, the construction of HARBORCenter, as well as numerous small local businesses. The East Canal is located next to One Canalside, where Benderson Development is nearly complete on its \$30 million project to renovate the former Donovan State Office Building.

With a total contract amount of \$5,764,180, Mark Cerrone Inc. constructed the canals and associated features

on time and on budget. The funding source for the contract was proceeds payable to ECHDC pursuant to the New York Power Authority (NYPA) Industrial Incentive Agreement. EE&K, a Perkins Eastman company ([www.perkinseastman.com](http://www.perkinseastman.com)), was the project's master architect. LiRo was the construction manager. C&S Engineers was awarded a contract from ECHDC for design services in November of 2012. Through the design phase, C&S had numerous meetings with the City of Buffalo and the Buffalo Sewer Authority.

Congressman Brian Higgins said, "In 2006 we stood up with and for Western New York and fought for a fair relicensing agreement for this community from the New York Power Authority. It is that \$279 million settlement that funded this project and so many others that continue to reshape the waterfront that many doubted would ever see progress in our lifetime. The East Canals represent the latest step forward in Buffalo looking within to find success rather than seeking an outsider to shape our destiny. This particular site pulls together our Erie Canal history with our region's future as it neighbors the exciting private sector development at One Canalside and HARBORCenter and gives the public yet another reason to visit our waterfront."

Senator Mark Grisanti said: "The East Canal project is another sign of significant progress in the ongoing development of Buffalo's waterfront. We are improving the ability of the public to have access to the waterfront while at the same time strongly encouraging private investment that will benefit Western New York's economy. We are meeting the goals of revitalization and reinvestment that is setting the stage for even more progress in the future."

Assemblywoman Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes said: "The holiday season is not only a time for family and holiday cheer, but a chance to

reflect on the progress of the year. The celebration of the opening of the East Canal to the public, will allow families to enjoy the holiday tree, and festivities that we look forward to during this time. It also signifies how much Buffalo can and will continue to turn blighted and underutilized spaces into public gems for the enjoyment of Western New York residents and visitors. Much thanks and congratulations to President Dee and Chairman Gioia on this beautiful space.”

Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz said: “Canalside’s continuing renaissance takes a big step forward with the completion of the East Canal project, a year-round addition that will draw even more visitors to this historic district. I encourage everyone to take some time during this holiday season to come to Canalside and enjoy this great mix of history and contemporary planning in the heart of downtown Buffalo.”

City of Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown said: “It’s exciting to see the continued and steady progress at Canalside and along Buffalo’s waterfront. Today I thank Governor Cuomo and Lieutenant Governor Duffy for their ongoing confidence in Buffalo. This new East Canal project will create good jobs and all sorts of new opportunities for city residents, while drawing more visitors to Buffalo’s re-energized waterfront.”