

“What’s Happening at Lock E-7 in Niskayuna?”

NYS Canal Corporation Fact Sheet
March 5, 2020

Overview and Community Benefits

The New York State Canal Corporation today announced a multi-component infrastructure project that will, upon completion, greatly improve public access and safety at Erie Canal Lock E-7 and the adjacent Empire State Trail in the town of Niskayuna.

Thousands of visitors each year utilize Lock 7 Road to access the canal lock and the nearby town of Niskayuna boat launch for boating and fishing, as well to walk, jog, bike, and cross-country ski on the Empire State Trail.

The infrastructure improvements include replacing a 1930’s era culvert that carries a local stream under Lock 7 Road, complete reconstruction and paving of Lock 7 Road, which has been deteriorating for years, and paving of the parking area at the lock.

In addition to these capital improvements, the Canal Corporation is currently conducting a “winter maintenance pump-out” of Lock E-7. This operation includes ensuring the lock’s working parts, originally built in the early 1900’s, remain in a state of good repair by maintaining the valves, gates, electrical components, and concrete.

While the road and area surrounding the lock, including the town boat launch, will be closed to the public until the project’s completion in mid-June, the trail remains – and will continue to remain - open to the public.

For boaters looking to launch a vessel onto the Erie Canal and Mohawk River during the project, the nearest boat launch upstream of Lock E-7 is at Freeman’s Bridge Road in Glenville or downstream at Alcathy’s Marina in Waterford.

The maintenance work at Lock E-7 itself will be finished ahead of May 15th, which is the 196th seasonal opening of navigation on the Erie Canal.

In addition to the work completed by the Canal Corporation, the town of Niskayuna will be paving their portion of Lock 7 Road.

These improvements will make the area safe, secure, and enjoyable for all visitors.

The Canal Corporation appreciates the public’s patience while this work is completed. Anyone seeking additional information may contact Jackie Schillinger, manager of public and government relations, at 518-449-6026.

Project Facts

- **Lock E-7 Pump-Out**
 - Temporary dams will be installed at both ends of the lock to allow for the complete draining of the structure
 - Once de-watered, Canal Corporation employees can access the inside of the lock to repair its working components
 - This work will be finished ahead of the canal's opening in May
 - For more information on a lock pump-out, visit the Canal Corporation's YouTube channel

- **Culvert & Road Repair**
 - Culvert work includes replacing concrete footings and abutments
 - Replacement of the culvert decking (top of structure that vehicles drive over)
 - Complete reconstruction and paving of the Canal Corporation owned section of Lock 7 Road and the adjacent lock parking lot
 - The town of Niskayuna will be paving their section of Lock 7 Road

- **Additional Info & Stats**
 - Total cost of Canal Corporation projects: \$1.09 million
 - Canal Corporation employees from the Waterford Maintenance Section will complete the lock pump-out work
 - James H. Maloy, Inc. is the contractor working on behalf of the New York State Canal Corporation to repair the culvert and complete the road work
 - The improvements to Lock 7 Road are being completed in coordination with the Town of Niskayuna
 - During the 2019 navigation season 2,435 vessels locked through E-7, making it one of the busiest locks on the Canal system.
 - An estimated 190,000 people utilized the Empire State Trail in Niskayuna in 2019, making it one of the busiest sections of the trail system.