

**New York State Canal Corporation
Comments on Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement Issued June 23, 2021**

Comment ID	Date Received	How Received	Comment
1	6/23/2021	Email	<p>Thank you, have already seen the release, read the documentation, and posted information to Erie Canal Neighbors, who may want another "neighbors" perspective.</p> <p>https://ecna.createaforum.com/erie-canal-embankment-integrity-program-(eip)/earthen-embankment-integrity-program-guidebook-released-virtual-public-input-to-/msg1544/?topicseen#msg1544</p> <p>I have also added information about your proposed public input virtual meeting</p> <p>https://ecna.createaforum.com/erie-canal-embankment-integrity-program-(eip)/earthen-embankment-integrity-program-guidebook-released-virtual-public-input-to-/msg1545/#msg1545</p> <p>I have signed up for both sessions myself, mainly to listen to what the next Program will be doing in comparison to the original Embankment Restoration work that has affected many of your neighbors already.</p> <p>There a a few issues with your guidebook, including a missing link in Chapter 8, Item 24 on page 87. You may want to have your PE reread and eliminate a few cousin words like dike, especially when the document stated the proper, correct word should be embankment, not levee, berm, hill etc.</p> <p>Sharing my opinion, from one who has written similar documents for projects of this magnitude, the EEIP GEIS, the Embankment Guidebook (w/ Appendices) and the Best Practices Guide, as a whole, are a very comple work, that should answer most questions, and also address some issues seen in your original EERP efforts.</p> <p>But it will not make everyone happy, especially some of your neighbors west of Rochester.</p> <p>And you have opened up a whole can of worms by using the word "park" in reference to the property where this work is being done.</p> <p>Thanks again for the heads up on this, and you may want to update the EEIP Website Schedule Page, another "on-time" delivery of an EEIP Milestone, once the date gets changed.</p> <p>https://www.canals.ny.gov/Earthen_Embankment/Project_Timeline.html</p>
2	6/24/2021	Email	<p>As time has passed and this project is in limbo, Mrs Agte has shifted to publicly shaming the Canal Corporation for the Reimagine projects, the recent canal break in Palmyra and other unrelated projects. She's making a mockery of your corporation to make peopl think you are incompetent and wreckless in your embankmet safety program. She is showing her true nature and willingness to harm your reputation on all topics instead of focusing on the one thing she claimed she was against. "The Canal Corporation can do no right!" A lawyer can tell you this person is incapable of leading this group, contacting public officials and leading her campaign of hatred. I see Mrs Agte's name on lots of local issues now and she's all over the place after her dealings with the Canal Corporation. I'm sure it's all for support for her save the tree campaign.</p> <p>I stress the point of the STCC and Shade is Cool groups as being one person's misguided argument. If I spent my retirement on a 24/7 campaign to stop something, whether helpful to the community or not, I would eventually gain support, especially if it's to protect something from nature. A few human lives are worth the risk to some in their delusions. I care deeply about others and don't want my neighbors across the canal to be placed in harm's way any longer.</p> <p>These trees are just plants, large ones that were not cut back or managed over the past 100 years. A field of grass will turn into a small forest if left alone for just 25 years. The canal banks were not designed to have enormous cottonwoods, oaks, maples, poplar, ash, willow or any sort of tree on it's banks. For this reason alone, what doesn't belong on the canal banks now has to be removed, regardless of their size, shape or aesthetic beauty. You can't leave just one since that would contradict your entire reasons for removing the trees. It's that one tree that may be the weak link in the system and can cause a breach.</p> <p>Let our local politicians who are stopping this effort know the facts, that they were purposefully misguided by one individual's false claims and get a court order to take these trees down this winter when the canal is empty. Who will be held accountable if a breach is related to a tree is unknown.</p> <p>Good luck in your fight against Mrs Agte and her handful of misguided supporters.</p>
3	6/24/2021	Email	<p>James - The Schuylerville Mayor forwarded me the info and asked me to forward to others.</p> <p>Can you give me an idea how this impacts the EPA study of the flood plains in the Upper Hudson?</p> <p>Is there an area of the Upper Hudson that this impacts more than others?</p> <p>Thanks - my days of reading through these documents are over.</p>
4	6/30/2021	Email	<p>I believe the current comment period on the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the Earthen Embankment Integrity program is unacceptably short and the public meeting plan is unacceptably anemic, especially given the complexity of both the EIS analysis and the embankment management plan. The public has been waiting for many months, watching the Canal Corporation inexplicably miss many self-imposed deadlines in this process; and yet when the long delayed documents are finally released, the public meeting plan is ridiculously restrictive – consisting of two meetings on the same day! This is unacceptable, and looks like an attempt to minimize public input on the management of this important resource that affects a significant number of communities in the state. You must permit the public more time and opportunities to comment.</p> <p>I look forward to learning about a new, more robust schedule of meetings, and, necessarily, an extended comment period.</p>
5	7/1/2021	Email	<p>In response to your request for comments.</p> <p>Overall the work to the canal bank was done well, however, what we don't appreciate is the damage that the contractor, Hohl Industries, did to a local road, Marshall Road. The damage was brought to their attention during the construction, however, they attempted to pass it off as the fault of the town or a local sub-contractor. They ignored it now to the point where the road is deteriorating and the damage is worse. This road is used by local traffic, including school busses. Also,</p>

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			they ran overweight and oversized trucks on the road causing ruts and the edges to crumble. Again, they denied any responsibility. Ridgeway is now in the process of suing Hohl Industries for damages. Based on this, the State should think twice before hiring Hohl Industries. If you have any questions, please let us know. Thank you.
6	7/1/2021	Email	Feel free to send me documentation or updates on the embankment status. More importantly, you need to contact every homeowner and business below the waterline- as they've most likely been solicited by Mrs Agte's STCC group. The same group is fighting some development that sits beneath the waterline in Fairport. Their hands are in every canal related issue to gain a larger presence and get people (who don't really care) to listen. If I asked most of my friends and neighbors who agree with your proposal, they wouldn't write in to support the program. It's just how people are when they aren't directly affected, or can't see physical proof. People need to be harmed in order to prove a point sometimes, unfortunately. As with this past tragedy in Florida, with what the engineers have pointed out, you have no choice but to remove the trees on the canal that wasn't engineered to have woody vegetation on its earthen embankments. Please don't let Mrs Agte dictate your direction on this project and stick to the original plan. Compromises will lead to micromanagement, more tax dollars and lack of control of the waterway. They'll just push for more control if you let them think they have some. The Canal Corporation needs to stand their ground on this safety issue. ps. I do not support the ECNA or the STCC groups or their administrators. I support embankment rehabilitation and safety.
7	7/2/2021	Email	You are probably getting a number of emails and phone calls from a group who call themselves STOP THE CLEAR CUT. These are mainly a group of women who have no expertise in Dam Engineering, hydrology or even tree management. They have a habit of 'bombing' people with nonsense mail etc to try to prevent the NYPA from making these dangerous dams safe. FEMA, NYDEC, ASDSO Army Corp of Engineers, Rizzo Engineering and more all say trees are not allowed on embankment dams. The dam from Fairport to Pittsford has been classified C High Hazard dam, and could potentially drown hundreds of people in the Fairport Jefferson Ave area. Please, for the safety of my neighbors, ignore these people, they are radical, eccentric and downright dangerous.
8	7/9/2021	Email	I am sending this file, along with a list of questions & concerns about the NYS Canal Corporation (NYSCC) Earthen Embankment Integrity Program (EEIP) work, that you have been a key part of, including the EEIP Guidebook. As one of the co-founders of the Erie Canal Neighbors Association (ECNA) we have been watching the ongoing work for restoring Canal Embankment safety for more than 3 years now. You can review some of our concerns on our main website: www.ecna.us or you can visit our canal discussion forum at https://ecna.createaforum.com/index.php Sending this PDF file your way so you can be better prepared to answer the questions on July 14, at the EEIP Public Review Virtual meeting, the ECNA will be attending both scheduled sessions. Just looking for some help understanding the proposed work & schedule a bit better, and also trying to offer some improvements & comments on the EEIP Guidebook itself. Hope you take these comments in the spirit they were given... constructive. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to reply in email, or visit our Canal Neighbor Forum and make your statements public, to all Canal Neighbors, by posting on our Forum Thank you all again for the fine work you are doing to help make all New Yorkers safe again, developing a sound program to handle the issues of "unsound earthen dams" running through the State. Attachment: EEIP Guidebook Comments/Questions 1) Will be using the NYS Guidelines for vegetation on Earthen Dams as stated in Chapter 1, Embankment Overview Section 5: NYS Regulatory Recommendations? 2) Section 2 Organization of the NYS Canal Corporation Dam Safety Program... to whom, exactly how and what contact numbers can be shared to report Canal Embankment Dam Emergencies? On a noted follow-up, Chapter 4, Item 4 states that for Canal Embankment Emergencies neighbors should be calling the Thruway State Operations Center (TSOC) 1-866-691-8282. Why are we not calling NYPA or the NYSCC? 3) Will the NYSCC be using their new Embankment Rating System, outlined in Chapter 3, to determine where to place their priorities for Dam Remediation? Which Canal Embankments will be started first with the new EEIP effort? And when will those embankments start to be cleaned of woody vegetation? 4) If yes, will you also be using that rating system to prioritize creating Flood Inundation Maps for each of the MOST CRITICAL earthen dam sections? This would insure your neighbors understand the potential flood issues in their neighborhoods and may result in some deciding to purchase Flood Insurance until their canal embankments are restored to NYS safety compliancy. 5) At this time is the NYSCC prepared to share the list of Embankment that have a rating of Poor, Very Poor, and Serious or any embankments that have a Moderate to High Urgency? Assuming the list you provide will have Town information and Mile Marker Locations, which would allow your neighbors to check and see if they are affected by one of these more serious earthen impoundments.

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			<p>6) Section 4 on Embankment Inspections, lists 9 items to be inspected, including Toe Drain Flow. That item will require the Bank Inspector to walk along the bottom of the embankment sections, correct?</p> <p>How will the Canal Corporation be sharing the Inspection Schedule with their Neighbors so that when the Bank Inspector is walking at the BOTTOM of the Earthen Dams, along neighboring properties, they will be "expected", and not a surprise at 8am in the morning?</p> <p>7) How often will Embankment Inspections occur? The Guidebook Section 4.1 uses a Hazard Class Rating System of A,B,C , which has no corresponding relationship with the new Canal Corporation Embankment Rating System previously identified in Chapter 3.</p> <p>8) Chapter 7 on Embankment Maintenance lists a table with many Embankment Issues & Tasks with Risk Prioritization and Frequency of the Task. For mowing Grass it states minimum 2X per year, Further in the Chapter the desired grass height maximum is stated at 12".</p> <p>Do you think it is practical, even possible to think that mowing only 2 times can achieve both conditions?</p>
9	7/9/2021	Email	<p>Just a heads up folks. Ms Maier is at it again. Note. The diagram Maier uses is not representative of the embankment dam here. The slope is much steeper out the outboard side. There was a video attached.</p>
10	7/10/2021	Email	<p>Wtf</p> <p>I'm 25 and lived in Pittsford for 23 years now</p> <p>Leave the trees along the canal alone</p>
11	7/10/2021	Email	<p>I am writing in reference to recent and planned work along the Erie Canal. I grew up in Pittsford and currently live in Spencerport, two communities affected by the embankment program. I have been very concerned about the work done west of us--from an aesthetic, economic, and safety perspective.</p> <p>As I have hiked along the canal in Brockport, I have seen the ugly devastation caused by the removal of trees and vegetation. The bushes and trees recently planted just west of Main St in Brockport are already turning brown and dying. This is a sad "replacement" for the natural habitat that was destroyed and removed. Continued destruction of natural habitat will negatively affect the flora and fauna living along our beautiful canal. Additionally, the aesthetic damage to the canal corridor will impact local tourism and discourage bikers and hikers from using the once-lovely tree-lined and often shaded paths along the canal.</p> <p>Bikers and hikers who could on those periodic havens of shade provided by stands of trees (which are often along those embankments) will find their travels more difficult and unpleasant leading to alternative choices away from the canal. Likewise, boaters who enjoyed tree lined vistas, are finding more and more stretches of ugly barren shores along the canal. By destroying the scenic nature of the canal corridor, you are negatively impacting the tourism and local economies of our historic canal towns. I implore you to take the historic tradition of these towns into consideration in your planning and make beautification along the canal a TOP priority.</p> <p>Furthermore, from a safety perspective, I have personally witnessed concerning actions by the Canal Corporation in the last 2 years during their work on this project. By cutting down trees on embankments, the CC has left old extensive root systems intact in the ground which will decompose in the coming years creating seepage tunnels. Thanks for increasing our risk of leaks! :(Additionally, the logs from cut trees have often been disposed of at the bottom of the embankment--exactly where canal inspectors should be inspecting embankments for leakage. By leaving logging debris in these locations, you are creating a hazard! This work is being done irresponsibly at best! Moreover, by removing trees on canal property adjacent to private land, you have loosened and damaged the integrity of root systems on private land just past the property line resulting in fallen and damaged trees on private land. By disrupting entwined root systems of adjacent trees, you disrupt the entire grove of trees regardless of where the property line falls. For example, a home in Brockport experienced extensive damage when trees just past the property line were removed exposing trees on private property to greater winds and stress with less support in the ground. These trees then fell into the property owner's home. I hope the CC has compensated the property owners for damages caused by the state.</p> <p>The irrationality of the plans in the embankment project beg the question: why???? Is this about money? Is it about being able to use large efficient industrial mowers to quickly cut the grass and not have to avoid trees? Is it about future plans by the NYPA to use the canal corridor for other purposes like power lines? Is there another hidden agenda? This plan which massively affects local communities does not inspire confidence in Albany's power to meet local residents' needs!</p> <p>Lastly I know that the CC cites the risk of breach as a major concern and impetus for this project. I would ask you to consider the history of breaches along the canal. This project feels like putting a patient with a papercut into the ICU. Massive overkill. The last breach along the canal in the Monroe County area was decades ago in Bushnell's Basin and was caused by irresponsible maintenance on the canal by canal workers. Is this what you are aiming to repeat???? Canal walkers have done an excellent job for decades identifying small leaks well before any significant damage was done. Let's not mess with a system that is working. Leave the trees as they are and let us maintain the beauty and attractiveness AND safety of the canal that we local residents love.</p>
12	7/14/2021	Email	<p>Sent to Governor's Office and routed back to CC.</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to the NYS Canal Corporation plan to clear cut raised embankments as a maintenance plan. As a Fairport resident, the canal is integral to the beauty and ECONOMY of our town/village. The fundamental assumption that trees cause breaches is simply unsupported by any evidence. There have not been any breaches due to vegetation on the canal embankments. The only major breaches have been because of human error - not nature. There is also no history of earthen dam failure due to vegetation in other places in the country. Put simply, the plan is not evidence based. We need a different maintenance plan, one based on evidence that takes the big picture into consideration.</p> <p>People come from all over the country to experience the historic Erie Canal (AND TO SPEND THEIR MONEY). They travel by boat, by bike and by foot and enjoy the beauty and shade the trees provide. Once the trees are cut, we cannot un-cut them. The natural beauty we enjoy from the presence of trees cannot be replaced. The habitat provided for wildlife cannot be replaced. The value of trees and vegetation on the embankments in fighting global warming will be lost. Trees belong</p>

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			<p>on the canal. Destroying the beauty of this resource without a sound basis in evidence is a terrible mistake and an economic mistake. I urge you to fight against this terrible clear cutting plan.</p> <p>**INTERESTINGLY - THIS DID NOT BECOME AN ISSUE UNTIL THE POWER AUTHORITY TOOK OVER THE NYS CANAL CORPORATION. WHY THE SUDDEN CHANGE? This is clearly not about the safety of the canal. Something else is going on. Is it just ease of maintenance for them if all they have to do is mow? Also, certain companies got contracts to take the lumber from the trees - I wonder who is connected to whom? Whatever it is, it's clearly not about the integrity of the canal, and this plan would be destructive to our local economy and communities and environment.</p>
13	7/11/2021	E-mail	<p>Please DO NOT CLEAR CUT! A few years ago I attended meetings requesting that an arborist determine the need to cut any and all trees.</p> <p>I implore you to use any means you can to ensure that the trees that are being cut actually need to be cut. What happened west of Rochester is NOT ACCEPTABLE to repeat in any other area along the Erie Canal. This is too valuable of a commodity in NY.</p> <p>The unfortunate families that were affected by the clear cutting waited over a year to get their properties replanted with tiny little trees/bushes in place of the beautiful natural privacy lines they had previously.</p> <p>I ask that a smart, educated, and thorough evaluation of each tree be made. I know there is talk of working in the Pittsford and Perinton areas next. I am on the canal trail 2-3 X/week with a bike, running, or dog walks. It's beautiful but many areas lack the shade from the summer sun. By clear cutting, this will affect the look and functionality of the canal trail.</p> <p>I ask that you use a different approach at the Pittsford/Perinton area and all future areas than what you west of Rochester. We deserve that!</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
14	7/12/2021	Email	<p>As you work for a professional organization that is fully competent in carrying out your duties, I'm sure you understand that Mrs Agte's group of friend's comments are irrelevant. Mrs Agte just delayed your project. I, and enough people know this by now. We have enough faith in you, fully understand and accept why, and want you to get on with your work before something terrible happens. Pittsford and Perinton residents know far too well from two bursts in Bushnell's Basin that water is a difficult thing to contain. Shame on our town supervisors for supporting Mrs Agte and putting people's lives in speculation.</p> <p>If you are wrong and we lose some trees or displace a few animals, the loss will be insignificant. If Mrs Agte was allowed to be correct, people could lose their lives!</p> <p>The town of Pittsford (the ones who sued you over trees) recently plowed through natural wetlands, woodlands and meadows between the Erie Canal and the Auburn Trail. It includes a thriving and healthy frog breeding habitat with four ponds and adjacent wetlands. Thousands of trees were removed to make the site accessible to the public. The tree canopy was removed and now sunshine showers down on the frog's habitat, which can't be beneficial to them. I'm sure many animals and plants were displaced or destroyed in the process. The preserve offers a creekside rest area, with overlooks of the Frog Ponds and meadows, and includes an elevated boardwalk trail. The town called this a "minimal impact" trail, but thousands of trees were bulldozed and replaced with lots of grass. The site now has to be mowed, mulched and maintained like many of our local parks. Dogs will also be on this trail. This was all done for personal desire, not for safety reasons. The new park can be seen here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgYtcOPePko Mrs Agte's group praised this development and had no issue whatsoever with turning this habitat into a park. Lawn mowers will certainly kill some frogs and snakes!</p> <p>The Canal Authority has to remove trees for safety reasons alone, not to enhance one's experience in nature! Activists in Pittsford, Brighton or Perinton had nothing against the massive YMCA and enormous parking lot adjacent to the canal that recently replaced many acres of forest either. Can't people walk or bike on the canal for exercise? Pittsford's existing YMCA just wasn't good enough, so they bulldozed another forest by the canal. We should be after Pittsford not the Canal Authority with all of their recreational needs replacing trees! These are the people you are dealing with. "Selective activists."</p> <p>I'm not one to fight against these nature trails or new development. I believe in progress and balance. Activists who love nature should promote moving back into our abandoned cities if they really care about the environment. They'd rather have a nice, big lawn in the sprawl that was once a big forest or meadow. Before 1965, there were no housing developments at the base of these embankments! Trees were of no concern. Now they are!</p> <p>Someone from Mrs Agte's group recently posted a video saying not a single tree caused a breach in a hundred years. Did they get this fact from the Canal Corporation?</p> <p>The illustration below shows how the canal banks looked in the past. The Canal Corporation wouldn't dare plant a tree on that slope. They didn't plant any trees on the embankments that now need to be cleared. This is clearly a sign of neglect that the Canal Corporation now is owning up to. I know Mrs Agte and most of her supporters understand this. Unfortunately, people just like to argue and cause controversy out of boredom. Others just don't understand and believe what they are told.</p> <p>PHOTO ATTACHED:</p>

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			 <p data-bbox="536 826 1487 873">Channel in concrete trough across Iroquois valley. With water in the canal only the tops of the heavy side walls, 46 feet apart, are seen. Two courses of concrete, with air left water-proofing form the bottom. The Iroquois trough is just three-quarters of a mile long. Maximum width of embankment above valley, 66 feet.</p>
15	7/13/2021	Email	<p data-bbox="536 910 1897 1038">I am writing to voice my concern about the clear cutting being considered in Pittsford and Fairport. I truly believe this to be a detrimental project which will remove many aspects of the canal's appeal, in addition to the disruption of wildlife in that area. I understand it to be cheaper to do a clear cut than to target specific sick trees but a clear cut will forever change the character of the canal. I am totally against this project.</p>
16	7/13/2021	Email	<p data-bbox="536 1044 1897 1246">Lastly, I can't stress enough to you that Mike Caswell will post every private email and document he gets from you. He's done it to me, done it to his best friends... He's very loose with information. He posts, then thinks about what he wrote, then takes down his postings. He's banned from Nextdoor for at least the second time. He doesn't just state the facts, he shames the ones who argue against them in a way that is rather distasteful. I can't say he's informing the public in a way that gains support. He may in fact be turning people against the embankment clearing by making a mockery of the issue.</p> <p data-bbox="536 1277 1544 1314">I have just a few more comments to help you understand how trivial these arguments are.</p> <p data-bbox="536 1345 1614 1383">I pulled up an email from 2017 regarding Mrs Agte's quest to shut down my son's Eagle project.</p> <p data-bbox="536 1414 1897 1485">It's in your best interest to have no dealings with Mike or Elizabeth from this point on. State the facts and keep things as private as the law permits you to do. Mr Kerins handled my son's work permit as professionally as anyone could.</p> <p data-bbox="536 1516 1897 1687">I felt bad for Mr Kerins to have to deal with so many calls and emails from Mrs Agte, Mr Caswell, Mrs Fisher and Mr Calia. My son's Scoutmaster got dragged into this for a moment too, which was quite embarrassing as this project was something the Scout committee approved at my son's young age. "It was an ambitious 13 year old kid's Eagle project!" This kid is now looking to be a Mechanical Engineer. As I speak, he's with 3 other Eagle Scouts camping at Cranberry lake for the week. Kayaks, a small motor boat and tents. That's Ever today on top of Cat Mountain!</p> <p data-bbox="536 1718 711 1756">Photo attached</p> <p data-bbox="536 1787 1151 1920">These people were CCd on the email to me: Richard Manns <Richard.Manns@canals.ny.gov>, Ambrose Barbuto <Ambrose.Barbuto@canals.ny.gov>, David Boshart <David.Boshart@canals.ny.gov></p> <p data-bbox="536 1951 691 1989">May 23, 2017</p> <p data-bbox="536 1989 1897 2091">Hello Scout Gavelis, Our inspector toured the permit work area yesterday and has related to me that all work completed to date is within the scope of the permit issued.</p> <p data-bbox="536 2122 983 2362">Best Regards, Kevin Kevin T. Kerins NYS Canal Corporation Western Division Canal Permit Engineer 4950 Genesee Street- Suite 190 Cheektowaga, NY 14225</p> <p data-bbox="536 2424 631 2461">[REDACTED] to Kevin</p> <p data-bbox="536 2492 1897 2564">Thank you so much Kevin. I will relay this info to the people (at this point) who are harassing me and my Son. We are now blocking their emails.</p> <p data-bbox="536 2564 1897 2697">There have been far too many attempts to explain each and every thing we do down there. This is an isolated complaint by 3-5 friends who walk their dogs together. We pet them every school day. I bumped into John Calia yesterday afternoon while meeting my son at the track and his profanity ended any further discussion on the topic. Your site inspection and approval is all Ever has to be left alone.</p> <p data-bbox="536 2697 1897 2769">Have a great Tuesday and fun Memorial Day Weekend. Ever and I will be helping with another boy's Eagle project (just a simple garden),</p> <p data-bbox="536 2800 667 2837">[REDACTED]</p> <p data-bbox="536 2868 1897 2940">ps. John Calia was the one who jumped to Mrs Agte's defense after Mike ridiculed her in a group email discussing Ever's Eagle project plans. This was sort of a forced committee of interested people who were friends with Mike. They all wanted</p>

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			<p>to help Ever clean up the Oxbow. They insisted on us giving them Ever's project proposal and all details on a strip of hazardous wasteland nobody cared to do anything about- until my son stepped in to clean it up.</p> <p>Nobody took issue with the project plans. It was all fine until John Calia stepped in in Mrs Agtre's defense. She really could have spoken for herself and stood up to Mike, but John took it to extremes, which led to battles with the Canal Corporation. John is a silent supporter of Mrs Agte. He, and other people who don't like Mike instigate and help Mrs Agte behind the scenes. These are all Mike's neighbors!</p>
17	7/14/2021	Email	<p>I have been a resident of Pittsford for 46 years and have enjoyed the natural state of the canal path for 46 years. In 2004 I moved to a home at the base of the canal. From my backyard I can hear the boats going by and see runners and bikers passing on the path.</p> <p>We have enjoyed the wildlife along the canal, from the pileated woodpeckers to the black bears, the deer and the great blue heron. I am staunchly opposed to the unnecessary clear cutting of the canal foliage. I don't want them to "move somewhere else". I don't want my property to get hotter. I don't want more traffic noise echoing down my neighborhood. I don't need a windier landscape howling down my street. I love our shady walks down the canal. It is why we moved here. The embankments have survived the foliage for over 100 years. This is unnecessary work and a misuse of taxpayer money.</p>
18	7/14/2021	Email	<p>I would like to voice my opposition to this proposal. I would request that a reasonable accommodation be made that the Power Authority will not clearcut trees, but rather will only take down trees posing a threat to houses along the embankment, deadwood and otherwise remove only trees posing a clear and convincing threat to the integrity of the embankment.</p>
19	7/14/2021	Email	<p>I would like to voice my opposition to this proposal. I would request that a reasonable accommodation be made that the Power Authority will not clearcut trees, but rather will only take down trees posing a threat to houses along the embankment, deadwood and otherwise remove only trees posing a clear and convincing threat to the integrity of the embankment. Thank you for your consideration of my comments/request.</p>
20	7/14/2021	Email	<p>I would like to contest Bill Smith's comments this morning.</p> <p>He referred to an expert witness, meaning emeritus Professor Donald Gray, who stated that trees helped consolidate a wooded slope.</p> <p>see. https://eriecanalfacts.wordpress.com/2018/04/19/testimony-in-question-vegetation-on-dams/</p> <p>Here is a transcript of that post.</p> <p>In the recent court case when an injunction was filed against the New York Power Authority to stop vegetation removal from the canal Earthen Embankment Dams between Brighton, Pittsford and Fairport, Mr Donald H Gray (Professor Emeritus) was called on to provide testimony.</p> <p>In the petitioners reply Index 2018-945 it clearly states on page 4</p> <p><i>Just so this court is not misled into thinking that the presence of trees on canal embankments is not universally scorned, petitioners submit with their reply papers the affidavit of a highly-qualified and distinguished geotechnical engineer who opines that trees growing on the canal embankments enhance structural stability and public safety, and the removal trees will reduce embankment stability and integrity. See affidavit of Donald H. Gray, P.E., sworn to February 21, 2018 ("Dr. Gray Aff."</i></p> <p>I searched the Internet to find all documents written by Dr Gray, and in every case, his articles were written explicitly about NATURAL WOODDED SLOPES being clear-cut.</p> <p>This was obviously a completely different scenario than a levee or an embankment dam, so I wrote to Dr Gray and asked him if he had any documents referring to levees or embankment dams.</p> <p>Here is his reply.</p> <p><i>Earth dams and levees are both constructed embankments.</i></p> <p><i>They differ mainly in their purpose and type of hydraulic loading. Earth dams are constructed across a stream or river to create an impoundment. The impoundment provides water storage, flood control, and recreational opportunities. An earthen levee is constructed parallel to a river or stream to prevent flooding of adjacent low-lying areas during periods of high water. An earthen levee is subjected mainly to tangential-hydraulic forces (scour) whereas a dam is subjected to dynamic hydraulic forces (wave action).</i></p> <p><i>I don't know of any earth dams where woody vegetation was purposely planted or allowed to grow on a face of the dam. Such is not the case with earthen levees where vegetation can often be found growing on both the landward and water sides. An earthen dam is designed and built to prevent overtopping and minimize through-flow (seepage). Overtopping of an earth dam is prevented by building the dam high enough. By comparison earthen levees have been built mainly to withstand breaching that can occur during overtopping, through-flow and lateral scour. The presence of vegetation on a levee helps prevent erosion that can occur during overtopping and lateral scour.</i></p> <p><i>I've attached a revised version of the article sent to you earlier that examines the risks and benefits of woody vegetation on earthen levees.</i></p> <p>According to Dr Gray, The Erie Canal Embankments are not Levees, but Earthen Embankment dams. The body of water, once called Oxbow Lake, behind the dam is a reservoir, not subject to 'scouring' as there is no lateral flow, and it is constructed across the flow of the stream flowing at The Oxbow.</p> <p>I believe Dr Gray was misled into thinking these were wooded slopes or levees, as he had not actually visited the site.</p> <p><i>"I don't know of any earth dams where woody vegetation was purposely planted or allowed to grow on a face of the dam."</i></p> <p>So, according to Dr. Gray, he states that our canal embankments are indeed dams, for the following reasons.</p> <p>1. They are constructed across streams.</p>

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			<p>2. They have a constant level of water, maintained by spillways.</p> <p>3. There is no lateral flow of water so no 'scouring' of the banks is in effect.</p> <p>4. They are subject to Hydraulic Dynamic forces – pressure and waves.</p> <p>5. They are not designed to over-top, hence the spillways.</p> <p>6. Trees are not allowed on dams (See D H Gray, USACE, FEMA, ASDSO)</p> <p>6. Phreatic line problems can cause seepage, boils etc.</p> <p>Levees on the other hand constitute –</p> <p>1. Embankments are build parallel to the water flow of a river or streams.</p> <p>2. They are only operational in time of flood. (Holding back water)</p> <p>4. They are designed to withstand over-topping.</p> <p>5. Trees help withstand scouring caused by rapid flow of water in flood situations.</p> <p>6. No spillways build into a levee.</p> <p>7. Phreatic line problems virtually non existent.</p> <p>He also sent me the following document about Levees.</p> <p>Woody Vegetation on Earthen Levees 2</p> <p>Finally, Mr Smith stated they had won their case in court. Nothing is further from the truth, otherwise we wouldn't be here today.</p> <p>All that happened (I was at the hearing) was the NYPA was instructed to carry out SEQR study, (which they have done), despite the NYDEC initially telling them it wasn't necessary.</p>
21	7/14/2021	Email	<p>Sorry for the late reply, but the EEIP Generic EIS was quite long, and full of information to review. I have prepared another document for your review, and to hopefully generate conversation in today's Zoom Meeting and beyond.</p> <p>Attachment:</p> <p>EEIP Environmental Impact Statement Comments & Questions</p> <p>1) Could we have Brian Stratton read the First TWO paragraphs of Page 1-3</p> <p>2) Page 1-5, sets the RULES defined by SEQRA, and how NYSCC responded.</p> <p>3) Section 1-3 Project Description – this is the generic plan?</p> <p>4) Quoted cost of Embankment Remediation is on page 1-7, at \$2-4 Million per mile. How many miles will be done, on an annual basis, to return the highest hazard embankment dams back to safe condition? Can the public expect \$20 M or 10 miles of embankments?</p> <p>That would mean the remaining 100 miles or so left to Clear & Inspect would be a 10 year plan.</p> <p>5) On Page 1-7 there are 6 Implementation steps outlined in the EEIP process, Step 1 being Identify potential EEIP candidate embankments based on Desktop review & Field visits. Will it be possible for a section of Erie Canal Neighbors to "petition" the NYSCC to have EEIP done in their sections as well? These may be 2-3 mile long sections bounded by existing canal access points.</p> <p>6) Can Mr Stratton read the Section 1-3-1 Purpose Need & Benefit of EEIP, paragraph 1, LAST sentence, please? And what is the result of weakened embankments by deterioration? Should people at the "end" of the EEIP "10 year plan" carry Flood Insurance to protect themselves until the Embankment in their backyard gets repaired?</p> <p>7) Page 1-8, while the NYSCC does not want to classify these earthen water impounding structures as "dams", which would mean having them listed on the NYS Dam Safety Registry, they are going to treat them like earthen dams and insure their safety based on Earthen Dam Regulations. They will clear them as if they were dams, they will cover them with grass turf.</p> <p>Why not just have these embankments named, measured and listed on the State Dam Registry which would have "back-up" oversight by the NYS DEC? It would seem that being "redundant" on Dam Safety verification is in the "public's best interest".</p> <p>8) Public Benefits Statement is very good, is it accurate?</p> <p>9) Page 1-16 discusses timing of all EEIP activities, assuming that means actual embankment vegetation removal for embankment inspections. The GEIS states this work will be done between November 1 and May 1, during the normal dewatered period. If an embankment is deemed URGENT or HIGH HAZARD, could that work be done during Navigation season if needed? And if so, how long would it take to do a 2-3 mile section of canal embankment remediation?</p> <p>10) Chapter 2, Alternatives Considered, was there ANY consideration to something in-between what we have now with the Erie Canal at 120' wide & 12' deep, and the "drain & abandon" idea?</p> <p>If the idea is to reduce risk, then having more embankment in-between the inboard sea and the humans living along it, would be better I presume. Maybe incorporate some method to have the canal as a 60" wide, 6' deep version from say 1880s may have been a solution that would fit better. Maybe tie that in with restoring wetland areas in the Western Section as part of your Reimagine Ideation would help.</p> <p>11) Chapter 2 again, have you ever "clear-cut" any embankments to date? So far all of the projects have been well defined, like the 27 mile Embankment Restoration Project. Isn't clear cutting only used in context of harvesting woody vegetation for profit? Seems like this EEIP work is more in-line with Embankment Maintenance & Upkeep, isn't that true?</p>

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			<p>12) Chapter 3, Environmental Setting & Potential Impacts, clearly the most detailed of the Chapters in the EIS. Many pictures of the original Barge Canal are shown, for reference, without trees on embankments. Should what's represented in these original photos be considered the "baseline" for what to expect after the EEIP work is completed?</p> <p>13) Chapter 3, Page 9 Change in Vegetation Cover... seems the bottom line is the 3" rule. Smaller than 3", shallow rooting vegetation can stay, everything else is cleared and marked or removed if larger than 3" trunks. Won't most of what's left eventually reach the point where it would qualify for removal? Seems maintain "grass" is always less expensive than "bushes & shrubs"...why keep them?</p> <p>14) Chapter 3, Page 13, First sentence states that outboard slopes are typically on a 1.5 to 1 slope, when they need to be more like 3:1 ratio of run to rise. Has NYPA of the Canal Corporation folding the INBOARD slope inward, to gain the ratios needed? Can the Barge Canal operate in some sections, at a 8' depth, and if so, would restoring it to an earlier Erie Canal width make more sense?</p> <p>One is an additive constructive process costing more, the other is a Redistributing process which will make best use of current materials.</p> <p>15) Chapter 3, Storm water Management Plan... please have someone from the Canal Corporation look into the problem created now at our property in Brockport...please. We desperately need 100' of Toe Drain. I put a video up online at this address: https://youtu.be/u42AR9koolI</p> <p>16) Chapter 3 Section 6 Page 3-49 Floodplains: Item 3.6.3 Please read the Potential impacts of Alternatives – No Action. Everyone in this meeting should hear what might happen if canal embankments are left non-maintained.</p> <p>The ECNA has calculated, using NYSCC water flow rates, that in a canal breach the origin and all parts downstream will see 66 million gallons of water escaping before the water can be stopped This can occur in many sections where embankments live, it all depends on Guard Gate Locations, and if they work when used. Brockport GG failed recently causing the one in Holley to be used, adding even more water in a breach event.</p> <p>17) Chapter 3 Section 13 Topic is View Group on Page 3-82-90. It is stated that "no one has a right to a private view" in respect to Residents Section and "visual amenities", but can you agree that Canal Neighbors certainly do have the right to their own PRIVACY, from the Park that you plan to open up to view them.</p> <p>That privacy has been taken away for some neighboring properties in Brockport, because of a lack of agreement between the Canal Corporation and your last EERP embankment work. How do Canal Neighbors who will fall under EEIP work know the same thing won't happen again? Or will it, and they will be just "casualties"?</p> <p>After all not one "impact" was mentioned about your Canal Neighbors, those residents that are affected most.</p> <p>18) Chapter 3 Section 13, Noise, Odor Light. Pages 3-107 to 3-116. What will EEIP do about the issue in Brockport NY, with neighborhoods that now have increased pollutions, all three, from the Brockport Industrial Park? Have you reached out to the mayor of Brockport to discuss a highway style sound suppression walls for the truck traffic noise. The "barrier screening did NOT address the problem... just Constructive Notice from Canal Neighbors who live along this section of East Brockport Embankment Dam.</p> <p>19) Chapter 3 Section 14 Human Health, why is there no information about the effect on Human Health AFTER the Embankment is cleared and the Empire Trail / Canal Park Patrons start to overrun the Resident lives?</p> <p>20) Chapter 4 Unavoidable Adverse Impacts: commend you on the title, short, sweet, to the point. Just curious, would a canal breach and devastating flood be the worst "unavoidable adverse impact" if EEIP does not get implemented, because the public stood in the way of it? It's only avoidable, if EEIP continues to push for better public safety along the Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor.</p> <p>21) \$2 - \$4million dollars per embankment mile, perhaps 100 miles still to clear and plant grass, did you arrive at the cost using EERP actuals (minus 90% Screening Costs) for the first 27 miles that were done in the 60 mile pool?</p> <p>22) What was the final cost of the EERP Project, and did it align with repair estimates outlined in the 2014 NYS Comptroller Report (S-45) citing the poor condition of the NYS Canal System? Just curious, asking for a friend</p> <p>Douglas Kucmerowski Erie Canal Neighbors Association</p>
22	7/14/2021	Email	<p>Bill Smith has taken "careless liberty" with the public safety of all of Pittsford, with his refusal to accept the EEIP work as advancing PUBLIC SAFETY in the village, town and for all neighbors living below it's earthen dams.</p> <p>Bill Smith has not KEPT his OATH to serve & Protect the People of Pittsford. Public Safety is his NUMBER 1 task and he is failing.</p> <p>Bill Smith should be removed from local Decision Making in Pittsford, or the surrounding area.</p> <p>https://ecna.createaforum.com/erie-canal-embankment-integrity-program-(eip)/nys-canal-corporation-prepares-the-public-for-upcoming-eeip-zoom-call/?message=1606</p>
23	7/14/2021	Email	<p>Please enter the Statement from the ECNA regarding the EEIP Guidebook and SEQR Impact Statement. It can be found at the link below</p> <p>https://ecna.createaforum.com/erie-canal-embankment-integrity-program-(eip)/ecna-releases-their-statement-supporting-the-eeip-guidebook-seqr-statement/</p>
24	7/27/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p>

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			<p>The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Visitors from around the world flock to our beautiful, tree-lined canal. I love meeting both neighbors and visitors there. Our suffering planet needs TREES! Don't remove trees for poor reasons! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
25	7/27/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation and trees provide shade for recreational activities on the historic NYS Erie Canal. Natural vegetation also provides plants for wildlife, monarch butterflies, etc. Please don't destroy this treasure. The trees and natural wildlife make our NYS canal a recreational gem! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
26	7/27/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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28	7/27/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The aforementioned qualities attract visitors, make the communities along the canal attractive to businesses and homeowners and provide economic prosperity for many New Yorkers. Maintaining trees is a proactive contribution to a more healthful environment. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
29	7/27/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p>

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30	7/28/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments</p>
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32	7/28/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Clear ALL your Embankments NOW please, STOP the ranting of this Group with ACTION. They ate perpetuating lies & misinformation and you are now becoming COMPLICIT by your delayed actions. Soft selling Public Safety was by far worst example of STUPIDITY in Progress. For the sake of ALL your canal neighbors, shit this group down with an active campaign of truth Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
33	7/28/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
34	7/28/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. I like to walk the shaded portions of the canal trail during the summer. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>

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38	7/28/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. There are proven mental health benefits to being exposed to a natural, green environment. It is unclear to me why this initiative is still being pushed forward despite the research and science that says it is unnecessary, and the public outcry against it. It is also unclear to me who will be profiting financially from the implementation of this project, and by how much, if it is allowed to be completed. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
39	7/28/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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41	7/28/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.

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42	7/28/2021	Email	<p>Email address: how could any company think it is a good idea? especially now with global warming to be rid of more trees? there is no logical or scientific reason for clear cutting. To many people enjoy the paths and area to have this malicious idea happen. The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. shade for the people who boat/kayak/travel/fish and so forth/- watching the natural wildlife sneak down throug the woods to get a drink global warming is happening and there is no reason for clear cutting along the canal Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
43	7/28/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Visitors from around the world flock to our canal, which gives us locals an opportunity to welcome them and make new friends. With climate change accelerating, that LAST thing we should be doing is eliminating trees. Leave the trees alone! The stretch of 40 maples from the Fpt Lift Bridge to Perinton Park is breathtaking! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
44	7/28/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments</p>
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48	7/28/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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51	7/30/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.

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52	7/30/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Turf is not an environmental enhancement anywhere Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
53	7/30/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The clear-cut has already left it's ugly marks on Brockport. Lost our shade, uprooted wildlife, and it's UGLY! We used to enjoy summers on the towpath walking, biking, and fishing, especially when it's in our own back yard. Too darn hot to enjoy without the shade. And did I say UGLY? UGLY! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
54	7/30/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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57	7/31/2021	Email	<p>Dear Canal Corporation Folks,</p> <p>I love canals, live by the Barge Canal, host kayak fests along with ducks and geese, run along the canal every week, have skated on this canal, and have explored most of the canal villages west of Syracuse. Thank you for keeping it going.</p> <p>Now about the trees. The Guidebook (3/9/2021 draft Final Embankment Maintenance Guidebook and Embankment Maintenance Best Practices attachment) calls for removing all trees from vegetation-free zones to prevent embankment failure. Removing every tree is excessive. Trees are said to block visibility of the ground and to displace dirt when uprooted. Well, trees can be pruned and spread out to allow visibility, making dirt disturbances easy to spot. How often have trees uplifted the dirt on the canal anyway? The Guidebook doesn't say. I have seen many damaged trees along the canal after storms and have not seen a dirt problem.</p> <p>Trees on the canal are vital to recreation and tourism. When I ask people in my kayak fests where they want to go they always point towards the natural vegetation areas, away from man-made docksides. People cycling, running, fishing, or simply sitting canside need shade on hot days. And in a new age of heat domes, clear cutting leads backwards.</p> <p>Thank you again for taking care of the canal. I hope you can find a less severe maintenance practice of canal banks.</p>
58	7/31/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
59	8/2/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
60	8/2/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Quality of life</p> <p>Lack of public input, not following the law, strange politics within state government, Canal Corp, Thruway Authority, and Power Authority. Something fishy is going on here.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
61	8/2/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p>

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62	8/2/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments</p>
63	8/2/2021	Email	<p>Hello, I would like to voice my opposition to the Power Authority's proposal for clearcutting along the embankments of the Erie Canal. Trees and shrubs along the embankment actually serve as a helpful and crucial support system, and the proposed plan to bring in heavy equipment to remove this vegetation is counterintuitive. The heavy machinery would likely cause serious harm to the integrity of the embankment, well beyond any harm the trees could possibly be causing. Trees and other vegetation along the canal are important for maintaining the soil structure, serving as wildlife/insect corridors, providing habitats for pollinators, sequestering carbon (therefore combatting climate change), and they're integral to the aesthetics and enjoyment of the canal. The root structure of trees helps to reduce erosion and runoff of soil, which would cause nutrient depletion in the area losing soil and harmful nutrient loading (leading to algal blooms) wherever the runoff ends up in lakes, streams, etc. Please consider the evidence that supports leaving the trees and vegetation on the embankment, seeing as they provide multiple benefits to our environment and community. Thank you.</p>
64	8/2/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The beauty and natural richness of the Erie canal is one of the reasons I love living in Bushnell's Basin. The possibility of this key environmental resource and aesthetic landscape being destroyed would have a severely negative impact on our environment and the housing market in Pittsford Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
65	8/2/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
66	8/2/2021	Email-a	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p>

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			<p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. There seems to be no benefit to the community of the wildlife so it's disheartening a corporation would even consider this plan. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
67	8/2/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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79	8/2/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>I value the natural vegetation and trees around the canal are as beautiful and historic as the canal itself. The trees keep the character and if they were taken down the area wouldn't have the same serene energy.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
80	8/2/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
81	8/2/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>Trees and vegetation act as natural buffer to protect water systems from pollutants</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
82	8/2/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>I love being alongside the canal for bike riding and being in the canal for kayaking. My least favorite parts are the areas that have no trees. There is less interesting wildlife to view and it gets too hot to enjoy. I noticed all the benches that are alongside the canal and placed under the trees. No one is going to want to sit in direct blaring sunlight. "If its not broken, don't fix it". This plan only benefits the Canal Corporation! You're a bunch of intelligent engineers. Use your intelligence to find an alternative solution that benefits everyone.</p>

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			Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
83	8/2/2021	Email	Hello there. I am a regular user of the Erie Canal trails and I am not in favor of the clear cutting of the trees. I ride my bike alongside the trails and kayak in the canal frequently. The loss of the trees will make these activities less appealing to me. The trees and vegetation and wildlife are an important part of the experience for me. The wildlife lives in the trees and vegetation, and the trees protect me from the blaring sun when I am riding and kayaking. These experiences will be greatly diminished without them. I also spend money in the little towns along the canal. If I lose interest in visiting the canal and other people lose interest too because it is too hot and has no interesting wildlife and no pleasant ambiance, it will be a shame for those canalside towns to lose business. There are many options for people of places to go to enjoy themselves and spend their money. I don't understand why the plan isn't interested in making the canal an even more appealing place for people to visit. The current plans sounds to me like it will make the canal a much less appealing place for visitors. I also have not heard a compelling reason for the clear cut, other than it benefits the Canal Corporation in their surveys of the canal once per year. The benefits do not seem to outweigh the tragedy to the environment and the canalside towns and those of us who love and enjoy the canal. I urge you to reconsider. Thank you.
84	8/2/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
85	8/2/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Shade shade shade It is ridiculous that anyone would consider removing natural vegetation giving the climate challenges we are facing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
86	8/2/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
87	8/3/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I row on the canal 4+ hours daily with pittsford crew. The trees provide a natural sun shade, trap moisture to cool the ambient air, and provide sound barriers from local trains, roads and houses. They are a last line of defense for the natural beauty of the canal.

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			<p>Why would you cut all the trees down? If it is for a monetary reason, think about future generations. Wouldn't you have enjoyed living in a forest wonderland full of diverse species? Other took that from us, don't do the same for our children and future civilization.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
88	8/3/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Rochester is a beautiful untouched green space that makes my heart happy. I come here for the nature. If the trees go we all go. NO ONE is happy about this.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
89	8/3/2021	Email-b	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>There seems to be no benefit to the community of the wildlife so it's disheartening a corporation would even consider this plan.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
90	8/3/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>The canal creates local revenue by promoting tourism and enhances property values.</p> <p>This is a gross overstep by the power authority without sufficient evidence of need OR supposed liability</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
91	8/3/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Wildlife, oxygen, plant life</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
92	8/3/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p>

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93	8/3/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The trees provide needed shade for myself as well as my dogs as My friends and I walk. Nothing else could provide that. The beauty of trees along the canal reminds me of Europe and it's canals. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
94	8/3/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
95	8/3/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. They also provide some privacy from the path to our house Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
96	8/4/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The world is warming, and shade in freely accessible spaces is becoming more and more important. I spent many years in Rochester and the canal trail was my favorite place in the city. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
97	8/4/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p>

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98	8/4/2021	Email	<p>I write to express my deep concern about the plan to clear-cut hundreds of acres of trees along the Erie Canal Trail in Western New York. I have three primary objections: First, The Erie Canal embankments are not dams. The canal is fundamentally not a dam. Removing trees in the name of dam management therefore does not make sense. Second, Scientific evidence shows that the presence of trees reduces the risk of soil erosion and flooding. Third, from an aesthetic perspective, the Canal Trail greatly benefits from the presence of trees, which provide shade, wind protection, and a natural carbon sink (a check against global warming). The clear-cutting plan needs further review and input from scientists (e.g., the biology and environmental scientists at RIT, the University of Rochester, Cornell, and the University at Buffalo, to name a few local institutions). Additional public comment is necessary, as well. Sincerely, Daniel Gorman Jr., History PhD Candidate, University of Rochester</p>
99	8/4/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. They provide stability to the soil The trees provide a buffer for winds Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
100	8/4/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I am very concerned that work on the canal bank, especially within the great embankment section, could cause a breach and flooding. The trees provide stability to the soil. This clear cutting project will remove the habitat of countless wildlife species. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
101	8/4/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Why why why would anyone want to remove the gorgeous trees along the canal!? They're beautiful and are make what would be an ugly waterway beautiful. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
102	8/4/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure., I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns., Natural vegetation supports wildlife., Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p>

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			I believe that vegetation on the embankments is actually helpful for embankment stability You reasoning fir clearcutting the embankments is poorly supported by evidence Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
103	8/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure., I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns., I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer., Natural vegetation supports wildlife., Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming., I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers., Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing., The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets., The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I walk daily and sometimes ride my bike and I need the shade Clear cutting ruins so much wildlife habitat Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
104	8/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure., I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns., Natural vegetation supports wildlife., Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming., I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers., Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing., The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets., The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I like walking in the shade. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
105	8/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure., I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns., Natural vegetation supports wildlife., Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Clear cutting the trees will harm the integrity of the canal banks. Again, this plan will do more damage than good. The banks were never restored after the last time the trees were removed, even though restoration was promised. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
106	8/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure., I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns., I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer., Natural vegetation supports wildlife., Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming., I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers., Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing., The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets., The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. We have walked and biked the canal for 32 years. It is a true treasure. The fall foliage is spectacular. Removing the trees will forever change the recreational usage we have enjoyed for generations and the beauty that brings people to this area. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
107	8/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure., I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns., Natural vegetation supports wildlife., Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming., I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers., Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing., The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets., The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Make great screen for homes along canal. They cut my trees down i use to have tons of squirrels rabbit and chipmunk blue jays and lots of other birds. Now they are all gone. Small trees were planted in thier place but just isnt the same. I had black walnut trees black locus and raspberries for all my wonderful woodland friends. All gone. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
108	8/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.

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			<p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure., I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer., Natural vegetation supports wildlife., Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming., I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. This summer of global disaster shouldn't be ignored. Floods, extreme temperatures, wild fires. And yet, we continue to find illogical ways of destroying more of our natural habitat. And on a personal level, the people of upstate New York have for the past several years made ourselves clear on the topic of clear cutting OUR canal. Find a better way to manage problems. The state of NY and the Power Authority continue to ignore us. But we aren't quitting. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
109	8/4/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure., I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns., I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer., Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing., The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments</p>
110	8/4/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure., I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns., I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer., Natural vegetation supports wildlife., Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming., I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers., Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing., The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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112	8/4/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure., I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns., I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer., Natural vegetation supports wildlife., Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming., I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers., Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing., The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets., The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
113	8/4/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure., I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns., I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer., Natural vegetation supports wildlife., Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming., I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers., Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing., The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets., The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
114	8/4/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure., I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns., I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer., Natural vegetation supports wildlife., Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming., I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers., Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing., The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets., The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p>

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115	8/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure., I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns., I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer., Natural vegetation supports wildlife., Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming., I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers., Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing., The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets., The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Please no!! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
116	8/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer., Natural vegetation supports wildlife., Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming., I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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118	8/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure., I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns., I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer., Natural vegetation supports wildlife., Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming., I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers., Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing., The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets., The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Let nature grow! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
119	8/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure., I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns., I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer., Natural vegetation supports wildlife., Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming., I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. I like walking in forested sections of the trail! The pandemic has made people rediscover the importance of nature and green spaces. When we were in lockdown, places like the canal trail were an outlet for fresh air and (socially distanced) human interaction. Don't ruin one of the state's unique outdoor spaces, the historic canal trail, by removing much of its greenery. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
120	8/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns., I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer., Natural vegetation supports wildlife., Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming., I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers., Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The shade is great for walking the trail with our newborn - it'd be too hot for him without it. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
121	8/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure., I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns., I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer., Natural vegetation supports wildlife., Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming., I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers., Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing., The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets., The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Trees make the canal a pleasant walk Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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123	8/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because

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			<p>The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Other than being a home for wildlife, provide shade for people walking along the canal or boating/kayaking in the canal, the trees have been here for over a hundred years and they have not been a burden on the canal in all this time, so why not let them be? The entire planet is experiencing climate change. Trees are being felled in countries where the people have no say, and corporations pay off the government to develop the forests and jungles. The more trees we can save in our own neck of the woods (so to speak) might be what keeps our planet from reaching the serious 2 degree rise that scientists predicts would be even more catastrophic than what we are dealing with now. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
124	8/4/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The beauty of the trees makes the canal an enjoyable place to walk. Don't get rid of them! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
125	8/4/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I believe the trees and vegetation help to maintain the integrity of the great embankment and taking it out could seriously compromise it Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
126	8/4/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
127	8/4/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Please stop cutting down trees to plant grass, along the canal and in the parks, PLEASE! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
128	8/4/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p>

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			Maintaining a natural looking landscape along the canal preserves the privacy of homeowners who abut the Canal, and provides important shade and beauty for persons using the Canal and its biking / hiking paths. A natural-looking environment is always preferable to an artificial-looking environment. The clear cut of trees would substantially interfere with the usefulness of the nature pathways along the Canal, with no real structural / engineering benefit to the Canal itself. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
129	8/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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131	8/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Natural vegetation is a sustainable way to keep the canal healthy and full of wildlife. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
132	8/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Wildlife relies on natural vegetation and it also maintains the integrity of the soil and prevents erosion I believe that utilizing knowledge based on scientific facts, historical experience and common sense! should guide the decision making. Ripping out trees and vegetation because it's thought to be a good idea is irresponsible and needlessly disruptive. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
133	8/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. My brother is a fisheries biologist, its so important to have vegetation protecting waterways for water quality and wildlife. Isn't it less expensive to let it grow than to waste money chopping it? Surely the money could be spent in better ways to serve the communities that border the canal? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
134	8/5/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife.

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136	8/5/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. These trees provide shade for users, and are part of the ecosystem for wildlife and birds. I lived in a town that has been clearcut already (Holley) and it looks TERRIBLE! The beautiful trees that were part of the natural landscape were torn out in a matter of days, and the only thing in their place are dying shrubs that can't even withstand the summer. What a pathetic joke this entire project was - and a colossal waste of money!!!! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
137	8/5/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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139	8/5/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. trees oh yes! they make air why do justin bieber fans call themselves the believers? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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141	8/5/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.

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142	8/6/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
143	8/6/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Trees reduce CO2 in the air. Every little bit helps in the fight against climate change! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
144	8/6/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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146	8/6/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Not environmental, but the impact on the businesses of the canal towns is also something to consider. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
147	8/6/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p>

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			<p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. SHADE!!!!!!!!!! If it's too hot, no one will want to walk along the canal. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
148	8/6/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. When using the canal in the summer months the trees provide much needed shade to help keep you cool. Some stretches are too hot to run along without trees nearby. The trees keep it comfortable. It has been proven that the roots help to stabilize the banks, not destabilize. In fact look at the flooding that occurs in Utica. They had to create a leech field with trees to try to stop the flooding, not removing trees, adding them. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
149	8/6/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
150	8/6/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Please do NOT cut down trees. I just walked my grandson in a stroller on the path next to the canal. A baby can't take direct sunlight, and everyone enjoys SHADE ! Cutting down trees is the worst thing anyone does concerning the environment. THIS is our oxygen supply. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
151	8/6/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
152	8/7/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I honestly don't think I would continue to use the canal path if all the trees were Are part of the draw. For shade and ambiance. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
153	8/7/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p>

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			The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
154	8/7/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Not only do they provide shade and oxygen they are the stability holding up the embankments. Especially in Pittsford where the soil is made up of rock and sand. Why is the power authority in control of OUR canal? Canal Corporation answers to them. What's the ulterior motive here? Who are their stakeholders? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
155	8/7/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Trees are part of the historic tapestry of nature along the canal. Clear cutting never improves any landscape. Erosion is much more likely without trees to anchor vegetation and soil. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
156	8/8/2021	Email	Dear sir or madam, I was recently horrified to hear of plans by the NYS Canal Corporation to clear cut trees on the embankments of the Erie Canal. The Canal now serves as a public park to millions of New Yorkers, and removing the trees would dramatically harm the enjoyment of this shared resource. The trees provide shade in the summers, block wind, reduce the noise of traffic, and increase the natural beauty of the area. Removing them would hurt all NYS citizens who use it, not to mention the wildlife that thrives in this biome. I personally also use the Canal tow path as part of my commute to work by bicycle. Removing the trees would make my commute substantially hotter, uglier, and increase my long-term health risks due to increased UV exposure. The cost of removing the trees to our enjoyment of the canal, to the natural qualities of the canal trail, and to the attractiveness of the canal as a local amenity and tourist site is very high. I cannot imagine that any operational benefits would merit this. As far as I can tell, no Erie Canal embankment failure has ever been due to trees, but rather to human activity such as digging. Surely a routine of maintenance and inspection can be developed that keeps the tree-lined Canal trail safe, beautiful, and enjoyable for us and our children. A better plan should be designed with the input of biologists and the public that correctly balances the significant value of this public resource. Thank you for your consideration.
157	8/8/2021	Email	I grew up a stone's throw from the Great Embankment, cycling to school, walking to town and running for exercise along the towpath every week. Later, with the Sierra Club, I bicycled the canal towpath from Buffalo to Albany. In the case of the Great Embankment and likely in most embanked areas, the canal proper is separated from the towpath by about 6-10 feet of vegetation. The towpath itself is probably about 12 feet wide, and then there are varied distances past that of further low vegetation and then TREES. Trees and underbrush have been growing on the steep hillsides of the Embankment for my entire life. The roots prevent erosion and stabilize the slope by their very presence. They certainly do not cause collapse. A breach near my home in the 1970's was caused instead by utility workers burrowing beneath the canal. ADDITIONALLY, IN THIS AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, in which TREES are one of the GREATEST and most significant organisms to sequester carbon and provide COOL, shaded areas and animal habitats, it is IMPERATIVE that we not only maintain the trees we have but plant millions of others as well. CLEAR CUTTING is unacceptable. Even lumber companies, which harvest trees, no longer clear-cut without replanting because of habitat loss, erosion, crop loss, and the overall health of the planet. Trees belong on the embankments of the Erie Canal. These embankments were not built as dams and should not be managed as dams. Beyond the environmental damage that such clear-cutting would cause, the resulting barren land near the canal would greatly reduce its recreational appeal. After all the money the state spent to restore the towpath - the "Canal Trail" - which I biked on a tour the very first year it was complete, I can say that trees are an integral part of the scenic appeal. Who wants to bike along a hot and dusty trail with no shade nearby? What neighborhoods want a barren hillside as a backdrop? The Canal Trail is a local amenity and tourist site. We don't have to give up all of the trees to meet the maintenance requirements and to have a Canal Trail that is safe, beautiful, and enjoyable. LET'S WORK TOGETHER WITH BIOLOGISTS, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS AND THE PUBLIC TO CREATE A BETTER PLAN. Thank you,
158	8/9/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.

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			It makes canal-side roads (including Marsh) much prettier drives, making daily commutes more enjoyable and helping support property values. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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161	8/9/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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163	8/9/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. I commute by bicycle on the canal tow path and cutting down the trees would make my commute intolerably hot and generally more unpleasant. The canal is now primarily a public park, and the trees are a substantial part of their value. Cutting down the trees would irreparably harm this shared common resource. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
164	8/9/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. They are natural living things that help sustain human and animal life around the canal.

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			The cuttings would affect the natural habitats that surround the canal. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments
165	8/9/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. I love walking the tree shaded path along the canal. I don't understand what scientific and engineering basis justifies clear cut. That has never been adequately explained. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
166	8/9/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I love hiking in the shade of the trees on the canal path With temperatures soaring, trees are one of our few defenses that allow us to be outside Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
167	8/9/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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169	8/9/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I love trees and nature Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
170	8/9/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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			Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. It makes it more appealing for walks along the canal. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
172	8/9/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. No trees = no shade, meaning all that proposed grass will torch up and will be left with brain dead grass or dirt. Increase of wildlife interacting with residents as they will lose miles of their natural habitat. We have seen all too often the wildlife usually doesn't stand a chance (pest control, nuisance wildlife removal...either killing the animal or releasing it in an area away from its family. The massive rains we've had will also be even more problematic if the trees and vegetation are cut and razed. The canal trail will be flooded, and likely resident's yards nearby. I'd also like to know where all the lumber is going with this proposed clear cut? Who is making \$ off thousands of trees in harms way of needlessly being cut down? Refer to previous comments above Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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175	8/9/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Trees are invaluable in the fight against global warming. The environmental impact is shocking in these times of climate change. We must preserve the trees and forests and natural areas that we have, rather than destroying them. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
176	8/10/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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178	8/10/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. We need more, not fewer, trees because of the excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere . The clearcut plan interrupts the natural cycle of life that is supported by the canal. Insects, animals, birds, vegetation, human beings - all are impacted negatively by the clearcut. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
179	8/10/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. They greatly enhance an accessible, enjoyable, healthy and free way to get outside and relax - our Canal path! e and relax We do not need another paved, concrete, "re-imagined" "amenity" created to put a feather in someone's cap. Preserve the natural beauty of the canal - that's the best thing you can do for all of us. It's Irreplaceable and of much more value than anything you could create. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
180	8/10/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Do more research it's dangerous to believe that your assumptions are correct. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
181	8/10/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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			The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The canal and its beauty is a great destination for tourism. It generates dollars for local businesses and overall enhanced NYS! Protect the historical Erie Canal. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
183	8/10/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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185	8/10/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Science based Vegetation studies of canals in California and in Europe show no correlation between trees and shrubs and bank degradation. Here in Brockport there are black metal benches along the bank of the canal donated in memory of people. The only ones that anyone use are the few that still have shade. The benches that have no shade due to clear cutting are too hot to touch on most summer days. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
186	8/10/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I walk the tree shaded trails several times a week. The trees serve as my parasol from the sun. We love the look of our canal. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
187	8/10/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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			<p>The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. We live on the towpath side of the Erie Canal. We enjoy the privacy and shade the trees and foliage provide and have added to that by planting flowers. Please don't destroy the beauty that we have worked so hard to preserve. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
189	8/10/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Contrary to the non-science of the corporation, vegetation actually helps bind berms together to prevent them from eroding. Turning the canal embankment into sandblasted wastelands is a really stupid idea. In light of global warming is exactly the opposite of what we should be doing. And, as stated above, there is no actual engineering evidence that properly maintained plants on the embankment are a danger to the structural integrity of the canal. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
190	8/10/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Because we need to stop and think of our continued disruption of habitat and space Is there a plan to restore and increase habitat elsewhere if we do this? Have we studied impact on nesting and overall wildlife numbers? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
191	8/10/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Besides biking and fishing, the sounds and sights of nature attracts humans and support businesses along the canal The sounds of nature: leaves flapping in the breeze, birds chirping, crickets and frogs, etc. all add to the masking of engine noises and contribute to the reduction of noise pollution. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
192	8/10/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I've biked the entire Buffalo to Albany canal path and know how important these trees are! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
193	8/10/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Please listen to the people who live in canal communities. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>

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195	8/10/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Erosion is a concern Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
196	8/10/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Tree roots support the integrity of the canal structure. What is proposed by the State will ruin this Historic waterway! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
197	8/10/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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199	8/10/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p>

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			<p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>I moved from Rochester to Vancouver, BC and the difference in natural vegetation is striking. Vancouver has made effort to preserve and increase as much green space as possible. Rochester severely lacks this commitment. The impact on community and public health is immeasurable.</p> <p>We can't take environmental shortcuts in this climate emergency. Every effort must be made to preserve our green space. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
200	8/10/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>They bring business to our struggling upstate village by contributing to the scenic nature of our village.</p> <p>Get your grubby non-local hands off our village.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
201	8/10/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
202	8/11/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Tree roots help to stabilize the ground and reduce erosion.</p> <p>Faced with climate disasters, we need more trees, not fewer. Trees absorb CO2 out of the atmosphere. The Canal Corp. should be planting more trees on all the properties they maintain.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
203	8/11/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Shaded waterways are important from maintaining water quality. Removing the trees will only cause the waterway to warm and increase the prevalence of Harmful Algal Blooms that continue to increase in frequency along the canal.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
204	8/11/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
205	8/11/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>They are less maintenance than grass and more beautiful.</p> <p>Tree roots prevent erosion. The canal is not a dam so different rules apply. Why mess with something that isn't broken?</p>

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207	8/11/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>Trees block the view into homes on the canal</p> <p>Please don't give blanket authority. Any tree maintenance should be considered on an as case basis</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
208	8/11/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The decision to clear-cut appears to be Miss understood, not investigated well to eliminate any concern of erosion and obvious scenic and animal disruption.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
209	7/29/2021	Email	<p>Dear Governor Cuomo,</p> <p>When will you start getting involved in the obstructive clear cutting along the Erie Canal. Reimagine the Canal should not include no trees! This is destructive, could lead to risk or erosion particularly along the canal that has sandy soil, and will definitely impact tourism all along the canal.</p> <p>The NYPA was given authority to manage the canal, yet they have not even kept up with the regular maintenance of the canal to avoid breaches- such as the one that recently happened just east of Rochester. They should be focused on their responsibilities of inspecting and repairing the canal way before they cut trees that ARE NOT impacting the structural integrity of the canal.</p> <p>Governor- you gave the NYPA the right to do this. NOW, please oversee what they are doing before it's too late and tourism, negative environmental impact, and long term destruction happens all along the canal.</p> <p>This will come up for sure at re-election. My vote in contingent on your response---honestly. It's too important to me and others.</p> <p>Beth</p> <p>Brighton NY</p>
210	7/20/2021	Email	<p>To Governor</p> <p>Canal embankment safety</p> <p>All anyone needs to realize is that these trees on the embankments are a constant variable. Over the span of 75-100 years these trees have turned a man made series of containers of water into an ever changing organism, complicated with evolving tree roots, moving earth, shading, seepage paths, layers of decaying debris, burrowing animals and many variables that were in no way factored into the lifespan or failure rate of the earthen dam portions of the canal. Call it a dam, an embankment, levee, ditch, trough, linear pond, reservoir or whatever you choose. These structures all have similar functions, are constructed to hold back tons of hydrostatic pressures (in this case, a man made river of water) and trees are not part of their design.</p> <p>Hillside meadows on these embankments would be much easier to maintain and monitor, will disperse and absorb water quickly, and have multiple benefits to our air quality and wildlife.</p> <p>Why aren't more people stepping forward to combat the STCC? Because we have faith in our legislators to look at basic engineering principles and past historical events for proof that these trees don't belong on the embankments. The Canal Corporation was threatened and is following procedures they need to in order to get back to work. The embankments</p>

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			<p>must still be cleared of trees, which no amount of signatures from random supporters or endorsement from Pittsford's town Supervisor- Mr Smith will be able to prevent. If Mr Smith and his STCC group were to succeed in their quest to keep these trees in place, people's lives would be at risk.</p> <p>One of these trees to be cleared fell on a very populated portion of the canal path after this past rain event. Canal levels were at their highest, causing seepage and saturation of tree roots and the tree just couldn't hold on on the wet slope. I'm not willing to cause delays in the embankment safety program and am voicing my opinion to help prioritize the clearing of these embankment trees above our area's businesses and homes. These businesses and homes did not exist when these embankments were constructed 100 years ago. Human life now needs to be considered.</p> <p>I only wish Mr Smith would have allowed the Canal Corporation to perform their duties, then kindly ask if there is a way they could provide some shallow rooted shade trees or safe vegetation along the towpath. Instead of working together with our towns and Canal Corporation, Mr Smith and Mrs Agte of the Stop the Clear Cut group bullied, shamed and humiliated the people who are trying to rehabilitate and protect our historic waterway. They've publicly bashed Reimagine the Canals program and other efforts to utilize our historic waterway in attempts to paint a picture of our representatives and state employees in a very poor light.</p> <p>There was no need for a lawsuit as there was full transparency, public information sessions and willingness to explain this simple embankment plan to anyone who needed clarification.</p> <p>Please know that Mr Smith, our past Supervisor- Mike Barker, Rich Funke and others are discussing this matter long after the lawsuit and delays have been sorted out. They continue to support Mrs Agte's personal battle over this unwanted vegetation and applaud her efforts to mislead our community.</p> <p>There has been an enormous amount of misuse of social media from Mrs Agte to try and convince people these trees pose no threat to these embankments or the people who live below them. She's a single person who appears to have a much larger amount of supporters with random signatures, three years of constant calls to our local media... The moment Mrs Agte got 30 seconds on a local tv station, Mr Smith- Pittsford's town Supervisor saw this opportunity to gain support for his political campaign. He hadn't walked the canal or contacted the Canal Corporation to gather evidence. He just wanted air time and piggybacked on Mrs Agte's purposefully misleading agenda.</p> <p>I can only assume Mr Smith and his STCC group are too far into this fight to back down. They still claim the Canal Corporation is wrong and continue to mislead the community. They cheered at the last public meeting when Mrs Smith said they succeeded, but after realizing they had only delayed the project, booed. They did not applaud the Canal Corporation's willingness to make some compromises that were forced on them by Mr Smith and Mrs Agte.</p> <p>Thank you for all that you do and please investigate Mr Smith's dangerous campaign to save these unwanted trees on our embankments. It would only take one tree to uproot and cause a massive catastrophe. Which tree? Past tragedies in Fairport and in Bushnell's basin have proved what a trickle of water can develop into. We can't speculate and have to start from scratch in order to strengthen these embankments. We are not reimagining these structures, but are using modern engineering principles and 100 years of innovation to keep our historic waterway filled with water for another century.</p> <p>Sincerely, </p>
211	7/14/2021	Email	<p>Dear Governor Cuomo,</p> <p>The NY Power Authority & the Canal Corporation have once again taken up their crusade to clear-cut large tracts of land along the Erie Canal. I live near the canal in Pittsford, NY, and am asking for your assistance to intervene and insure that local concerns are heard and heeded.</p> <p>The town of Pittsford has objected to this clear cutting in the past and has prevailed based on sound scientific study. The Canal Corporation has argued that tree roots threaten the integrity of canal embankments. The science indicates that tree roots help to stabilize the soils and reinforce these embankments. Further, these trees enhance our neighborhoods and communities in a multitude of other ways.</p> <p>Towns to the west of Pittsford that were previously unable to mobilize quickly enough to stop this clear-cutting are still reeling from the aftermath. Representatives from the Erie Canal Neighbors Association have indicated that their ongoing questions and concerns are not being addressed</p> <p>We have sound land-use planning processes in our community. The Power Authority and Canal Corporation should not be allowed to exercise sole jurisdiction without due consideration of local needs and in the face of sound science that contradicts their stated justification for this project.</p> <p>We have opposed this project in the past and prevailed for good reasons. We should not have to waste taxpayer money and precious local resources to fight it again and again.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of my request for your assistance on this matter.</p> <p>Regards, Brad Rutledge</p>
212	8/11/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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215	8/12/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
216	8/12/2021	Email	<p>The Erie Canal is across the street from my home in Perinton. It is integral to the quality of life we enjoy in our community. Claims by the New York State Power Authority that trees and vegetation along the Erie Canal must be "clear cut" as a matter of safety appear to be unsubstantiated, ill informed and wrong at best.</p> <p>To clear cut the Erie Canal would damage our economy, our environment, and our quality of life for decades - perhaps generations.</p> <p>Thoughtful maintenance and preservation of this NYS treasure is one thing. The arbitrary and unnecessary destruction of the natural beauty of the Canal is something else all together. It is irresponsible and reckless, showing a total disregard for the citizens of this state that rely on the Erie Canal as it is today for tourism dollars and recreational activities.</p> <p>We need to know exactly in what areas trees are expected to be removed or are being looked at to be removed before anything happens.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
217	8/12/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>Insanity</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
218	8/12/2021	Email	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>In my view, the Canal has considerably more value as a green corridor for biking, walking, hiking than it does as a waterway, history notwithstanding.</p> <p>It would be one thing if clear-cutting was done in a forested region such as the Adirondacks, or if the Corridor included 100 feet of forested land on either side of the canal, but clear-cutting in the existing western New York corridor leaves nothing but an unattractive space through deforested and developed land. The excitement around an east-west Empire Trail will be almost totally negated in this region. I personally would not use a clear-cut trail, for reasons of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of privacy • Community noise exposure • Excessive sun exposure • Absence of natural beauty <p>I think the Power Authority should hire some ecologists and landscape architects, in addition to their other engineering teams. I think they are mistaken about the potential role of healthy trees in soil stabilization, recent tree mortality due to insect notwithstanding. It is worth it to New York State to provide any additional cost for tree surveillance along the canal. If you want to see a real beautiful trail and green corridor, go see the GAP (Great Allegheny Passage) trail from Pittsburg to Cumberland, MD. This is the kind of resource NY should have.</p>
219	8/12/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p>

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			<p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>I'd prefer trees to the Apartment complexes they are proposing.</p> <p>The wildlife occurrences in my yard increase with every construction project. The most noticeable was the new Basin View neighborhood (off 96, near Thornell) . That wildlife is still rehoming and now they want to remove even more habitat for those creatures. Additionally, new apartment/multifamily buildings are going to further clog roadways that appear to be already overtaxed.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
220	8/12/2021	Email	<p>To NYSCC:</p> <p>My initial reaction to recent news coverage on the plan to remove trees along the canal is as a cyclist who - over a 4 years period – completed the Erie Canal trail end to end. I understand the structural concerns, but please be aware that for recreation, sections of shade are essential, especially as the climate gets warmer. I vividly recall long uncomfortable stretches with no trees. Among many other reasons, the Erie Canal is ideal for the comfort, safety and enjoyment of walkers and cyclists. During those trips it was rare to see a boat (other than those docked around Fairport and Pittsford,) whereas I saw hundreds of people using the trails. This year I traveled by boat from Oswego to Greece, and can report the same.</p> <p>Please consider all users of the Canal System in your plans.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
221	8/12/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>The trees have as much right to be there as the humans do.</p> <p>The trees have as much right to be there as the humans do.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
222	8/12/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Trees lessen runoff and pollution of waterways, and their roots stabilize river banks.</p> <p>The canal is a unique corridor of wildlife habitat and the trees not only provide habitat but lessen air and water pollution, and sequester carbon</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
223	8/12/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
224	8/12/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Having moved recently from Tompkins County, I find that the level of use of pesticides, chemical sprays and non native plants in Pittsford is alarming. In the end these practices not only relate to above issues, but also make pests even more resistant and encourage non native pests without predators. We should support native wildlife for a balanced ecosystem both in the short terms and especially for further generations.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
225	8/12/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p>

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226	8/12/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. they lower carbon emissions. We need all the trees we can get Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
227	8/12/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
228	8/12/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The trees in Brockport by my parents home were 80-90 years old. There was never one issue in over 60 years of my parents living next to them on the canal. My mother loved those trees. She and my father stopped them from getting clear cut back in the late seventies. Healthy trees serve to protect the embankment, lower wind speeds by dechannelizing the winds, offer privacy, give a habitat for wildlife. Clear cutting acres of woods to make room for progress is not a well thought out idea. My parents purchased a home in the early 1960s along the Erie canal embankment in Brockport New York. The trees that NYPA and the Canal Corp cut down were 80 to 90 years old in some cases and never caused one problem since the 1960s. My mother cherished those trees and to see those trees get cut down within an hour was just heartbreaking to many. It is easy to sit behind a desk and say this needs to be done and point to a map, but it's another thing if you're looking out your back window at beautiful old growth trees that provide shade, animal habitat and beauty. It is also easy to disregard a small group of citizen gadflies telling a large entity like NYPA they are wrong. Often times those small groups are right. I urge NYPA to do a selected cut based on disease or interference with the embankment, rather than a clear-cut approach. I thank you for your time I appreciate you listening to the voices of the State and Canal Property. My best Shawn Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
229	8/12/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Global warming requires that we plant more trees and care for those we have as one method of removing carbon from the atmosphere. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
230	8/12/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p>

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			<p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. All of these reasons plus we do not need to spend the money it will cost to cut the trees! Why is this still going on? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
231	8/12/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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233	8/12/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Green spaces are vital. Who wants to be on the canal without them? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
234	8/13/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
235	8/13/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
236	8/13/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Without the trees, the canal is just a ditch. The surrounding vegetation make it beautiful and provide protection from the sun (and sometimes other elements) to those of us who run, walk or bike on it multiple times a week all year long. Removing the trees does not remove risk of potentially unstable banks or run-off issues: it only alters the risk. It will not result in less work for the Canal Corporation/NY Power Authority. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>

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238	8/13/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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240	8/13/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
241	8/13/2021	Email	Hi – I'm trying to learn about the potential clear cutting of the canal embankments in Monroe County. I was wondering – are there any documented incidents of trees causing a problem? Thanks,
242	8/13/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I love trees and nature Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
243	8/13/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Hiking along the canal. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.

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246	8/13/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The clear cut west of Rochester looks terrible. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
247	8/13/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
248	8/13/2021	Email	To all those considering clear cutting, Please do NOT clear cut! There is absolutely no reason to clear cut. We know, and the scientists know that many of the trees can and should be salvaged. Quote from Russel Briggs, a soil scientist at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry: " tree roots are an important stabilizing force in natural environments and also provide other benefits including filtering runoff and creating shade." It is NOT a 'misconception that tree roots stabilize the soil mass" I'm not even a scientist and I know this- look at what it did to the area around Brockport where NYSPA clear cut! You MUST have more scientists and arborists on the committee deciding how to manage the vegetation along the canal. The shade is a critical addition to the enjoyment of the canal. The NYSPA hasn't even lived up to their assigned job of managing the canal. Instead you are trying to go the easy route and just clear cut. How UGLY, how DYSFUNCTIONAL, how IMPRACTICAL! Please consider the residents that live near and go to the canal path each week or a couple times a week. Consider the tourists! You must find another solution to clear cutting! Please
249	8/13/2021	Email	I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Shade for when I rode a bike along the entire Erie Canal from Buffalo to Albany The canal has been ignored in proper management. Don't use clear cutting as an excuse to a management method. It's wrong. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
250	8/13/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.

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			Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The clearcut plan was a disaster for the West side. We lived with stumps and brush for over a year and it's uncomfortable to ride this area in the blazing sun. The new plantings are not maintained and the weeds are as tall as the new plants. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
251	8/13/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
252	8/13/2021	Email	Hi Shane, I'm thrilled that we can work together to save the rest of the canal path from the devastation that happened in Brockport. My husband turned onto the path for our usual ride a couple of years ago, and I was nearly in tears at what I saw. Then I was just mad. How can we move forward together to preserve the integrity of the canal, the beauty enjoyed by locals and tourists, and the very real need for shade for anyone enjoying the path on a hot day? Seems like more jobs would be created to care for both the trees and careful inspections by engineers. Count me in. <3 Canal Path Lover
253	8/13/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Let the trees be trees and grow. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
254	8/13/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. It is safer keeping MOST of thr growth...think it tbrough pleasd Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
255	8/14/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Shade from trees makes it possible to walk on the canal path on hot days Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
256	8/14/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. yes Is the canal embankment concrete being repaired ?, it is in bad shape and that imposes a risk for failure, and maintenance money should be directed towards that. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
257	8/14/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.

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			<p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
258	8/14/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
259	8/14/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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261	8/14/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Exercising along the canal paths are more enjoyable with shade cover to help prevent overheating on long open tree-less stretches. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
262	8/14/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
263	8/14/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p>

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			Trees help combat global warming; they benefit wildlife; they keep the air clean; they provide shade; they are beneficial to us and our planet in every possible way. The NYSCC cannot produce one iota of evidence to support its case for clear-cutting. There is absolutely no evidence that the canalside trees have ever harmed the canal. The clearcut plan goes against science and against common sense. There is no possible down side to tree cover along the canal towpath. These trees grew here naturally; they are appropriate and beneficial to our local wildlife, the human population, and the climate. The NYSCC is clearly not being honest about its reasons for insisting on this plan. If the concern is tree roots destabilizing the canal banks, then why were the trees in Brockport not uprooted? They were only chopped down, so the allegedly harmful roots are still in place; and the NYSCC left Brockport an unsightly mess. If the canal vegetation needs to be managed, let it be done by a consortium of scientists, biologists, and local community leaders who have actual knowledge and a stake in the outcome. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
264	8/14/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Natural vegetation is largely self-maintaining, as compared with grass which requires fuel to mow etc. In the absence of more compelling evidence than I have seen to date, why destroy beautiful existing trees and vegetation?? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
265	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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267	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
268	8/15/2021	Email	When whoever was cutting trees down along the canal on the west side, they left branches hanging out into the canal water and never finished cutting them off or picking up the debris.... Not safe for boaters. This is evident particularly just west of the Adams Basin bridge on the north side of the canal. I think the work was done almost 2 years ago. I have emailed the canal website twice, talked to the paid canal walkers twice who told their bosses. Very incompetent and shoddy work. And what do we have left???? WEEDS!
269	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Please partner with ecologist and other educated professionals who understand the problem

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271	8/15/2021	Email	Please change your plans to clear-cut trees from the vast majority of the Erie Canal embankments in Rochester. Arguments about soil stability are scientifically disputed and this seems like a decision based solely on convenience for maintenance without considering resident/taxpayer/voter quality of life, aesthetic, and other economic factors. Tree cutting along public recreation areas should be performed only as a last resort based on a case-by-case assessment of risks to the maintenance of the embankment posed by the particular tree. The Erie canal is a unique public resource that drives tourism, local commerce, improves quality of living with opportunities for recreation and exercise, and attracts young people to our area. Please act to change the course of the Canal Corporation's plan to clear-cut trees. Rochester residents deserve better from the stewards of our public resources! Please review the enacted clear-cutting that already occurred near Brockport if you haven't already and imagine any families trying to enjoy this resource while sweltering in the sun next to dead stumps. This cutting will harm local commerce and drive more residents out of the state. Please act now. Thank you for your consideration.
272	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Trees and native plants are beautiful. Don't kill beauty. Clear-cutting is so devastating to wildlife and human beings, alike. It is horrifying to think that the canal corporation would take this action without even considering the terrible impact that it will reap on the canal system as a whole. The canal and trails are a beautiful natural and historical resource that will be wrecked irreparably by the clear-cut. Don't do it! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
273	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I'm dismayed by the unnecessary development and loss of trees taking over the country Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
274	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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277	8/15/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. They are the homes of thousands of creatures who enjoy the canal just as much, if not more as humans do. Cutting the trees risks creating more issues with erosion and shade. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments</p>
278	8/15/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The trees give fresh air to the area and make the whole area and environment healthier and fresher. They are also the home to many different species of animals! Cutting down trees will create more issues with erosion and destroy the environment even more! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
279	8/15/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. It helps businesses thrive! Fairport is a great example! Clear cutting is not able to be remedied in any kind of reasonable timing... It is decades and decades of impact. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
280	8/15/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
281	8/15/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p>

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			Beauty! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
282	8/15/2021	Email	Leave the trees and shrubs alone. Have lived along canal path for 49 years and walk it daily (365days a year). The real reason The Canal Corp wants tree cutting is to hire more people, spend taxpayer money to buy more equipment to mow the new grass they plant. A total waste of our money for an unnecessary project. Who dreams this nonsense up?
283	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. In other areas where the Canal Corporation has clearcut vegetation it has destabilized the bank of the canal and has resulted in damage to the Canalway trail (notably between West Henrietta Road and Kendrick Road). Also, in that location in particular, the trees provide a visual and audial barrier to provide privacy from the I-390 expressway. I don't understand why they are doing this; in the absence of a sound rationale, I'm not convinced of the benefit. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
284	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Natural vegetation doesn't just cool and sequester carbon. It maintains the natural water cycle which causes global cooling. The plan makes no sense; I suspect someone is making money from this. It needs to be investigated. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
285	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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287	8/15/2021	Email	To Whom It May Concern: We live in Fairport. My husband and I really enjoy riding our bikes on the towpath between Ayrault Road and Schoen Place in Pittsford. Besides the beauty of the trees along the bank of the canal, I cannot overstate how pleasant it is to ride and have shade from the trees on a hot day. We have even timed our rides so that the angle of the sun at a certain time of day is such that there is shade along a good stretch of that ride. The shade makes all the difference!! We are very much against the clear cutting of the trees on the canal bank that is being discussed right now!! Those trees took years to grow to their present size, and provide stability to the bank as well as the shade. Thank you for considering this matter.
288	8/15/2021	Email	The proposed removal of trees along canal embankments seems to me a poor choice of technique for canal integrity "maintenance," and will drastically decrease the aesthetic value of the canal and its towpath trail as a recreational attraction. The best way to ensure slope stability is to maintain a good coverage of vegetation, and in western NYS, that would certainly mean trees and shrubs. Anyone who has witnessed the erosive power of water during post-wildfire rains in

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			<p>California, or the horrific and damaging mudslides in clearcut forests knows that removal of trees is a recipe for disaster on sloped land.</p> <p>Among the many services that trees provide are decreasing the power of the raindrops hitting the ground; enabling gradual seepage of rainwater into the soil rather than rapid runoff; and transferring tremendous amounts of water from the ground up to their foliage (and eventually transpired into the air). Especially on slopes, the lack of these functions is a serious problem. If your concern is seepage of canal water out of the intended channel, then trees are the most effective removers of such water from underground. Furthermore, if a significant amount of seepage of canal water is found, then it seems to me that the source of the leak should be investigated and repaired.</p> <p>I happen to think that the portion of the canal in the Genesee Park - Brighton - Pittsford - Fairport region is among the nicest I've been to, and much of that attractiveness is thanks to the shadiness provided by the trail-side tree cover. I actually live near the "Great Embankment" that carries the canal over Irondequoit Creek valley. As you know, this is a long, high, and steep embankment, below which are residences and roads. I shudder to think of those steep slopes being deforested. Besides the resultant ugliness of the bare / turf ground, those slopes will inevitably slump the next time a major deluge of rain happens if the massive tree roots that hold the soil and the overhead canopy that breaks up the power of the rain are no longer there. Furthermore, the experience of biking or walking the canal trail will no longer be so pleasant. And I pity adjacent homeowners who would lose privacy, sound barrier, and attractiveness provided by the current greenery.</p> <p>Trees that have died and that could fall either onto the trail or nearby buildings should indeed be removed...and replaced. But widespread unnecessary and ill-conceived removal of all trees is a bad idea that I trust will be abandoned. It should never be approved thru the Environmental Impact Review process!</p> <p>Might I suggest much some better uses of the money than deforestation: (1) repair of the walls, especially those stretches that are concrete and that are rapidly cracking apart [the Great Embankment is one such location], (2) removing trees and the other substantial plants that are growing out of those concrete walls cracks, and (3) replacing at least some of the abundant invasive species (e.g., tree-of-heaven, buckthorn, bittersweet vines) with various native trees (e.g., oaks, maples, cherries).</p> <p>Thinking more broadly, it is increasingly clear that ANY policy and action must be designed in the context of the climate emergency that is bearing down on us. With respect to the canal sides, the ecological value of trees and associated communities of shrubs, ground plants, and the diverse wildlife they can support is significant and critically important. These should be protected, cared for, and improved.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention.</p>
289	8/15/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Trees are important to the air we breathe.</p> <p>Clear cutting will destroy the habitat for wildlife and result in soil erosion along the canal. Selective cutting certainly seems appropriate when done under the advisement of tree and canal experts and local government officials.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
290	8/15/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>The trees and vegetation along the canal form a natural corridor for migrating song birds who are already diminishing in number due to habitat loss.</p> <p>In this age of needing as many trees as possible to help offset carbon dioxide emissions, not to mention the cost of removing them, how can you possibly justify moving forward with this plan?</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
291	8/15/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p>

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			Because this land is borrowed and whenever possible, we need to learn how to live in harmony with it and stop stripping animals and plants from their habitats. Climate change, we need oxygen to live and the clear cutting of trees threatens our health and that of our environment. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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294	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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296	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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			Trees help to combat climate change and reduce impacts of global warming, especially in light of the red alert about the planet's climate crisis, since trees consume carbon dioxide and give off oxygen, and because shade helps to reduce temperature. We can do our small part. Trees and natural vegetation enhance the waterway as a recreational asset The argument for clear cutting as an efficiency/cost-effective measure for maintenance purposes is penny wise and pound foolish. Trees help to stabilize soil. The canal's history shows that to be true. Repairing erosion in the aftermath of clear cutting will be more costly in the long run. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
298	8/15/2021	Email	I am writing this as a tourist who frequently visits Upstate New York. I have family in the area. Whenever I am there I make sure I walk a stretch of the Canal as part of my morning routine. I am appalled to read about the tree and brush removal. Trees help clean our air and provide shade This path is a source of recreation and beauty Without the beauty, there is no incentive to go. I cannot believe that this decision was made with proper study or forethought. I am supporting those who are in protest and hoping I have contributed to a reversal of this destructive plan. In protest,
299	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. What about the turtles that live on the embankment? Haven't seen any since they started this last year 😞 Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
300	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. We walk several times a week on the canal. It's beautiful and shady. Zero reason to do this. The canal is a treasure. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
301	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Shade provides a cool environment for people to experience the canal, both on the water and towpath. All people need the shade to avoid overheating, heat exhaustion. As we strategically increase access to the canal by people with disabilities and medical conditions, the benefits of shade while traversing the oaths are many. Not to mention parents with their young ones in strollers, grandparents walking, and we'll, ALL of us! Taking down the trees makes no ecological or beneficial sense for the area. In an age of "plant a tree' to reduce carbon footprints, deliberately cutting down forest growth trees does not make sense. Habitats, shade, ecosystems...all of this should remain intact as part of the preservation of the canalway. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
302	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. I bike on the canal path—shade is so helpful on lengthy trips in summer weather. I don't understand the urgency to clearcut trees claiming the embankment could be compromised by tree roots, when trees have lined the canal for 200 years without problem. I'm more concerned about erosion of soil along the embankments from the loss of tree roots maintaining the integrity of the soil against the canal sides. Had this been fully investigated? Aren't treed areas less expensive to maintain than mowing grass weekly during the summer months? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
303	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.

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304	8/15/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. trees are life-giving and life-affirming to clear cut 10,000 trees in the midst of a climate crisis seems incredibly mis-guided Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
305	8/15/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. i value trees on the canal because there has not been a good reason given to remove the trees on the canal. the only reason to remove trees from the canal is if the tree(s) is damaged or diseased. healthy trees should never be removed. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
306	8/15/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Privacy and noise buffer for my back yard Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
307	8/15/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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309	8/15/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p>

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			I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I am a frequent bike rider on the canal. I cannot WAIT until I get to the places on the path that have some shade. PLEASE stop taking away the trees and natural vegetation. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
310	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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314	8/15/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. They cut the wind in winter! The canal path is not just a summer venue. The idea of clearcutting the canal absolutely appalls me: it is *beautiful* and healthy (for the climate, for creatures, for me on my bike in summer or walking in winter) and fine just the way it is. Why in the WORLD do you think it's a good idea to expend a ton of fossil fuels first to cut down trees - our natural CO2 processors, not to mention wildlife habitats - for, as far as I can see, no reason at all! Just to do it? So you have more lawns to mow, with more fossil fuels? It's beyond stupid; it would be obscene to destroy the current situation. We are So Lucky here in Upstate to have all the trees and greenery that we have; misguided efforts like this are... unforgivable. Ridiculous. Evil, frankly. Please, please, PLEASE stop the madness!!!! DON'T DO THIS. Climate change is real, dudes. WE NEED TREES!!! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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316	8/15/2021	Email	<p>Please, I walk and bike the canal with my children in the town of Spencerport and I ask that you do not clear cut the trees like you did in Brockport. We need the shade and the vegetation along the path. The canal is a special addition to our community and we need to keep the trees. Thank you for listening,</p>
317	8/15/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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			<p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Our climate is already irreversibly damaged. Trees are more important than ever before. removing them without any proven reason is criminal. It is totally unnecessary and unacceptable. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
322	8/15/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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324	8/15/2021	Email	<p>Bergmann Associates, in re The maintenance of earthen dams. MAINTAIN THE CANAL PROPERLY.</p> <p>I refer you to the relevant FEMA manual for the maintenance of earthen dams, linked. It is well that the New York Power Authority was assigned responsibility for the canal. The Thruway Authority could not have been expected to have earthen dam expertise. The Canal is a long dam, on both sides, some earthen, some concrete, some at grade. Tree growth is a concern for both earthen and concrete impoundments, but especially for earthen dams.</p> <p>https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema-534.pdf</p> <p>The Power Authority/Canal Authority is informed by correct engineering as noted by FEMA. When this came up in 2018, I had reference to a manual on the web from a state authority in western India on this subject:</p> <p>This excerpt is from an inspection manual for the state of Gujarat, India, 2009.</p> <p>INSPECTION TIP It is generally agreed that trees and shrubs more than 2 feet in height are undesirable growing on or adjacent to embankments. However, there is some debate over when and how to remove well-developed trees and root systems that are already in place in the embankment. The location, size, type of tree and prevailing policy will determine the course of action at a given site. The best approach to trees in the crest, slopes, and adjacent to the embankment is to cut them down before they reach significant size. If large trees have been cut down, but the root system not removed, carefully monitor the area around the remaining stumps for signs of seepage. Inappropriate Vegetation Growth: Inspection Actions. During the inspection you should Look for excessive and deep-rooted vegetation on all areas of the embankment. Make sure that there is no vegetation growing in the riprap on the upstream slope. Check for signs of seepage around any remaining stumps or decaying root systems on the downstream slope or toe area. If inappropriate vegetation is observe. Photograph the area and record your findings. Note the size and extent of the inappropriate vegetation. Recommend that appropriate corrective action be taken to eliminate inappropriate vegetation and that measures be taken to prevent the future growth of undesirable vegetation."</p> <p>THE WHOLE TEXT: https://guj-nwrws.gujarat.gov.in/downloads/manual_for_insp_of_embankment.pdf</p> <p>If the embankments were not maintained according to FEMA standards, and there occurred a catastrophic collapse, injured parties would surely bring lawsuits against the Canal Authority. Let those who want trees on the embankment sign a release to relieve the Canal Authority of liability. Except that commercial canal users would still have a claim against the Canal Authority for loss of tourist traffic.</p> <p>There are canals in Europe that are very attractive with grass and other ground cover on the embankments. The Erie Canal from Monroe Avenue to Clover Street looks fine with grass embankment above people's back yards.</p>
325	8/16/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure.</p>

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327	8/16/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments</p>
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333	8/16/2021	Email	The canal has many uses, and an important one is its ability to bring human beings pleasure in the natural world while getting exercise. In a time when folks are more and more sedentary, anything that encourages activity becomes an important public health construct. I realize it's a complete pain in the ass to try and inspect overgrown embankments - but please try and find a middle ground where the engineers who need to do the inspection can function, without completely disregarding the enormous benefits folks get from having a beautiful environment to exercise in. Thank you for your efforts!
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338	8/16/2021	Email	Good morning I am a very regular user of the Erie canal and am fortunate enough to have ridden the length of it more than once. I implore you to address the environmental concerns one area at a time as required by that particular environmental situation. Please do not clear cut all the way down the Erie canal. To do so will be a environmental stripping trees where it is not necessary but perhaps is "easier".
339	8/16/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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343	8/16/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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346	8/16/2021	Email	<p>Half of the original instigators of the lawsuit filed against the Canal Corporation have left, one Town Supervisor hurriedly under suspicious circumstances, and another voted out of office. The lawsuit would likely never have been filed if one STCC member who worked for the Government Accountability Office, who knew of SEQR laws, had not chipped in.</p> <p>If the NYPA lawyer had answered the judge differently when asked, "What is the probability of the dam failing", and he said, "Unlikely!" (That's what was likely said when Pompeii residents were asked if Vesuvius would blow.) The judge failed us all, because he should have asked a dam engineer not a damn lawyer. Why didn't the lawyer present the judge with the Rizzo Engineering Report which clearly stated 'Class C High Hazard Dam, needs immediate clearing of brush and trees, unable to inspect because of dense undergrowth'.</p> <p>Why are some government politicians siding with the STCC, when all the government bodies are saying in unison, NO TREES ON A DAM! ie: USACE - Army Corps Of Engineers, ASDSO - Association of State Dam Safety Officials, FEMA, NYDEC</p> <p>Why are some press and news reporters giving time to a radical group like the Stop The Clear Cut group? The STCC leaders are a bee keeper and a biology teacher, neither have any understanding or education in Dam Engineering, Dam maintenance, Hydrology, Forestry Management, Canal Maintenance, etc.</p> <p>Why are none of these people standing up for the staff of the NYPA or the Canal Corporation? They have been made out to be villains, but in fact, they are trying to tell everyone they are in danger from THEIR property, and they want to fix it. It's called CONSTRUCTIVE NOTICE - look it up. It passes the liability to those who obstruct their work.</p> <p>Why is the media not mentioning the safety of the one thousand or more people living under the immediate threat of DROWNING and a huge loss of property, valued a hundreds of millions of dollars? Are they just sensationalist reporters?</p> <p>Why is no one mentioning that the NYPA are continually monitoring hundreds of leaks along the canal as a normal days work?</p> <p>Why is no one mentioning the reason why the Rizzo Engineering Report has about 80% of it redacted? The reason, as per the NYPA lawyers comments when we asked, is that there is a terrorist threat capability and the report mentions many situations where the earthen embankments could be compromised. Why did some government officials think this was funny and scoffed when I told them this?</p> <p>When I asked an Army Vet who served in Afghanistan as an explosives expert if he considered the dam as a target, he told me these were the favorite targets, tunnels and culverts etc, and much of his time was spent defusing these situations. Anyone like to talk to him?</p> <p>Now the SEQR report has been finished and submitted for public viewing,, the STCC don't like what they asked for, because it doesn't jibe with their theme of keeping trees on dangerous dams, so they are protesting with mailings, poster sign and public meetings.</p> <p>I suggest that politicians consider what happened to two of the town officials who started this nonsense and backed this radical group. They got booted out!</p> <p>They also got what they asked for, a SEQR report, and they don't like it, because it says quite plainly, no trees on a dam! (Be careful what you ask for eh!)</p> <p>The media reporters should also consider the danger they put our residents in by promoting this group. The less publicity the STCC gets now, the better.</p> <p>The NYPA should be allowed to get on with their daunting task of rectifying the dilapidated state of this canal.</p>
347	8/16/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The existing trees have replaced those destroyed by the first clear-cutting done when the original canal was built 1817-1825--this historic site should not have interference for questionable reasons. bee weh theyed by the clear-cutting Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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			I have many concerns about how much input the citizens who actually use the canal or are impacted by what happens to the canal have had in this clear cutting decision. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
354	8/16/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. This is right off the NY DEC site: Now, research is showing that visiting a forest has real, quantifiable health benefits, both mental and physical. Even five minutes around trees or in green spaces may improve health. Think of it as a prescription with no negative side effects that's also free. trees are known to improve urban air quality by pulling ozone, particulates, and other pollutants into their leaves and out of the air, and thus, partly protecting people from them. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
355	8/16/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Because power lines aren't more important than the planet. I'm tired of seeing natural vegetation destroyed because it "might affect the lines maybe someday" Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
356	8/16/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I think of canal path as a park. Parks have trees. Cutting down trees, unless diseased, is never a good thing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
357	8/16/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I have not seen any maintenance on the canal banks and cement damage since I hahe ever due to the trees and I have not seen any serious maintenance of the area proper other then snow plowing I am not convinced that there will be no erosion. Those trees are locust in Pittsford. If you cut one down 4 more grow back. I saw this in my yard in 1998 storm Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
358	8/17/2021	Email	I am vehemently opposed to clear cutting trees along the Erie Canal. It has been stated by the Canal Corp that tree roots upset and destabilize the embankment soil. On the contrary, roots are a proven stabilizing factor for shorelines. Refer to the planting of trees in wetlands to manage flooding and filter runoff. The idea that clear cutting vegetation will help in maintaining the canal is absurd. It is a short cut and excuse for cheap maintenance. The public will not stand for this mismanagement.
359	8/17/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Yes prune out the dead ash trees only. Clear cutting is lazy and unnecessary. Forest fires are nature's clear cut. These are always followed by mudslides in later years. I can't imagine that embankments are more stable without live trees. Trees are often the best solution to prevent soil erosion. What data does the canal Corp have to prove otherwise? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
360	8/17/2021	Email	Please open the enclosed attachment regarding the clear cutting of trees.

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			<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>In November of 1968 my wife Sharon and I moved into our house one acre of land on Marsh Road in Pittsford, NY. This property backs up to the Historic Erie Canal Waterway. We have thoroughly enjoyed our beautiful park like setting, consisting of many mature trees which extend from the rear of our property to the canal towpath. The trees have greatly enhanced our environment by providing shade, privacy, a noise barrier and a haven for wild life. Since our house sits about 25 feet below the canal surface, the trees have provided us peace of mind regarding their ability to stabilize the embankment's sandy soil. Our neighbors have also enjoyed the environment.</p> <p>I become concerned when I hear that a clean cut of trees is planned for our area of the of the canal. The loss of our natural beauty would be tragic. I ride my bike on the towpath 4 times per week. Twice going to Genesee Valley Park and twice to Macedon. The path has been well maintained along this 40 plus or minus mile stretch. When a large tree limb falls over the path it is promptly removed by the maintenance people. The grass is cut and the width of the path is kept relatively clear. There are a few large limbs which hang over the path and the edge of the canal that need some attention. Reshaping these trees, by removing these large limbs will ensure the safety of those using the towpath. To the best of my knowledge no one has been hit by tree falling them while on the towpath. The clear cutting of all the trees adjacent to the path is not necessary. The trees are a unique treasure, which should be preserved. Continue to to do the good job of maintaining the area. I and others have made an effort to periodically remove branches which have fallen on the towpath.</p> <p>Please reconsider any thoughts of clear cutting all trees adjacent to the canal. They enhance the communities along this great recreational facility.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
361	8/17/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>The canal and tow path support small businesses in our towns, which strengthens our local communities, makes our towns more desirable, and adds to our tax revenue. If you cut all of the trees, you are hurting our economies.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
362	8/17/2021	Email	<p>I strongly oppose the clear cutting program proposed to demolish vegetation along the Erie Canal. I saw what the program did to the embankments of the Canal along the Medina - Brockport route and hope that remaining stretches slated to suffer the same fate CAN BE SAVED. Like State Assemblywoman Jen Lunsford said, "We need to find a middle ground to ensure the canal is safe without impacting use and enjoyment." And don't forget to factor in beauty along this historic New York State gem.</p> <p>I am counting on the good judgement of the Canal Corporation to find the best solution.</p>
363	8/17/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
364	8/17/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Shade for Walking and running, as well as biking!</p> <p>I was always taught that tree roots connect underground with each other and hold the earth firm.</p> <p>ALSO, I must add that the Erie Canal is more than just a NY state or even National historical site, it is a world site that brings visitors from the far corners to see and experience its history. To destroy its beauty is to destroy its significance. We must be faithful stewards of this treasure, not destroy it. Clear the clutter, but do not take the healthy trees and other plants, especially native to upper state NY. We must not allow the destruction that took place west of here to be repeated! Spend the resources set aside for this project to annually care for and trim the trees and vegetation along the canal, so that it is healthy and beautiful.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
365	8/17/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p>

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369	8/17/2021	Email	I am concerned about the Canal Corporation's plan to remove trees from the Erie Canal Embankment. It sounds as if they are planning to remove all the trees by clear cutting. The Canal Corporation states the removal of trees will allow them to better ascertain the integrity of the canal embankment. And yet trees have stood by the canal for about 100 years without apparently causing any issues. I live about 200 yards from the canal path in Fairport. My husband and I enjoy walking and biking on the canal path. Trees provide much appreciated shade to canal path users and serve as a wind break. The trees and shrubs provide habitat for wild animals such as deer and rabbits. Trees screen private property from the canal. Why not have an independent group of scientists, engineers, and local stakeholders review the situation? Their joint proposal would address the Canal Corporation's safety concerns and satisfy the local residents who use and enjoy the canal.
370	8/17/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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372	8/17/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure.

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			<p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. "Trees reduce the effect of erosive forces using their root systems and foliage. Tree roots begin as thick stems that branch into fine filaments to create a network of flexible tendrils that help stabilize the soil around the tree and hold it in place. The leaves and branches of trees create a flexible screen that reduces the force of wind and rain in the surrounding area. You can increase the beneficial impact of trees on areas with eroding soils by planting them in groups." (Daniel Thompson) Has there not simply been enough inanity and insanity for a few years? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
373	8/17/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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375	8/18/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I run on the canal and welcome the shade of the trees Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
376	8/18/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. destructive to tourism. Who wants to see tree stumps? Destruction of a National Register Treasure which could de-list the entire Erie Canal Corridor at Federal level Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
377	8/18/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments</p>
378	8/18/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p>

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			<p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I'm shocked it's even a thought, much less a plan. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
379 (duplicate of 360)	8/18/2021	Email	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>In November of 1968 my wife Sharon and I moved into our house on 1 acre of land on Marsh Road in Pittsford, NY. This property backs up to the Historic Erie Canal Waterway. We have thoroughly enjoyed our beautiful park like setting, consisting of many mature trees which extend from the rear of our property to the canal towpath. The trees have greatly enhanced our environment by providing shade, privacy, a noise barrier and a haven for wild life. Since our house sits about 25 feet below the canal surface, the trees have provided us peace of mind regarding their ability to stabilize the embankment's sandy soil. Our neighbors have also enjoyed the environment.</p> <p>I become concerned when I hear that a clean cut of trees is planned for our area of the of the canal. The loss of our natural beauty would be tragic. I ride my bike on the towpath 4 times per week. Twice going to Genesee Valley Park and twice to Macedon. The path has been well maintained along this 40 plus or minus mile stretch. When a large tree limb falls over the path it is promptly removed by the maintenance people. The grass is cut and the width of the path is kept relatively clear. There are a few large limbs which hang over the path and the edge of the canal that need some attention. Reshaping these trees, by removing these large limbs will ensure the safety of those using the towpath. To the best of my knowledge no one has been hit by tree falling them while on the towpath. The clear cutting of all the trees adjacent to the path is not necessary. The trees are a unique treasure, which should be preserved. Continue to do the good job of maintaining the area. I and others have made an effort to periodically remove branches which have fallen on the towpath.</p> <p>Please reconsider any thoughts of clear cutting all trees adjacent to the canal. They enhance the communities along this great recreational facility.</p>
380	8/18/2021	Email	<p>Please STOP the clear cutting along the Erie Canal. The clear cutting previously done in Brockport and Holley was horrendous! There has to be a better way. The communities along the canal will be devastated losing the canopy cover and habitat for wildlife. Sincerely,</p>
381	8/18/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Shade makes walking the canal possible in the summer Every action we take must be done with climate change in mind. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
382	8/18/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. This is my second written commentary. I wanted to add a comment about the impact to wildlife. The natural vegetation on some of the larger embankments could be characterized as a mature hardwood forest ecosystem. How intact some of these patches of forest are should be studied. Some of them already provide breeding habitat for birds characteristic of this ecosystem type, including the Eastern Wood Pewee, which I have heard singing in embankment woodlands between Pittsford and Fairport Village. Other bird species that may breed in patches of canal embankment forest include: Red-eyed Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Screech Owl, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. To my knowledge, none of these species are endangered. But given the age and size of these forested landscapes, I think an ecological impact census that includes birds, and also bats, rare plants and salamanders would be appropriate before removing the natural vegetation. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
383	8/18/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Financially Pittsford's canal section brings business. Desecrated trees will have years of negative impact. And secondly with the climate crisis we need trees. Biodiversity is only helped with trees too. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>

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385	8/18/2021	Email	I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal by the Canal Corporation to remove trees and other woody vegetation along the Erie Canal embankment. The Canal Corp justification for this extreme action is that the vegetation destabilizes the soil and causes the embankment along the canal to erode. My life experience is contrary to this position. I grew up in eastern Kentucky with a home situated on the slope of a steep and heavily forested mountain (near the Daniel Boone National Forest). Many years ago a private developer clear cut the trees and vegetation at the top of our street with a plan to place several homes there. The homes were never built, but this clearance of the trees marked the beginning of a decades long impact on the downhill residents of mud and hillside runoff every hard rainstorm from erosion of the mountain. The impact on the city streets, sewers and drainage system as well as the residential basements that filled with mud was drastic then and remains so to this day. That single ill-advised act of removing the watershed trees and other vegetation that anchored the soil of that mountain permanently placed our community at risk of a mudslide. And with clearcutting on steep slopes, there is no likelihood of recovery of the watershed without extreme and costly remediation (which was never done in this little case). I submit that the proposed removal of the Canal trees will not only expose the canal embankment to destabilization and erosion, but will have a major detrimental impact on the beauty and tranquility of those wishing to enjoy the canal. It is also an environmentally adverse act at a time when our urban tree canopy is already in such decline. Please reconsider this ill-advised plan.
386	8/18/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I ride my bike 20 miles a day on the canal and when there is snow on the ground, I walk 4 miles a day. I have never seen any tree related damage. Sometimes after a windy storm, a dead branch or limbs may have fallen across the canal path. They are from dead trees. I hope the living trees and shrubs will remain on the canal. The deer, geese and ducks besides the bikers, joggers and walkers love the trees I hope the clear cut never happens. Brockport canal is atrocious! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
387	8/18/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The trees hold back the Historical embankment Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
388	8/19/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
389	8/19/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Humanity is on a suicidal course of planet-killing, and cutting down trees accelerates the process at a time when all possible effort must be made to slow it down. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
390	8/19/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife.

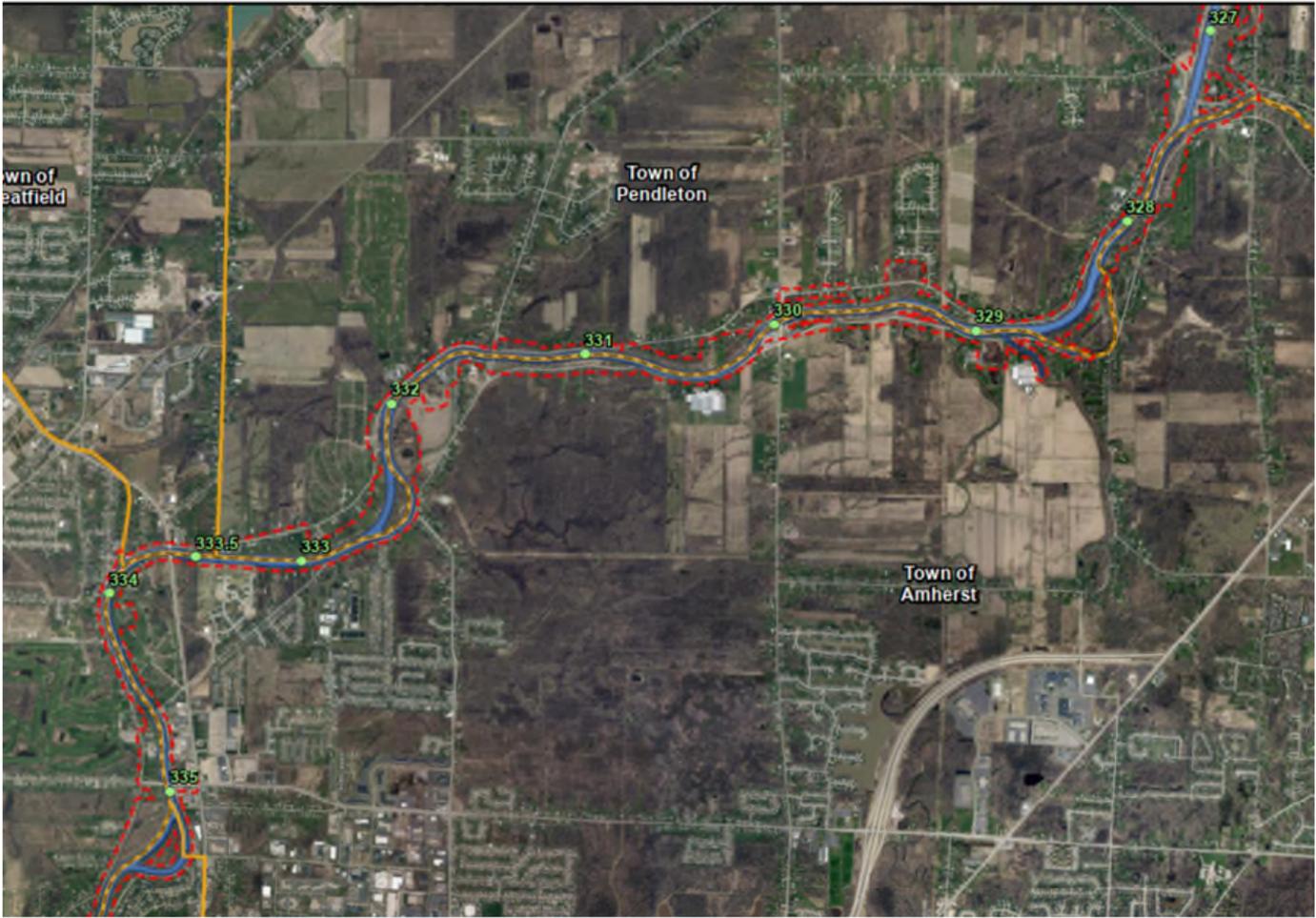
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			<p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The trees make the canal more of a draw for tourists, which is an important source of economic activity for towns and villages like Fairport. I have studied both sides of this issue and believe clearcutting trees poses the greater risk. And it would be less expensive to closely monitor the canal embankments than to clear miles of trees. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
391	8/19/2021	Email	<p>As 30-year residents of Fairport, we LOVE our shady canal! We walk, bike and row multiple times per week, and enjoy eateries along the way. When we host out-of-town visitors, we always show them our beautiful canal and the vibrant activity that has grown up around it.</p> <p>With the effects of climate change already causing disastrous conditions in many parts of the country, we in Fairport continue to enjoy a mild climate with manageable temps and nourishing precipitation. We need trees to maintain a healthy balance -- for both humans and wildlife!</p> <p>Drastic changes to the vegetation along the canal would greatly diminish the health benefits -- both physical and mental - of living here.</p> <p>We are not opposed to careful, selective removal of the occasional problematic tree if it can be shown to be a bonafide hazard. But, in the nearly 200-year history of the canal, vegetation has never caused a serious breach! But people using big machines have!</p> <p>PLEASE, treat our treasure with the utmost care. And, while you're at it, please use the community's financial resources more thoughtfully. The cost to dig up all that vegetation is eye-popping.</p>
392	8/19/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. There must be a better way to achieve the maintenance of the canal. Please don't destroy this beautiful resource. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
393	8/19/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Preserving diversity of wild habitat means planting LESS turfgrass and more native species (which are already there) Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
394	8/19/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
395	8/19/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Why get rid of ALL the trees??? ALL the trees??? This has more to do with who ever received the huge contract to remove the trees than it does for reducing erosion along the canal. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
396	8/19/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p>

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			<p>The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The clear cutting west of Rochester has made the canal path a lot less beautiful, and very barren looking. I've been on a similar trail, The Gap, out of Pittsburg, and they would have never done that. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
397	8/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Without the trees and vegetation the canal paths become just another bike and walking path. The trails are so convenient to get to, but make you feel as though you have traveled far outside the towns to get there. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
398	8/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
399	8/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Trees provide and filter oxygen . We need them to preserve life on earth. We need to respect other living organisms including trees and animals and live in harmony with them Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
400	8/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. removal seems a waste of public funds; reduced tourism The clearcut area in Brockport boasts an unseemly number of grasshoppers (no shade at all -- it's oppressive). The experience of the canal in this section is actually UNpleasant; I'd rather stay home. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
401	8/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Our unique 350 mile long park would be desecrated by the removal of the trees and vegetation. The current shading of the tow path is an invaluable asset. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
402	8/20/2021	Email	<p>Within mile markers #327 to #335 does the Town of Amherst have a typical embankment profile holding back water. From what I have seen most of the Erie Canal's foreshore/riparian zones are vegetated at the top of slope and continue down to the edge of the water. Of course part of this assessment is from partial drone images and limited site visits.</p> <p>I have questions regarding "Figure 8.15-1 – Maintenance Solutions Decision Tree" in the DGEIS guidebook. On site plan applications the Town will typically send notification to property owners within 600 ft of the proposed action/application.</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who is notified of the need for a maintenance project? Is it the property owner, Town and other agencies during the SEQR review? Or, will there be a notices sent to other landowners within the vicinity of the proposed miantenance work? <p>Depending on the proposed action residents within the Town may want notification of disturbance to the aesthetic and natural character of the Erie Canal corridor.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>   <p>Typical Erie Canal Corridor</p>
403	8/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments</p>
404	8/20/2021	Email	<p>Do not do anymore clear cutting. How any of this "maintenance" could be considered anything other than unnecessary or ridiculous is mind boggling.</p> <p>Money grab for the clearing contracts??</p> <p>Whomever believes this is beneficial or a positive thing has obviously not walked the canal or has any sense of what beauty. Or for that matter, forethought..</p>
405	8/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p>

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			<p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The canal is a tourist draw that would be ruined by clear cutting. Efforts for tourism along the canal would be negated. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
406	8/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. What is this teaching our children? And why would anyone ever do something so environmentally and fiscally irresponsible? Stop this plan. It makes zero sense! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
407	8/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. It adds diversity to the canal. Trees are a renewable resource. They're also a plant. I agree clear cut is no good. Wood lot management should be in place. It costs more and is more tedious but you can make money back by logging what you can or firewood. Let other trees grow. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
408	8/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The canal and it's surrounding vegetation provides habitat corridors for wildlife that connect other forests. Without these corridors, populations would become even more fragmented, increasing the likelihood of local extinctions of sub-populations. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
409	8/20/2021	Email	<p>To Whom it May Concern, I am writing in support of keeping the trees and shrubs that line the Erie Canal. I live in Spencerport and walk on the canal nearly every day. I have grown to realize what an incredible resource the canal is to the citizens of NY and the visitors it attracts. As someone who lives close to the areas that have already been cleared of trees and shrubs, I am intimately aware of the differences between the cleared and the natural parts of the canal. I find that I rarely want to walk on the parts of the canal that have been cleared. It is unattractive, noisy, hot, and barren. In contrast, the naturalized parts of the canal are beautiful, peaceful, provide shade in the heat, and safe harbor to many animals. Although I have read the reasons given to clear cut the canal, I cannot believe that it is the right thing to do. Doing so will ruin a beautiful resource. I have not seen any clear evidence that it is necessary or even in the best interest of the structural stability of the canal. It just makes no sense to me. If someone involved in these decisions, or any NY politician for that matter, lived on the canal, I am certain that the plan to clear cut the canal would be at the very least, questioned, if not stopped entirely. The results of clear cutting have already been devastating to those who live directly on the canal. Actions that affect so many New Yorkers must be examined from all sides. In a time where we are desperate to keep climate change from spinning out of control, we must maintain our trees and forests, not destroy them. Without evidence of imminent danger, I believe that all trees should be left in place. Please reconsider the clear cut and maintain the beautiful resource that is the Erie Canal. Thank you,</p>
410	8/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p>

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			<p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Walking the canal all year long and watching the changes to the trees and vegetation each season has been something my family has enjoyed almost daily for over 20 years! Those trees and plants are an important part of that experience and important to the animals which habitat the area, please do not take that away! I worry about the animal species and the fact that the area will just become a sad, depressing place if all the trees are cut down. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
411	8/21/2021	Email	<p>Please know of my opposition to clear cutting of trees along the canal. On a hot day the canal's lovely shade is a welcome respite. And it's beauty is unsurpassed. I strongly oppose any plans to diminish the canal's glory by clear cutting. Sincerely,</p>
412	8/17/2021	Email	<p>RESENDING FOR CORRECT ADDRESS</p> <p>Begin forwarded message:</p> <p>From: Ronald Johnson <johnsonron888@gmail.com> Subject: Technical Manual for Dam Owners: Impacts of Plants on Earthen Dams - fema-534.pdf Date: August 15, 2021 at 11:29:58 PM EDT To: NYSCC-Embankments@bergmann.com Cc: Bill Smith <bsmith@townofpittsford.org>, Stephanie Townsend <stownsends@townofpittsford.org>, ckoshykar@townofpittsford.org, Kate Munzinger <kmunzinger@townofpittsford.org>, Kevin Beckford <kbeckford@townofpittsford.org>, jmurphy7@gannett.com</p> <p>Bergmann Associates, in re The maintenance of earthen dams. MAINTAIN THE CANAL PROPERLY.</p> <p>I refer you to the relevant FEMA manual for the maintenance of earthen dams, linked. It is well that the New York Power Authority was assigned responsibility for the canal. The Thruway Authority could not have been expected to have earthen dam expertise. The Canal is a long dam, on both sides, some earthen, some concrete, some at grade. Tree growth is a concern for both earthen and concrete impoundments, but especially for earthen dams.</p> <p>https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema-534.pdf</p> <p>The Power Authority/Canal Authority is informed by correct engineering as noted by FEMA. When this came up in 2018, I had reference to a manual on the web from a state authority in western India on this subject:</p> <p>This excerpt is from an inspection manual for the state of Gujarat, India, 2009.</p> <p>INSPECTION TIP: It is generally agreed that trees and shrubs more than 2 feet in height are undesirable growing on or adjacent to embankments. However, there is some debate over when and how to remove well-developed trees and root systems that are already in place in the embankment. The location, size, type of tree and prevailing policy will determine the course of action at a given site. The best approach to trees in the crest, slopes, and adjacent to the embankment is to cut them down before they reach significant size. If large trees have been cut down, but the root system not removed, carefully monitor the area around the remaining stumps for signs of seepage. Inappropriate Vegetation Growth: Inspection Actions. During the inspection you should -:Look for excessive and deep-rooted vegetation on all areas of the embankment. 50 -:Make sure that there is no vegetation growing in the riprap on the upstream slope. -:Check for signs of seepage around any remaining stumps or decaying root systems on the downstream slope or toe area. If inappropriate vegetation is observe -:Photograph the area and record your findings. -:Note the size and extent of the inappropriate vegetation. -:Recommend that appropriate corrective action be taken to eliminate inappropriate vegetation and that measures be taken to prevent the future growth of undesirable vegetation."</p> <p>THE WHOLE TEXT: https://guj-nwrws.gujarat.gov.in/downloads/manual_for_insp_of_embankment.pdf</p> <p>If the embankments were not maintained according to FEMA standards, and there occurred a catastrophic collapse, injured parties would surely bring lawsuits against the Canal Authority. Let those who want trees on the embankment sign a release to relieve the Canal Authority of liability. Except that commercial canal users would still have a claim against the Canal Authority for loss of tourist traffic.</p> <p>There are canals in Europe that are very attractive with grass and other ground cover on the embankments. The Erie Canal from Monroe Avenue to Clover Street looks fine with grass embankment above people's back yards.</p>
413	8/21/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p>

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			<p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The trees and vegetation make for a scenic canal to enjoy. This in turn brings visitors who enjoy the beauty and serenity of the canal. Visitors in turn bring in money when they stop in the bordering towns to shop, eat and rest. So the canal is also an important economic resource for our communities. In a time of increasing awareness of climate change, trees are one of the main stabilizers in our environment. We should not be cutting them down. We should be planting more! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
414	8/21/2021	Email	<p>Please know of my opposition to clear cutting of trees along the canal. On a hot day the canal's lovely shade is a welcome respite. And it's beauty is unsurpassed. I strongly oppose any plans to diminish the canal's glory by clear cutting.</p> <p>Tom Dimino, Founder Great American Shops GreatAmericanShops.com tom@GreatAmericanShops.com 585-490-3097</p> 
415	8/21/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
416	8/21/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. they support natural ecosystems and give us clean air Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
417	8/21/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
418	8/21/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Glad you are doing this. Let me know I can help! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
419	8/21/2021	Email	<p>Please allow the natural vegetation to grow. Some of these walk paths look parking lots</p>
420	8/21/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p>

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			<p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I walk on the canal year-round. The wildlife in and among the trees warms my soul. The environmental degradation that would be created by taking everything out and planting grass that would be chemically maintained horrifies me. See above. When most of us know that getting rid of turf grass and allowing native plants to replace it is good for the environment and thus good for humans, how can doing the opposite even be considered? My husband and I live in the city. We got rid of all the grass on our property by layering 3 inches of paper and soil on top, then planting all sorts of plants and some trees. We have a rich ecosystem of flora and fauna that is the talk of the neighborhood - people regularly tell us how much they love our front garden. Please do whatever it takes to maintain the diversity of plants and animals along the canal instead of turning it into a grass desert. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
421	8/22/2021	Email	<p>Good Morning, I am a life long resident of Marsh rd and Bushnell's Basin. I have biked, walked and ran the Tow Path since I was a child. I have played hockey on the frozen canal, fished and boated on it as well. I remember where the canal was 40 plus years ago when I would ride in the car to the garbage dump with my father at the now beautified Great Embankment Park. The canal towns and residential communities are now enmeshed with this local and national attraction. Restaurants view it, back yards are lovingly landscaped to it and friends and neighbors all have their special access points to it along the wooded edges of it. Where is the sense in risking all of this in an effort for a corporation to ease its "maintenance" of it? I have never heard of an issue occurring as described by NYPA relating to trees or loss of embankment. I am hoping the right people will make the right decisions going forward. Please use some common sense and stop this entity from putting saws to these integral trees.</p>
422	8/22/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The roots of the tree provide nutrients for the soil. We need arborists and biologists to evaluate what's best here. We need the shade to enjoy the canal. Yesterday I walked about 5 miles. Some in shade and some no shade. The no shade areas were almost intolerable. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
423	8/22/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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425	8/22/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. We must agree to see plants as holding our earth together. Not our subjects but as teachers and life giving. Respect the gifts Completely makes no sense. True science would stand that a clear cut would denigrate the integrity of the canals function Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
426	8/22/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p>

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			The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The current clear cut plan runs the risk of creating greater safety risks and negative environmental impacts than a do nothing alternative. All parties should be working toward a plan that preserves as much of the natural environment as possible for all of the benefits indicated above, while strategically addressing any substantiated public safety concerns. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
427	8/22/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The Erie Canal is unusual in combining the calm and relaxation provided by a body of water with the lushness of life and growth embodied in trees, bushes, plants, vines, and other vegetation. This "expert opinion" from Thomas X. Grasso (https://ecna.us/canal-facts/an-expert-opinion-clear-cutting-canal-embankments/) is illustrated with a photograph of a barren, inhumane, aesthetically obnoxious section of a German canal. Are we under attack by barbarians! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
428	8/22/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The shade from the trees cool my summer walks. Trees are essential to combating global warming. Still some natural shrubbery needs to be maintained. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments
429	8/22/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Lets find a win/win to preserve the trees and hit your objectives. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments
430	8/22/2021	Email	Hi All, I've been reviewing your plans for the clear cutting the canal. As a longtime resident whose uses the canal daily, I urge you to reconsider a win/win to best meet your objectives and preserve the trees. Were not the first community who has needed to do both. Once you remove those trees, you can't go backwards. No way to get the unique advantage of those trees back. We actually just had friends come in for a vacation in Pittsford from out of town. We thought it was so strange as a destination. When we asked them why they said the tree lined canal is unlike any they have experienced in the US. They stayed in a hotel and ate three meals a day at Pittsford restaurants for many days.
431	8/22/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Love walking the dog in the shade provided by the trees and vegetation. Natural vegetation BELONGS on the Canal embankments and it should be protected and restored. NOT clear-cut! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
432	8/22/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation prevents soil erosion during storms Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
433	8/22/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because

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437	8/22/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Natural vegetation prevents erosion. Many people have daily contact with the roads flanking the canal. Its beautiful driving down shaded tree lined embankments, it adds value to our community and our homes. No one who lives here can see any reason why you would impose this destructive plan into our lives. Fear mongering will not work. We know that the canal breach of 1974 was caused by man not nature. Please do not clear cut the canal way. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
438	8/22/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Clear cutting the trees is the lazy man's way out. It isn't necessary in a vast majority of areas - just easier. Figure out a real workable solution that doesn't decimate the local vegetation and character of the canal. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
439	8/23/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.

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			<p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>The trees provide natural privacy for the nearby houses. Much more aesthetically pleasing than fences. Many towns have been protecting their green areas from development because it adds to the ambiance and community feel. Tearing down the trees along the canal would decrease the appeal and potentially could even impact home values and or tourism. The rustic feel of trees, canal and quaint villages is the appeal of the area.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
440	8/23/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>It's a park not a utility</p> <p>Whole thing sucks. Stop that.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
441	8/23/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
442	8/14/2021	Email	<p>To the NY Power Authority Trustees,</p> <p>I am writing as a daily beneficiary of the Erie canal path in Perinton/Pittsford, NY.</p> <p>I am growing more and more concerned that plans to clear cut trees between Medina and Perinton will "win the day" and disrupt the natural beauty and attraction of the canal path.</p> <p>Every day, I either walk, bike, or jog on the canal path including the most cold and blustery of the winter and including the most recent days of the heat wave. I go to the path because seeing birds up close within 10 feet, Eagles, Osprey, rabbits, the occasional fox, deer, and other wildlife and the flowers and trees within arm's reach is what makes the canal path for me. It is an oasis for me — a step away from the hustle and bustle of life.</p> <p>Cutting down trees, opening up line of sight to homes, apartment buildings, etc. will greatly diminish the beauty of the canal — making it more like everywhere else. Certainly not a "getaway" that it is now for me and my wife.</p> <p>So, I ask you to prioritize the natural beauty and protect the natural habitat of the canal path. I ask you to use the most stringent (exceptional) criteria when a decision is made that a tree(s) must be removed — to be specific, intentional, and disciplined.</p> <p>Thank you for reading and listening.</p> <p>Gratefully,</p>
443	8/20/2021	Email	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I just learned that the NYPA intends to clearcut the embankments of the Erie Canal and I am horrified at the thought that this might happen!</p> <p>I live two miles from the canal and for decades I, my family and my friends have enjoyed the time we spend on the paths of the Canal. I am on the Canal paths multiple times weekly and I consider the Canal and its natural beauty one of the greatest resources of our beautiful state. I am eager always to bring people from outside our area to the Canal to share with them what we have come to love and enjoy and I find myself nearly beyond words to describe how awful I fear this beautiful park will become if its trees and foliage are removed and replaced with turf! I just can't believe that such a thing would even be considered.</p> <p>Please, please, please take the time to reconsider what you propose to destroy and what an effect it will have on all the people and towns who use and enjoy the canal. Devastated is not too strong a word!</p>
444	8/23/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>The tree-lined natural beauty of the canal brings tourists to the area. These features were recently mentioned in a national news article (https://www.travelandleisure.com/trip-ideas/erie-canal-adventures-upstate-new-york-narrow-boat-tour).</p> <p>Removing the best features of the canal (the trees) would likely impact the financial contribution that summer boaters bring to Fairport, Pittsford, and Macedon.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
445	8/23/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p>

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			<p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The canal vegetation makes the canal pleasant and huge asset for everyone that lives near it. This would greatly reduce the appeal of living in Pittsford. It is just hard to imagine how this makes any sense I have no idea about environmental impact. What I know is that this would hugely damage the appeal of Pittsford to me. The Erie Canal path makes a huge difference in the quality of living for anyone living near it. What could possibly justify this? This will like have a major negative effect on house prices as the canal with go from being an asset to being a liability to lots of homeowners Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
446	8/23/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Keeps the paths cooler to walk on No more mowing please. The wildflower garden near Pittsford is perfect. I love seeing the flowers as I pass by. We need colors in our lives besides green Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
447	8/23/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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449	8/23/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
450	8/23/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Trees absorb CO2 and contribute to natural cooling effects in urban areas. As New York's climate continues to warm, we need more trees, not fewer. Cutting these trees is inconsistent with New York's Climate Act and with its stated intentions to become Climate Neutral. I believe that this plan to clear it the canal side trees should be brought up to the NY Climate Leadership Council and they should be asked to weigh in. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
451	8/24/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p>

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453	8/24/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>We're NY not Kansas.</p> <p>Erosion. Canal needs dredging as it is. Now all this fill dirt and debris will go in.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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455	8/24/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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457	8/24/2021	Email	<p>Hi Jen,</p> <p>Please read my comments on the NYPA's canal vegetation plan at tomorrow's Town Board meeting. Thank you!</p> <p>And I urge Supervisor Hanna and all Perinton elected officials to speak loudly **BEFORE THE SEPT. 5 DEADLINE** against the NYPA plan that would greatly alter the beauty and utility of our canal.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

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458	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
459	8/24/2021	Email	Dear Julie, Matt, Tim, Emily and Mike, Please join me in doing everything possible to challenge the NY Power Authority on their needless and expensive plan to remove virtually all vegetation along the canal path thru our community. The case they have attempted to build -- that vegetation is damaging -- is not persuasive. But the disaster they have wrought in Brockport and other west-side communities is evident. It's clear that their decision-makers do not value our canal as we do! I have sent the following letter to the NY Power Authority and Gov. Hochul, and I urge you to add your voices to those begging the Canal Corp to listen to those of us who live with the canal daily. Thank you, Rose Ericson 50 Potter Pl, Fairport, NY 14450 585-223-4476 ===== As 30-year residents of Fairport, we LOVE our shady canal! We walk, bike and row multiple times per week, and enjoy eateries along the way. When we host out-of-town visitors, we always show them our beautiful canal and the vibrant activity that has grown up around it. With the effects of climate change already causing disastrous conditions in many parts of the country, we in Fairport continue to enjoy a mild climate with manageable temps, ample shade and nourishing precipitation. We need trees to maintain a healthy balance -- for both humans and wildlife! Drastic changes to the vegetation along the canal would greatly diminish the health benefits -- both physical and mental -- of living here. We have yet to see convincing evidence from the NY Power Authority showing that vast changes to the vegetation are necessary or beneficial. We are not opposed to careful, selective removal of the occasional problematic tree if it can be shown to be a bonafide hazard. History has shown that vegetation belongs along the canal trail and has never caused a serious breach. But people using big machines indeed have caused disasters. Further, the cost to bulldoze all that vegetation is eye-popping, not to mention the ongoing financial and environmental costs of maintaining grass. Please steward the community's dollars in ways that lead to a net gain -- not the net loss that your plan entails. Best regards, Rose Ericson 50 Potter Place Fairport, NY 14450 585-223-4476
460	8/24/2021	Email	Please rethink your plans to clear cut in Pittsford village! We love our trees! Sent from my iPhone Thanks,
461	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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463	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.

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			<p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I suspect the trees that have been there for a hundred years are actually shoring up the canal not breaking it down. The last thing our environment needs is to have the life giving trees destroyed. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
464	8/24/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. It's send obvious that there should be a middle ground that both serves to protect the aesthetics of the canal while also making maintenance and engineering considerations. To simply say that it's easier to just clear cut is lazy and insulting. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
465	8/24/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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470	8/24/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p>

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473	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. My question is: What is the financial impact to Towns? Are they (meaning us) responsible for paying for the tree removal? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
474	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. My next question is: I under that Bats mate during this time of year and it is of general rule/ conservation efforts, that trees are not removed during this time. According to the NYS DEC tree cutting is the primary action that may harm bats. Bats are crucial to our biodiversity and ecosystem. So why are you cutting now and not during the hibernation season? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
475	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Some of my fondest childhood memories are riding on the back of my dads bike down the canal path. I moved back to Perinton in hopes I could give the same experience to my children. Little kids need some shade! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
476	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Without the trees, its just a ditch. I run and bike often on the canal paths and enjoy all of the wildlife, foxes, rabbits, waterbirds, squirrels, chipmucks, deer, and many creatures who count on us to speak up for their needs. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
477	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife.

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479	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Walking in the shade Trees are a barrier for housing along the canal. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
480	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Clear cutting is completely unnecessary, and destructive. Keep the canal in its natural state. Once again please do the least amount of damage to the environment Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
481	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I suspect that the tree roots stabilize the embankments... for the past 100 years. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
482	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Boating on the canal is more pleasurable with attractive banks. I have not seen any data supporting clearing vegetation on canal banks to increase the strength of the banks. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
483	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. What would we do without trees? Can't imagine without it to shelter us and animals from sun! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.

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485	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. How has the permitting process taken into account the current economic recovery in light of the pandemic? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
486	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. How has the permitting process taken into account the current economic recovery in light of the pandemic? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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489	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because Natural vegetation supports wildlife. How are you protecting or mitigating against the loss of habitat for bats, birds and other animals? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
490	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. The use of the canal is for public use. The removal of trees negatively impacts public use. I am unclear about the long term vision of how to remedy this catastrophe to nature? Can you succinctly explain how you will make this 'right'? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
491	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. How does this action which you are taking support the NYS CLCPA? Or does it not? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
492	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. What specifically is being done for the carbon neutrality of this project and with the loss of hundreds if not thousands of trees, I would like to know what your doing about the loss of this carbon sink? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
493	8/24/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. What is your plan if the machinery damages the wall and the integrity of the structures during removal? How will you quickly communicate to residents and businesses? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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			<p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I walk the canal with my dogs. I also walk it with a group of fellow dog owners. The trees provide shade not only for my friends and I but for our dogs. Without the trees our dogs would be harmed by the sun before we as humans would. The heat from the walkway would be increased and burn their paws. Without the trees the canal would become to dangerous to enjoy in Summer. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
495	8/24/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
496	8/25/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
497	8/25/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. In favor of trimming dead/broken branches Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
498	8/25/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
499	8/25/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Trees and vegetation give off rich oxygen which can only help all living things. Not only does clearcutting ruin the appearance of the Canal - rich resources like oxygen that provide a higher quality of life are destroyed. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
500	8/25/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p>

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			Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. 28 The tree line path helps to clean the air! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
501	8/25/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I'm worried about the amount of wild life that will be displaced as well. Clearcutting can destroy an area's ecological integrity in a number of ways, including the destruction of buffer zones which reduce the severity of flooding by absorbing and holding water. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
502	8/25/2021	Email	Canal tree removal is a huge life decision. They help us breathe cleaner air, are a visual uplift, cool us when we recreate along the canal... Please make sure the decision is given enough time and involves the right decision makers to make the right decision. Thank you for your consideration.
503	8/25/2021	Email	I am writing to express my great displeasure with the plan to clear cut the Erie Canal embankment. I expect a selective clearing of unwanted growth takes longer and may be more expensive, but it would provide a better approach to the situation. Summarily shoving the clear cutting down everyone's throat is a terrible approach. We all feel exactly like that - shoving the clear cutting down our throats. Like it or not. I question the junk science that concludes that roots do more damage than good in holding soil. Why do all the hillsides in California turn to mud slides after a fire has 'clear cut' all the trees? In addition to the soil holding issue, the esthetics and environmental view will be totally altered. Large areas of blank landscape with no visual break will be terrible. It will make the canal look like a big wet ditch. Please reconsider and do a study that includes all constituents so we can develop a workable alternative.
504	8/25/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
505	8/25/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Clear-cutting one side of the canal makes no sense. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
506	8/25/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The trees along the canal provide such a unique benefit to both walkers and cyclists. No one wants to see the scorched earth clear cut that has been done on the sections of the canal in the west. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
507	8/26/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.

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			<p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Trees are an important part to solving the global climate crisis Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
508	8/26/2021	Email	<p>Dear Canal Corporation: The following is an edited statement I received from the Mayor of Fairport which I support 100%: Often considered the heart of the Village of Fairport, the historic Erie Canal is a draw for both visitors and residents. The Village is invested in the future of the canal as demonstrated by the recently completed Bicentennial Canal Gateway Project on the southwest bank and is in progress with the current work to revitalize the northwest bank, as well as the formal creation of a gateway, pedestrian, biking friendly pathway and gathering spot on Lift Bridge Lane West. Trees, animals, and vegetation are important to canal life as is the integrity of the embankment itself. We need to have both. I and others in Fairport will be continuing to monitor your developing policy changes. Sincerely,</p>
509	8/26/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. You can't reflect the highest standards in environmental quality while destroying the environment. Just stop. The worst parts of the canal trails are the ones without shade trees protecting the walkways. Don't make the entire canal like this or people will walk, bike, run, and/or skate elsewhere and that won't be good for the economy of trail communities. Trees make sense for the environment and the economy. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
510	8/26/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The trees are gorgeous and offer homes to wildlife! Keep them I am concerned about the cutting off the trees and the cost both financial and environmental that cutting them down will incur. I do not support the cutting of trees Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
511	8/26/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Why would you want to cut down trees when there is no evidence that they are causing any problems? I am disappointed that there was very little to no community input in this process. I live very close to the canal and the areas slated for clearing. I can only hope you would reconsider these plans and listen to those who will be impacted. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
512	8/26/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
513	8/26/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Canal life is vital to Fairport, and the scenic beauty is key to our destination appeal and quality of life.</p>

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			<p>This seems cutting off a hand because you could get an infected fingernail. Do we cut all the trees in our neighborhood because one might fall on a house? Of course not! We review them regularly and cut down or trim ones that need attention.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
514	8/26/2021	Email	<p>The Erie Canal is far more than just a New York State or even a National historical site; it is known around the world, and brings visitors from the far corners to see, study, and experience its history. We must be faithful stewards of this treasure! I was always taught that the roots of trees connect underground with each other to share resources, support, and encouragement, and to hold the earth firm. Ground cover also aids in maintaining firm healthy soil.</p> <p>Clear the dead wood and clutter, but do not take down the healthy trees and remove the other plants that are native to upper state New York. We must not allow what happened in Brockport to be repeated!</p> <p>Set aside the resources designated for this project to annually care for and trim the live trees and vegetation along the canal, so that they remain healthy and beautiful. The trees not only hold the soil, provide shade for those using the canal path, but serve to quiet the wind for walkers, runners, and bikers while on the canal path.</p>
515	8/26/2021	Email	<p>Hello New York State Canal Corporation, I would like to specifically comment on Table 8.5-1, page 75.</p> <p>I think you are missing a very important invasive tree – Ailanthus altissima or Tree-of-Heaven. It is the preferred host for the Spotted Lantern Fly, which is a significant threat to vineyards and fruit orchards in New York State. (Hilary Mosher – Finger Lakes PRISM – 315.781.4385 – understands this species very well.)</p> <p>I take periodic walks along the canal path between Macedon and Pittsford. In addition, I use iMapInvasives to report sightings of Ailanthus altissima. On my last walk I saw significant numbers of female trees with samaras and smaller seedlings, especially between Fairport Road and O’Connor Road, near Perinton Park, along the canal. The tree tended to be growing around structures – such as bridges and along fences.</p> <p>Since this is a very high priority for PRISM, it seems like it should be added to your list. Whenever a section needs to have woody plants removed – special care should be taken to look for Ailanthus altissima – so that it can be removed also.</p> <p>One way to find known areas along the canal is to view the iMapInvasives inter-active database/map.</p> <p>Secondly, I have read the 91 page document, but have not fully digested all the content. I support taking a balanced approach. There are certainly many areas where I think the vegetation should be removed fully. Letting trees and other plants become established between the walkway and the canal will just lead to trouble down the road. Might look nice now – but will interfere with longer term maintenance. On the other side – it is nice to have a mix of mowed areas and trees. Trees close to the path however, do create a maintenance and safety issue as you walk the path.</p> <p>Thanks for listening.</p>
516	8/26/2021	Email	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>I am decidedly AGAINST plans for a clear cut as it would remove the shade and beauty of my regular bike ride.</p>
517	8/26/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>The trees also provide privacy between the path and those that live along the canal path but may not want people having access to look into their homes.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
518	8/26/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>Fights global warming makes more oxygen</p> <p>This is abhorrent , the trails and paths will be decimated. Wildlife will suffer, it will look like a war zone.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
519	8/26/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
520	8/26/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p>

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			Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. This is a beautiful feature of our area and clear cutting the trees will make less inviting for residents and tourists. With the amount of clear cutting already occurring for new residences, this only can hasten the demise of the natural habitats for local flora and fauna. If nothing else, deer have fewer places to go which means they are coming into the road more and consequently, increases the likelihood of serious car accidents. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
521	8/26/2021	Email	The bureaucrats in charge of the of canal are going to decimate the beauty of the canal by clear cutting thousands and hundreds of thousands of trees. This will hurt wildlife, increase global warming and make the canal and trails freaking UGLY. This is abhorrent, the trails and paths will be decimated. Wildlife will suffer; it will look like a war zone. Must be the same officials who thinks sending NYC garbage to our upstate area is OK. PLEASE STOP THE CUTS
522	8/26/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Enhances the beauty of the canal There have not been any documented cases where trees have been proven to cause erosion. There is some evidence that they are beneficial to the embankment. More study should be done before completely clearing all these trees. If necessary to remove some trees, it should be done selectively. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
523	8/26/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Natural vegetation holds water run off from eroding of embankment & flooding of yard property abundant to canal. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
524	8/27/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
525	8/27/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. How you can be considering a vast clear cutting plan on public land in the year 2021, with no clear benefit and myriad downsides is just beyond me. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
526	8/27/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. There is no reason to disrupt nature for this! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
527	8/27/2021	Email	Keep NY state beautiful! There is a climate crisis going on. We need trees and vegetation. There is no good reason to clear cut. Thank you.
528	8/27/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.

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			Overgrowth now is a minor hazard to cyclists. Ducking branches and avoiding contact with poison ivy is a pain. The canal is a National treasure and a man made structure and therefore must be maintained (managed). I believe the the canal embankments can be managed and enhance the canal beauty and structural integrity. While an initial change may be shocking to some, in the long run it would be an advantage. In particular I would like to see the vegetation between the path and the water removed. Historically that growth was not part of the canal and it spoils the view. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
529	8/27/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Please leave the trees. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
530	8/27/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Okay Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
531	8/27/2021	Email	Is it only earthen embankments that are affected by the plan? Are cement embankments excluded?
532	8/27/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
533	8/27/2021	Email	We oppose the clear cutting of trees on the Erie canal in the Fairport section of the canal.
534	8/27/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love walking the tree shaded trails all year. The shade is very important The trees also bring some animals to the area Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
535	8/27/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Shade from trees, erosion prevention, It is terrible Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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			<p>The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. I love to walk the towpath and kayak the canal, in all seasons, and watch changes in the foliage along the canal. The shade it provides is critical to my enjoyment in the summer. Please do NOT clearcut the canal embankment. In addition to aesthetics, shade, and food for wildlife, the foliage holds the bank in place and prevents erosion. As a geologist, I have seen too many tragic results from clearcutting, including dumping a lot of silt and mud into the waterway. Then you will have a greater problem - removing the mud and silt from the canal and lock areas. Don't do it!!! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
538	8/27/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. I love hiking tree shaded trails in the summer. "In the 100 year history of the modern Barge Canal there is no documented case of a breach caused by vegetation. The breaches that have occurred were caused by failures of human built structures or direct human activity. Removing all of the woody vegetation to prevent something that has never happened in the history of the Canal, and which is nearly undocumented and seemingly extremely rare in the history of earthen dams, is a huge overreaction to a tiny risk -- an overreaction that will significantly degrade the quality of the canal." With respect to environmental damage, it is ridiculous to clear cut, then plant grass, then use pesticides to keep the weeds down. We need to decrease the use of pesticides rather than increase them, especially along a waterway. Native plants also provide habitat for local wildlife. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
539	8/28/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. You should have asked first! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
540	8/28/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The Canal Corporation's plan to spend millions of dollars to destroy trees in what is essentially a recreational area to mitigate questionable risk that could be addressed through other less drastic means is a waste of taxpayer resources. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
541	8/28/2021	Email	<p>I am vehemently opposed to clear cutting trees along the Erie Canal. It has been stated by the Canal Corp that tree roots upset and destabilize the embankment soil. On the contrary, roots are a proven stabilizing factor for shorelines. Refer to the planting of trees in wetlands to manage flooding and filter runoff. The idea that clear cutting vegetation will help in maintaining the canal is absurd. It is a short cut and excuse for cheap maintenance. The public will not stand for this mismanagement. Thank you.</p>
542	8/28/2021	Email	<p>I'd like to express my opposition to the plan to remove trees from beside the Erie Canal.</p> <p>These mature trees provide much-needed shade for the runners, walkers, and cyclists who use and enjoy this path daily. My family regularly goes to the canal in Fairport and Pittsford and we also bring out-of-town visitors there to enjoy a unique experience. We all know how outdoor spaces have become go-to spots for exercise and recreation during the pandemic. Why remove one of the key features that make them pleasant and relaxing? My husband and I went for a walk yesterday and (on a hot day) I needed to stop and rest a few times. Where? In the shade. Parks are a crucial escape valve for people, and an open area with a water feature is very inviting. But if I were to look down an open path with no shade breaks it would be a lot less inviting...especially with the increasing temperatures we've been experiencing.</p> <p>The state has put a lot of work, public money and signage into making the canal towpath a long and well-connected feature. Now is not the time to degrade this linear parkway.</p> <p>In an era when we are appreciating the health benefits of trees more and more — the oxygen they provide, the ways they cool the environment, and even the carbon they absorb — removing trees from a well-loved public space makes no sense. These mature trees would take a generation or more to replace. Surely there is a way to inspect the banks of the canal through imaging that would not require the ugly and irreversible clear cutting done in Brockport. Or there could be</p>

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			a way to create a vertical root-stopping barrier before the earthen bank that didn't require clear-cutting. This seems like a very blunt prevention tool to a problem we are not sure we have. I urge you not to proceed with this damaging plan.
543	8/29/2021	Email	TO NYSCC AND Erie Canal Corp: I am totally NOT IN FAVOR of clear-cutting the banks of the Erie Canal. The Canal is a historic waterway which gives all visitors, boaters, hikers and bikers a beautiful healthful and natural environment in which to recreate. I lived in Brockport previously, and always felt that the tree removal there destroyed the personality and intent of the Canal. I am totally IN AGREEMENT with Assemblywoman Jen Lunsford who has said in effect that wholesale clear cutting is not the best solution to this issue. I also agree with Russell Briggs, soil scientist, that the Canal Corp should pursue "selective tree removal with each section examined on its own merits, not a blanket policy of clear-cutting". This is a case of not one method fits all! The Canal Corp and NYSCC should be willing to take the time and spend the money !! to do a thorough assessment of the length of the Canal, to determine the best solution for the continued viability of the Canal and its users.
544	8/29/2021	Email	Dear Ms./Mr. Bergmann, Clearly, those of you in charge of the Canal have a challenging job. Has the Canal Corp. ever considered enlisting volunteers to assist in monitoring the areas that are well populated, such as here in Perinton. This area is filled with citizens who are willing to step up to help in the community. If such a program exists, I am not aware of it. Unfortunately, it feels very much as if we have become adversaries rather than allies at this point. There are lots of us who do our daily recreation, yard maintenance, and gardening on our properties along the Canal. We would be able to notice concerning changes if trained what to look out for, and then we could keep the appropriate contacts apprised of any issues we might encounter. In Maine, where we have a cottage, citizen volunteers help test the water ways and monitor shifting sands and then report back to the appropriate agencies. Were you to engage such citizen helpers, maybe it would not be necessary to take such an extreme action in the removal of vegetation. I'm sure you are aware of the angst caused by the current plan to remove all the vegetation from the areas on either side of the canal in our area. After the abrupt manner of the cutting in the Brockport area, you must realize that there is little trust that the Canal Corp. has genuine concern for or understanding of the dramatic way which the current plan will affect our homes and communities. I would like to think this is not the case, but it is indeed the current perception many of us have been left with. We are not naive or unaware of the need for maintenance work on the area. We all want the Canal and those using it to be safe. It is the extreme nature of the currently proposed plan that gives us pause. Perhaps for those making these decisions, the Canal is simply a structure while to those of us who live in the neighborhoods, it is a way of life, it is our living, it is our living environment. I remain hopeful that a plan may be worked out to retain both the beauty and the safety of the Canal. Most Sincerely
545	8/29/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. A reasonable amount of vegetation attenuates noise and creates a peaceful, more private experience along the canal. Case specific management of vegetation is a much more responsible solution than Lorax-style clear cutting. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
546	8/30/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
547	8/30/2021	Email	I strongly oppose the planned clear cutting of Trees and shrubs along the Erie Canal. Removing any natural ground cover is ecologically disastrous, contributes to climate change, visually repulsive, and would seemingly only serve to the dubious goal of making state inspectors job "easier". The state is NOT authorized by the public to destroy nature because that nature is "inconvenient".
548	8/30/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Tree shaded trails help prevent sun damage to the skin of hikers and bikers on the trail as well as helping to keep them cool. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments
549	8/30/2021	Email	I strongly recommend that a highly selective, carefully thought-out vegetation management plan be developed in coordination with a team of arborists and engineers before any further tree cutting is done. There is plenty of time to

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			<p>review this carefully before irreparable environmental damage is done to communities and neighborhoods along the canal.</p> <p>There have been no instances of canal embankment failures due to tree roots. The only canal failure I can recall was the 1974 Bushnell's Basin flood which was due to a sewer tunnel excavation project adjacent to the canal.</p> <p>Removal of trees will leave dead roots which can then rot and destabilize the soil further. It will also have a substantial negative impact on recreational use of the canal, which the state has been trying to promote. Removing trees will result in a lack of needed shade (particularly important with the rising incidence of heat waves), increased traffic noise (this was apparent after the ice storm 20 some years ago), and destruction of what is currently a beautiful asset to the communities along the canal.</p> <p>Also, many areas of the canal do not have elevated berm embankments at all, including much of the south side distance between Pittsford village and Bushnell's Basin, excepting a short stretch beyond East St. Along the north side, the pedestrian path separates the canal from nearby trees, and the shade is important for path users.</p> <p>The clear cutting done on the west side of Rochester left a stark, shocking landscape of ugly stumps to rot. Selective thinning of trees, along with stump removal, in a manner to preserve the beauty and function of the area would have been an asset, rather than an embarrassment to the Canal Corp.</p>
550	8/31/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The Erie Canal and the adjacent woodlands have put Fairport and our personal residence literally on the map and we owe it's legacy a debt of gratitude. Born and educated in the Netherlands I have witnessed first-hand how willow trees and vegetation hold in place that Country's canal banks to prevent flooding the adjacent low-lying farm lands. Closer to home, we only have to look to Louisiana and the effects of hurricane Ida to verify the veracity of that reality. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
551	8/31/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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553	8/31/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Shade areas are often ~10° cooler (perceived and actual) than areas of full sun. Cleared areas will make it a greater heat hazard during the summer for all activities, but especially for foot traffic around the villages. Natural foraging for animals and people are also reliant on this foliage.</p>

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			<p>If root structure is a real fear for the integrity of the canal embankment, why wasn't that proactively maintained instead of reactively over-corrected? In the hundreds of years of canal history, what examples are being used to justify clearing over replacement?</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
554	8/31/2021	Email	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Below are my final thoughts and concerns regarding the embankments and the recent document published by a lawyer from the town of Pittsford. I apologize for any redundancy or grammatical errors. I'm just worn down- as you surely may be by the continued harassment and denial of a maintenance program the Canal Corporation can't put off any longer. You've done your part in explaining the situation. I speak on behalf of the people who are purposefully misinformed, misled, misdirected and flat out lied to by Mr Smith and Mrs Agte, leaders of the Stop the Clear Cut group. I also speak on behalf of my town, who doesn't support Mrs Agte. There is no reason for hundreds of our town's residents to contact you since the majority has overwhelming confidence in your ability to do what you are trained to do. People mostly complain when things don't go their way. Gratitude goes unnoticed. Your improvements to our section of towpath are noticed and the general public knows you can manage this embankment situation. Thousands know about this STCC and Shade Group. It's been on tv, radio, in papers, solicited on the towpath, in protests, rallies, at unrelated protests, to every person they see in town and in other towns. The majority does not support this very isolated group of misinformers. 4 years and every complaint was directly solicited by either Mr Smith, Mrs Agte or Mrs Meier. Nobody comes forward on their own. These people are very creatively manipulated to believe this is a highly contested battle and supported by many. Husbands and boyfriends of the leaders of these groups speak since nobody else cares to. Mr Smith has his supporters now representing him as he's desperate to salvage what's left of his failed attempt for voters and political support. Mr Smith is working just as hard as Mrs Agte to save face and will not admit he and Mrs Agte are blatantly wrong in their harassment of the defenseless and ill prepared Canal Corporation. You were definitely caught off guard! Mrs Agte capitalized on this for certain.</p> <p>Of course Mr Smith hired another lawyer to write this up. He launched Mrs Agte's tiny group of what she refers to as "warriors" to a new level. It gained zero momentum until after the documents were released and plans to continue the tree removal couldn't be prevented. Where is Fairport/Perinton and Brighton's documentation in similar disputes. It's the team of Mr Smith and Mrs Agte who have led this campaign from the very beginning of this nonsensical battle with the Canal Corporation. All protests are in Pittsford now too. This is a very isolated battle from Mrs Agte and her mentor- Mr Smith. Mr Smith is abusing his political powers to drag everyone he can down with his misconceptions and denial of the facts he requested.</p> <p>Below are some things I took away from just a scan of the lawyer's document.</p> <p>Everything stated by the lawyer has been stated before. The black locust trees on the canal is something I hadn't heard before.</p> <p>There were no trees on it, just as there were no trees on other canal embankments.</p> <p>The state never produced engineering plans for the canal which specify that no trees should exist on canal embankments. Who produces additional documentation for things that shouldn't be done? 200 years ago!</p> <p>Anecdotal evidence black locust trees encouraged to grow on the embankment? What evidence? On what canal embankment?</p> <p>Neighbors organized and vehemently objected. No. Just Mrs Agte after Mike Caswell posted about these trees to be removed. She watches Mike's posts like a hawk to see how she can aggravate him after a past disagreement. This is where this all stems from. The woman is relentless in her battle to prove Mike wrong. It's ridiculous!</p> <p>New plan covers 120 miles of the 524 miles of canal. This is the result of a more thorough inspection of the canal. Yes, due to a more thorough investigation of the hazards forced by Mrs Agte and Mr Smith.</p> <p>Leaves all power to the NYUSCC to decide what gets clear-cut and when. Absolutely! It's their job to do so. They are the experts and caretakers of this waterway.</p> <p>All of this turmoil has been generated by the NYSCC's insistence that the continued presence of trees on the canal embankments will cause it to fail. No, Mrs Agte is the single source of all of this turmoil, then adopted by Mr Smith to gain political support.</p> <p>Canal has stood for 2 centuries with no failure. 2 centuries of trees gone wild! We absolutely need to correct this situation before a catastrophic failure happens!</p> <p>1974 indiscriminate digging of water or sewer line (get your facts straight) caused collapse. This incident should discourage an assault on wooded embankments? Mrs Agte's MO is to call out past mistakes the Canal Corporation has done to shame them. This is a similar form of harassment and shaming of the Canal Corporation's ability to do what they are trained to do. The canal has operated with a lack of funds for over a century. Things have changed with the Power Authority's involvement. Resources are now available like never before.</p> <p>Trees have never caused and Erie/Barge canal embankment to fail. How do they know this? And if true, why use this evidence to speculate what will happen as these trees continue to grow and alter the 200 year old embankments.</p> <p>Dam vs canal..standards that apply to canal embankments.. They are stuck on labels. To dam up water with earth, a lock, whatever. The man made canal dams up water from runoff, creeks and the Genesee river that flows into it. These attacks against using generalized terms to describe something to an audience who refuse to understand more complex terminology is just another way to say you are incorrect and incompetent.</p> <p>None of these emergencies explicitly mentions trees as the source of the emergency. Many forces, including the force of tree roots are leading to these failures. Trees grow directly out of the riprap all up and down the canal. If these aren't trimmed, their roots will lift up the towpath, move massive stones and cause leaks that will eventually lead to a breach. It</p>

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			<p>has happened, but these things just get fixed, not super analyzed by the workers doing the repairs. Remember, no funds and a lack of support for the canal has been present since trains replaced mules pulling barges and people at 4 miles per hour.</p> <p>Back to black locust stabilizing the banks. Again, back to the locust trees as a desperate attempt to find a single source of vegetation they can save and prove a point to justify their ridiculous claims.</p> <p>Let's think back 20 years to when the towpath between Perinton park to Pittsford was a muddy, single lane goat/mule path. No bikes, roller blades, strollers frequented this stretch of pathway. Now, the pathway has been leveled, groomed, mowed, widened and a very long series of expensive fencing has been added. Trees and branches that continually fall on the path are now removed within a day. They would sit for weeks in the past since nobody used this section of the trail.</p> <p>It's not the people who are using this reimagined mule path who are complaining. This is just one woman's outlet for attention and denial of the facts she's purposefully covering up. Mr Smith has supported playing fields, a new pathway through a frog habitat and a massive YMCA and parking lot in areas that were canal side forests. This was not for necessity, but for personal pleasure. The embankment rehabilitation program is for necessity, not desire or anything malicious as these people are suggesting. This has turned into a campaign to save face.</p> <p>Mrs Agte and Mr Smith think they can use their political power to harass the Canal Corporation and force them to throw common sense and engineering out the window. Mathematics, physics and common knowledge of civil engineering is factored into the Canal Corporation's difficult decision to remove these trees. It can't be ignored, argued over or speculated.</p> <p>All trees (including black locust), must be removed from the embankments. Then, when everything is graded and wildflowers/grass is established, there can be talks of adding trees here and there if so desired. These tree's root systems would need to be boxed in somehow to insure the embankment's soil is not disrupted 10-100 years from now.</p> <p>Believe me, once these trees and shrubs are gone, the ones who actually use the path will appreciate the openness and more manicured look of the embankments. Everything Mrs Agte/Mr Smith's group says about the aesthetics completely contradicts what we're looking at today which is a mess of uncultivated, weedy, vine filled trees and brambles. Solo joggers don't feel safe on this portion of pathway and the tunnel effect of the canal is outright boring and redundant. The homeowners at the foot of these embankments could use more sun to dry out their yards and damp basements. Seepage needs to be controlled, inspect and monitored. We all know grassy meadows are the best way to do this.</p> <p>I see these trees and branches fall with each wind storm. I've witnessed the canal rising to levels that nearly overtopped the banks earlier this summer. Debris from creeks and trees can interfere with spillways and lead to these dammed portions of water overtopping and loss of soil with no blanket of grass to dissipate the water.</p> <p>Point blank. This is all a fabricated and purposefully misleading campaign that the Canal Corporation was forced into due to their lack of documentation. Get in, get out, before anyone has the chance to speak up! I completely agree with that strategy, but that one person saw reason to challenge you on this and was off and running to the media, instead of handling this in a more professional and polite manner.</p> <p>None of Mr Smith and Mrs Agte's push for more political support changes anything. It only forces you to hire more police to insure the canal path is off limits to pedestrian traffic once the embankment clearing continues.</p> <p>Once your documentation was realized and fully understood, Mr Agte and Mr Smith knew they were defeated in their campaign of harassment and misinformation. The leaders of this effort are contacting the same news media as before and are using the same tricks to get other political leaders in the spotlight. They speak before fully understanding the Canal Corporation's documentation.</p> <p>The only reason there is new political support is from Mrs Agte and Mr Smith showing lists of other "supporters" to them to make them believe they are the majority and the ones who support the Canal Corporation are incorrect. Truth of the matter is, the ones who do believe the trees need to be removed are confident in the Canal Corporation's abilities to do what they are trained to do. Why fight to support the inevitable? Hundreds of people like Mrs Agte can be wrong. There should, in fact be thousands of supporters after 4 years, but only a few dozen showed up to her televised protest recently. Minus the friends and supporters of the ones organizing this false campaign and maybe 10 people really cared to go. That's with lawn signs and links to the time and date of this protest. I know hundreds of people in my town and not one of them was in the crowd. It was the next town over with ample parking. The majority doesn't care to save these trees! It's all a fabrication amongst the ones Mrs Agte and Mr Smith solicit and mislead!</p> <p>Mrs Agte and Mr Smith's claims are redundant. They've added a few more people to their group and the redundancy is amplified. This holds no power, truth or reason to put the canal or anyone at risk.</p> <p>Yes, it's been 200 years of neglect. Admit the Canal Corporation is at fault for putting themselves in the difficult position of selectively clearing their embankments to restore them to their original, or better state. Move on from this, expect to be on TV and repeat this statement over and over again. People will love the openness of the cleared banks, will wave to the people who live below them as they do with my family who sits, eats and relaxes by the canal. It took us a year to get use to it, but we love people and boat watching. Any claims of privacy are ridiculous. People walk and bike the pathway with no foliage in late fall through mid spring and don't just up and move. The pedestrian pathway is the result of an abandoned means of commercial transportation. It's a gift by the Canal Corporation as they try to maintain its continuous pathway. They need to make it safe and keep it filled with water.</p> <p>Also, the canal was straightened to eliminate the Oxbow in Perinton. This entire area's earth was plowed forward to great a massive embankment, then flooded to form a lake. Later on, after the bank stabilized, the channel was dredged and widened. The islands in the lake are the result of dredging. Tree free in the 1940s, but covered in massive forests of mature trees today! Just like the man made embankments, if the Canal Corporation chose to clear the islands they made of hazardous trees, they have every right to do so. The creatures that relocated to these areas will relocate to other areas. The area where Oxbow lake contains far more water than it did when the original canal snaked through Fairport 200 years</p>

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			ago. Hydrostatic pressure and concerns for containing this amount of water is far greater than some areas that need to be cleared of trees. Ironically, the area between Perinton Park and the emergency gate at Kreag Road Park should be your number one priority when work continues. We've had breaks in Bushnell's basin by an urban legend rodent. Maybe it was a tree? Nobody really knows when they show up and a large portion of the canal is gone! We had seepage on a slope just before the lake as well, proving this pressure is greater than on some of the more narrowed portions of the canal. Pounding in sheet metal saved no trees in this instance. The banks were kept clear by the Power Authority for obvious safety reasons and access to their towers. That's called selective clearing of vegetation. The Power Authority's expertise in managing one resource is now being implemented to a neglected highway of water instead of electricity. Nobody complained when they cut back massive swaths of trees several years back all up and down the power lines in Fairport! These trees were as tall as the ones that now need to be removed from the canal banks. The stumps are all there if anyone wants to inspect them. Again, neglect until things become a difficult situation. This can't continue to happen. I think the Power Authority realizes this with all of their recent efforts to protect these valuable resources. Thanks again,
555	8/31/2021	Email	As a New York resident whose family utilizes the canal paths we are strongly opposed to the proposed tree cutting. The canal is predominately used for recreational activities which is part and parcel with the natural beauty of the trees along the path. The canal is not an industrial asset, or industrial uses are so small as to be a non-factor relative to recreational use. Without recreational use funding support for the canal would be zero. For those looking to cut the trees think of your own voter support if you turn the canal into a wasteland. For those looking to cut the trees for private development also think of the lost investment if building along the canal becomes dramatically less desirable. Further, upstate New York as a region competing with Boston, San Francisco and other desirable locations needs every family asset. The canal trees are part of that western New York pitch for both keeping people here as well as attracting talent.
556	8/31/2021	Email	I read with great interest about plans to clear cut most trees along the canal. Trees, shrubs and grasses have always been used to help retain soil, especially in rainy seasons. If the soil is left bare there will nothing to contain it and it will eventually find its way into the canal itself, causing muddy waters and silt. Many people walk along the canal and rely on the trees for shade. Also, the trees make for more of a park like setting and add privacy to homes or businesses along the canal. Areas for boats to dock in order to access towns and commercial areas can be made more recognizable without ruining the aesthetics of an area. Clear cutting is irresponsible and a clear misuse of taxpayer dollars!
557	8/31/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
558	8/31/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. The canal trees contribute to an important ecosystem and sequester carbon at such a critical time! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
559	8/31/2021	Email	Our property backs up to New York State land and the Erie Canal service road. We understand that it is not our land, but we believe that the healthy trees provide important resources, habitat, and value to the canal. It would be nice to just cut out the dead trees and brush and save the ones that are living. Please update us when the tree crews come to Brighton, NY. Thank you.
560	8/31/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
561	8/31/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Trees clean the air. Trees change seasonal colors, enabling the beauty to create anticipation which adds to the joy of life. The value of private properties will degrade without the beauty and privacy the trees afford. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
562	8/31/2021	Email	I am opposed to any further tree removal along the Erie Canal. How the tree removal was ever allowed along the Brockport canal path is the big question! To this day, it looks awful. There's been an attempt at repairing the landscape

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			by replanting bushes where trees once grew. How ridiculous and at what expense to the tax payer? Trees should have been left to grow and provide a beautiful, natural landscape. With this email, I request no more tree removal along the canal path. It is NOT necessary. If trees are dead and become a hazard, such as the unfortunate Ash, then it's a different issue. Other trees need to be left to grow. They are a part of what makes the canal path in Rochester and the surrounding areas very special.
563	9/1/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The plan to replace natural trees and vegetation with turf grass that has to be mowed, chemically fertilized, applied with toxic pesticides and herbicides is an ecological disaster. Not to mention an excessive expense that will steal needed resources from other essential needs. That this project could even be conceived without adequate Beckett environmental and community oversight is a disgrace. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
564	9/1/2021	Email	I can't believe this is even being considered. The best part of a walk along the canal is appreciating the beautiful trees, especially in autumn. Far fewer citizens/voters will be inclined to walk there if trees are removed.
565	9/1/2021	Email	I live near the Erie Canal and walk the path often. I love the shade and the beauty afforded us by the trees along the banks of the canal. These trees provide oxygen, reduce global warming, and reduce noise pollution. They are home to many types of birds. There is NO good reason to cut down our precious trees! Please reconsider! Please save our trees! Sincerely and passionately,
566	9/1/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The trees/shrubs/vegetation bring birds and animals that are unique and important to our area. I live on the canal and the trees really make it a special place. It brings a calmness to an already busy world. I often have visitors from out of the area come and stay with us and they are always amazed at the calming beauty of the trees on the canal. Overall, please don't cut the trees. I have two trees that are dying in my backyard and we have called the Canal Corp to cut those to prevent harm from the trees falling on the water or in my backyard. They wouldn't, cut them. Please leave the healthy ones alone unless there are some that are truly doing damage to the embankment. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
567	9/1/2021	Email	I am completely against removing/clear cutting the sides of the canal. Taking away the trees and vegetation will not significantly stabilize the banks, and will cause harm to the animals, flora, and fauna. I oppose this project.
568	9/1/2021	Email	Hello, I am writing to request that the New York State Canal Corporation (NYSCC) and New York Power Authority (NYPA) reach a reasonable accommodation with the Town of Pittsford regarding the Erie Canal. I am requesting that the NYSCC and NYPA not clear-cut trees, but instead remove only the following: 1. Trees that pose a hazard to houses along the embankment 2. Deadwood 3. Trees that pose an obvious threat to the integrity of the embankment It is my understanding that the NYPA has not established a need for clearcutting and that its actions are subject to approval by the Pittsford Planning Board, according to the Town's Local Waterfront Redevelopment Plan, which the NYPA is bound by law to observe. Thank you to everyone at NYSCC and NYPA for all the work they have done to maintain canal embankments so they continue to be safe. I am confident the two agencies can collaborate with the Town of Pittsford on this project. Sincerely,
569	9/1/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I walk on the canal path several times a week and not only for the shade so helpful and comfortable for me and my dog- but also because it is so pretty! Beyond the shade, the wildlife, the pollinators, I also fear how much dirt and debris would slide into the canal during rainstorms if the vegetation along the path was diminished.

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			Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
570	9/2/2021	Email	I would like to add my voice to those arguing for the importance of allowing the trees to remain along the Erie Canal. Our canal and towpath is one of the state's loveliest park areas — I and my family enjoy walking along it at least three times a week in all seasons. The trees and the wildlife they shelter are what make the path lovely and to destroy them would be to destroy one of the most treasured features of my neighborhood and town. Sincerely,
571	9/2/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. I love walking and running on the canal path, and the trees provide crucial shade in warm temperatures and needed windbreak in the cold temperatures. I completely understand cutting trees that are leaning into the canal, but cutting all the trees along the path willy-nilly is senseless. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
572	9/2/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
573	9/2/2021	Email	I live near the Erie Canal. We walk, bike, and paddle often. During COVID (which is an on-going pandemic) we came to rely on the serenity of time walking along the canal path. The trees are one of the reasons we live in Pittsford -- it does not look like an industrial zone now, but it will if you cut down trees. What do trees give us: -Shade -Beauty! -Oxygen -Reduced global warming -Reduce noise pollution! Trees are a natural sound barrier -Improved mental health (That's an evidence-based scientific statement, not personal testimony) -Home to many types of birds and other wild life -Tourism (will canal boats go up and down a denuded canal?) -PRIVACY -Property value There is NO good reason to cut down our precious trees! Please reconsider! Please stop threatening our trees! Sincerely and passionately,
574	9/2/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Trees and other plants prevent erosion. It is hard to imagine a rationale for cutting the trees that is not masking some other motive. Trees and shrubbery have benefits for so many environmental reasons, besides granting a feeling of peace to us when we are near them. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
575	9/2/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. As a Fairport resident living on Landing View Lane along the canal, I use the pathway almost daily. Select removal of diseased or threatening to the canal trees but please please do not cut them all down and ruin the beauty of the canal. It would ruin the grace and beauty of the waterway. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
576	9/2/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.

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			Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Because it's their home! We need trees to survive!!! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
577	9/2/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. In many places trees (not huge) are used to stabilize embankments. If the huge trees were removed individually, the danger of undermining the banks would be reduced. Clearcutting would make canal inspections easier. Drones. I have never seen an inspector walking or biking to look for leakage and when I reported some I was told to ignore if everything is ok. So much for that justification for the cutting. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
578	9/2/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
579	9/4/2021	Email	Here in Rochester, NY, the plan to clearcut the embankments of the canal has me alarmed. This would be a local tragedy, and it is not necessary to cut all the trees to render the canal safe. The embankments were not built as a dam. The trees provide shade, beauty, and habitat for many birds and other wildlife. Please, please leave our trees alone! Mindless destruction of natural areas has already ruined so many spaces in our country and state. We must be more careful and protect the treasures we still have.
580	9/2/2021	Email	I don't think the trees should be taken down along the Erie Canal. There are many reasons for this. 1. They provide a lot of shade for walkers, runners, and boaters who use the canal even when the days are extremely hot. 2. The trees also anchor the soil so it prevents soil erosion. 3. The trees encourage birds and other wildlife to participate in nature. 4. Many people enjoy nature, walking their dogs, and taking their children on walks. If we destroy this atmosphere, it will change the whole atmosphere of the canal and the parks that are located close to the canal. People want to be able to enjoy being near the canal because it is a part of New York State history and it is what makes the canal so scenic.
581	9/2/2021	Email	We are opposed to the plan to clear-cut many of the trees along the Erie Canal in the Pittsford to Perinton NY portions of the Erie canal. The trees provide abundant shade and it makes walking along the canal very pleasant on hot days. The trees also provide homes to birds and other wild life that make the Erie canal a good natural wildlife setting. Do NOT approve clear cutting all the trees, only remove trees that are unhealthy or contributing to a few unique problems.
582	9/2/2021	Email	We would like to share some thoughts and questions we have regarding the "clear cut" canal embankment plans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear cutting, both banks, seems unbelievably unnecessary basically overkill. We are not in favor of clear cutting the embankments. • Hopefully there will be some selectivity involved in the species that are ultimately removed - Cotton Woods, Willows, other fast growth weed trees can go. Walnuts, Locusts, Maples, and other slower growth hardwoods should be left alone. • Shade on the tow path is important for all that use it - bikers, walkers, runners, pets, and wildlife. While this seems quite obvious, it also seems to have been disregarded. • Wildlife - foxes, gophers, so many, many, many birds rely on the trees for habitat and protection. In the past couple years, we have now begun to see bald eagles and ospreys along with the herons, hawks, ducks and geese and so many others. Questions - Information that we don't know the plans for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How far is the clear cut intended to be from the canal itself? • Both sides? • What is going to be done with the wood? Stumps? Undergrowth? • What will be planted once the trees are removed? • Those with docks - will they be protected from tree damage during the operation? • Will canal side residents have any say in what happens to the area in front of their property? Thank you,
583	9/3/2021	Email	Thank you for allowing me to voice my SUPPORT of the Canal Tree Cutting along the Canal. I live in Spencerport and ride the Canal path west of Rochester. The path where the trees have been cut is wonderful! You get wide vista views of the Canal and adjacent lands. The Canal when it was initially built did not have trees near it. I appreciate the uninterrupted views and am amazed at what lies along the Canal. Many local features were obscured by the overgrowth. With them removed, the features are easily seen. People who oppose the clearing of the banks should visit the areas where this has been done to experience the beauty of open spaces. (Could it be that some of the more vocal opponents are encroaching on Canal Corporation lands?) Another benefit has been a decrease in the insect clouds that would hover around the trees next to the canal. These insect clouds diminished the experience of being on the Canal.

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			To be historically correct, the trees should be removed. Look at any drawings/paintings of early canal scenes, and trees are absent. Later, when photographs were made, there were still no trees. The last point I want all to know and acknowledge is that trees, and other growth, along the Canal bank work as mechanical weathering agents. They tear apart the Canal wall. All one has to do is look at driveways where grass is starting to grow in it. The pavement is quickly broken apart. In summation, I AM IN FAVOR of the continued cutting of trees and growth along the Canal. Thank you.
584 Corrected in 596	9/3/2021	Email	Re: Public Comment on the Canal Corporation Clear-Cutting Plan Along the Erie Canal I own 45 acres of property in Macedon, New York that has major power lines and towers running through it that are maintained by the New York Power Authority. The Power Authority has a 300 foot wide right of way through the middle of my property that runs from the west border to the east border. It maintains the right of way, and any trees or brush that the Power Authority deems are a nuisance are cut down or sprayed with herbicides. The Power Authority also cuts down trees off their right of way that it determines may interfere with the power lines. I am compensated for those trees. There have been times when I have complained about how or why certain trees or brush are deemed unacceptable and others are not. I have also complained at times about their use of herbicides because I have many gardens under or near the power lines and my property is a licensed game preserve. Sometimes the Power Authority accommodates my concerns and other times not. I do not believe that clear-cutting the trees and brush along the canal where there are earthen embankments is necessary or desirable. The trees and brush keep the earthen embankments from eroding and provide shade to wildlife and to those of us who use the canal pathways. The trees and brush are also aesthetically appealing whether you are using the canal path or driving your boat or paddling your kayak in the water. On the north side of the canal just east of the Turk Hill Road bridge, there is a section of the bank that has no trees or brush that is being held together by chain-link fencing and rocks. A portion of that section has collapsed into the canal and is a hazard to the canal pathway. A couple of orange cones mark the area. Without trees or brush holding up the banks, I don't see how the banks will not eventually collapse into the canal. Obviously, the fencing and rocks used on the bank of the canal near Turk Hill Road are not working. In addition, the heavy rains and flash flooding that have been occurring more often because of global warming will also work to erode the unprotected banks. I agree with advocates that the Canal Corporation has failed to conduct a proper and extensive environmental review of managing the vegetation along the canal. It is my experience with the New York Power Authority that it will take the easiest way to manage vegetation (clear-cutting and/or herbicides) regardless of the environmental impact of its actions, and in the case of the canal, the structural integrity of the canal earthen embankments, the impact of the trees and brush on wildlife and fish along the canal, and the shade and beauty the trees provide to canal users. I oppose the indiscriminate clear-cutting of trees and vegetation along the canal. This clearly seems to be the wrong approach to maintaining the canal banks.
585	9/3/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Natural vegetation adds to the beauty of the path. I don't understand how any organization today would eliminate vegetation. So backward looking. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
586	9/3/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. It is a poor use of money to do something that the users of the canal path don't want and doesn't provide a benefit. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
587	9/3/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. replacing the trees with grass with result in contributions to global warming as the grass will have to be cut. I have paddled along the section where trees were removed and the noise from the grass cutting was disturbing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
588	9/3/2021	Email	Hi, Please do not do the Erie canal tree removal. The trees are so important to the canal path. There are areas that do not have them and they are awful - absolutely awful to be on and ride on. Please don't take that natural resource and beauty and shade away. Thanks, Sue Bernegger Avid canal path user.
589	9/3/2021	Email	Leave the trees on the canal alone. They've been there for many years and have not had any effect on the canal.
590	9/3/2021	Email	As a resident of Pittsford, NY, I strongly object to clear cutting near the Erie Canal. The shade, fresh air, habitat and "greenness" provided by trees & shrubs are important for both physical and emotional wellness as one walks along the Canal Path.

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			I fail to see an advantage to clearing large areas of plants. If there are specific trees that are proven to cause problems, those could be removed. Minimal disruption of both animal and human habitat would be preferable. In addition, as we watch huge areas of forest go up in flames on the west coast, indiscriminate destruction of green space seems a very bad idea. Please protect our trees!
591	9/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The money spent on this project in one large amount (millions of \$) would much better be spent on ongoing human maintenance of a forested Erie Canal. Support local workers, not companies trying to make a killing off of one-time projects that destroy rather than enhance our local environment. At a time when pollinators are facing an existential crisis, we should be re-growing natural environments, not cutting and mowing everything down to replace it with grass and chemical treatments. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
592	9/4/2021	Email	Leave the trees along
593	9/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. My grandchildren love watching the wildlife along the canal, the birds, deer, muskrats, ducks etc. it's a treasure. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
594	9/4/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. It is a tragedy when trees are cut unnecessarily. Our overheated planet needs all the trees it can get. Some individual trees are special to people who live along the canal. We need to reduce our carbon footprint, not increase it by cutting down trees. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
595	9/4/2021	Email	These embankments were not built as a dam and need not be managed as such. Clear cutting all the trees would be a local tragedy for people who enjoy the shady canal path, and for all the birds and other wildlife who depend on these trees. Please, please leave the trees alone!
596	9/3/2021	Email	In my prior email [584], I incorrectly stated that the section of the canal bank that collapsed into the canal was east of the Turk Hill Road bridge. The collapsed section is east of the Lyndon Road bridge. Below is the corrected essay. Re: Public Comment on the Canal Corporation Clear-Cutting Plan Along the Erie Canal I own 45 acres of property in Macedon, New York that has major power lines and towers running through it that are maintained by the New York Power Authority. The Power Authority has a 300 foot wide right of way through the middle of my property that runs from the west border to the east border. It maintains the right-of-way, and any trees or brush that the Power Authority deems are a nuisance are cut down or sprayed with herbicides. The Power Authority also cuts down trees off their right of way that it determines may interfere with the power lines. I am compensated for those trees. There have been times when I have complained about how or why certain trees or brush are deemed unacceptable and others are not. I have also complained at times about their use of herbicides because I have many gardens under or near the power lines and my property is a licensed game preserve. Sometimes the Power Authority accommodates my concerns and other times not. I do not believe that clear-cutting the trees and brush along the canal where there are earthen embankments is necessary or desirable. The trees and brush keep the earthen embankments from eroding and provide shade to wildlife and to those of us who use the canal pathways. The trees and brush are also aesthetically appealing whether you are using the canal path or driving your boat or paddling your kayak in the water. On the north side of the canal just east of the Lyndon Road bridge, there is a section of the bank that has no trees or brush that is being held together by chain-link fencing and rocks. A portion of that section has collapsed into the canal and is a hazard to the canal pathway. A couple of orange cones mark the area. Without trees or brush holding up the banks, I don't see how the banks will not eventually collapse into the canal. Obviously, the fencing and rocks used on the bank of the canal near Lyndon Road are not working. In addition, the heavy rains and flash flooding that have been occurring more often because of global warming will also work to erode the unprotected banks. I agree with advocates that the Canal Corporation has failed to conduct a proper and extensive environmental review of managing the vegetation along the canal.

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			<p>It is my experience with the New York Power Authority that it will take the easiest way to manage vegetation (clear-cutting and/or herbicides) regardless of the environmental impact of its actions, and in the case of the canal, the structural integrity of the canal earthen embankments, the impact of the trees and brush on wildlife and fish along the canal, and the shade and beauty the trees provide to canal users.</p> <p>I oppose the indiscriminate clear-cutting of trees and vegetation along the canal. This clearly seems to be the wrong approach to maintaining the canal banks.</p>
597	9/5/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>I live in an unremarkable neighborhood in the city of Rochester. Whenever possible, my family and I take advantage of the many outdoor recreational opportunities available in Monroe County, frequently walking or biking along sections of the Erie Canal, most often in Pittsford, Fairport, or Spencerport and the nearby areas. The areas we seek out are areas with trees to provide shade, especially on hot summer days. Before or after such an outing, we're likely to stop in one of the ice cream shops, restaurants, breweries, or grocery stores nearby to "fuel up" for the trip or to reward ourselves afterward. The economics favor communities which have preserved tree-shaded areas. When out-of-town visitors ask for suggestions about something they could do which is unique to the Rochester area, I recommend a walk along the canal in one of the areas mentioned above. One of the questions from out-of-town visitors is whether there is any shade; walking in an area with no shade is far less attractive. Removal of diseased trees keeps the entire wooded area healthier (and prevents damage to property or personal injury, in this era of more frequent and more violent storms). Clear-cutting without regard to the health of the trees in the affected areas is a different story. It is difficult to see how this would not increase the likelihood of erosion, which would destabilize the earthen embankments. Consider some of the elevated areas along the NY Thruway where the effects of erosion lead to landslides and rockslides. This is not something we should risk. Tree removal should be on a case by case basis and not clear-cut. Clear-cutting is easier and less expensive for the New York State Canal Corporation in the near term, but a longer term view would serve us all better.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
598	9/5/2021	Email	<p>Good morning.</p> <p>After reading in the local news about the Canal Corps decision to clear trees along the canal embankments I feel the need to express my disapproval. In addition to providing shade us and homes for birds and insects, trees serve the purpose of preserving soil integrity as well as soil diversity. In fact, while so much above the ground has been studied roots have not. I understand the Canal Corps' concern regarding maintenance and upkeep; that can be a financial constraint. But I urge the Corps to consider values other than fleeting capital.</p> <p>https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/the-whispering-trees-180968084/</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
599	9/5/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>My husband and I have biked various sections of the canal across the state and it does not appear that this same thing is happening elsewhere. We just came from biking the canal near Albany and the path was paved, well maintained and had natural vegetation growth. The clear cutting done around Brockport looks horrible and their "replacement" vegetation is very depressing.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
600	9/5/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Hiking and running the canal is beautiful</p> <p>I specifically moved here for the NATURAL beauty of the canal path and the nature that comes with it. Please leave nature alone. Man ruins enough natural habitat, be part of the solution and leave it alone. Thank you.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
601	9/5/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>The banks have been stable for over a century. The activity the Canal Corp proposes will likely create unsafe conditions. To my knowledge, a disaster the likes of which the Canal Corp predicts has never happened anywhere in the world.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments</p>

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603	9/5/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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605	9/5/2021	Email	Good morning, On June 7, 2021 (1:58 pm), we reached out to Jamie.Verrigni@canals.ny.gov (contact person listed on the Earthen Embankment Integrity Program website) and never received a response. Jamie is cc'd on this email. Please add our email addresses (russod12@yahoo.com and lisamontana12@yahoo.com) to the list of any emails or meetings that you may have in the future for any/all embankment information. We are homeowners on the Mohawk River/Erie Canal and are experiencing embankment erosion due to the posted canal speed between Lock E12 and Lock E13. The shoreline is severely eroded and in need of repair to the once placed rip rap. Will this program address the erosion problem at our location (and the adjacent properties affected by erosion)? We are located at 117 Van Wagenen Dr, Fultonville (Town of Glen), NY 12072. We are trying to preserve our property, which includes very mature, large diameter trees directly adjacent to the area that is eroding. Any information, assistance and/or direction you could give would be very much appreciated. Thank you.
606	9/5/2021	Email	Here are my thoughts regarding vegetation along the Erie Canal: I am a bit of an historian, and I understand the significance of the Erie Canal to our state's history. And while preservation of that history is I believe very important, it is even more important to recognize that the Erie Canal, at least throughout the section in and around Rochester with which I am very familiar, is in fact a linear park. A heavily utilized and much enjoyed linear park. It is a very important asset to the community. Yes it is enjoyed by boaters, but more so by walkers and bicyclists. As a linear park, all decisions need be made in that context. In that context, preservation of vegetation is essential. Please make the right decisions, and allow the Erie Canal to remain an asset to the community. Thanks.
607	9/5/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
608	9/5/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Disgusting. Does everything need to look like a parking lot in a filthy city ? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
609	9/5/2021	Email	I live along Marsh Rd. and have been following and researching the Canal Clear Cut proposed by the New York State Canal Corporation. The work done on the towpath in recent years by the Canal Corp has been outstanding, and I appreciate the attention to bridges. I understand that the embankment rules developed after Hurricane Katrina by the US Army Corps of Engineers were meant to safeguard embankments. This is important. It appears however, that the regulations were enacted quickly, and have been challenged for not being well thought out. The regulations are under

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			<p>review and could change soon. In particular, the State of California has been doing research of its own on embankment safety, and proposing a slightly different standard http://cvfcpb.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/ConservStrat-App-D-Vegetation-Management.pdf</p> <p>It seems clear to me, after reading about this, that there are areas of the Great Embankment that should certainly be cleared of much of their overgrowth. In particular, the embankment along Marsh Rd where the canal crosses Irondequoit creek is dangerously overgrown. I know from experience that linear winds can come down the Irondequoit creek valley, hit the canal wall and cause a destructive micro-burst, felling trees and bringing down power lines. Those trees need to be cut down. The state should also put in a path, at a reduced angle, to replace the existing path which goes straight up the embankment opposite the creek, creating a potential avenue for erosion. If the state doesn't provide a path, people will put their own in, scrambling up the canal wall, which creates a hazardous situation both for people climbing the path in winter, and for water eroding down through the embankment wall. The California studies agree that it's important to leave the lower, landward facing slopes of an embankment clear of vegetation so that seepage can be easily detected. There are areas where walkers along the towpath are looking down at rooftops, and it is particularly important in those areas to catch seepage (which is more likely to be caused by humans or animals than trees) before it becomes critical.</p> <p>On the other hand, there are areas where the top of the embankment is wide. Trees along the top of a wide embankment provide much needed shade to the towpath, and aren't much of a hazard to either the embankment or utility lines. Those should stay.</p> <p>I'd urge the Canal Corporation to proceed thoughtfully, starting with areas, like Marsh Rd, where vegetation provides a clear hazard. It is not enough to just cut trees and hope for the best. The trees on the Marsh Rd embankment have been cut back before – but without an active planting and maintenance plan they've just regrown, with fast-growing trees that are likely to topple in a storm. There has to be a plan in place that not only cuts the trees but replaces them with something that will not require a ton of re-cutting/mowing. That slope is too steep to mow. There are other parts of the canal which seem to have a worrisome lack of maintenance. There's a lot of decaying concrete on the canal sides in Bushnell's Basin, where the concrete is sloped rather than vertical, with plants and shrubs taking root in broken areas. I'm not sure if that's a hazard or not. It certainly makes it easier for the dogs to get a drink, but every time I see them standing on a ledge in the side where the concrete has eroded it makes me nervous. There's also a lot of overgrowth in the drainage ditches running away from the canal. There's a fetid overflow pond on the drainage ditch across from Benedict that seems designed as a mosquito breeding ground.</p> <p>If the canal corporation spends a few years on the places which are critical, and prioritizes areas that desperately need maintenance/replanting, it is likely that the Army Corps of Engineers rules will be updated, allowing trees to remain in many areas on the top, where (at least according to the studies from CA) they appear to pose little risk.</p> <p>Lastly, I have heard of at least one case in which a home-owner whose backyard backed up onto the embankment was worried about the amount of seepage coming through, and wasn't having any luck reaching someone who could help. I hope that part of your new maintenance plan involves regular contact/polling of houses backing onto the canal embankment, so that you're notified as quickly as possible by homeowners, who are the ones most likely to detect water coming through. Handing everyone a magnet with a number to call would be great, but a letter would do. You could even post a few signs along the embankment for the walkers – there are a lot of us, and we can all be your eyes.</p> <p>The canal has broken through about every 50 years. May your stewardship bring us through the 2020's without repeating that pattern.</p>
610	9/5/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>It is a shaded place to run.</p> <p>It is a very pretty place to relax</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
611	9/5/2021	Email	<p>I noticed concrete cracking and plants growing up through the cracked concrete on the banks of the canal during a recent ride from Pittsford to Fairport. With those observations, I realize that water would also seep through the cracks and into the levee. Tree roots will extend toward the water, or in this case toward the canal. These roots could eventually reach the canal banks and cause the concrete along the banks to heave.</p> <p>At some point, depending on the size of the tree if it were to fall over and become uprooted, and the surrounding soil could become loose and weaken that portion of the levee.</p> <p>My home is approximately 0.5 miles from the canal and is down gradient. I ride the canal trail with my son from time to time. Therefore, if it means a more stable levee, then I am in favor cutting the trees along the canal and the levee itself.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
612	9/6/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>They provide much needed shade in the heat of summer, and sunlight in the winter.</p> <p>PLEASE don't make an irreversible mistake by cutting these trees.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
613	9/6/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p>

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			<p>The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Without the trees, the canal loses its desirability and will bring less people to the towns and hurt the economy. It will also lessen the amount of people who wish to live here. Don't make the canal look like a gross parking lot. The trees are better for the environment, prevent erosion, help keep people safe and happy. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
614	9/6/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. I love walking on the canal path and appreciate the shade. Please don't cut down the trees, they enhance the beauty of the canal and provide shade. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
615	9/6/2021	Email	<p>One of the things I love about the canal is the trees. It makes no sense to cut down the trees. Trees help our environment. Getting rid of invasive things is one thing. Cutting down ash trees another, but do not ruin our scenery and further hamper natural healing of our planet makes no sense on any level. Please let our trees be!! Peace</p>
616	9/6/2021	Email	<p>I have lived on the Erie Canal for 60 years. I live between Kendrick Rd. and West Henrietta Rd. in Rochester. When I first moved here there was just a narrow dirt walking path along the canal. Then the area was cleared and a paved path was laid. I have walked and ridden my bike along the canal for those many years. I have seen the trees along the canal bank totally removed and rocks poured down the bank. Then, weeds and junk trees grew up among the rocks. They cut the grass at the edge of the path but whack some of the weeds down and leave them just lying there to die and look disgusting. Along the upper bank on the other side of the path there are many beautiful trees. However, among those trees are many dead one. I have counted about 20 in that short 1/2 mile stretch. Before you start to cut down live trees along our beautiful canal, you should clean out the dead ones and let us enjoy the natural beauty. Thank you for giving me a chance to express my opinion.</p>
617	9/6/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. I am just finding out about this today! There should have been more warning about this happening. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
618	9/7/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because the canal is unique historic treasure. More importantly, the Canal Corporation hasn't substantiated its claim that clearing the embankments will improve the safety of the surrounding communities. To my knowledge, a disaster the likes of which the Canal Corp predicts has never happened anywhere in the world. The banks have been stable for over a century. The only breaches have occurred as the result of human activity, i.e. nearby construction projects. The activity the Canal Corp proposes will likely create unsafe conditions. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
619	9/7/2021	Email	<p>Good morning, While we don't want clear-cutting along the canal banks, we do have 2 dead trees right on the canal edge that are hazards and SHOULD be removed. We have inquired about them before but were told by the canal corporation that the trees are fine as-is. We were really surprised because the tree on the left has a big hole at the base where I can see light indicating the tree is completely hollow going straight through to the other side (shown in "hollow tree" pic). You can see from pic called "dead trees" that 50% of the limbs have no leaves on the trees on the far left and far right. They are also right on the crown of the embankment and will very likely fall right into the canal when the time comes. Sometimes big branches fall to our property which we don't mind because our dock is in poor shape and it's not near the house. But I imagine it's really dangerous to boaters or anyone using the canal. There seems to be a lot of focus on cutting down trees that are in perfectly good condition, while no one is paying any attention to the biggest risks. Please do consider taking down these 2 tree liabilities.</p>

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620	9/8/2021	Email	<p>Erie Canal I have lived in area for 60 years and the only break in the canal was caused by man digging under the canal. The trees help with the climate control. Save the trees. The trees have</p>
621	9/8/2021	Email	<p>I would love to understand the mucky muck thinking that run the canal system. Since 1976 , I have listen to them pass the buck and ignore lease holders. I can list names and have tons of letters that have been written over the years. I have a huge ash tree that is on canal land, one of the numerous tree trunks hit my home and my insurance paid for all repairs and half of tree to be removed, very large bug infested tree, it is ASH Called Dave and still have the conversation, no they would not cut the rest down.! Well, it's going to fall sometime, straight across the CANAL PATH ...Ignoring a serious ASH TREE. The canal system has lied and pass the buck for years, many need to be fired! You want to clear cut, to prepare for development, stop the bull..... And then you sell to developers, not private citizens. For many years, never could maintain roads, drudge canal of all the trash in it. No \$ No good markers, police can't even find a person in need...And now it's a dog poop path!!! Please, feel free to contact me, love to address many issues with the poorly run canal with the mucky muck! Sincerely,</p>
622	9/8/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. The trees along the Erie Canal encourage tourism and help boost local economies. While it is important to keep people and property safe, the plan does not take context into account and no action should be taken until it does. For example: New York recently completed the Empire State Trail. The Erie Canal is large part of this trail. While this means that we should ensure that the Canal is safe, we can't lose sight of the fact that the trail is intended to generate private investment in local towns and villages and encourage healthy lifestyles for New York residents. We should not clear cut trees - an action that would make it harder to achieve the goals of our state investments. There are many areas of the Canal that are not levees, but the report treats these areas the same which reflects lack of understanding of the existing conditions. The study should be more comprehensive and at the least a map should be generated to identify where these levee systems actually exist before work begins. Then we can have a real discussion about what has to happen where. The report outlines a Preliminary Risk Urgency Rating, but does not identify what sections of the Canal are in what category. Without this information, we do not know the threat level to people and property near the canal. A more dire situation may mean that something drastic has to happen now while other areas may have some more time prior to any work being done. Again the study is not as complete as it should be - another map should be created here to show the conditions along the Canal before work begins. Letting one objective drive the entire experience will not lead to success in the big-picture. For example, if I were a street designer and I was told that my only objective was to make sure cars moved through the streets as efficiently and safely as possible, I would recommend extra wide lanes, no sidewalks, no crosswalks, remove buildings from the edge, and put up a wall if possible. Clearly this approach would make our cities and towns undesirable, but the streets would be efficient</p>

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			and safe for car traffic. Similarly, to consider an action on the Canal without taking the existing context and goals into account will lead to an unfortunate result. The is an acceptable approach that can work within the goals of the Empire State Trail, that is context sensitive, and keeps people and property safe. It may not be the easiest, but it will be the most worthwhile. We should not move forward until we establish that approach. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
623	9/8/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Cutting down the surrounding trees and shrubs would turn the canal path into a barren outdoor space, no better than a highway. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
624	9/8/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Walking along the canal is more enjoyable with natural vegetation and trees Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
625	9/9/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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627	9/9/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
628	9/10/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Trees produce oxygen, take up CO2, help fight global warming Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.

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629	9/10/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. For so many people who live in the city, being near the canal is a way to be in nature. Maintaining that nature serves the environment as well as human mental wellness. Plus the money being spent trying to remove trees could be better spent in cleaning up sections of the canal in city locations so it can be a beautiful and safe public space Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
630	9/11/2021	Email	I live in Newark, New York, 3 blocks from the Erie Canal, having done so for 30+ years. I traveled Route 31 for many years along that Canal to a job in Palmyra and generally have been on roads along or crossing it since 1986, on a daily basis. My husband cycled the then-Erie Canal trail from beginning to end in 2008 . I am aware that trees die, bushes grow and vegetation can somewhat take over. However, there is no need to take out ALL trees, healthy or not. Proper maintenance by the Canal Corp. would ensure that issues are taken care of in a timely manner. The many dead ash trees will need to be culled out from not just the Canal banks, but throughout the state. The plan as it stands and as it has been practiced before the shores of Pittsford, is similar to slash and burn clearcutting done at the turn of the 19th century by loggers. I cannot envision an arborist would advocate the methodology recommended in the plan. It will take more than a generation for trees to grow again. There is time to modify the plan and I hope that will happen. Should you wish to contact me, my address is 310 Colton Avenue, Newark, NY 14513 and my telephone number is 315 945-4403. Thank you for your time and consideration of my thoughts.
631	9/11/2021	Email	The time to deal with a problem is beforehand. Cut back trees that are threatening the integrity of the canal embankments.
632	9/12/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. A canal path without trees will greatly reduce its attraction and usefulness to both people and wildlife, and therefore will likely be deserted over time and then it may well look like a financial burden by then. Why we keep the canal (and the canal corporation) if it is no longer a treasure to the people? The trees along the canal paths in Pittsford and Perinton help to mitigate the air and noise pollutions from Rt.96 and Highway 490. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
633	9/13/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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637	9/14/2021	Email	To whom it Concerns, I have been a resident of Monroe County, NY for over 40 years. I have enjoyed biking and jogging on the canal path. I enjoy the surrounding nature, especially the trees and shrubs. I am adamantly opposed to any major cutting of the trees on the embankment. The only exception would be to repair the embankment. I know that the canal was originally created to transport goods and services and needed to be as efficient as possible. Today, it is solely used for recreation, and the trees enhance that recreational enjoyment. None of the articles I have read indicate that the trees weaken the embankment leading to water leaking from the canal system. If you have other information to share I would appreciate receiving it. Regards,
638	9/14/2021	Email	I am writing express my opposition to the proposed clear-cutting of trees along the Erie Canal in Rochester NY and its suburbs. I cycle regularly along the canal, and the trees provide shade and protection from the sun. Given the rapid warming of the planet, we should not be cutting down trees which absorb greenhouse gasses and provide cooling benefits to local communities. On the contrary, we should be planting more trees. Please do not clear-cut the trees along the canal; they are an essential resource for all Rochesterians. Sincerely,
639	9/15/2021	Email	I recently learned about the EEIP plan that may result in widespread clear-cutting of trees along the embankments of the Erie Canal. As someone whose career is in hydrologic research, I find the logic of blanket clear-cutting of trees in order to stabilize slopes to be unwise at best, and potentially hazardous to stability at worst. Trees can either improve or reduce slope stability, depending on the specific situation. The effect of trees on slope stability depends on many factors (e.g. slope, soil composition, tree species, size, orientation, and health, etc.) and therefore should be addressed on a case-by-case basis. I encourage the NYSCC to look to the scientific & engineering literature to form an evidence-based, site-specific policy regarding the management of trees on canal embankment stability. Best,
640	9/15/2021	Email	Gentlemen: Your plan to remove all the trees along the Erie Canal to save it from breaks is not borne out by the evidence. Historically, when the banks have broken, the cause has been workmen, not tree roots. We in Bushnell's Basin remember our break very well. Not caused by tree roots! Also, the Canal is one of the biggest tourist draws in NYS, aside from Niagara Falls and NYC. The communities along the canal have spent countless hours and dollars enhancing their canalside presence and their efforts have been rewarded with much tourist traffic and local pride. Clear cutting the trees on the banks would ruin the park-like ambience. Don't ruin our canal.
641	9/16/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. As an avid runner I enjoy the serenity of the Erie Canal path. The miles of natural nature and vegetation are a cornerstone to the park like atmosphere of the Erie Canal. We can relate when we compare driving through a local town or village that is only buildings and power lines, vs another village that has trees and plants lining the sidewalks and roads. There's no comparison. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
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645	9/17/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Because it is the home to many different species of wildlife They would be destroying the habitats of wildlife that has been there for years Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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649	9/17/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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654	9/17/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees PREVENT erosion. Also, the globe is literally on fire because of climate change, why are we chopping down trees? We need more green space - vastly more green space - not less, if any of our kids are going to live to grow up. At least try not to make the problem worse. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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668	9/17/2021	Email	<p>I am a resident of Pittsford and use the canal path extensively for walking and biking. I have brought out of town guests to walk, dine bike and hang out. I object strenuously to the damage caused to the path where it has been cleared: it is stripped and left w no shade, flowers or anything that might draw wild life . If maintenance needs to be done then at least get consults from local conservation and garden clubs that can advise on preserving the paths natural beauty or restoring it. Add more waste receptacles as people are dumping their bags of dog poop in the brush. Maybe a few more benches (betting people would buy a bench w a plaque) The path is one of the last places that is open, free, pretty and people tend to display a modicum of social skills and good behavior. R Scoma</p>
669	9/17/2021	Email	<p>To Whom It May Concern, I have been fortunate enough to live on the Erie Canal outside of the Village of Pittsford for 18 years. We have a beautiful little dock we built and have enjoyed planting Privet bushes and Day Lillies to help with beautification and privacy. One year they were all mowed down by a maintenance worker whose job it was to mow everything. We have since been able to mark that area so that hopefully doesn't happen again. When we first built our dock the canal corp or maybe DOT had come along and dredged or scooped up the silt and dragged it over the side rocks. In doing so, the entire embankment was bare and just muddy. We purchased boxes of wild flower seed and spread that all along our area to help get some green and beauty back. During this period of time, our dock was very visible from the towpath and we experienced a lot of our belongings stolen. Flags, entire flag poles, a chair, a potted plant. Beer cans left on it or trash. Once the growth and</p>

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			<p>privets grew in, the dock has become very private where most people walking along the towpath don't even know it's there. It's a perfect little oasis. We also have a lovely mature tree that provides shade.</p> <p>Our concerns are for our privacy being taken away, wild life habitats to suffer, noise to increase and the value of our property to decrease because of all of this. If you were the clear cut this area it would not only take away our privacy on our dock but also the privacy we enjoy at our house from the towpath users by having this green barrier. It would open both areas up to the possibility of more crime, certainly more noise, more wind, no privacy and destroy a beautiful yard where wild life flourishes. The reason we moved to this house 18 years ago was because of it's location. We finally have the sanctuary we want after years of work and would hate to see a blanket approach of clear cutting implemented that would destroy all of that.</p> <p>We have a lakeshore property on a finger lake and were advised by the DEC as well as Cornell to plant trees, bushes and vegetation in general to help with erosion issues on our bank. I can't see how those organizations would recommend that approach to mitigate our cliff from collapsing and slowing erosion, while your organization is recommending the exact opposite</p> <p>Please change your approach. We would be very grateful.</p> <p>Thank you, Gretchen Geiger 315-408-2741</p>
670	9/17/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
671	9/17/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to express my concern about the proposed clear-cutting of the trees along the NY State Canal, as described in the Earthen Embankment Integrity Program Environmental Impact Statement. The project is based on the presumption that all trees are unsuitable vegetation along the canal.</p> <p>I am not an expert, but observation seems to conflict with this approach since there is no evidence that trees have destabilized the canal bank.</p> <p>The approach also seems to step back from the management plan as reported in the Democrat and Chronicle in March 2018. This was in response to the civil action brought against the Canal Corporation's 2017 attempt to clear vegetation from the canal embankments. At that time, the commitment was to work with an arborist for selective tree removal of only those trees that threatened the canal bank.</p> <p>There was also a commitment to residents for restoration after the clear-cutting of trees along the Great Embankment after the September 7, 1998, storm. I am not aware of any restoration efforts. The trees that are there simply grew from the rubble left behind.</p> <p>The "restoration" of the canal area in Brockport that was clear-cut in 2017 does nothing to reduce my concerns for the long-term negative impact the current project will have on the areas chosen for clear-cutting.</p> <p>Based on the observations above, it appears that the chosen approach is to perform clear-cutting and removal on a periodic basis instead of ongoing maintenance of the canal banks.</p> <p>It is particularly concerning to see this proposal at the very time that scientists world-wide are discussing the value of trees in the battle against global warming. In contrast with the unsubstantiated claim that tree roots destabilize the canal banks, trees provide ground stability in instances of heavy rains, which are occurring more often in this part of the country. Numerous studies have indicated that widespread clear-cutting of trees on slopes actually results in an increase in instability and mudslides.</p> <p>I understand that it is easier and probably less expensive to let vegetation grow and then clear-cut once every several years. However, regular inspection and removal of only the trees identified with risk to actual canal banks seems to be a more appropriate approach. It does not appear that this is the currently being done.</p> <p>Sincerely, Verna Hazen 17 Burnley Rise Pittsford, NY 14534</p>
672	9/17/2021	Email	<p>To the Canal Authority:</p> <p>I am writing to express my concern about the proposed clear-cutting of the trees along the NY State Canal, as described in the Canal Authority's <i>Earthen Embankment Integrity Program Environmental Impact Statement</i>. The project is based on the presumption that all trees are unsuitable vegetation along the canal and surrounding areas.</p> <p>I have reviewed the materials by the Canal Authority and opposing groups. The Canal Authority proposal seems to lack evidence that trees have destabilized the canal bank in the past, and that they will in the future.</p> <p>The approach seems to step back from the management plan as reported in the <i>Democrat and Chronicle</i> in March 2018. This was in response to the civil action brought against the Canal Corporation's 2017 attempt to clear vegetation from the canal embankments. At that time, the commitment was to work with an arborist for selective tree removal of only those trees that threatened the canal bank.</p> <p>There was also a commitment to residents for restoration after the clear-cutting of trees along the Great Embankment near Pittsford (NY) after the September 7, 1998, storm. I am not aware of any restoration efforts. The brush and scrub trees that are there simply grew from the rubble left behind.</p> <p>The "restoration" of the canal area in Brockport that was clear-cut in 2017 does nothing to reduce my concerns for the long-term negative impact the current project will have on the areas chosen for clear-cutting.</p> <p>Based on the observations above, it appears that the chosen approach is to perform clear-cutting and removal on a periodic basis instead of ongoing and responsible maintenance of the canal banks.</p> <p>It is particularly concerning to see this proposal at the very time that scientists world-wide are discussing the value of trees in the battle against global warming. In contrast with the unsubstantiated claim that tree roots destabilize the canal banks, trees provide ground stability in instances of heavy rains, which are occurring more often in this part of the country. Numerous studies have indicated that widespread clear-cutting of trees on slopes results in an increase in instability and mudslides.</p> <p>I understand that it is easier and cheaper to clear cut, abandon maintenance efforts for several decades, let vegetation grow untended, and then clear-cut again. However, regular inspection and removal of only the trees identified with risk to actual canal banks seems to be a more appropriate approach and ecologically appropriate. It does not appear that this is the currently being done.</p> <p>As my letter indicates, this is an area of great concern. I hope you will change the path the Authority seems fixated on.</p> <p>Thank you for your efforts.</p>

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674	9/18/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. I value life! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
675	9/18/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Privacy for the home owners. Prevent erosion. Destroying the canal path vegetation will likely lead to reduced usage. Exercise on the canal path also contributes to the health of local patrons, reduced obesity, and stress reduction Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
676	9/18/2021	Email	Dear Canal Corporation I am a recreational user of the Erie Canal path. I have recently learned about the plans to clear-cut the vegetation around the canal and path. I am very disheartened by this news. I often travel to different parts of the canal and I have tried to ride my bike along some sections which have little to no vegetation and have never returned there. They are much too hot to ride along and not near as enjoyable visually. I have limited my on-road bike riding over the past several years due to distracted auto drivers and so have been riding on the canal more and more. There are other trails available like rails to trails, but honestly they aren't as scenic so my preference is the canal. Plus the canal has the bonus of all the towns which are located along it which make nice rest stops. Clear cutting will do irreparable damage - at least in my lifetime. I have riding the length of the canal on my bucket list. I am hopeful that the vegetation remains so that I can make this trip (probably won't do it if the canal path is ruined). thank you for listening Carol Giotto
677	9/18/2021	Email	NO clearcutting along the canal. Protect this beautiful asset for the enjoyment of all. Ann and Harold Castle
678	9/18/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Walking and running along the trail and accompanying tourism us enhanced by tree-shaded areas. We need to be planting trees, not removing them, to help combat global warming. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
679	9/18/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.

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680	9/18/2021	Email	<p>It is devastating to see that the Canal path west of Rochester has been destroyed. I will do everything I can to prevent this from continuing to happen along other portions of the path. It is just devastating to see a 200 yr-old path falling victim to today's people who don't walk the path. If they were canal walkers, they would be convinced of the need for shade and flora and fauna and the issue would be dropped. It was horrible when they started mowing several feet on either side of the path - I was told it was to protect against muggers, to which I replied that in all my years of walking the canal, I had never once seen a mugger hiding in the flowers. I'm all for modern education, but in this matter, 200 years has proven them wrong and this project must be stopped immediately. B. Greene Rochester, NY</p>
681	9/18/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
682	9/18/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. 200 years proves that natural vegetation succeeds. The behavior of the State people is atrocious. We shouldn't have to "fight" the State, who is supposed to be responsive to us. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
683	9/18/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The tree roots are an integral part of the embankment and provide structural integrity. This plan is a recipe for disaster. It will be a matter of time until the canal is breached again. This is a threat to the community and possibly life. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
684	9/18/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
685	9/18/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p>

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			<p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
686	9/18/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Prevents erosion Eventually removing the root systems and trees could destabilize the banks which are only soil. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
687	9/18/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
688	9/19/2021	Email	<p>Dear persons, As a taxpayer and citizen I beg you to leave the trees on the Erie Canal in the Rochester area. Please check out how they improved the Gap, beginning in Pittsburg, by joining it completely and leaving the natural beauty. Tourists love the trees and do not care to ride in the sun on barren landscape. It looks more like the days when it was in operation and barren, when the Erie Canal was being used commercially, where you took down the many trees west of us. Please work with the many many citizens who want the trees to stay. I beg you Marie Peterson Fairport</p>
689	9/19/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Shade is important to kayakers (me) in the canal. Reducing/ removing the trees on the non- water edge is a danger to those houses that are nearby.... back yards or back windows are made visible to voyeurs or others who may want to commit crimes. "Out of sight/ out of mind" is possible when there is tree cover... don't give someone a temptation, and a means (an actual clearing) to behave wrongly. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
690	9/19/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. I appreciate the medicinal plants and have seen the exploitably vulnerable species Sanguinaria canadensis. This will detrimentally impact fungal species in the soil that keep other plants that aren't clear cut healthy. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
691	9/19/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p>

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			<p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>You will be harming the other wildlife, birds/squirrels/etc., that lives by the Erie Canal with this plan. Too many trees are already cut down for houses, companies, etc., but a canal should never be one of those reasons. A canal is supposed to be help someone get in touch with nature while biking or riding, yet this plan will take that away.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
692	9/19/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Plastic pollutes our environment, so we should refrain from adding plastic that appears to be grass to protect our wildlife.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
693	9/19/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>Natural vegetation is an important part of our planet. If we keep going at the rate we are, there will be very little left. We need to celebrate the natural vegetation and make sure we keep it or replace it in order to keep our ecosystem going. The canal is a historic treasure that needs to be preserved, all parts of it.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
694	9/19/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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698	9/19/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
699	9/19/2021	Email	Please do not go the easy but long-run expensive, ecologically-irresponsible route with canal vegetation. Better to restore naive landscape and pay human beings to maintain it (not mow it). The Erie Canal should be for people not rapacious corporations. Please surround our canal with trees and native vegetation. Keith Weber 35 E Albion St Holley, NY 14470 (714) 608-5128 mobile & text
700	9/19/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The natural vegetation supports and creates environments for living organisms. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
701	9/19/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
702	9/19/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Its a resource of biodiversity Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
703	9/19/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Walks in the canal with the beautiful vegetation make it a great place to clear your mind Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
704	9/19/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.

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707	9/19/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
708	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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710	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p>

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712	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. This is big business not caring about the community. The trees are important for our earth. A tiny step to protect our earth that is in so much danger is to keep the trees. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
713	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The trees provide privacy between the canal and nearby homes The main reason I chose to purchase a home in the village of Fairport was the proximity to the canal path and ALL of its beautiful trees. Please do not clear cut!! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
714	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Cutting all the trees down will surely cause erosion of the canal banks. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
715	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I am a distance Walker, and the trees allow me to escape into nature within my hometown. A clearcut plan permanently changes the ecosystem and aesthetics. In a world so concerned about climate change, why destroy nature? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
716	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p>

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717	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
718	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I love walking the tree shaded canal on hot sunny days.</p> <p>I have lived in Fairport for 30 yrs and I use the canal path very frequently. It would be so devastating to me if the trees were cut down that it would actually force me to move out of Fairport.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
719	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>The natural look of the canal is a beautiful and attractive trail and offers some shade when walking, running or biking and it would lose its attraction of its no different than other trails.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
720	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>Having shade along the canal during walks on the path. They've already ruined is for us along the canal east of the village! I can't walk there during the day in the summer now.</p> <p>Clearcutting the trees absolutely ruins the character of the canal and eliminates a significant charm for those who USE it. It isn't used for commerce anymore. It's used by boaters and walkers/runners/bikers who enjoy the everything about the canal. Including IT'S TREES!</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
721	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees stop soil erosion.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
722	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p>

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			<p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Please don't ruin the canal Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
723	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
724	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
725	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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727	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The trees are a lovely attraction when walking on the canal! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
728	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Shade while running along the canal is essential!</p>

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			Do not strip these beautiful trees and make this a glorified roadway! This canal path is a gem - locals and visitors want to walk it for its beauty, and visit local businesses while they walk. Cutting the vegetation down would reduce the foot traffic to these local businesses already hurting from an bridge closure and pandemic. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
729	9/20/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. I have heard both sides of argument. Can there be a middle ground that can be reached that both sides can live with? Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
730	9/20/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Wise management of trees/ shrubs close to the canal is environmentally friendly versus clear cutting! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
731	9/20/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
732	9/20/2021	Email	Want to attend the meeting Monday 9/20 6:30 at the Perinton Community Center, Fairport, NY 14450 Thank you.
733	9/20/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
734	9/20/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. The trees provide a natural buffer to the residential and business areas along the canal. The trees provide and enhance the natural beauty of the canal which is inviting to the growing tourism economy in our area. I lived through the canal break in the 70's in Bushnell's Basin. It was caused by human error not the trees. I've lived along the canal for 58 years in the Pittsford and Fairport area. The trees have never been an issue to the endangerment of the embankment, only to enhance and protect it from eroding. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
735	9/20/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. I walk the canal daily. The shaded areas are essential for everyone to enjoy the canal path. I'm not sure how cutting down trees align with the "green" initiatives of New York State. This is the opposite of what the state should be focusing on right now.

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736	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The trees are magnificent and create Beauty framing our historic canal. To randomly clear cut healthy vegetation is shoddy. If there are concerns about vegetation causing damage work with arborists to determine which trees need to come down. Compromise with the people who live on and love the canal. Clear cut is a quick and dirty means to an end not a thoughtful and collaborative plan. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
737	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Removing trees will make the canal a wind tunnel. Trees and shrubs create a needed wind and snow break. You cannot fully appreciate the value of our cool boating area and bike-riding trail on a hot summer day. That alone attracts visitors to our region. Palmyra does not have much else going for it. East of us, the sun and heat make the zone a scorching, squinting, segment of the canal to avoid!! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
738	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Not only will it look terrible but you arr ruining a natural environment for birds, bees, monarchs and small wildlife! STOP THE CLEAR. NOW!!!!!! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
739	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Walking getting my 10000 steps! Goes by fast while looking around at the trees; birds and flowers, I don't see the reasoning and there isn't a lot of natural beauty left; so sad constantly clearing natural habitats to build apartments etc. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
740	9/20/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p>

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			The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Wildlife will be affected. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
741	9/20/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Keep it Forever Wild like the Adirondacks Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
742	9/20/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The shade they provide & the fall color is amazing! Please stop, the trees have been there for decades and have caused no structural integrity to the canal. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
743	9/21/2021	Email	I've seen the results of your clear-cutting along the canal. You destroyed shade and animal habitat and left an ugly waste behind. You deliberately rushed the initial cutting to do as much damage as you could before the general public knew what you were up to. That's underhanded. The state did not constitute the Canal Corp to be underhanded sneaks; you managed that on your own. Sincerely, G Mazzeo Jr
744	9/21/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. If the size of the trees are an issue how about some planned planting and trimming instead of clear cutting There are other public places I already visit less because a lack of shade, please keep that in mind. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
745	9/21/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
746	9/21/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.

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			The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I love taking my dog on the canal, she loves it. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
747	9/21/2021	Email	I wish to express my opposition to the proposed method for handling tree and shrub growth along the canal. I understand that a certain amount of maintenance and cutting may be necessary. For example the removal of dead/diseased wood and trees and plants that overhang the water. However, there do not appear to be sufficient reasons to go forward with the proposed, extensive removal of all vegetation from the canal to the private property lines. Factors other than the ease of repairing any theoretical, future damage to the embankment must be balanced against other factors surrounding cost, climate change and quality of life. Such factors to consider include: * Aesthetics - The look of the canal path and the opportunity to find shade increase its use by walkers, runners, bicyclists, boaters and tourists. This, in turn, boosts the economy of local canal-side communities. * Cost - The high price tag associated with the proposed vegetation removal could be better spent in many ways to assist with balancing the state budget or improving quality of life within NYS. * Climate change - Climate change is undeniable. World wide, people are trying to increase forest and tree growth to counteract man-made carbon dioxide emissions. To expend fossil fuel in order to remove trees to address a problem that may never occur is unjustifiable folly. * Erosion - Although I am not a scientist, I cannot help but think that removal of vegetation will contribute to soil erosion and possibly increased canal dredging needs. * Habitat loss - Mass removal of vegetation will result in habitat loss for many animals and insects and reduce flora for our shrinking population of pollinators. The canal is a recreational mainstay in the greater Rochester area. Its use and popularity has been on a steady rise. The drastic vegetation removal that has been proposed will detract from the appeal of the canal for all users. I urge you to consider a more targeted approach to vegetation management (in conjunction with local communities) in order to appropriately address the above mentioned concerns.
748	9/21/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Family picnics, wildlife This will be devastating if it's allowed to happen Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
749	9/21/2021	Email	Completely stripping our embankments of all vegetation would be a travesty. Please do NOT clearcut our embankments I live in Pittsford, on the canal. We have a boat and thoroughly enjoy boating through Pittsford / Fairport. The beauty of the canal would be destroyed if you do this.
750	9/21/2021	Email	Mr. Candiloro, Today I attended the second presentation by the Canal Corp. at the Perinton Community Center, Fairport, NY. The people there were knowledgeable, the slides were helpful, and the sound system Worked well. This educated me a lot about the NY Power Authority and the Canal Corp, and the Reasons for clearing brush and sometimes, trees, along the Erie Canal. The young woman who moderated the event was superb. Really Excellent!! She understood the Agency, the Guidebook, aspects of the engineering and work done on dams and waterways, and She was able to speak to us clearly and concisely about it, as we learned about the work and the Role of the NYPA and the CC. She reflected back each public comment, so the speaker knew their Message was heard, and she then added an answer or was able to refer the question to one of the Technical experts present. Kudos to her, and to them all. The first meeting was last night, Monday, 9-20-21, which I missed. The moderator began by Acknowledging the high tension and deep emotion present in that late meeting, too. We love our trees! The message I got was that no clear-cutting of all trees along the entire Canal length is planned. Some areas will be cleared of brush and smaller trees, to assess for Seeps and such problems. ---Earthen embankments, which are mostly in Western New York counties, need special monitoring and care. ---Towns with Waterfront Plans will be consulted. --Agricultural and tourism uses of the canal will be considered a bit more than planned, a few years ago. —Communication with town officials, people who own property along the canal, and public notices Of planned work for the entire local public to be aware will be improved. The Town of Pittsford puts out an electronic newsletter about every two weeks. That is where I saw the notice for this meeting, and I made a note of it on my calendar. Thanks for working with the local people to make the process better for everyone. Sincerely, Sandra Glantz
751	9/21/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.

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			<p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
752	9/21/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>Gorgeous, shade-giving, erosion-preventing, life-sustaining trees have thrived along the Erie Canal for generations and are now an integral part of our Upstate and Western New York way of life. homeowners and occupants of canal-side residences make significant investments in these properties because of the beauty of the Erie Canal and its embankments. Owners and operators of canalside businesses make similar investments to attract local and visiting customers. The Erie Canal is a recognized economic driver throughout New York, especially in the tourism industry.</p> <p>We should be preserving wildlife habitat, and vegetation as a beautiful means of carbon sequestration.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
753	9/21/2021	Email	<p>Dear Canal Corporation and Governor,</p> <p>I understand the Canal Corporation would like to remove most or all the vegetation along the Erie canal embankments. In the areas where the canal towpath is used for recreation this is a terrible idea.</p> <p>I frequently (more than weekly) bicycle along the towpath and I have biked the whole route from Buffalo to Albany. My children learned to bicycle along the canal.</p> <p>In the Brockport to Newark section that I am most familiar with the canal is heavily used for recreation</p> <p>In my across-NYS ride, the sections without greenery (e.g. most of the stretch from Lockport to Brockport) are decidedly less pleasant than those that are tree-shaded — the barren sections have no protection against either sun or wind. To reduce the greenery even more would degrade the environment, the scenic beauty of the canal, and the recreational aspects of the canal.</p> <p>We do not need a canal across NYS that is just a trench in a desert. Communities have been building on the recreational aspects more and more — let's improve the scenic aspects, not degrade it.</p> <p>Scenic and recreational utility should not take a back seat to engineering and maintenance convenience.</p> <p>Besides that, to mitigate climate change issues, we should be encouraging tree growth, not chopping trees down.</p> <p>David Cok Rochester NY</p>
754	9/22/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Trees provide shade while walking</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
755	9/22/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
756	9/22/2021	Email	<p>I'm writing concerning the proposal by the New York Power Authority to clear-cut trees along the Erie Canal. My husband and I have recently built a house in Pittsford after living in Boston for several years. One of the primary reasons for our move back to New York was the Canal, and all it offers recreationally.</p> <p>We frequently walk and bike the trail between Henrietta and Fairport, enjoying the Canal's beauty. It serves as an economic engine for the towns along its banks, and we often patronize the businesses in that section. We've had the opportunity to experience a sense of community while listening to the summer concerts across from Schoen Place. We've hiked the Cartersville Trail along the Great Embankment, and ridden the Sam Patch, learning about the history of the Canal.</p> <p>We have seen the effects brought on by the clearcutting of the trees in Brockport, and are truly saddened by the devastation. We DO NOT SUPPORT this type of Canal maintenance, and feel strongly that a more surgical approach where only those dead/decaying trees, or those that pose an <u>established</u> hazard to the embankment or nearby houses, should be removed. The trees along the Canal provide us with welcome shade so we're able to enjoy it at the height of the summer, as well as offering privacy to those living adjacent to it. And this past year it has truly afforded us a welcome respite from the constraints of the pandemic.</p> <p>As stewards of our community, we feel the Power Authority needs to take a less impactful approach to this jewel of our area so as not to destroy the benefits it offers to all of us New Yorkers.</p>
757	9/22/2021	Email	<p>I implore you to NOT clear cut the foliage adjacent to the Erie Canal in Pittsford and Fairport. The canal is an important recreational waterway. Tourism on the canal contributes positively to the local economy. The trees reduce carbon dioxide thus mitigating climate change. Clear cutting the trees along the canal would not only have devastating aesthetic effects,</p>

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			it would have negative financial and environmental impacts. Clear cutting may slightly reduce maintenance costs in the short term, but it would have a long term effects on the quality of life for those of us who live in the eastern suburbs of Rochester, NY. We recognize and appreciate the value of the canal as a recreational waterway that contributes to a high quality of life.
758	9/22/2021	Email	<p>I attended one of the information sessions on September 21st and the representation from the Canal Corporation did not make a compelling case for the need to remove trees to ensure the safety of nearby residents of the canal. The canal has existed with trees on the embankments for decades without any breaches caused by trees.</p> <p>My key takeaway from the session is that the Canal Corporation has an issue visually inspecting the embankments, and that low-lying brush impedes these inspections. If that is the case, then I suggest that brush and very small trees (diameter of less than 3") be cleared to enable better inspections, and that all remaining larger trees be left in place. It came up during the meeting that there was no evidence that a tree had ever caused an embankment failure, which further supports not removing the trees. It is my opinion that the trees are what the public (myself included) care the most about retaining, as they provide both privacy for homeowners, shade for users of the canal path, and provide scenic value. Removing the trees would irrevocably impact the canal in a negative way.</p> <p>In addition, I would argue that leaving dead tree roots to rot in the embankment (after cutting by the Canal Corp) would be more of a risk than leaving the live trees in place - everything I had read in the past suggested that trees help stabilize soils. If it is proposed that the dead roots are to be dug up to avoid any rot, then the activity of digging has a stronger track record of creating embankment failures than live trees.</p> <p>Lastly, the amount of money that would be spent to remove the trees is in the many millions of dollars. I believe it is wasteful to spend so much on something that so many residents feel will leave the canal, and by extension our town, in a worse place than it was prior to the project. It would undoubtedly cost less to just do brush removal and leave the trees in place - a "brush hog" or similar device can cover an acre of land and leave behind only wood chips in a short period of time. If shrub removal can satisfy inspections, and cost a fraction of full clear cut tree removal, then I cannot see how that is not the best option at this time. It is certainly understandable to need better access for inspections, but please let's do so in a responsible way that minimizes the cost and minimizes the impact to residents and canal path users.</p>
759	9/23/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
760	9/23/2021	Email	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>I realize that there will need to be some measure of tree and brush removal to check on the status of different canal embankments.</p> <p>My biggest concern is that those removing the trees and brush will lean to the side of removing whatever is easiest for them rather than only the absolute minimum that needs to be removed. We all saw what happened with the clear cutting on the westside and that cannot happen again.</p> <p>I would like to stress our family's view that only the minimalist removal occurs and that there are clear standards and expectations of what is allowable rather than those onsite just getting to make the decisions they find easiest.</p> <p>Thank you, Drs. Brian & Mary Caitlin Wight</p>
761	9/23/2021	Email	<p>I would like these comments to be come part to the permanent record against the proposed Clear Cutting of the Erie Canal.</p> <p>I attended 2 meetings at the Perinton community center this week and a few things became evident.</p> <p>The NY Power Authority/Canal Corps major concern is that you avoid any canal breach so as NOT to be held Liable.</p> <p>Clear Cutting of the canal will allow for easier inspection of Seeps and addressing those seeps so as to avoid a breach.</p> <p>It was also made clear that there is no historical data that proves Trees cause Seeps/Breach's.</p> <p>One thing the Power Authority/Canal Corp has done is relabeled the canal embankment as a Dam. By doing so the input they received from Core of Engineers and other such entities is that trees do not belong on a Dam. It is not a Dam. It is a canal embankment.</p> <p>It was also stated that the Canal Corp has identified 200 Seeps with their present system of inspection. Which is an increase of about 50 in the past so many years. That indicates that the present system of inspection is working.</p> <p>Since this present inspection system is working, there is no need to clear cut the canal. Area's identified should be watched and addressed as needed. Clear cutting the canal is expensive, destructive, and environmentally wrong on so many levels. With the current issues of Climate Change, removing our carbon absorbing trees so that inspections can be made easier, inspections that are currently working, is unacceptable.</p> <p>I understand that working around the current vegetation will make the work go slower, and possibly be more costly. But we must look to the future. We must be more aware of the needs of the environment. By disregarding it, we humans will suffer in the long term. We are feeling the affects now by the poor decisions of the past. We can not continue on this path of passing the buck (the problems) to our future generation.</p> <p>You have seen how passionate this community is. We are willing to be part of the solution. We are willing to be volunteer inspectors, walking the canal, getting down into the woods and looking for wet spots (I do that now).</p> <p>I live right across from Jefferson Ave school, one of your identified high hazard spots. I am not worried about a breach in our area because the woods adjacent to the canal in my area are dry. Also I did see workmen there is spring working on a culver. Your current work is working. Do not try to scare us into allowing you to do something so wrong for the future of our area.</p> <p>We should be working together on this issue, not fighting about it. You need to compromise your plan because we will not stop fighting. You are threatening something very dear to our hearts and the data you set forward does not add up. Trees are not the problem. Your plan is.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Barbara Pudiak tribarbara@gmail.com</p>

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762	9/23/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
763	9/23/2021	Email	<p>I recently attended a Perinton Town meeting hosting members of the Canal Corp. By the end of the meeting, a lot was certainly learned. After assuring the group in the first hour that there would be discussion before clear cutting, it became more obvious that clearing the shrubs and trees is their only plan. This plan is in place despite the fact that there are no recorded instances in history where growth has caused a canal breach. It appears that under the current plan, anything under three inches (all saplings and bushes) would be cleared. And unless certain conditions were met, larger trees will be cleared with a simple notification.</p> <p>The corporation is using guidance from an antiquated document produced by the US Corps of Engineers. According to Dr Maier, the current staff of the Corps no longer supports this criterion. I urge you to speak with someone there directly, as well as other guardians of canals with similar embankments. Again, there have been no breaches caused by vegetation in the history of the Erie canal.</p> <p>The Royalton incident recently is an excellent example of how seepage was detected without the area being clear-cut. The document must be modified and based on actual data, but the speculative claim of the Corps. Please convene a group of citizens, including outside engineers, to create a more versatile document than the current guidebook.</p>
764	9/23/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
765	9/23/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>Tree roots slow down erosion and keep nutrients in the soil. Also, I love the diversity of areas with trees (both environmental and aesthetic) Clear cuts are, almost without exception, a bad idea</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
766	9/23/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Will CC/NYPA bring scientists, plant biologists, and experts in climate change and extreme weather ramifications to the table while crafting the guidebook?</p> <p>Will the engineers and the Regional manager of CC/NYPA contact the scientist /expert on woody vegetation on levees from USACE that was supplied to them by Virginia Maier?</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
767	9/24/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>We need to teach our youth their value. Cutting them down because it is the easier approach sends a message that they are not important. We need our children to also protect our world and they learn from us!</p>

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769	9/24/2021	Email	I'm writing to comment on the plan to clear cut trees near the Erie Canal in the Rochester, NY and surrounding areas. I'm a frequent user of the canalway trail and am concerned about planned clear cutting of trees. The trees near the canal provide shade, protection from wind (a consideration for cyclists), oxygen, and improved aesthetic. As an alternative I suggest cutting brush and selectively removing trees based on the health of the tree or those that pose clearer risk to the integrity of the embankments. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
770	9/24/2021	Email	Please do not clear cut the Erie Canal tow path. Your clear cutting plan damages the environment and makes the canal path less attractive to folks like me who use the path regularly. I depend on bicycling on the canal path to get to work. I've seen the sections of the path you've already clear cut, and it is dismal. The thought of losing shade, wind protection, and the feeling of being surrounded by nature on my commuting route makes me cry. ~Theresa McFarland-Porter
771	9/24/2021	Email	I am taking this opportunity to provide feedback after attending 2 in person public meetings held in Perinton this past week. I was highly disappointed with the presentation and it's content. I came expecting to gain a better understanding and appreciation of WHY this program has been created and its need for implementation...neither of these expectations were remotely met. What I got was a dry, bare bones, generic power point with the same talking points and fears that goes back to the 4 year life span of this effort. Showing a picture of the breach in Bushnells Basin some 50 years ago, as an example of what could happen, had nothing to do with the issue at hand....clear cutting the embankments. Because, as was repeatedly asked and answered, the FACT remains that in the 200 year history of the Erie Canal there has NEVER been a tree related breach. So my takeaway was, you want to spend millions of dollars to "fix a problem" where one does not clearly and convincingly exist! One of my other disappointments with the meetings was the lack of preparedness demonstrated by the speakers. Numerous questions were asked seeking data about the current condition of the areas in question specific to our region and the panelists were unable to answer them. We were told that some of the earthen embankments were deemed "high risk" due to their proximity to schools, business and/or homes but no one present was able to speak to the issue of condition of these embankments. We were told there are currently 200 seeps in the embankment section of the canal but were never told if these were in high risk areas. The use of data to manipulate the conversation and create false concern was a frequent feature of the presentation and in response to questions. In the end the NYSCC failed to make a compelling case that tree removal is an essential necessity to the welfare of the canal's safety. Your default position for your continued justification remains the guidelines/recommendations from the Army Corps & FEMA, items that have been disputed and even refuted. I heard nothing at the presentation about new or dynamic methods of monitoring seeps or areas of concern. It certainly appeared that the audience was responsible for proposing novel ideas and approaches by offering alternative solutions. The panelists came to us and presented one way of addressing the issue without apparently seeking out "best practices" or "bench marking" by other agencies, organizations, states or countries who may also be facing a similar set of circumstances and arrived at an alternative solution. Another glaring weakness in the crafting of the EEIP is its absence of experts from other disciplines. All we have is "group think" by engineers who are inclined to view problems through a very narrow and myopic point of view. Much like seeing every problem as a nail and thinking a hammer is your only tool in the tool book. We need both a bigger tent, to allow for diverse and divergent points of view, which would then result in a more diverse toolbox. Just to be clear here, this means going way beyond adding staff from other state agencies but seeking out and collaborating with professionals from the public and private sector as well as community members, to lend their academic knowledge, expertise, and historical knowledge by offering creative problem solving. Canal safety is a legitimate concern but.....this issue is not a binary one...it is not an either/or scenario....but one that must be approached with thoughtfulness and care to craft a due no harm solution; Taking in to consideration the issues of deforestation, climate change, carbon sequestration, and economic impact. You only get one shot at this, there are no do overs as our neighbors in Holley, Medina, Brockport and Spencerport have learned first hand ... you can not uncut a tree! In conclusion, There is a lot more thought and work that must occur before any work proposed in this document moves forward!
772	9/24/2021	Email	To whom it may concern: The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because:

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			<p>The canal is a unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. They cut the wind in winter! The canal path is not just a summer venue. The idea of clearcutting the canal absolutely appalls me: it is *beautiful* and healthy (for the climate, for creatures, for me on my bike in summer or walking in winter) and fine just the way it is. Why in the WORLD do you think it's a good idea to expend a ton of fossil fuels first to cut down trees - our natural CO2 processors, not to mention wildlife habitats - for, as far as I can see, no reason at all! Just to do it? So you have more lawns to mow, with more fossil fuels? It's beyond stupid; it would be obscene to destroy the current situation. We are So Lucky here in Upstate to have all the trees and greenery that we have; misguided efforts like this are... unforgivable. Ridiculous. Evil, frankly. Please, please, PLEASE stop the madness!!!! DON'T DO THIS. Climate change is real, dudes. WE NEED TREES!!! -Suzanne Bell, very concerned citizen</p>
773	9/24/2021	Email	<p>To whom it may concern, Look at the images of the attached projects the town of Pittsford promotes. I see dogs in the frog pond, unleashed and free to chase away any critter that once roamed this previously undisturbed portion of habitat. If concerns for the frogs or the environment were at the top of the town's list of priorities they would have left well enough alone. How many trees and shrubs were removed when making this unnecessary new trail/park? Aren't the thousands of trails in our area and along the towpath enough? Why is Pittsford's town supervisor fighting so hard to protect these embankment trees that grew out of neglect? The canal structure is unnatural. A major part of its survival is to keep it that way. I remember being able to park my car at Great Embankment in Pittsford to launch our kayaks. Once the bulldozers showed up and turned the forested area into playing fields, I couldn't find a space to park close to the water, so we stopped going there. They've expanded that field over the years and added parking lots where trees once stood and there seems to be no limit to how many trees they will remove right next to the canal. People show up for sports, then go home. They don't walk the Towpath or care about any habitat surrounding it. What these politicians are supporting is for popularity's sake. Period. It's not even considered selective activism since they truly have no preference in this matter. If Mrs Agte's campaign was to promote taking these trees down, I promise they would side with this effort if her claimed "supporters" were as numerous. 10 moms/dads sign a petition for something and that's 10 potential votes for reelection. It's the time one woman is putting into this campaign that makes people think it's real. It's not! Mrs Agte's false claim of hundreds of supporters is a number Mr Smith's ego can't ignore, so all common sense and engineering facts are pushed aside. A small group of misled followers eventually becomes the new truth regardless of putting someone's life at risk. Until lives are lost or a catastrophe happens. Mr Smith and Mrs Agte will continue to speculate, twist the facts, spew irrelevant and nonsensical arguments and act irresponsibly. Such is life in today's social media game. Whoever tries harder wins regardless of being right. These politicians- regular people like you and I, just need to try harder! Be leaders, not followers! The only true course of action in the end may be to deem all homes within a certain area below the waterline as being in a hazardous flood zone. Penalize people for living below a man made and unstable river so their insurance can cover the cost to rebuild any home that may succumb to a random breach, or to pay for lawsuits for a worst case scenario- loss of life. A disclaimer should accompany any sale of these homes. People are selling already as word is out. One that backs the canal below the waterline is under contract. Unlike homes along the ocean, the canal offers far less to these homeowners who the STCC says wants their privacy protected from boats and joggers. Home values will plummet and the entire area will become less desirable to live. A major loss in tax revenue for the town. People don't look at the repercussions and long-term effects of their decisions. Instead of reimagining the canal and its potential for growth, Mrs Agte and Mr Smith are devaluing it and destroying its potential. The more homes and newer development that exist along the waterfront, the more people will want to protect the man made embankments. It's in everyone's best interest. I truly hope you do what's now very difficult and correct and refuse to put one person living below the waterline at risk. Go to court 10 times if you have to and drag it out as far as you need to. "YOU NEED TO PROTECT YOUR CANAL AND THE FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES YOU ALLOWED TO LIVE BELOW THE WATERLINE!" Even if our town took responsibility for this portion of your canal- which they can't since their neglect affects all travel up and down the waterway, it would always fall back on the Canal Corporation if someone was to get injured or killed in due to a breach. Proving what caused it would be difficult, but blame would not rest on the town's shoulders alone. They can't take responsibility for this historic waterway. YOU MUST! Lastly, you do realize these local politicians are just regular people who've had many careers in their lives. They have no business jumping on topics for popularity's sake and promoting this nonsense for the public to see. It's reckless behavior whether they realize it or not. You need to let them know their behavior is such and won't be tolerated any longer. They've spoken, proved nothing and need to back off and stop harassing the Canal Corporation! We're tired of it and it's costing us time and money. Attention needs to be directed elsewhere 3 years into this utterly pointless debate. Thanks again for listening to my concerns, [REDACTED]</p>

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774	9/25/2021	Email	<p>The trees along the Erie Canal trail have real value. They can provide shade in the hot sun, shelter in the rain, carbon capture, privacy for nearby homes, sound deadening, and aesthetic beauty. This improves the quality of life in the Rochester area, which I've got to imagine increases property values as well. Please don't clear cut. In fact, please plant some more trees.</p>
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775	9/25/2021	Email	<p>Question for the record: Has there ever been an actual documented case of tree roots causing a canal breach anywhere in the world?</p>
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776	9/25/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Trees communicate with each other, take care of each other and react to the destruction of vegetation and other trees Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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777	9/25/2021	Email	<p>Dear Canal Corporation/James Candiloro,</p> <p>I wanted to thank you and your team for meeting with the community this past week. My name is Steve Gissin from Fairport. I was sitting up front in the evening meeting on Tuesday, and fist bumped you all afterwards to show my appreciation.</p> <p>I know it was not an easy task to get up in front of the community like you did. I appreciate the communication and learned a great deal from your presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I do realize you are looking for a solid long-term solution to the issue you're facing with the canal. • However, before you move to your design stage and consider such a permanent solution (as I shared in the meeting) <u>my wish is for your team to spend some time benchmarking with other canal management entities worldwide before you decide to clear cut.</u> • We are only a zoom call away from other townships and engineers in canal cities such as Shanghai, Amsterdam, and towns in the UK. • I am certain that those who manage those older canals while keeping their trees in place would be more than happy to share how they do it. • With only 1 documented case of a tree breaching the canal in 100 years, it's a tricky argument to make in a public meeting and get the community on board. • So.... <u>spending a few weeks researching to uncover other technologies and/or approaches over clearcutting could create a win/win for your organization AND the community.</u> • This also may open the door to less labor intensive approached and significant taxpayer savings to get you to your solution. <p>Thank you for listening as part of your process.</p>
778	9/25/2021	Email	<p>I attended one of the informational sessions in Fairport last week.</p> <p>You never gave one instance of a tree damaging an embankment or causing seepage!</p> <p>My question is: why are you cutting down trees? Do you enjoy killing things for no reason?</p> <p>Trees help our environment in so many ways – they purify the air, provide soil stability with their roots, are home to many creatures, and give us shade and beauty.</p> <p>To destroy trees is a sin against nature and our earth. But you'll do what you want to anyway, so why am I wasting my time writing this.</p> <p>Janice</p>
779	9/25/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Have there been any studies done on the removing of vegetation's impact on the release of CO2 and on the habitat?</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
780	9/26/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Cutting trees at this moment in world history is a blow against our last hopes of mitigating climate change. We need every tree!</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
781	9/26/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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783	9/27/2021	Email	<p>Hello, “My” section of the canal is the stretch from Spencerport to Brockport. I abhorred the tree-cutting in Brockport, but what I would like to address is the management of the grassy areas. As soon as a grassy area starts to grow, it gets mowed! Too often and too short!!! Way too often and way too short!!! There are many grassy areas that are treated like it’s someone’s front yard. PLEASE let the grassy areas become meadow areas with only occasional mowing to promote wildlife, birds, pollinators, and our enjoyment of the canal. There are some grassy areas that are so wide that I wonder why it needs to be mowed at all so far away from the bank. More trees and vegetation please! The current mowing of the areas of grass is atrocious – aesthetically, environmentally, and fiscally. Thank you from someone who loves the canal, Carol Whitbeck</p>
784	9/27/2021	Email	<p>Question: Your own document: New York State Canal Recreationway Plan refers to the Canal (page 51) as a “Linear Park”. Why does the “Community Threshold” for parks not apply to the entire length of the canal?</p>
785	9/27/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. There is an opportunity here to promote the natural beauty surrounding the canal as part of its attraction with tourism, provide economic support for communities by working to preserve the flora and fauna of the area, and help combat climate disruption. Clear cutting is not a good way to preserve the canal and may lead to more degradation. The canal was a bold and innovative approach to an issue the state had early on, and while frankly not a great environmentalist approach to responding to that issue, it helped to advance the state in many ways. Now that the environment has embraced the canal it is time to be bold, creative, and innovative in our efforts to preserve everything about the canal, including its current flora, so that the canal can continue its mission of advancing the state. Clear cutting is neither creative or innovative, and its boldness is only in destruction, which is not the best way for the state to move forward. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
786	9/27/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. I love running and walking my dog on the canal (daily), and the trees provide shade and aesthetic beauty. The environmental impact studies seem one-sided. The Canal Corporation/Power Authority has a financial incentive for their studies to promote clearcutting because, that means less maintenance work and expenditures for their corporation. The bigger impact and long-term consequences have not sufficiently been researched, because they are seeking the simplest/cheapest/easiest solution for their corporation. Additional non-partisan research is needed as well as long term effects of the trees and vegetation including looking at emotional impact. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
787	9/27/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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789	9/27/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. I bought my home and was willing to pay higher property taxes to live in the village of Pittsford for proximity to the canal as the lovely, shaded natural recreation space that it is. Maintaining it as such also contributes to my home's current value, since I can easily walk or bike to the canal path in a couple of directions. To clear cut would not only destroy the natural beauty of the canal, but would like reduce my home's value. I strenuously oppose this. On a personal level, I also run along canal and value the privacy that the trees afford. If I felt I were in someone's backyard the whole way, it would be a deterrent. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
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803	9/27/2021	Email	<p>Feel free to share this information with your lawyer, the Canal Corporation, our town supervisors, Government agencies or whomever you wish.</p> <p>Please be aware, Mrs Agte has been posting illegal signage on busy street corners in her attempts to gain support of her failed campaign. This past year has been a frenzy of activity on her part to try and stop the embankment program- for very selfish reasons.</p> <p>Understand, Mrs Agte's battle is against Mike Caswell, not the Canal Corporation's tree clearing effort. Mrs Agte posted fake signage to attack Mike's support for my son's Eagle project on a section of the canal several years back. Her methods have not changed in 4 years.</p> <p>This all stems from Mike, Elizabeth and a few other friends in my neighborhood (who I did not know at the time) wanting to assist my son in his quest to clean up a very hazardous section of the canal called the Oxbow. Mrs Agte, Mike and a few others were all dog walkers and met on the Oxbow in Fairport every day. They asked how they could get involved. Mike's somewhat forceful involvement was welcomed at first, but his comments to Mrs Agte over a cleared raspberry bush to the group's email exploded. The group jumped to Mrs Agte's defense and Mke retaliated. Mrs Agte formed a quorum (posted a signed document on a tree) to stop Mike's involvement and control over portions of my son's Eagle project on the Oxbow. My 13 year old son was caught in the middle of what turned into a very nasty quarrel between Mike and his ex dog walking group that Elizabeth remained part of. Mike was pushed out of their group, so my son's project became a new social outlet for him. They soon backed off on assisting my son and instead turned against the project to stop it! Mrs Agte got Mike's close friends to turn against him and take photos of him helping my son. They sent photos to the Canal Corporation, an inspector came out to check things out and we were told to continue the great job we were doing. Mike publicly shamed Mrs Agte for what she and his ex friends did. Mrs Agte then posted harmful signage saying "no pesticides" with a picture of a bee on it. Mike ripped the signs down and again publicly posted what Mrs Agte did. It was an all out war between Mike and Elizabeth. Mrs Agte campaigned to everyone she could on her daily dog walks down the Oxbow spreading rumors saying we were harming the environment. It was all very sneaky and put my son in a very awkward position. Mrs Agte even contacted our Scoutmaster trying to get us in trouble! We continued to clear oil drums, barbed wire, dozens of tires, bulldozed cottage waste and tons of hazardous debris from the Oxbow. Mike blogged about how great these efforts were and Mrs Agte complained and told everyone the town wasn't disposing of our waste properly. The town responded and put her in her place. Mrs Agte was ruthless!</p> <p>A few years ago, Mike Caswell posted to the community his support for the embankment tree clearing. He included detailed maps of the portions to be cleared. Mrs Agte saw this as a perfect opportunity to finally get back at Mike and stop something else he supported. Mike's discovery of a major leak in the canal made him a local hero of sorts, which Mrs Agte also attacked. Mike posts everything and sends out emails to groups regularly.</p> <p>Since trees are a sensitive issue with today's climate concerns, Mrs Agte knew she had something she could combat to upset Mike. It's working 4 years later. It's caused Mike an enormous amount of time and stress. She's won regardless of the outcome. I just hope she stays quiet and doesn't find another issue Mike supports to combat. And, Mike has a way of making things worse for himself. His public claims of the Canal Corporation clearing trees 100ft back on both sides of the canal got Mrs Agte's attention and she went wild with it. That's the problem. These two people don't check the facts before posting. They post, spread rumors and cause controversy. I've been Mike's voice of reason a timer or two, or three. On a walk home from school down the Oxbow with my daughter, I asked Mrs Agte and her boyfriend if I could have a word with them. I told them all of the nonsense over the Oxbow has been a struggle, but I just want to move on. I</p>

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Understanding of your safety program is common sense to me regardless of any negative effects on our ecosystem and most likely stems from my interests and lifelong desire to understand how things work. It's very, very easy for Mrs Agte to approach the average person or politician and make them believe the State is corrupt and irresponsible in "their total disregard" for our carbon footprint, animal habitat, shade, oxygen or whatever else she says these trees provide us. "Show us examples of past floods from trees!" The Canal Corporation can't reason with the average politician or jogger along the canal and does not have the means to force people to study the basics principles of water pressure, erosion, root growth and decay.. Therefore, people side with what's easy to relate to. Mrs Agte prays on this fact, which is why people like Mr Smith will side with her against Mike Caswell's ECNA. There are a couple thousand people in Perinton alone who- if contacted, may join Mrs Agte's battle. Finding these engineers and others in the crowd is far more difficult.</p> <p>Mrs Agte also has ties to local politicians who live within walking distance of her home. She has influenced their decision to support her before they came into power. As these are publicly elected officials, I have no doubt they are afraid of what Mrs Agte will say about them if they don't side with her. Mrs Agte has publicly shamed our town Supervisor for not supporting her. She is now bullying our town employees. She's slamming them for unrelated issues in retaliation and is doing the same thing to the Canal Corporation with the Reimagine efforts, a breach in Palmyra and other efforts to make the canal a better place to enjoy. Again, Mrs Agte will make others suffer and has no regard for their well being or happiness. It's taken me half a decade of dealing with Mrs Agte to figure this out. Mike does want to help the community, but his methods of delivery unintentionally get in the way of his goals.</p> <p>As for me, I'm a landlord who manages and maintains 3 duplexes. I deal with drug problems, marital issues, and even death. I'm on a Scout committee and am involved with the Board of Directors for my HOA. I volunteer for Scouts, for my church and am all about community support and fellowship. I seek no ill will towards anyone who's caused me personal harm and am able to move on. As this issue is literally in my backyard and I'm closer to the source of where these fights stemmed from, I have to voice my concerns. This is information your lawyer needs to study and understand when deciding what the true nature of these complaints are, who they are directed towards and why. My comments are absolutely from an insider's perspective. I know Mike well and have personal ties to both him and Elizabeth. Elizabeth walks by my house several times per day. I can't avoid Her or Mike and have to be civil to both of them in order to live peacefully in this small neighborhood and network of canal related controversies. I won't get into what happened to my recent efforts to rebuild an historic bridge on the Oxbow. I'm sure you can ask someone and they can fill you in on the details.</p> <p>Mrs Agte has also fought the town and neighbors to farm bees in her small backyard. Her hive outgrew her one box, split and swarmed. I'm pretty certain her bees ended up in my neighbor's wall, leading to a bit of damage, but did not press the issue. The town was forced to grant Mrs Agte an additional hive to keep her bees from swarming and outgrowing their space. Mrs Agte is no stranger to getting what she desires. Her battle over that raspberry bush was due to her desire to make jam, not to provide sustenance for the birds. After some research we discovered those bushes were called wineberries and are on the DEC's list of highly invasive plants. We cut down some invasive knotweed and Mrs Agte claimed her bees benefited from the knotweed flowers. She also claimed the ragweed we mowed was beneficial. She assumed it was goldenrod. Her research is little before she publicly complains. We've educated her far more than she has others. I even got her into mushroom foraging years back- just before she got angry over the wineberry bush we trimmed back. Mrs Agte also posted lies on her site claiming there wasn't a single bird or animal on the Oxbow after the Scout's efforts. This is 100% opposite of the truth. Deer love the fresh cut grass, turtles can now cross the pathway to lay eggs, snakes, frogs and other creatures come up from the water to eat bugs and squirrels are burying nuts like there is no tomorrow. Fox, racoons, heron, kingfishers and even bald eagles are spotted in this area regularly. You are dealing with a habitual and irrational liar! This is Mrs Agte's character, plain and simple. She's Everyone locally seems to understand this. Why can't you?</p> <p>Supervisor Smith has absolutely nothing to lose if you continue with your project and he'll still retain his voter's support after his sympathetic loss. Everyone truly understands they have nothing to lose but some shade at a particular time in the afternoon. Losing the canal is a much higher risk to take, so their fears of victory may haunt them with each major storm, praying no tree will uproot causing any damage or small catastrophe. Mr Smith must know he can't win, or is in complete denial dragging every politician he can down with him. Mrs Agte on the other hand sees your program's success as a major loss to her years of fighting Mike. Again, history proves she's a habitual liar and will sacrifice her own happiness and others to reprimand Mike Caswell's continued public shaming of her. She's bitter, and understandably so, but has no right to drag you or the public into her hidden agenda.</p> <p>Without the Boy Scouts and my son's Eagle project, there would be zero view of the waterfront and Oxbow Road would be fully engulfed by brambles, ragweed and vines. Clearing the embankments will produce similar vistas, take the tunnel effect out of this section of ugly overgrowth and make these sections of canalway more enjoyable and safe. People will soon forget about the tree clearing as Mrs Agte now accepts why we did what we did on the Oxbow. Your efforts will be appreciated and accepted by all very quickly. Mrs Agte did not want to lose the Oxbow to her complaints, but was willing to do so to upset Mike. A self sacrifice that would have affected her and the community she truly cares nothing about. Elizabeth vs Mike. I promise this is the truth of the matter. Mrs Agte, Mr Smith and anyone who's read Mike's ECNA links (which I'm sure they have) all fully understand they are fighting something they shouldn't. It's far too complicated to explain Mrs Agte's reasons behind her purposeful denial of the facts. What's important is that you, Mr Smith, our town supervisors and a few other key members of this issue do know what's going on. I've contacted them in the past, so they are aware of where this issue stemmed from. I'm sure Mike has too- but not in as truthful a manner as I have.</p> <p>We clear far more trees from railroads, power lines, highways and other portions of state land with no complaint from environmentalists. Why is a highway made of water any different? Because people are allowed on its nicely groomed pathways the Canal Corporation so graciously maintains for their use! People who actually use the canal aren't complaining! Mrs Agte is complaining. One person! One person with a social media tool to make the Canal Corporation think she has validity! Buildings, bridges, levees and all sorts of infrastructure all across America is in desperate need of attention. These trees are a major part of these improvements.</p> <p>Why didn't Mrs Agte post these illegal signs all over town years ago? She got her victory for full transparency that you couldn't produce before, but that's not what she was after. That's not good enough! Elizabeth Agte can't stand the thought of Mike Caswell claiming victory when this selective clearing program continues. She's dragging her heels, kicking and screaming to anyone who will listen to her.</p>

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819	9/28/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
820	9/28/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
821	9/28/2021	Email	Why are you continuing with your clear-cutting (or near clear-cutting) program when the public comment period is still open?
822	9/28/2021	Email	Why, in areas where clearing MUST be done for repairs, as well as the areas where you are wrong-headedly clear-cutting (or near clear-cutting) for no good reason, are you forging ahead with turf grass when you have the much better option of pollinator support in your plan? BTW – meadow guidance is to mow every 3 years (or 1/3 each year), not 1-2 times per year. Why the high frequency which is not necessary to suppress woody growth?
823	9/28/2021	Email	Why is a tree under 3" any less a tree? Where do you think the bigger trees come from? Cutting trees under 3" is clear-cutting by attrition. BTW- The DEC internal guideline about this was struck down by NY's highest court last week. A tree is a tree.
824	9/28/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
825	9/28/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.

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			Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
826	9/28/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. I walk the trail at least once a week in Macedon, and the foliage on the sides make it a wonderful spot to walk. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
827	9/28/2021	Email	<p>Canal Corporation,</p> <p>I've lived near the canal for over twenty years. I've walked along it's edge with my mother while I was young, until I was an adult with her, suffering from Alzheimer's by my side. I walk with my dogs and sit and watch the wildlife and enjoy the entertainment the different canalside villages provide. It's been a large part of my life and what's being done to it concerns me. Of course I'm aware of the need to protect the areas around the canal. I'm aware that the canal needs maintenance and that requires the ability to inspect. But those needs can't be allowed to ruin the beauty and ability to provide enjoyment that the canal has accomplished for hundreds of years. The Plan proposed shows lack of comprehension and tunnel vision. It shows the need for the Canal Corporation to reach out to others who can give input on how to protect the aesthetics, wildlife and overall beauty of the canal along with providing protection. There needs to be an Ecologist on board, as well as a Biologist to help make sure when maintenance is done it's done in such a way that's least invasive as possible. This can be done and is being done in Europe every day. On canals much older than ours. It might take more diligence but the canal's historical significance is worthy of that and the Canal Corporation should realize it. These are just a few questions that need to be considered if this plan were to proceed the way it's written.</p> <p>Without the trees, how does the corporation intend to provide needed shade for walkers along the canal. I've walked where the trees have been removed and I can't walk my dog due to the heat and I know I wouldn't have been able to walk with my mother if she were still alive.</p> <p>Without the trees the temperature of the canal water will heat up. The fish that live in the canal depend on cooler water. What does the Corporation intend to do to help with that? How will they help the fisheries that will be affected?</p> <p>Without the trees the full sun will increase the likelihood of algae growing in the water. How will that be handled and will the corporation be depending on chemicals?</p> <p>This is why this plan is wrong. It hasn't been thought through, thoroughly in a well rounded manner. The plan needs to be put on hold until a more diverse group is chosen to write up a true plan worthy of the Erie Canal. There's time to do this. We haven't had a breach or serious episode in 200 years. Don't look at this as if we just had a Katrina event and it must be done tomorrow or we'll have another one at any moment. It's too important and the way the Plan reads now, to final, to rush into. This plan done this way means no going back. Even with replanting it won't be the same. Right now fallen branches and trees can be removed. Shrubs can be pruned back and leaves can even be raked to provide access for inspection. The canal's edge can be looked at as a garden. The vegetation can easily be maintained in a way that inspections can continue. The Corporation on its site is proud to bring up the fact that the Erie is historical. Now it needs to treat it as such.</p>
828	9/28/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. When people start messing with nature things will go bad Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments</p>
829	9/28/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Shade matters! Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
830	9/28/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The landscape grows and evolves along with the town, clear cutting takes away this natural progress Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>

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831	9/29/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
832	9/29/2021	Email	<p>Please do not remove our beautiful, CO2, CONTROLLING, historic trees. As a tax paying citizen the clear cutting that was started was not helping our carbon neutral contribution.</p> <p>I see no problem with removing dead wood or a very few trees that are actively involved in damage to the embankments.</p> <p>For every tree removed a informed caring state would replant several new trees to balance the loss of the removed tree.</p> <p>Let's not be spending tax dollars to become green with the left hand while the right hand clear cuts of trees.</p> <p>Our Erie Cannel is a historic treasure. Keep it!</p>
833	9/29/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
834	9/29/2021	Email	<p>As a forty-year resident of Pittsford I do not agree with the plan to clear cut trees along the canal in our town as outlined in the Power Authority Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Embankment Maintenance Guidebook.</p> <p>The wholesale removal of large swaths of trees seems neither desirable nor necessary.</p> <p>In my own experience as a property owner, I've found that within a few years after cutting down large trees, the ground in the surrounding area can become uneven and unstable as fungi go to work on the old tree's roots. Animals build tunnels and burrows where large tree roots used to be. It seems to me that the removal of canal trees may well weaken the embankments, not strengthen them.</p> <p>As a painter who treasures the canalscapes of Pittsford, I would greatly miss the natural beauty that the trees provide.</p> <p>As a walker and cyclist, the canal trails would be a very different experience minus trees.</p> <p>Please instead consider alternative, much less destructive approaches, such as the selective removal of only those trees that are dead or dangerous when devising plans to maintain the canal embankments.</p>
835	9/29/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>They provide oxygen!!</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
836	9/29/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>It enhances the overall experience and encourages tourism</p> <p>With global warming making the summers unbearably hot, no shade discourages canal path usage, limiting a valuable resource, and impacting businesses along the canal.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
837	9/29/2021	Email	<p>Dear NYSCC,</p> <p>I have dealt with the canal corporation since 1976, and they always pass the buck and give false information. Yes, the canal is greatly neglected, I could give you a long list where they fail to do the right thing.</p> <p>I called them almost 2 years ago to remove a large ash tree, remember, they are infested and remove ash trees?</p> <p>Well, one trunk fell in my house in a storm, lost all power, due to tearing the electric box off house and major damage. My insurance paid for the large trunk removal, I told the Canal Corporation (Rick Mann)....about the tree, and instead of presenting a problem that's going to happen cause of the rest of the tree trunks are facing the canal path and at some point will fall from rot or a bad storm and being ASH.</p>

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			<p>Rick Mann's and Dave both I have the phone conversation still and they refused to do anything of sending a truck down and removing the rest of ash tree before another one falls it contradicts their efforts to clean up bad trees when they refuse to take care of this one.</p> <p>I have always paid my taxes and my land lease on time no problem and yet they look the other way especially on Canal drive East of the debris abandoned vehicles campers motorcycle gang living at the end of the road off the land, and the land leases that aren't paid by people yet the first time I asked for them to look at a concern and they refuse and any time I've ever asked them to come down and look at along the Canal bank they've lied to me and not shown up, I have all my paperwork notes phone calls names dates to prove all of this.</p> <p>I wanted to speak in person but I guess I miss read the newspaper article stating when one was going to be an in-person talk and then the other one was going to be virtual I didn't understand the article wasn't very clear so I missed the opportunity to come there and talk in person I will be there Thursday tomorrow.</p> <p>My opinion on the tree cutting is I think they're really clearing out areas where they want development to big developers instead of ever addressing all the people that have paid land leases and want to own their land that's the corruption on the canal one of the corruptions, the other problem is the total neglect when promoting tourism on the canal then they should have markers, the canal hasn't been dredged in a long time there's many issues about the canal.</p> <p>a serious one that I have with the canal Corporation is I bought my house when I was nineteen years old and never expected not to be able to sell it when I bought it, you could transfer the lease they lied to me for years and wouldn't let me transfer my lease they also said I couldn't rent my house which was a lie I really should have sued them for all the lies they've done to me preventing me to do anything with my home who owns the house at 19 years old and never can sell it and then when I was able to get Carmello , she was ahead of the canal Corporation for a while she heard me out because I wanted to move and sell my home and buy a bigger house and they finally agreed to sell me my land I sent in the paper work and the money and then they reneged and sent the monies back because of the Perinton corruption are preventing me to sell my home when I wanted too!!!</p> <p>Who does that? I would of never bought a home you couldn't transfer, which when I bought it they said I could!!!</p> <p>So, no I do not trust their plans and yes many problems are with the canal, but the big problem is the mucky muck that lie and avoid!</p>
838	9/29/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Natural vegetation controls erosion.</p> <p>As a leader of kayak outings on the Mohawk (Erie) and Hudson (Champlain), I believe clear-cutting banks would be counter-productive to the goal of enhancing canal experience.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
839	9/30/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Walking the canal with some shade makes it more accessible in the heat of summer, we need outdoor activities esp. w COVID</p> <p>Selective cutting makes sense, especially to prune out dying trees, etc.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
840	9/30/2021	Email	<p>To the NYSCC:</p> <p>Please take the time to read this e-mail from a New York State resident who lives 2.5 miles from the Erie Canal, who sees and appreciates the canal on a daily basis, and who therefore has a strong interest in protecting it from the proposed clearcutting.</p> <p>I protest very strongly against what has been proposed—the mowing down of a 525-mile stretch of trees, so they can be replaced with grass which will then have to be mowed by vehicles powered with fossil fuel—thus further destroying our already seriously damaged climate, robbing hundreds of species of wildlife of their homes, and destroying one of the most beautiful features of New York State—a feature which is the only one of its kind in the entire country.</p> <p>Destroying the beauty of the canal harms the state economy (because when it is no longer an appealing recreational facility, the state loses thousands of tourists, and all the small towns along the canal suffer because no outsiders come to spend money at the restaurants and inns and shops). It harms the climate, because the trees produce oxygen that offsets the carbon dioxide produced by our industrial society; and we don't live in an era when it's okay to cut down such a vast number of trees without having a very good excuse—which the NYSCC has failed to produce. It destroys</p>

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			<p>the habitat of the wildlife who are necessary to maintain the ecosystem so that that ecosystem will continue to be viable for human beings.</p> <p>I have yet to see the NYSCC produce one iota of evidence that tree roots are destructive to the embankments—that they threaten the stability of the structure. I have yet to see one specific instance of one tree that did any damage to the canal that resulted in one person being injured or one home flooded.</p> <p>I have further heard that the NYSCC is now claiming that the proposed clearcutting has nothing to do with the stability of the embankments, but is now a matter of "Oh, we have to cut those trees down because our job is to monitor the canal and we can't see to do it with all those trees in the way." Which makes me ask: what about monitoring from BOATS, or a helicopter? Why can't you do what the rest of us do and monitor the canal from the towpath—from which there is a clear view of the water almost the entire length of the canal? Or if you have to look at it from the non-towpath bank, what about cutting down just small openings in the tree growth, here and there—so that officials from your agency can walk to the water's edge, where I know perfectly well from experience you can see quite a long way up and down the waterway? Can't you simply achieve access at each sluice gate—and again, I know from experience the canal does have sluice gates every so often along its length? Have you considered any other alternative at all to wholesale clearcutting? Have you consulted any experts or engineers or people who work in forestry?</p> <p>And by the way, if the trees have impeded your ability to monitor the canal, how have you been doing it up to this point? It certainly appears that you have done a wonderful job of taking care of it; it appears to be excellently well cared for and maintained.</p> <p>I hope very much that you will take seriously the concerns of ordinary New Yorkers who use the canal and the towpath; who pay taxes in this state; and that you will show willingness to work WITH the townships and villages and with our elected officials, going forward, to find a solution to this problem that everyone can live with.</p> <p>The destructive action that your agency proposes is acceptable to no one. Please THINK.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the concerns of your fellow New Yorkers under advisement as you consider your alternatives.</p>
841	9/30/2021	Email	<p>My friends and family and I enjoy walking, running, and biking the canal path along the Brockport-Rochester and Henrietta-Fairport. It's something visitors want to see as well. We appreciate having the trees and bushes where they are. They look nice all year and shade us in the summer. Please don't clear-cut, it would spoil the natural park-like feel that keeps so many of us using it for recreation.</p>
842	9/30/2021	Email	<p>I live in Irondequoit but I walk miles at a time on different sections of the canal path at least 50 times per year. The canal needs care but not clear cutting.</p>
843	9/30/2021	Email	<p>I am a NYS resident that opposes the clear-cutting of vegetation along the canal.</p> <p>I have walked along the canal. I have boated on the canal.</p> <p>Clear-cutting would not only destroy the beauty, but I see it also having a negative effect on the canal tourist industry.</p>
844	9/30/2021	Email	<p>This message is to relay my genuine concerns regarding vegetation removal from the NY Erie Canal system. Not only does this strike me as a waste of taxpayers dollars but it is an unnecessary attack on the surviving environment that had developed in spite of human intervention. The canal's trees, bushes, wild flowers are not only vital to the animals and birds who call it home ,but also a respite of beauty for your constituents. Removing the splendor because it will make it easier to maintain is an absolute travesty and one that will most assuredly be felt by all who love and use the canal. This letter is to voice my extreme objection to this proposal in hopes you make my concerns heard by all interested parties.</p>
845	9/30/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
846	9/30/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>Turtles burying their eggs along the canal and seeing the young ones</p> <p>Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.</p>
847	9/30/2021	Email	<p>Why on earth would anyone be thoughtless enough to cut down trees along canal? Are we not trying to SAVE trees?</p>
848	9/30/2021	Email	<p>Please consider public input concerning the Erie Canal embankment. Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback. As an avid enjoyer of the canal trails I see the loss of greenery and trees as devastating to all who utilize the canal - walkers, bikers, boaters and wildlife! It provides stability to the embankment and much needed cover, as well as adding immense beauty, which I especially appreciate.</p> <p>If i would change anything, it would be to add benches along the canal where folks can sit for a bit.</p> <p>I love the canal so much and everything it offers. It would be a shame to manicure it into something it's not.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
849	9/30/2021	Email	<p>The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments.</p> <p>I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because</p>

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850	10/1/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. We need all three types of vegetation around the canal. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
851	10/1/2021	Email	I am adding my voice to the group of rochesterians that believe in forbidding the clear cutting of the banks of the canal. It's a quick fix that results in ugliness. Let's Keep Rochester Beautiful by encouraging habitat diversity and encouraging birds and beneficial insects to make their lives along the canal. The Erie Canal is a major attraction and deserves protection in every possible way. Thank you!
852	10/1/2021	Email	Dear Senator Brouk: Leave the trees and shrubs exactly where they are. It's a perfectly lovely place to walk or ride your bicycle now with the vegetation on either side. Don't turn it into a sewage channel or worse! This isn't going to save any money, it's going to cost a fortune to remove stuff that we don't want to have removed and then it's going to grow back and you will have to remove it again so leave it alone! This is a jobs program not a Maintenance improvement program. You won't get any credit for creating these jobs baby!
853	10/1/2021	Email	I live near the canal and walk there almost every day. I would appreciate if you would consider keeping the beautiful vegetation and not cutting it away.
854	10/1/2021	Email	Please, please do not cut down anymore trees along the Erie Canal. I've ridden the entire length of the Canal twice and I ride the portions around Rochester, NY much more often. I'm overjoyed when I can ride through the shade on a hot day. Besides the shade which the trees provide, the trees are an enormous help in preventing erosion. The Erie Canal is a treasure. Please do not make it worthless by eliminating the beauty and usefulness of the trees and vegetation along the trail.
855	10/1/2021	Email	The Canal Corporation should rewrite this management plan to protect the natural vegetation on the canal embankments. I think trees belong on the Erie Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. The Canal is a significant tourism generator, and the appeal of walking or biking on the towpath would be significantly reduced for residents and visitors alike if it loses shade. Thank you for recording this response. I look forward to hearing from the NYSCC about an improved management plan that prioritizes the preservation and restoration of trees and other natural vegetation on the Canal embankments.
856	10/1/2021	Email	Dear Decision-Makers: I would agree that there is a need to clear overhanging trees/bushes/whatever along the canal. However, I ask that you be judicious in this endeavor. Clearing vegetation along the canal doesn't mean you have to clear so much that the scenery and all of the shade is gone. I also realize that cutting less may mean cutting more frequently but I'd vote for cutting less and more frequently. I trust that whomever will be doing this clearing will know the difference between not enough and too much. Thank you.
857	10/1/2021	Email	Dear Canal Corp. Director Brian Stratton, I live in the 14534 zip code area. My family has used the canal trail for years to bike & walk. Our children learned to bike on the trail, we walked our dogs there, my 90 year old Mother & I walks on the canal trail daily. The trees along the trail provide wildlife & much needed shade during the summer months. In urban, suburban & rural areas it provides park space. Clear cutting the trees would make the trail feel like a desert & ruin the scenic beauty & charm it provides to the cities & towns along the canal. Everyone I have discussed it with is opposed to clear cutting along the canal. There must be other options to clear cutting. Please do the responsible thing, be open & transparent with the communities & tourist that use the canal trail for recreation. Provide an alternative to preserve the beauty & infrastructure of the canal.
858	10/1/2021	Email	Senator Brouk, I'd like to voice my opposition to the effort to blindly cut down all of the trees along the canal. What is the real purpose of this project? Why is it necessary? Why wouldn't it be better to cut down a few trees as necessary and not just come in and cut down every tree along the canal? Probably because it is the easy way out and the contractor that is being hired can make more money on the project if they don't have to selectively cut down and clean up some trees along the canal. Please don't ruin the ambience of the Canal by cutting down all trees without some type of selection process that helps weed out some of the older trees that may fall down during storms.

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859	10/1/2021	Email	<p>Attached please find the document, <i>Canal Embankment comments Oct 2021</i>, in which I've outlined my thoughts and comments on the EEIP and Environmental Impact Statement. Thank you for the opportunity. I look forward to seeing an appropriate revision.</p> <p>Comments on: Draft Earthen Embankment Integrity Plan and draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement</p> <p>Thank you for your extended period for public input on the EEIP, and your stated acknowledgment of the critical importance of community outreach and gathering of input from relevant communities during and after this planning stage.</p> <p>After the public meeting I attended in Perinton, I am now a bit more hopeful that the Canal Corporation will not move into a region and clear cut an embankment without extensive communication and negotiation with the local community – both village/town government and residents. However, based on the draft plan and GEIS, it's not clear exactly which embankments are to be targeted, and one can only hope that each area is indeed treated independently, according to local needs and preferences, and the scientific evaluation of the situation.</p> <p>However, a number of aspects of the EEIP struck me as notably problematic:</p> <p>It is standard knowledge and practice when landscaping a slope, that bare earth is not sustainable very long, and that sufficient and diverse vegetation must be established as quickly as possible to minimize erosion. When fires or clear-cut logging have caused loss of vegetation from hillsides, erosion and even landslides often soon follow. Hence the Canal Corporation's statement of a "...presumption that all trees and underbrush should be removed from the earthen embankments to protect people, property and the environment..." is troubling, and clearly contradicts this standard practice as well as common sense.</p> <p>Given the stated EEIP goal "to reduce the risk of embankment failure due to erosion, seepage, or settlement" [from pg 1-2], it is mystifying how removal of most vegetation including trees would help NYSCC meet that goal. A walk on any hilly woodland trails generally illustrates how effective tree roots are at preventing further erosion where foot traffic has worn down the ground surface. Often trees / roots are visibly the only thing saving such sloped trails from wash-out and becoming 'trenches.' An embankment denuded of the protective vegetation would be at high risk of washout by the next heavy rainfall (an increasingly common occurrence in upstate NY, thanks to the changing climate). The leaves of trees, shrubs, and other plants break the force of rain hitting the ground, allowing more gradual water absorption into the soil and preventing sheets of water flowing across the ground surface [which on an embankment would obviously be downhill] and carrying soil away. Furthermore, healthy trees transport tremendous amounts of water from the ground up to their foliage and release water vapor by transpiration. Without that process, the ground will remain more saturated with water and potentially less stable and more apt to slump, especially on slopes. This does not sound to me like "Embankment Integrity." Turf grass is certainly superior to bare ground, but grassy slopes (1) are still likely to be eroded by heavy rainfalls, (2) are notably sterile as "ecosystems," (3) apparently are seen as requiring mowing, unlike more natural communities of diverse herbaceous plants, shrubs, and trees, and (4) are difficult to mow without further damaging the slope.</p> <p>The statement on page 8 of the plan... "Implementation of the EEIP has the potential to encounter invasive plant species on or adjacent to the embankments..." is surely an understatement. At least in the 30+ miles of the canal trail (within Monroe County) with which I'm most familiar, invasive plants are more the rule than exception. While I appreciate the acknowledgment of the problem of invasives, the proposed plan is unlikely to significantly decrease their prevalence. Indeed, removing existing vegetation and replacing it with turf grass merely invites invasive species to get an even better toe-hold on the more barren ground. A better approach would be to selectively target non-natives that are a particular problem [e.g., tree-of-heaven, buckthorn, phragmites, oriental bittersweet vines, swallow-wort...] and that can be removed, or at least controlled, without too much difficulty / disturbance and then replace them with appropriate native shrubs, trees, herbaceous plants. Some non-native trees are well-established, healthy, may not really behave as "invasive," and serve important roles of carbon sequestration, slope-stabilization, shade, protection from rain-induced erosion, etc. There are also many native tree species [such as cottonwood, Manitoba maple, cherry, walnut, sumac...] that are similarly established and should be left to do their important functions as listed above. These all deserve to be left undisturbed.</p> <p>Furthermore, in this day and age of climate emergency, and increasing recognition (finally) that we are also facing a critical loss of biodiversity and a general ecological disruption due to human activities, it is also widely recommended (finally) that a large fraction of land be left for wildlife. The fact that this ill-advised EEIP plan recognizes that plants and animals might/will be negatively affected is significant...and alone this negative impact should be sufficient grounds to NOT permit it as described. We NEED to preserve all possible trees, shrubs, and associated plants and wildlife. To be even contemplating widespread tree removal, especially on these sloped areas, is therefore counter to our own best interests. Carbon sequestration, provision of habitat for wildlife, as well as aesthetic and healthy qualities for humans (including scenic, shade, noise buffering...) must be top priorities. Certainly, on a global scale, the long narrow area involved along the Erie Canal may seem small, but it is an important part of the whole and furthermore serves the critical function of connecting this habitat with other larger forested areas.</p> <p>The newly built Erie Canal was an historic feat of engineering and a tremendous boon to commerce and transport, though simultaneously a scar across NYS and with some serious unintended negative consequences (such as enabling a number of foreign species to gain access to the Great Lakes [e.g., lamprey] that wreaked havoc on aquatic ecosystems). So everything has pros and cons. We cannot turn back that clock. But we now have an established and well-loved and well-used recreational corridor across the state that includes not just the waterway of the canal but also the associated towpath trail and connecting trails and towns along it that have become an important resource for residents as well as tourists. To now undertake this destructive and unnecessary denudation of our scenic route across the state would seriously degrade its usefulness, attractiveness, and likely also increase the likelihood of landslides, slumps, erosion, etc.</p> <p>NYS is fortunate in having a climate and geology that support forests, and we (so far) don't experience the horrors of wildfires, years-long droughts, etc. that have become all too common in many parts of the country. The once-bare embankments of the newly constructed canal fortunately easily became naturally re-vegetated...perhaps not with the most ideal communities of plants but nonetheless they are now green, more stable than bare slopes, support certain wildlife, and sequester carbon. Why would we want to return to the barren, ugly, and highly erodible slopes of 100-200 years ago?</p>

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			<p>Furthermore, the ~15 "Potential Environmental Impacts Identified" are in fact likely adverse impacts in my opinion; less clear are the supposed benefits that might outweigh these likely environmental costs. I found no substantial data indicating that vegetated embankments HAVE caused severe problems. While I can appreciate the desire and need to more easily be able to inspect potential problem spots, this surely does not require being able to easily walk over every square inch of these areas! And it surely does not require all established trees to be felled.</p> <p>I also suggest more appropriate alternatives than those presented in the section, "Reasonable Alternatives to be Considered." (1) Rather than overt deforestation, I would advocate selective removal of dead or dying trees that might be likely to cause damage if they fell on nearby houses or other structures, and removal of some of the tangle of vines that often do obstruct the view and access into the forested slope – oriental bittersweet, poison ivy, wild grape are the major examples. Since many of the dead/dying trees are apt to be ashes, these should be replaced with a diversity of appropriate native trees such as white oak, black cherry, etc. (2) Removal of the abundance of vegetation – much of it woody – growing from the cement walls of canal. These are causing substantial damage to the actual structure of those sections of canal. Although I was informed that the part of the canal that is actually containing water is, unbelievably, NOT the responsibility of Canal Corp'n, it is clearly in your best interest to also ensure that the canal walls are structurally sound; maybe this means requesting / demanding whatever entity IS responsible, but it should be a top priority! Otherwise, embankment maintenance could be somewhat futile. (3) Besides vegetation removal from cracked concrete walls, regular repair and maintenance of these structures would be a superior investment than is denuding of embankments. (4) Consult with and assist towns and property owners along the canal if major developments or changes are being planned adjacent to canal so that embankment vegetation as well as embankment structural integrity can be optimized.</p>
860	10/1/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
861	10/1/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
862	10/1/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p> <p>We need to protect as much of nature as we can,</p>
863	10/1/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p>

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			<p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p> <p>I've enjoyed the Canal for over 50 years. I walk it with my dogs and was walking with my mother both as a child as well as with her while she suffered through Alzheimers. The canal's beauty, it's trees and wildlife bring people together and provided my mother incredible joy even as her mind faded. I think today, without those trees, my mother wouldn't have been able to walk or even sit along the canal. Today, I can't even walk my dogs along the spots where the trees have already been removed. This can't be allowed to continue. There are ways to maintain and inspect while protecting the canal. We need you to find someone to take over the maintenance of the Erie, who is willing to do that. As it stands, the NYPA has severe tunnel vision. They're not willing to see past their liability and even accept the idea of working with others to protect and maintain. The Erie is too important not to put people who truly care about her, in charge of her.</p>
864	10/1/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p> <p>The senseless destruction of trees is a disgrace. Believe trees are being targeted for removal for undisclosed reasons regarding big business and not because they are any hazard to the Erie Canal. They clean the air, cool the area and add to the beauty of the canal paths</p>
865	10/1/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p> <p>Governor Hochul, we have tried to negotiate with NYPA in good faith for four years. Their bottom line is that they still believe that trees should not be on dams. The Erie Canal was never a dam until NYPA took over. They reclassified it to suit THEIR agenda, which means nothing that stakeholders say has any bearing on their maintenance plan. That is unacceptable.</p>
866	10/1/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p> <p>I WALK the Erie Canal Trail path - DAILY - for physical fitness and mental health maintenance, as do many of your Monroe County constituents. Have you conducted a "traffic study" to assess bicycle & pedestrian numbers? Clear Cutting of canal vegetation significantly impacts the environment and quality of life for residents & tourists, and the Upstate/Western NY economy. Please Cease & Desist these preposterous THREATS and listen to your fellow citizen constituents.</p>

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867	10/1/2021	Fairport	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
868	10/2/2021	Fairport	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions. Please protect the canal from clear cutting maintenance plan of Canal Corporation</p>
869	10/2/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
870	10/2/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions. There has never been a Canal breach in the history of the canal that was a result of vegetation. The historical evidence suggests that the vegetation actually makes the embankment stronger. Please do not allow the cutting of this irreplaceable resource.</p>
871	10/2/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned</p>

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			citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions. I would like to see truth and transparency in the Power Authority's public statements.
872	10/2/2021	Email	I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions. Gov Hochul, I mailed you separately. I do hope these comments reach you and find a sympathetic ear.
873	10/2/2021	Email	I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.
874	10/2/2021	Email	To whom it may concern: As a resident of Fairport, New York, I am writing to strongly voice my disagreement with this program. As a resident that uses the canal very frequently, I feel that the negative impact this program would have on the canal and surrounding area greatly outweighs any positives. I would ask that you please consider the residents of the areas that would be greatly impacted by this program when finalizing decisions. It would be such a devastating impact to see such a wonderful asset to our area be ruined by this plan.
875	10/2/2021	Email	I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions. The Power Authority has proven to be unqualified as the steward of our canal. Their maintenance plan will disastrously diminish the beauty and economic viability of canal side homes and businesses.
876	10/3/2021	Email	I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions. The new embankment installed along with the new Lyndon St. Bridge in 2002 is failing. Part of it has fallen into the canal. That is a life span of less than 20 years. If the engineers who thought that wire form embankment was a good idea are the same engineer who think cutting trees and pulling up rootballs is a good idea, then we are in trouble.

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			and turn them over to industrial developers. Locally, homeowners and conservationists dread the effects of the gypsy moth on our state hardwood trees. Along the Erie Canal, if a tree here and there appears, by knowledgeable conservationists and engineers, to pose a structural threat to the canal, let's address it piecemeal. Why... HOW... can wholesale removal of every tree be the answer, ecologically or economically? Let's not voluntarily and apathetically contribute to the destruction of the land. Let's take this opportunity to be responsible stewards to our historic waterways. Let New York State embrace our natural resources, not destroy them. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.
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890	10/4/2021	Email	My name is Dr. Felix Yarovinsky and I'm a Pittsford, NY resident. In this email I strongly support Pittsford Supervisor Smith's view on the project. As a resident, I vote NO for the plan proposed by the Power Authority. The Power Authority's plan is unethical, against the environment and people of Pittsford.
891	10/4/2021	Email	To the NYS Canal Corporation, We live at 3924 Canal Rd, Spencerport, NY and have been at this residence to the direct north of the canal for 30 years. The home has been across the street from the raised banks of the canal for 100 years. Our home is about where the last tree clearing effort stopped a couple of years ago. To the west it was clear cut of mature growth; to the east the trees remain. Most of the trees that were previously cleared were there for the whole time we have lived at this address. Some had trunk diameters in excess of 1 ft which would indicate long life in the position on the canal wall or between the pathway and the bank. There has never been a breach caused by the tree growth or root systems. The previous tree clearing of a couple of years ago left stumps on the wall of about two foot height which was not attractive and did not remove the roots remaining in the side wall that appears to be the reason for the proposed action. Where there has been growth back after trees have been removed, it is now a thick hedge of brush that prevents line of sight from Canal Road and now represents a safety issue for walkers on the trail in the area. Lastly from an aesthetic sense, removal of all trees removes the shady spots along the canal path enjoyed by so many who walk and exercise on the canal. We support thorough inspection of the canal wall conditions and removal of dead trees and living ones found to be impacting the side wall. We do not support a clear cutting as was previously pursued and we have never witnessed the issues that appear to be the justification for this proposed action.
892	10/4/2021	Email	I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. There isn't sufficient scientific evidence to support the clear cut. It's a bad plan and it will hurt our upstate communities. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.
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895	10/5/2021	Email	I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because

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896	10/6/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. NY I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
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900	10/6/2021	Email	<p>Dear Mr. Candiloro and Bergmann, We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the proposed Embankment Maintenance Guidebook, which outlines the rationale for clearcutting trees along the Erie Canal. Our comments are attached.</p> <p>Dear Mr. Candiloro and Bergmann, Reconnect Rochester is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in Monroe County that envisions a more equitable, sustainable and multimodal transportation network for our region, and champions transportation choices that enable a more vibrant and equitable community. We believe everyone -- regardless of age, income, ability or mode of transportation -- should be able to get around safely. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the proposed Embankment Maintenance Guidebook, which outlines the rationale for clearcutting trees along the Erie Canal.</p> <p>The Erie Canalway and Trail draw thousands locally and from around the world to visit New York. The canal and trail are important components of the Empire State Trail, which "showcases New York's special places, diverse history and iconic landscapes." As a linear park, this 200-year-old asset improves quality of life for those who use, visit and live along its waters and trailway.</p> <p>The current forested Erie Canalway Trail also serves as a vital transportation route locally. For pedestrians and cyclists who commute daily to work or school, it is one of the few regional routes separated from motor vehicle traffic. In addition, the community relies heavily upon the trail for daily exercise and recreation.</p> <p>The trees along the canal and trail provide people protection from sun, wind and rain. They create a landscape along the canal that, together with the wildlife they protect, make the corridor an interesting and engaging destination. Trees also help reduce carbon and other air pollution along the trail and in the communities near the canal.</p> <p>We urge the New York Power Authority and Canal Corporation to adopt a reasonable and thoughtful approach to maintaining the canal embankment that respects the community that relies on its trails and waterway for both transportation and recreation, the history of the Erie Canalway, and the context of the neighborhoods and businesses along the canal. Clearcutting trees will negatively impact the quality of life for those living in the communities along the canal, and the comfort of using the trail for daily commutes and recreation. Clearcutting will increase air pollution and harm tourism and local businesses that rely upon the appeal of the canal as a unique, vibrant destination.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide input and for your consideration.</p>
901	10/6/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Please save the trees by demanding more community input, a better plan and a better parent for the canal system! I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
902	10/6/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p>

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			<p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>I walk the canal in Perinton every day that I can, which can be up to 5 times a week. It is peaceful and full of friendly people. I can't imagine the damage tree removal what cost to the embankment that relies on the root systems for support. The heat would be unbearable sometimes without the shade of the trees. And the beauty and history of the varied trees along the way could never be replaced. It breaks my heart to think we could lose them.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
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905	10/7/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>We must look toward the future.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
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			<p>It is one of the only natural places left in so many communities. Don't fix what clearly isn't broken. Do you REALLY care what your constituents think? Please help these small communities save their canal beauty. It is no longer used for trade, but for recreation.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
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909	10/7/2021	Email	<p>Dear Governor Hochul;</p> <p>I am writing to ask that you intervene in a plan by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to clear cut vegetation from the banks of the Erie Canal this coming Fall. The folks at NYPA have held meetings to disclose the plan, but do not seem willing to accept input on the impact this will have- including scientific research, some of which maintains that the clear cutting is unnecessary at best and potentially detrimental to structural integrity. To simply strip all vegetation from land without regard to what is actually necessary to monitor the waterway is a severe, drastic measure, likely overkill and once done, cannot be remedied. For these reasons I implore you to assign an aide to come up to speed on this issue and advise you accordingly. I am confident that with proper investigation and consideration of all viewpoints and science we can find a solution that doesn't critically damage such a wonderful resource.</p> <p>The NYPA position is that the clear cut is necessary to inspect and in order to maintain integrity. But the canal is not a typical NYPA property- it is understandable to clear cut under power lines; on the contrary, the canal consists of earthen, sloped banks in which trees and vegetation are integrated as part of its very structure. PLEASE see research that distinguishes these very different structures which demand very different approaches. https://sites.google.com/view/eriecanalclearcutting/scientific-references has some excellent references that refute the claims that vegetation and tree roots are detrimental and suggest that a clear-cutting approach could lead to failure where there has been stability for 100-200 years. The NYPA is proving itself to be the wrong agency to protect the integrity of this unique linear park that deserves to be treated as such, not approached as if it were a utility. As the song goes, the canal is prominent "from Albany to Buffalo" and, as such, affects the major population centers of Upstate New York. If this clear cutting continues (there has been some completed already around Medina-Lockport and there was an uproar when it occurred practically without warning) it will negatively affect your constituents across the state. The canal is an historic state jewel, a national treasure, heck, it's even been the subject of questions on Jeopardy! It is a source of state pride, a piece of our nation's history, a tourist destination, a commuter's path, water recreation, wildlife refuge, a tool in the fight against climate change, etc. The concept of simply denuding land is absolutely the opposite of current efforts to maintain green space and increase the benefits bestowed by plant life. The slash and burn mentality being employed by the NYPA is shocking. There MUST be something less than this drastic path that will maintain the canal integrity AND allow continued enjoyment of the beauty it offers.</p> <p>Your office must get involved before more irreparable damage is done. Please do so before it is too late.</p>
910	10/7/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p>

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911	10/7/2021	Email	<p>Hello! I would like to voice my objection to the tree-cutting that has occurred, and is proposed to occur again, along the Erie Canal. Surely, with all that we know about climate change, and the destruction of the environment when trees are cut down, this cannot be even considered a rational move. While the company may have its 'reasons' to clear-cut, it is not in the best interest of the environment, animals, and the people who live there. Please do not approve further tree-cutting. Thank you for listening ... it is greatly appreciated!</p>
912	10/7/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I belong to a rowing club which sits on the Erie Canal in the town of Fairport, NY,. I row along with at least 100 other members on the Erie Canal - at least 4 times per week for the last six years. It has become my second home. To destroy the scenic canal by removing its natural vegetation would be an utter abomination. The trees and vegetation support an eco system that is essential for wildlife, which would otherwise be senselessly displaced or destroyed. It is our duty to care for these natural environments so as to not destroy everything in our paths and have at least some natural habitats left for wildlife, as well as nature to enjoy for us people who realize how fortunate we are to have such beautiful areas for us to spend time walking, biking, running boating, fishing and gathering. Let's leave NY with at least some natural beauty and care for what doesn't cost anything to maintain vs uprooting and destroying the community's historic natural resource. Please stop the clear cutting from happening. It would forever change so many individuals' lives. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
913	10/7/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
914	10/7/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. STOP this nonsensical program. You're supposed to be the green party and yet you're going to let them cut down acres of trees along a beautiful canal. Disgusting.</p>

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916	10/7/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>This plan by NYPA needs more consideration to focus on a compromise plan. Many in our area (Pittsford, Brighton and Fairport) have contacted legislators, attended meetings with NYPA and CC officials but leave feeling that they are evasive about future plans and that they are not taking our concerns seriously. We are suspect of their motives and would like to have the control of our beautiful canal out of their hands. Thank you.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
917	10/7/2021	Email	<p>These are my comments on the Earthen Embankment Integrity Program and the "clear cutting" issue.</p> <p>I live across the street from a section of the canal embankment in Perinton that I believe would be affected by the clear cut. Let me first state that I am against the blanket idea of clear cutting the "outboard" embankments. After attending one of the meetings at the Perinton Community Center and one virtual session, it appears to me that the main reason to clear cut vegetation from the canal embankments is to make it easier to inspect for leaks. I believe there are other way to accomplish this task without having to cut all vegetation. First, in areas where there is private property adjacent to the canal, the owners of those properties can be enlisted to inspect for leaks. They live there, they would be the best to look out for these things on a continuing basis. I'm sure if they is a leak, they will know. Second, it was mentioned that some of the brush is very thick and hard to walk through. I believe trails can be made through these areas just like they have been across the street from my house in one of the public treed areas of the canal. Third, it seems that the cost for clearing the embankments and maintaining them is very expensive. That money can be better spent hiring people who can walk through the trees and brush and inspect the embankments in person.</p> <p>Trees provide shade, wind buffering, animal homes, bird nests, sound buffering, erosion control (not just the side but the top-land as well), and beauty. Please keep the information lines open with the residents, keep an open mind and think outside the box on this. Keeping as many trees as possible on the embankments is extremely important to residents, to animals, to canal users, and for the climate.</p>
918	10/7/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
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922	10/7/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I just recently moved within NY after living in Fairport for 25 years. We continue to utilize the canal paths walking and biking. There is no safety concern please don't ruin this treasure. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
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			<p>The removal of these trees will take away the Erie Canal's charm for the local communities in it's path. I have fond memories of walking that path and finding great fishing spots with my grandmother when I was just a child. I cant imagine taking my future grandchildren to this place to fish with no shade, the sun beating down on them in the heat of the summer. It is a daily piece of many individual lives, and the impact will be profound on generations to come. Please do what you can to stop the removal of these trees!</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
924	10/8/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I live near clear cut areas and the results are devastating. The result is inhospitable and at least 20% of the replantings I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
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937	10/8/2021	Email	In your document you state: "Vegetation management practices for earth dams are universally accepted within the engineering community with the rule that woody vegetation is not permitted on earth dams." This statement, as presented, is little more than opinion. Experience that it "works" is not the same as experience that "it's necessary". What controlled studies have been conducted to prove the necessity of this practice?
938	10/8/2021	Email	Given that you claim to know of 200 seeps along the canal, wouldn't it be a better use of funds to deal with the repairs that are necessary, rather than looking for more (probably non-existent) problems? Your lack of attention to these known "problems" is evidence enough that seeps are not an emergency, and clear-cutting the canal to look for more is unnecessary.
939	10/8/2021	Email	When will you admit that the only tool in your toolbox is a "hammer", so you're treating every problem as a "nail" and resign from the responsibility of managing the canal?
940	10/8/2021	Email	I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The Erie Canal needs a new steward who will recognize it's many unique attributes. Please protect the trees. They have never been responsible for a breach. The heavy equipment that would be used to cut and remove the trees might cause a leak. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.
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943	10/8/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Why have we spent the last roughly 40 years trying to focus development of the canal into a recreation-way that people can enjoy, only to destroy it now? Mature trees are not something that can be easily replaced. The decisions made right now will impact decades of canal use and have lasting economic and environmental effects. When the stakes are so high, it is important to fully consider all aspects. The plan proposed by Canal Corp does not take into account all of these different aspects into consideration. In meetings in Perinton, they admitted that the long term goal is to have no trees at all along the canal. The NYPA should not be in charge of Canal Corporation. Maintaining power easements is inherently different from maintaining and developing the Canal. The canal's primary use in the recent past has shifted from shipping to recreation. The focus for the canal needs to be on maintenance for the purpose of recreation. NYPA just does not have the ability to manage it with those goals in mind. They have also repeatedly not listened to concerns of the communities along the canal who will be impacted by these decisions. As Governor, you are the only person with the power to change this situation. As a fellow Western New Yorker, please take action to protect our trees and vegetation to ensure the best future for the Canal.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
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945	10/8/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Please help us!</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>

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946	10/9/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. None of the above. Remove the trees.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
947	10/9/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Gov. Hochul, if the canal is clear cut, your election is at risk.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
948	10/9/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Do you want to be known for destroying an 300 mile linear park that is along side the Erie Canal.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
949	10/9/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. I'm an enthusiastic cycling tourist. I go out of my way to bike the Erie Canal. But I only bike along stretches that have trees. Cut the trees and I don't come back.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
950	10/9/2021	Email	<p>I'm concerned about the "pesticides" you plan to use "as needed". Many of these herbicides and insecticides are "forever chemicals" that more enlightened countries have banned because of their dangers. I believe we have a right to know exactly what poisons you intend to spread in/over our environment. What chemicals, specifically, are in your arsenal?</p>
951	10/9/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p>

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			<p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>Is this any actual joke that the state would choose to clear cut one of the few spots of natural beauty in this area? Public spaces of beauty are proven to boost a community's self esteem. Give the economic depression in the Rochester area, hasn't the community been through enough?</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
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954	10/9/2021	Email	<p>Dear Canal Corporation, NYS Power Authority:</p> <p>We are strongly opposed to the clear cut canal proposal.</p> <p>With all the climate change concerns, destroying any trees is a negative impact on our environment. Please feel free to plant more trees on the canal path.</p> <p>In addition, people use the canal for recreation and need trees for shade and beauty. Birds and animals thrive in a treed environment.</p> <p>We are surprised that any organization would advocate tree removal in today's world.</p> <p>We will be saddened and disgusted if this project goes forward after your fellow citizens that use the canal reject it.</p>
955	10/9/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>I can't imagine this canal without its shade and I would not use it without its shade. It is such a great resource for recreation. It should be treated as a park and allowed to remain beautiful.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
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			<p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Just because it has always been done does not make it right now. Times are different. We need and want our trees, especially in our places of leisure. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
957	10/9/2021	Email	<p>As concerned citizen that is working to fight climate change and believes I that live in a responsible state, I am horrified. Clear cutting trees along the canal would destroy native habitat and have a significant impact on native species. How dare you spend taxpayer money to decimate this landscape in this manner. Actions now will impact generations yet born.</p>
958	10/1/2021	Email	<p>As a resident of Perinton NY for 39 years I have used many miles of the canal trail extensively in all four seasons. I ask you to suspend the tree clearing program along the canal and maintain the current, beautiful trail and canal as it is. Tree clearing only serves to diminish this New York State outdoor asset that attracts local citizens and many from other areas. I appreciate you giving serious consideration to the views of towns and residents that line the canal in NY State. After all, that is the job of government, to represent the people. Note: resent with corrected email for the Canal Corp</p>
959	10/9/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The Canal is a home to many species of plants and animals. This is a wonderful part of our green space in our community. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
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961	10/10/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. NY I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
962	10/10/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p>

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966	10/11/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p>

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			<p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>People travel to our area from around the world to see it's beauty! No trees, wildlife, or shade it's just a big ugly ditch! The Canal is part of many towns history, do not let that history fade!!!</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
967	10/11/2021	Email	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I recently attended the evening information session at the Perinton town hall on 9/21/2021 regarding the proposed clear-cut of the Erie Canal in the Town of Perinton and elsewhere.</p> <p>Let me be clear that I am not in favor of this project.</p> <p>I am 62 years old and have lived in two different homes on Old Post Rd in Perinton that back up to the canal for a combined 37 years. I have spent countless hours on the towpath walking, Running and cycling in that time. When I'm not on the towpath I'm looking at it from my home. I am grateful for the shade the trees provide. I enjoy looking out my back windows now and not seeing the houses on Jefferson Avenue so to remove these trees will impact my quality of life and property values.</p> <p>I completely agree that certain repairs and upgrades are necessary along the canal. It has been neglected for way to long. So why not address the many other deficiencies first? (Such as crumbling concrete and trees growing out of the Embankment walls heading toward Pittsford? Why not go through and clear out some of the deadwood and brush, if necessary, before just clearcutting everything. I noticed that the speakers never used the word clear-cut in the presentation, but we all know that the end result probably will not look much different than what happened in the Brockport area if the goal is to be able to easily inspect.</p> <p>A question was asked at the meeting I attended was if there was any history of a canal breach due to vegetation or animal burrowing. That answer was no. My question is "so why now"?</p> <p>I have other questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.What is the driving force behind this project? 2.What is the cost just to develop the manual? 3.If completed what is the estimated annual cost to maintain these embankments? It seems to me they will require periodic mowing so that the necessary inspections can take place. 4. Will all stumps and roots be removed? 5.Will dirt/Fill be added in areas where the current slope does not meet standards? If so, it seems that it would be necessary to encroach on people's private property in order to change the slope angle. 6. Where is the money coming from to pay for all this work? <p>Finally, my feeling is that New York State has many more important issues that they should be spending taxpayers' hard-earned money on before an unnecessary project like this one. For example: Environmental issues, Crime, Drug abuse, Jobs, Education, Electrical infrastructure and Roads.</p>
968	10/11/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>The trees provide shade and shelter from wind, rain, and snow for daily users of the towpath.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
969	10/11/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>Wind and roadway noise ablation by trees</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
970	10/11/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p>

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			<p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Please don't destroy this area like has been done in other parts of NY!! We can help , it is not necessary to clear cut I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
971	10/12/2021	Email	<p>Dear Canal Corporation, I am glad the NYPA is spending a ton of money on overdue maintenance. I live by the canal, run 8 miles along the canal twice a week, and have cycled much of the Erie and many of the canals in Europe. Regarding notifications (3/9/21 draft Guidebook section 9), Facebook is a primary source of information for a lot of people. I would like to get posts announcing significant trail maintenance, similar to the Notice to Mariners posts I get. A post could link to a web page for more information. During the 30 September virtual session, Rebecca Hughs noted that people in Waterford have enjoyed being outside along the canal for years even though they never had trees in that section. What section of the canal is this? I thought I heard, "between locks 2 and 3." However, there is no path there. There is a small tree-less canal-side park on the north side of highway 32, by the bridge. Is that the place? Two slides in the presentation at the public information sessions in September showed models of flooding from breaks in the embankment in Perinton. What hazard classification is this embankment? Does a High Hazard classification preclude trees in zones 2B and 3? Section 8.8 "Scenic Management Guidelines" of the Guidebook gives Guidelines for areas that are 1. public parks, or 2. of local importance, or 3. have Statewide Significance per NYSDEC policies. 8.8 and items listed in section 8.15 are local thresholds. The entire canalway trail is widely regarded as a public, linear, recreational park, as in, for example, the Canal 2025 Recreationway Plan. Can guidelines like those in section 8.8 be applied to the entire trail to support hikers and cyclists beyond the local sites? Thresholds on the distance along the trail without shade would be one I'd like. In September local news quoted Canal Corporation representatives in ways that are inconsistent to my understanding, which is that the determinative issue about trees by this canal is that they inhibit visibility and maintenance. Spectrum News, 9/21/21: <i>Trees line a large portion of the trail along the Erie Canal, but the New York State Canal Corporation says their growth is creating leaks along the waterway. The state wants to fix those leaks by clearing some of the trees.</i> Is that the Canal Corporation's position, that by removing the trees the leaks will be fixed? Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, 8/11/21: <i>"It is a common misconception that tree roots stabilize the soil mass," according to the environmental impact statement. "On the contrary, tree roots actually loosen the soil mass."</i> Is this the Canal Corporation's position, that problems occur on the Erie from tree-loosened soil? I understand that dead roots decay and shrink. But I am told by arborists that healthy tree roots generally grip the soil, not loosen it. Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, 8/30/21: <i>The Canal Corp. and some other advocates say that the roots of large trees and shrubs are causing damage to the engineered earthen embankments. If those plants are not removed or sharply pruned, the dams could break and cause severe flooding or damage, according to the Canal Corp.</i> Section 7.3 in the Guidebook elaborates and refers to USACE, FEMA, and others. Examples given of mechanisms are: "Roots that penetrate the phreatic surface" increase the risk of piping (Guidebook 7.3.1), and "uprooted trees [can] produce large voids" (FEMA-534 page 2-5). Does the Canal Corporation contend these are significant risks for the Erie? If so, what mechanism has caused an embankment break on the Erie in the past 100 years? FEMA-534, "Impacts of Plants on Earthen Dams," asked Federal agencies and all 50 states about problems with and policies about trees on earthen dams. "The problem most commonly noted by state officials is that trees, woody vegetation, briars, and vines interfere with effective safety inspections" (page 2-3). I think comments to the press about trees by the Erie Canal should emphasize the visibility problem even if examples could be given of trees in themselves causing damage. Otherwise, the public is diverted from the main issue. Thank you for your time.</p>
972	10/12/2021	Email	<p>Your plan involves the removal of a high number of trees along a 125 mile segment of the canal. Given the environmental impact this will have on a myriad of levels, what data driven research has been done to minimize and reduce the impact that will surely occur? Specifically, what projections or calculations have you performed to quantify what your impact will be and how you intend to mitigate it? Let me share with you what my expectations are before any tree cutting occurs By leveraging extensive satellite remote sensing datasets, forest plot measurements, and geospatial scientific computing, researchers are now able to identify locations impacted by significant forest loss, to assess the associated carbon emissions, and, for the first time, to quantify the amount of future carbon sequestration and storage lost through deforestation. Calculations like this, clearly show that slowing the pace of forest loss is an important instrument in the fight against climate change. It is not enough to merely stop using fossil fuels. We also need to remove some of that carbon pollution, to draw it down from the air and the atmosphere. Right now, the only tool we have that works at scale and at cost to remove that carbon pollution is nature...in the form of trees! Additionally, a mapping tool is available that shows that many of America's forests with the highest carbon stocks and high potential for future carbon sequestration also are among the most important places for diverse species to find refuge from growing climate impacts. Your proposal falls under the category of a "major disturbance " to carbon reduction goals in NewYork State and by eradicating these areas you are eliminating safe places for plant and animal species to live as their habitats are altered or destroyed by climate impacts. So what exactly are your specific plans to due the kind of detailed review and analysis required? In conclusion, you have an obligation to the affected communities and the planet to provide comprehensive answers to the numerous serious and significant questions I have raised.. To know and communicate transparently the true impact of this plan it is your civic, moral, legal and environmental responsibility to disclosure all this information before you proceed.</p>
973	10/12/2021	Email	<p>Good morning, I live in Fairport a half mile from the canal. I walk almost every morning on the canal trail between one and five miles each day, as I have for the thirty years that I have lived in Fairport. The beauty of the trees, leaves, the water, ducks, geese and</p>

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			the path in general between Fairport and Pittsford is my therapy, my meditation and mental health. It makes my day. I often take photos of the trees in the four seasons. There are some lovely arches and beautiful, serene stretches formed by the trees there. Bowers of peace and calm. Most people who walk or bike on the canal path there greet each other with a friendly "good morning" or "hello" as they pass, all clearly so happy to be there on the beautiful trail. People of all ages enjoy walking or biking the canal path, young and old alike, alone or with friends or with dogs. I used to bike headed east from Fairport and enjoyed that part of the trail, too. My husband and I got married on the Colonial Belle canal tour boat, because taking the Belle cruise on the canal was one of our favorite things to do, and we go every summer. If I ever had to move from my house, it would have to be to someplace near the canal path. It's not just the water. It's the trees, the whole milieu. I understand there may be some needed repairs to the bank, but I beg you to preserve the trees, they are so important to us, an essential part of living in Fairport. The beauty of the canal trail brings in economic benefits to the town, too, including boating, biking, dining, and exploring the area. All the work that is currently being done along the canal in Fairport village to enhance the experience there would be wasted if the beauty of the place were to be destroyed. Please, please keep the trees.
974	10/12/2021	Email	To whom it may concern, I would like to echo the position of the Town of Pittsford regarding the Power Authority's plan to clear cut trees along the canal. Given that climate change is the primary challenge of our time, this approach of cutting down 145 acres of trees is not only short sighted, but actually destructive. Additionally, we know that the clear cut would also negatively impact animal habitat, enjoyment of the canal with lack of shade, additional wind on the canal causing issues for crew races and other boaters, increased noise from nearby highways, and possibly diminished property values. From what I understand, there is no evidence that cutting down all of these trees will stabilize the canal bank. I support a more thoughtful and collaborative solution.
975	10/12/2021	Email	I understand the need to control vegetation near infrastructure like pipes & waterways. Wandering invasive roots and tree limbs are the enemies of infrastructure. They must be controlled.
976	10/12/2021	Email	I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. You are going to irreparably harm the beauty and function of the canal path for hikers and bikers and boaters, every tax payer and voter, forever. This is an ill conceived project that assumes (not proves or is it based on historical data) that trees and vegetation interfere with the integrity of the structure. No one considered that part of the current "draw" to this canal for communities, residents and visitors is the BEAUTY of the canal path in it's wooded glory. PLEASE PLEASE take the time to walk through Pittsford to Brighton toward the University of Rochester. You will see the beauty of the wooded path and then see the devastation and empty bleakness of a clear cut area. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.
977	10/12/2021	Email	I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. NYPA is the wrong custodian for Erie Canal. They clearly missed the boat on the Macedon breach, and was not prepared for an event that had nothing to do with trees. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.
978	10/12/2021	Email	I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.

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			<p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>NYPA is ruining the canal. The replanting from the disastrous clear cut from Medina to Brockport it's struggling to survive and has ruined the ambiance if this section of the canal. We need stewards who love the canal first and then work to protect it.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
979	10/12/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>You need to replace NYPA. They're single-mindedness will destroy the Erie canal</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
980	10/12/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>In this time where our trees are being knocked down and cleared without much thought- this does not have to be the case along our canal. Do not do this!</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
981	10/12/2021	Email	<p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>I love the Erie Canal! I am on the towpath 5 to 6 days a week, even in winter, I am appalled that this plan is even being considered. The Erie Canal is a NY State treasure. Please don't destroy this beautiful asset of our area!</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
982	10/12/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p>

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			The Canal is a beautiful, historical treasure for NYS. We live on the banks of it and enjoy its peace and beauty every day. Whoever made the decision to destroy all this cannot possibly have spent any time on the Canal. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.
983	10/12/2021	Email	Please do NOT bow down to the Save The Trees misguided followers. Remove the trees and other woody vegetation that threatens the embankments along the canal. It not only would be a shame to lose the canal but a disaster to those living below those embankments when the roots of that vegetation undermines the integrity of those embankments causing them to fail flooding out hundreds, maybe thousands of homes.
984	10/12/2021	Email	I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I have lived near the canal for 35 years -- bicycled along it regularly, raised my children bicycling it, cycled the entire length, taken awe-struck out of state guests along it. It is a unique recreational resource and a treasure to NY. Its beauty and value will be irreparably destroyed by the plans to cut so much vegetation in the Brockport-Newark section -- all for a problem (vegetation induced canal breaks) that has never happened. We don't cut down trees to make it easier to mow parks. Don't destroy the canal's value by this plan. There has to be a better way. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.
985	10/13/2021	Email	New York State power authority, We have lived in Pittsford for years and enjoyed the canal with its beautiful trees. Please do not cut any of those trees down. Find a way to manage and plan without destroying our environment.
986	10/13/2021	Email	I am submitting a comment in regards to the plans to clear vegetation from the Erie Canal embankment. As someone who uses the canal for recreation on a regular basis, I implore you to do the right thing for the ecosystems that reside there and for the people who enjoy the path. Please do not clear cut, do not cut down healthy trees and do not remove other natural shrubs that belong there.
987	10/13/2021	Email	We do not support the Power Authority tree cutting proposal and feel it is excessive. We do support the alternate approach presented by Supervisor Smith and Pittsford. As a resident and tax payer in Monroe County for over 30 years we would like to see this alternate approach applied to the entire canal path in the county.
988	10/13/2021	Email	Hello- I'm writing as a concerned professional about the plan to clear-cut the embankments along the canal. As a geologist with a background in solid mechanics and material failure I find little merit in the plan. I understand that clearing vegetation will make the inspection process more straight-forward and reduce inspection costs. However, clear-cutting vegetation could actually act to destabilize the soil component of the embankments and put those living along the canal at greater risk. With this letter I formally register my concern for the health and safety of my neighbors and urge you to re-evaluate the plan.
989	10/13/2021	Email	Dear Canal Corporation, NYS Power Authority and Bergmann Associates: We are strongly opposed to the Erie Canal clear cut proposal. There is no substantiated scientific evidence to support the argument that the clear cut is necessary. In fact, it will be dangerous to have no vegetation bordering the canal in steep sections. Should any human tragedy result, all organizations that are part of the clear cut actions will be subject to legal action for their part in this ill-conceived plan. Furthermore, we all have a part in protecting our environment. Consider your ESG responsibilities and your personal beliefs. With all the climate change concerns, destroying trees is a negative impact on our environment. Residents - taxpayers! - use the Canal for recreation and need trees for shade and beauty. Birds and animals thrive in a treed environment. We are surprised that any organization would advocate tree removal in today's world. You are not using our taxpayer dollars wisely, and you should be ashamed. We will be saddened and take all appropriate legal actions if this project goes forward after your fellow citizens and communities that use the Canal reject it.
990	10/13/2021	Email	To Whom It May Concern, As a new resident of Fairport, New York, I was disheartened to hear from a local group of neighbors that the NYS Canal Corporation was planning on possibly "clear cutting" the embankments along the Erie Canal in order to be able to keep up with canal maintenance. With all the news of (and actually experiencing the effects of) climate change, the idea of clear cutting a majority of the natural vegetation seems outrageous - especially after over a century or so of this vegetation establishing itself along the banks. This vegetation makes for not only a picturesque scene as we walk along the canal banks, but it also serves to protect trees (which we so desperately need to protect these days!), and entire ecosystems (animals, pollinators, etc.) that live along this waterway. Obviously, Canal safety is an important issue, and it is completely understandable that the NYS Canal Corporation wants to ensure the banks are stable and will not collapse, however, in this age of incredible technology that is available in the world, is there not a better way than clear cutting all the vegetation? It might be less expensive to just clear cut and I think that this might be the reason that this method is being chosen by NYSCC. Less expensive now, but what will be the future cost? Why be short-sighted when climate change is right in our faces, now? I also find it extremely disturbing that I am hearing about all of this via a community group and not directly from the NYSCC (which I follow on Instagram.) I don't see any mention of the meetings that were happening in Fairport a few weeks ago on the website, it is impossible to find information on this matter via any digital means (and I work in digital

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			marketing!) The community wants NYSCC to be more transparent and wants to participate in this decision. In this digital age, there are multiple ways to get this done (and they don't cost much, if anything.) Please, don't treat the community as not important to this decision and make it so hard to get information or give input. We live here, we have invested in these towns, and we deserve to be heard.
991	10/13/2021	Email	Good morning, I am writing to voice my support for the canal embankment maintenance plan proposed by the NYCC. While I would be sad to see the trees removed from the canal embankment, I believe that public safety is paramount. Were the canal embankments to fail, there is the potential for loss of life and significant property damage. I believe we the public should defer to the professional expertise of the engineers employed by the Canal Corp./Power Authority.
992	10/13/2021	Email	My family and I are wholeheartedly opposed to clear-cutting the Canalway embankments in Pittsford, or anywhere for that matter. There are clearly other ways to maintain the integrity of the embankment and, in fact, clear-cutting results in more soil erosion, lack of shade, and destruction of ecosystems. This is a foolhardy and lazy approach to sustainably ensuring the health of our environment and will result in too many negative outcomes to be a reasonable way to address the embankment upkeep needs.
993	10/13/2021	Email	I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. My family and I live on Mill Rd, just a few minutes from the canal. My six year old son and I like to bike the Auburn Trail to the canal or drive up and go fishing right at the end of East St. we are a very fair skinned family with a history of skin cancer (I had a carcinoma removed from my face last November) and my son is a red head, so we always take as many precautions as possible when enjoying the outdoors in the sun. To be able to sit and fish on the bank of the canal in the protective shade of the towering trees is something we've always appreciated. It's a simple thing, but we probably wouldn't go fishing on the canal if it weren't for that protective shade. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.
994	10/13/2021	Email	Dear Sirs, I am e-mailing to add my name to the list of those who oppose the plans to clearcut along the Erie Canal. My objections are that it would be a major detractor of the natural beauty of the towpath, would severely damage bird & animal habitats and would reduce the number of native plants in the area which would be yet another problem for pollinators. Since Covid began I have used the towpath for regular walks, as many other have done. To damage this environment so drastically would be a huge detriment to one of this area's most wonderful assets. I strongly request that a way be found to only take out the trees that are actually causing a problem, and leave as much of the undergrowth as possible. Thank you for your consideration of my e-mail,
995	10/13/2021	Email	I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. The Canal du Midi in France was a beautiful place to vacation years ago. The trees were struck with a disease and had to be removed. Now it is hot and unpleasant smelling in the warm months. Please don't let this happen to our beautiful Erie Canal! I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.
996	10/13/2021	Email	As a tax payer, I am willing to offset the increased cost of maintaining the canal to also maintain the health and wellness of it's citizens. We regularly use the canal for exercise. The canal is very busy. This country needs more people walking, biking and socializing, particularly during a pandemic. What would be the health and wellness costs to society if these resources are diminished?
997	10/13/2021	Email	The idea of clear-cutting the trees along the Erie Canal Towpath is ridiculous. Who could possibly think such an act is appropriate since we live every day with the repercussions of previous bad and non-eco intelligent decisions? Think of the birds who depend upon the trees for their survival! Clear-cutting the trees will make the Towpath ugly and instead of being a local treasure for residents as visitors, the canal will become a site for stress and sadness. Please don't mismanage our tax dollars by mismanaging this project!
998	10/13/2021	Email	This email is to register my opposition to the clearcutting of trees along the canal as outlined in the EEIP. I read and agree with the letter addressed to the <i>Canal Corporation</i> written by the town of Pittsford attorney , Robert B. Keogal dated August 26,2021. As a Pittsford resident, as written in the August 26, 2021 letter, I would also like to request, "...the EEIP to reject embankment clear-cutting as it's underlying, rigid policy , to embrace a more thorough, robust program of inspection,

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			monitoring, risk assessment and remediation which allows flexibility in management for differing circumstances, and collaboration with localities as Pittsford and its residents to preserve both public safety and environmental quality."
999	10/13/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Please, Governor Hochul & State Legislators - use your powers to stop the clear cutting on the canal. So many reasons to keep this jewel as it is. Thank You, in advance, for your insistence on preserving the vegetation!! I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1000	10/13/2021	Email	<p>Please Please Please help us in preserving what we ALL love about our canal! I lived in the Fairport area from 2004-2011 then had to move away for a job. I begged my husband to move back after 5 years because I am "a Canal Romantic" and I missed this beautiful area and its villages. Yes, I use the term "Canal Romantic" ALL THE TIME to describe myself and what I love about living in the Rochester area. We understand that clear cutting is the easiest and least expensive way for NY Canal Corp to address concerns but we need you all to understand that this will have DEVASTATING affect on both our economy and enjoyment of the area and canal. We believe there are other ways to accomplish your goals ... although it may be more expensive and time consuming. But consider this..... Real Estate and economic benefits from a tree lined canal is huge! If we had all those trees removed, a large number of residents who live on the canal would put their homes up for sale, fewer buyers would now be interested due to the lack of tree barrier, cover and aesthetics ...bringing the market value of these homes and the surrounding homes down. If the value of these homes goes down, then the towns ability to collect tax dollars also goes down so towns will suffer greatly. Option ????.to raise our taxes even more...OH MY GOSH...people would flock from here.....so sad. Also, fewer residents and tourists would enjoy use of the canal in its stark existence thus affecting a large number of restaurants, bars, ice cream and boutique shops which rely on this business for jobs and survival. We rely on walkers, bikers, boaters, kayakers etc to keep our canal villages afloat and successful. Please let us keep our tree-lined canal. VERY CONCERNED,</p>
1001	10/13/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Please, Governor Hochul & State Legislators - use your powers to stop the clear cutting on the canal. So many reasons to keep this jewel as it is. Thank You, in advance, for your insistence on preserving the vegetation!! I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1002	10/13/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1003	10/13/2021	Email	<p>Hello Rebecca, I am sending this directly to you, you can pass along the info as needed, bit I see that in Section 2 of the EIS, there is a number correction needed... I made a note of it in this post on our Forum.</p>

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			<p>https://ecna.createaforum.com/the-stop-the-clearcut-argument/if-they-are-losing-does-that-make-them-losers/?message=1807</p> <p>In Section 2, Subsection 2.3, the Paragraph starts with the word "Three" alternatives were considered, which doesn't match the fact that Section 2.3 contains FOUR well defined alternatives that were being reviewed as alternatives. The fourth alternative being the term "clear-cutting", which didn't meet all requirements set on this program. Just may want to change that 2.3 intro sentence to read <i>Four Additional Alternatives were considered...</i> Hope this helps,</p>
1004	10/13/2021	Email	<p>Dear Power Authority:</p> <p>I am writing to submit comments in opposition to the tree clearing program along the Erie Canal. As a resident with property that abuts the canal, and as someone who uses the canal daily for transportation and recreation, the trees are one of the things that gives the canal its natural beauty and importantly, shade for those of us walking and biking. Without trees, its a desert out there. The trees provide charm in all seasons, and make villages along the canal attractive for tourists. Please leave the canal as is. As a final point, I believe there should be a different entity managing the canal, as the Power Authority is not the correct fit. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>
1005	10/13/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. New York</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1006	10/13/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Clear cutting and removing natural vegetation from canal embankments during a time of climate crisis is a travesty. Not only do we need to preserve the beauty and shade provided by trees and vegetation, but tree roots have not caused a breach of canal embankments. Furthermore, a canal path without trees and the wildlife they shelter will not attract people and will deter tourism. This would cause a significant hit to the economy of canal towns all along its 500 plus miles. Let's rethink the NYPA's role as steward of the Erie Canal. We need conservators</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1007	10/13/2021	Email	<p>Please listen to the people and stop all plans for clear cutting the trees along the Erie Canal! You will do more harm than good! People and wild animals and birds and critters depend on these trees for many reasons! Leave the trees and do maintenance instead!</p>
1008	10/13/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The canal clear cut makes absolutely no sense and will be detrimental to our natural environment, quality of life, economic vitality, and climate preparedness. With regards to the natural environment, bald eagles and great blue herons are just some of the wildlife that I have seen in the vegetation on the banks of the canal - were impacts to them considered? Where else in upstate NY is there a continuous habitat corridor for them and other species? With regard to quality of life, the canal and canal path provide unparalleled recreational opportunities for residents of this area -- and key to that is the shade and rain protection provided by the very trees that will be cut. Fewer people will be able to enjoy the canal in the baking sun, pouring rain, or driving snow without them. With regards to economic vitality, the canal is effectively no longer transportation infrastructure. It's value to our region is in the economic engine that comes with having scenic beauty and recreational opportunities in our upstate towns and villages. If it looks ugly, people and businesses won't be as attracted and we lose that economic engine. Finally, with regard to climate resilience, the canal provides protection against erosion and the urban heat island effect. It is simply junk science to claim that clear cutting trees helps maintain</p>

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			<p>the banks -- there is so much research and industry experience that says that vegetation is necessary to keep banks intact. The Federal Highway Administration and US Army Corps of Engineers are just two of many prominent organizations that recognize the value of nature-based solution for maintaining banks and preventing erosion in the face of increased precipitation going forward. Trees are our best defense against the urban heat island effect. This is true anywhere there is developed land, but especially so in majority-Black neighborhoods like the 19th Ward and Lyell-Otis in the City of Rochester. The canal goes through those neighborhoods providing shade in areas where residents lack the tree cover found elsewhere in the state. Finally, rather obviously, trees protect us by sucking greenhouse gases right out of the atmosphere. The canal is NOT a power line - it benefits us in the same way that parkland does, and it should be managed as such. If the NYPA can't understand that, it should be transferred to the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation or DEC.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1009	10/13/2021	Email	<p>Please cease and desist carrying out this destruction of trees which draw in CO2 and produce oxygen in exchange. Two of the most necessary benefits for Mother Earth! We're having enough trouble with climate change. We should be PLANTING trees, not cutting them down!</p>
1010	10/13/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Pittsford is dedicated to preservation and sustainability. This is evident in its numerous sustainability projects, as well as its Greenprint which was established in 1996. The Greenprint was unique and visionary at that time and is now seen as a model for other communities. I have to believe we all want to do what's best to preserve the heritage and future of the Erie Canal. Pittsford has shown it can face reality and make tough decisions to do what's critical in the short-term while ensuring a positive and sustainable future. What exactly is the public need for a drastic approach like clearcutting? I am concerned that it could be harmful and would not in fact achieve sustained embankment security. The Power Authority has not stated a clear public need for clearcutting. They should be transparent about the issues they see. They should involve the right experts and stakeholders in developing the solution. Pittsford is a key stakeholder. Instead the Power Authority denies the Town's power to regulate the clearcutting despite being subject to the zoning provisions of Pittsford's Local Waterfront Revitalization District that covers the Canal throughout the town. The NYS Canal Corporation should live up to its own stated goals and reject embankment clearcutting. (Canal Corporation states on its website that "Environmental Stewardship is recognized as one of the primary responsibilities of the Canal Corporation. Incorporating Environmental Stewardship into all projects and activities is one of the Strategic Goals of the organization.") I urge the Canal Corporation to work together with the Town of Pittsford and all stakeholders on behalf of people, wildlife and the environment. Our combined future depends on it.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1011	10/13/2021	Email	<p>I am a resident of Pittsford, New York.</p> <p>I urge the NYS Canal Corporation (CC) to live up to its own stated goals and REJECT the NY Power Authority's proposed management plan that would convert miles of embankment from natural vegetation to turf lawn with occasional scattered trees.</p> <p>To quote the CC's own Website: "Environmental Stewardship is recognized as one of the primary responsibilities of the Corporation. Incorporating Environmental Stewardship into all projects and activities is one of the Strategic Goals of the organization. Successful implementation of this goal requires that all Corporation employees take on the role of environmental stewards."</p> <p>PLEASE STEP UP AND BE A STEWARD. Do not accept the Power Authority's plan. The Power Authority has not stated a public need and has not clearly identified areas for proposed clearcutting. What kind of plan is that? Further, the Power Authority refuses to recognize municipal or public involvement, even when dictated by law, as with the zoning provisions of the Town of Pittsford's Local Waterfront Revitalization District that covers the Canal throughout Pittsford.</p> <p>I can appreciate that canal embankment management is a complicated process. But how can we be sure that a drastic approach like clearcutting will adequately address the concerns, without causing more harm? Please live up to your promise of Environmental Stewardship. Collaborate with Pittsford and other affected communities, and involve the right experts and other stakeholders, to come up with a thorough, science-based plan and process that puts people, wildlife and the environment first.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to share that I live about three-tenths of a mile from Great Embankment Park in Pittsford. I walk there and along the Canal path most days of the week and even snowshoe at the park in winter. In addition, my parents lived in Pittsford during their retirement years, and walking the Canal path was one of the great joys they shared with each other and their neighbors. I have taken both pride and enjoyment in the improvements Pittsford has made to Great Embankment Park over the years. While it's true that I have a very personal stake in the future of the canal, I also feel strongly in sustaining environmental quality for future generations of people and wildlife.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration of my input.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
1012	10/13/2021	Email	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Scott Gilman, I am a resident of Pittsford residing at 12 Sunset Blvd, Pittsford, NY, 14534. I use the canal trail almost every day to run and bike, and I also camp along the canal. I am an urban planner by training, and in my job I deal with climate resilient infrastructure. I'm writing to express my opposition to NYCC and NYPA's stance on managing vegetation on Canal embankments.</p> <p>The canal clear cut makes absolutely no sense and will be detrimental to our natural environment, quality of life, economic vitality, and climate preparedness. With regards to the natural environment, bald eagles and great blue herons are just some of the wildlife that I have seen in the vegetation on the banks of the canal - were impacts to them considered?</p>

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			<p>Where else in upstate NY is there a continuous habitat corridor for them and other species? I would be curious to know if NYPA and NYCC has considered if there are endangered species in the woods of the canal, and if so whether that was considered during SEQR or whether there was a discussion on whether the Endangered Species Act applies.</p> <p>With regard to quality of life, the canal and canal path provide unparalleled recreational opportunities for residents of this area -- and key to that is the shade and rain protection provided by the very trees that will be cut. Fewer people will be able to enjoy the canal in the baking sun, pouring rain, or driving snow without them</p> <p>With regards to economic vitality, the canal is effectively no longer transportation infrastructure. In most years, \$0 worth of commercial traffic is shipped on the canal. It's value to our region is in the economic engine that comes with having scenic beauty and recreational opportunities in our upstate towns and villages. If it looks ugly, people and businesses won't be as attracted and we lose that economic engine</p> <p>Finally, with regard to climate resilience, the canal provides protection against erosion and the urban heat island effect. It is simply junk science to claim that clear cutting trees helps maintain the banks -- there is so much research and industry experience that says that vegetation is necessary to keep banks intact. The Federal Highway Administration and US Army Corps of Engineers are just two of many prominent organizations that recognize the value of nature-based solution for maintaining banks and preventing erosion in the face of increased precipitation going forward. Trees are our best defense against the urban heat island effect. This is true anywhere there is developed land, especially so in developed areas of Monroe County. The canal goes through those neighborhoods providing shade in areas where residents lack the tree cover found elsewhere in the state. Finally, rather obviously, trees protect us by sucking greenhouse gases right out of the atmosphere.</p> <p>The canal is NOT a power line -- it benefits us in the same way that parkland does, and it should be managed as such. If the NYPA can't understand that and manage it in a manner appropriate with conservation practices, it should be transferred to the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation or NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.</p>
1013	10/14/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>Efforts like this to disrupt the natural landscape are harmful to our environment and the wildlife. We need to make ecologically conscious and smart decisions, and stopping the canal clear cut is one of them. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1014	10/14/2021	Email	<p>Dear Sir/Madam:</p> <p>As a resident of a town at Pittsford, strongly oppose the current clear cut proposed plan. I fully support the town and their reasoning for doing so in urge you to consider less intrusive methods to solve the issues at hand.</p>
1015	10/14/2021	Email Letter	<p>Good Morning,</p> <p>Please see attached correspondence from the Town of Perinton Commissioner of Public Works regarding the Earthen Embankment Integrity Program Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Embankment Maintenance Guide Book. A hard copy was also sent directly to Mr. Candiloro. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this project.</p> <p>Dear Mr. Candiloro,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) and Draft Embankment Maintenance Guidebook for the Earthen Embankment Integrity Program (EEIP) released for the public review in June 2021. In general, the DGEIS and corresponding evaluation of direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the EEIP activities appears to be thorough. We also found the Embankment Maintenance Guidebook to be comprehensive and cover a variety of concerns related to the inspection and maintenance of this important infrastructure. However, we do have several concerns and questions that we would like to offer for your consideration:</p> <p><u>Comments on the DGEIS</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) DGEIS Page 1-14, Regulatory and community threshold (also Figure 1.3-3): We recommend "Step 3" (Engage with stakeholders based on specific thresholds identified) b moved to "Step 1" once a community threshold is exceeded, rather than after removal of hazard trees and brush. Timely communication is critical to maintaining good rapport with residents and local municipalities. 2) DGEIS Page 2-6 & 2-7, Cut-off Walls Along Embankment Crests: The document outlines the alternative to install continuous sheeting, cement-bentonite or deep soil mixed cut of walls along both sides of the embankment sections at a cost between \$5 Million and \$17 Million per miles, with a total cost of \$0.6 Billion and \$2.0Billion for the entire 120 miles of embankment. Please clarify why cut off walls would be required on both sides of the canal in embankment sections) at double the cost, rather than just in the areas of vegetation slope concerns in accordance with the Embankment Maintenance Guide Book. Furthermore, the Town of Perinton would like to discuss with NYSCC the possibility of installing cut off walls in specific embankment sections where full vegetation would have dramatic visual impact (e.g. areas of oversteepened embankments in close proximity to homes, public park areas, ect.) 3) DGEIS Appendix B Page B-6: According to Table B-4, probability of seepage induced failure is listed as 3.5×10^{-3} for levees, canals and dams, not 3.5×10^{-5} as described in the text. Please confirm the appropriate probability, as 3.5×10^{-3} appears to b incorrect. 4) DGEIS Appendix B Page B-8: The Town would like NYSCC to provide specific risk based inundation mapping of critical low areas along the canal embankment, in particular between Canal Mile Marker 248 and 251. This would provide helpful information to share with residents and business owners in key areas in Town (e.g. Burgundy Basin, Indian Valley Subdivision Rochester Fair Garden Subdivision, Fairport Office Park). <p><u>Comments on Embankment Inspection & Maintenance Guidebook (EIMG)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) EIMG Page 3-1 through 3-2: Have any of the canal embankments sections within the Town of Perinton been inspected in the recent past? If so, has a color coded Hazard Classification (Table 3.1-1) and Condition Rating (Table 3.2-1) been assigned to any embankment sections in Perinton? Can this information be provided to the

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			<p>Town similar to how NYSDOT makes bridge inspection reports available via their Bridge Data Information System (BDIS)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) EIMG Page 5-2: Prior to dewatering canal via sluice gates, valves in waste weirs or bottom drains, the NYSCC should coordinate/communicate this event with local governments so that we can consider downstream impacts and be prepared to respond to calls from concerned residents. 3) EIMG Page 6-4 – Figure 6.2-1: Them embankment zone description for Zone 2B and Zone 3 indicates these two zones overlap. However, the graphic shows a clearly defined break between zones – which is correct? Also, what is the purposed/benefit of Zone 4B and Zone 5 overlapping? 4) EIMG Page 7-2 – Table 7.1-1 Frequency, Risk Priority and Category for Maintenance Tasks: Please Clarify whether this table is intended to be used on canal embankment slopes that have already been cleared of woody vegetation. 5) EIMG Pages 7-7 & 7-8: This portion of the guidelines outline NYSCC’s policy for woody vegetation in each embankment zone. As each embankment section has different characteristics and associated risk, the Town requests the NYSCC provide project specific plans for review and engage the Town and property owners prior to starting removal of embankment vegetation. Appropriate coordination language should be incorporated in this section/ This comment also applies to Attachment 1 – BMP Page 2-10, which describes “preparation of removal plans”. These plans should be shared with municipalities prior to starting work. 6) EIMG Page 8-14 – Scenic Management Guidelines: If trees or other vegetation are replanted, will NYSCC provide perpetual maintenance, including watering during initial establishment period and installation of replacement plantings for plants that don’t survive? Also, is there any flexibility in planting types? Best Management Practice – Attachment 1 indicates vegetative screening only consists of grasses and pollinator plantings. However, the section of embankment reconstruction recently complete in Brockport included planting of ^’ to 8’ tall arborvitae and dogwood shrubs in Zone 2B and crest edge of Zone 3. Will a variety of plantings be considered to embankments reconstructed in the Town of Perinton? 7) EIMG Page 8-24: The link to community thresholds appears to be missing or incorrect. 8) EIMG Page 8-25 Figure 8.15-1 Maintenance Solutions Decision Tree: The community threshold reference to “Table 8” should be “Table 8.15-1”. This figure also be revised to reorient the engagement of stakeholders prior to starting tree clearing (see DGEIS Comment #1 above) 9) EIMG Page 9-1 Communication & Notification: Revise this section to indicate that “Notification to Local Municipalities” is a Best Management Practice and not “if necessary”. 10) EIMG Attachment 1 – Section 2: This portion of the guidebook covers what plantings area permitted on embankment slopes and the subsequent maintenance is required. Vegetation screenings and pollinator plantings are permitted in Zones 2B and Zone 3, and turf grass applied to all other areas of the embankment. The guidebook states zone 2B and # are to be weeded regularly to “reduce the amount of vegetation growth, expansion of unwanted vegetation and general aesthetic value.” The guidebook also states embankment sloped are to be mowed twice per year to maintain a 12-inch maximum desirable height. Given the 120 miles of embankment of the NYSCC maintains the approach described in the EIMG raised two concerns: 1” Is it realistic to assume the maintenance crews will maintain the various zones individually (i.e. Zones 2B and 3 periodically weeded and Zones 4 and 5 to be mowed bi-annually, versus mowing all zones twice per year)? 2) A field visit to the recently completed section of the embankment reconstruction in Brockport revealed thick vegetation cover (not turf grass) along the entire embankment from crest to toe of the slope. It is interesting to note that after only a couple years with no tree canopy. The embankment slope received ample sunlight to produce thick, weedy vegetation blanket taller than the 12 in maximum specified in the EIMG. Can you confirm NYSCC has the resources to maintain all newly vegetated embankment slopes in the manner outlined in the EIMG? Otherwise, the argument that tree canopy and understory plants currently limit the ability the properly inspect embankment sloped is ineffective. The thick vegetation cover that will thrive in the reconstructed embankment areas and associated environment may create a similar hinderance to inspection. <p><u>General Comments on the Earthen Embankment Integrity Program</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) When is the decision made as to whether re-establishment of uniform sideslope is required? At the plan preparation level, or immediately after removal of significant trees? 2) Can you confirm the criteria for installing rock riprap or the other hard material on an embankment sideslope? Does the NYSCC anticipate the use of a hard material on any embankment slopes in the Town of Perinton? 3) For embankment slopes that require modification to the toe of slope location, how is the NYSCC integrating drainage considerations at the toe of the slope to avoid redirecting surface water onto private property? Where will any collected surface water be directed? 4) For the embankment sections repaired to date, how many seepage locations were monitored prior to the clearing operation and how many have been identified, monitored and/or addressed after the clearing operation? Are there any known seepage locations that are being monitored in Perinton? 5) As noted on page 1-9 in the DGEIS, steel sheeting was recently installed along the canal embankment in the Town of Perinton (near Woodcrest Circle and across the canal from Old Post Road). Did this emergency repair improve embankment integrity to a level that avoids the need to remove additional vegetation in this area? 6) Please provide more information on the logistics of heavy equipment entering and exiting the canal trail corridor during the project. Where will construction access points be located? How long will the trail be closed? With the work be conducted in phases to minimize the impact to trail users? 7) What is the anticipated schedule and construction duration from tree removal to complete restoration for the canal embankment sections in Perinton? 8) The Town of Perinton is concerned with the condition of dive culverts/culverts that also carry significant risk and potential for downstream flooding should they fail. Can you provide insight regarding the NYSCC approach to evaluating and maintaining this aging infrastructure? <p>Thank you for providing us the opportunity to review and comment on the DGEIS and EIMG. We could appreciate a meeting) either live or virtual) with Canal Officials and their engineering representatives to discuss the technical issues mentioned in this letter in more detail. Please give me a call to set up a meeting to discuss these comments in more detail.</p>
1016	10/14/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal’s raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p>

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			<p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Green spaces are a vital part of our communities. Not only are they important for wildlife and CO2 sequestration, but green spaces are essential to the physical and mental health of community members. Our BIPOC and Poot communities have a paucity of accessible, affordable, and safe spaces to spend time in, which contributes to worse health outcomes, worse quality of life, and many other disparities that we see in this country. Cutting the trees on the canal does not just hurt tourism, but it would be directly harmful to the health and well-being of your citizens. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1017	10/14/2021	Email	<p>Morning, Please be advised that as a resident of Pittsford , I oppose a full clear cut of the canal system locally and beyond. Selective clearing to ensure safety and security is logical, this plan goes too far</p>
1018	10/14/2021	Email	<p>Clear Cutting the canal is a mistake and I am opposed to it,</p>
1019	10/14/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. What is the need to cut so much more now than previously on our canal? Without knowing these details or questioning this extreme cutting that has already occurred on the West side of Rochester, I believe this should be stopped and re-evaluated before more is cut down that will take years to grow back. Please consider a stop to this at this time until further evaluation can be done. Thank you for your time and consideration. Kind Regards. Lisa Simpson. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1020	10/14/2021	Email	<p>The EIS is all wrong!! Stop the cutting and preserve the canal ecosystem. For us Pittsford residents, it is it an invaluable asset which should not be defaced by tree cutting.</p>
1021	10/14/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. Let's start over because we've already run afoul of the law by skipping the environmental review process. You have to engage the community proactively from the start; this draft EIS is too controversial. As a retired engineer, I ask you to halt the EIS process and plans to remove vegetation. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1022	10/14/2021	Email	<p>Greetings, I made a comment at the public hearing on 9/20 and I have additional comments and questions. Please see attached. The proposed work by NYSCC and NYPA is a still a solution looking for a problem. While the Guide Book documents lots of useful information regarding policies of other agencies toward management of their dam/embankment structures, there is no convincing rationale to cut down trees along large swaths of the Erie Canal embankment. The two main justifications - safety risk from possible breach-flooding and honoring "Best Practice" –have fallen too short in persuading many that there is a problem in the first place because the former has never happened and the latter is blind to aesthetics. The resistance to this project goes deeper: Most people who would be affected by it in an everyday sense (aka NYSCC's customers) apparently place a much higher value to trees than NYSCC ever imagined. Whereas the community regards the towpath-embankment, where the project is planned, as a park, NYSCC apparently regards that same space as an industrial asset and have brought to the table a mindset that is starkly at odds with the community. NYSCC and NYPA seemingly refuse to understand that the trees are valued as an indispensable part of an everlasting and historic environment; one that is proudly held up as a community asset. The idea of removing them on the flimsy reasoning offered is nonsensical and, at some level, offensive. Is this what is meant by the expression "nanny-state"? People already know trees can be problematic: they get struck by lightning; they fall on houses and power lines and they drop limbs anywhere without warning. But their importance at large is proven by the time and expense spent to nurture them and the reluctance to destroy trees that do not pose a clear threat. In a global sense, they are vital in the fight against climate change. The news of large forest fires or destruction of rain forests for farmland demands efforts to prevent these disasters. Does the NYPA really want to find itself in defense of destroying acres of trees to "safeguard" a</p>

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			<p>recreational corridor? If they feel that strongly about the perceived risk, they could achieve the same goal by draining the canal. No water, no flood risk.</p> <p>Past caretakers of the canal managed to keep up maintenance effectively without denuding the embankment. And, they did it with fewer technical resources at their disposal than the current agency. There are now many resources for real-time data acquisition over wireless networks and data analysis tools to characterize process stability under various conditions. Arrays of sensors can be embedded at key places and monitored, data-logged, control and alarm limits established, etc., to give early warning of trouble spots.</p> <p>I would like responses to these questions: Does NYSCC or NYPA have a strategy at any stage of development to change the current status of the canal to add a commercial or industrial function? e.g., use the canal-way as a conduit? Is the proposed tree removal influenced by differences between maintenance strategies by previous NY Thruway Authority and NYPA? i.e., budgetary and/or resource changes? Thank you for your consideration.</p>
1023	10/14/2021	Email	<p>I attended the public meeting in the Town of Perinton on Monday September 26, 2021. My main question is what has changed that now requires the canal to be clear cut? The only thing I can discern is that the NYPA took control of the canal corporation and it's just administratively easier to clear cut. If there are facts to the contrary that show an actual risk and that the canal cannot be maintained safely as it has been for the last century (that's 100 years), please let me know.</p> <p>This plan does not take into account the devastation to the local economies and tourism as well as to the local residents. I moved to Fairport, NY 16 years ago because of the canal. It was THE choice of why I moved to this town.</p> <p>NYPA's current plan makes no sense and is based on no actual facts. It's only based on their convenience. If I am wrong, please let me know. The representatives at the public meeting could not provide any real facts. Please stop this project and bring in scientists, local communities and others who may be able to help develop a comprehensive and sustainable plan. Other countries have many models for safe canal maintenance, and they've been doing it for centuries, e.g. Netherlands, England, etc. Maybe NYPA needs to open its mind and look around.</p>
1024	10/14/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Please stop the canal clear cut.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1025	10/14/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Tree roots prevent erosion</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1026	10/14/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p>

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			<p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>I have run this canal for 25 years. The trees and other vegetation has also provided protection from the heat or the cold wins. They have done all the above and provided protection and habitat for birds and animals as well.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1027	10/14/2021	Email	<p>Dear NY Canal Corporation,</p> <p>For me, it all boils down to this, from your website. Your "Earthen Embankment Integrity Overview" web-page says that there is:</p> <p><i>"..... a presumption that all trees and other unsuitable vegetation will be cleared to protect people and property"....</i> while recognizing alternatives.</p> <p>Nooo! That's the OPPOSITE of what should be done!! You are saying that the cutting of ALL trees and other "unsuitable" vegetation is the default, the norm, the plan, the assumption UNLESS there is some compelling reason to keep them? No! The assumption, the default, the norm, the plan should be to KEEP the trees and vegetation unless there is some compelling reason to CUT them!</p> <p>I am strongly against the clear-cut. It's clear that that's your plan.</p> <p>WXXI's article quotes your public engagement staff member as saying "pretty flatly that it's not a clear cutting program." I think the statement above from your website disputes that.</p> <p>Leave the trees alone!</p>
1028	10/14/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>Please don't cut the trees, there is no logical reason to.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1029	10/14/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>The canal is such a gem in NYS, and it is deeply enhanced by the vegetation along it. I strongly advocate against the clear cutting of trees alongside the canal.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1030	10/15/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>Please find a way to maintain the integrity of the canal without making the surrounding land look like a golf course fairway. The vegetation is beautiful and its shade is a lifesaver on hot days.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1031	10/15/2021	Email	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to the NYS Canal Corp's plan to clearcut trees along the Erie Canal.</p> <p>I grew up in Penfield, but moved away in the 1990s and didn't return until 2013, when my husband and I bought a home in Fairport. We walk, bike, and paddle along the canal almost every day throughout all four seasons of the year and almost always see something amazing and wonderful, from all sorts of wildlife, like mink, deer, herons, and turtles to people of all ages, shapes, and sizes walking, running, riding bikes, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, and boating.</p> <p>The Canal is an amazing resource, in no small part because of the trees that provide rich habitat and scenic beauty. Public support for the trees - and for a real and open public process - forced the Canal Corp to stop its initial plan to clearcut</p>

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			<p>several years ago. The Canal Corp is trying again now, and although there is more of a public process in place, I have little trust in the Canal Corp or its process.</p> <p>I spent almost 20 years living and working in Southeast Alaska and am very familiar with both clearcutting and selective logging. Clearcutting is cheap, fast, and easy. It requires little skill and even less thought to what is lost and what will be left behind. The Canal Corp must be held to a higher standard. Please conduct a scientifically based assessment of what is actually needed to protect not just the Canal, which continues to thrive despite Canal Corp neglect, but the amazing habitat and scenic beauty that neglect has created.</p> <p>If some trees must be removed, the Canal Corp must be held accountable for doing the work responsibly - for selective removal and replanting disturbed areas with native plants that support wildlife.</p>
1032	10/15/2021	Email Letter	<p>We represent the Village of Pittsford Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals with respect to activities requiring approval under the Village Local Waterfront Consistency Law and Zoning Code. Please consider this letter a public comment on the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Embankment Maintenance Guide Book for the Earthen Embankment Integrity Program.</p> <p>Dear Sir or Madame:</p> <p>We represent the Village of Pittsford ("Village") Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals with respect to activities requiring approval under the Village Local Waterfront Consistency Law and Zoning Code. Please consider this letter a public comment on the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement ("DGEIS") and Draft Embankment Maintenance Guide Book for the Earthen Embankment Integrity Program.</p> <p>The Earthen Embankment Integrity Program (the "Program") is a "comprehensive canal system embankment maintenance program" for any "earthen embankments of features that abut and are parallel to the earthen embankments . . . [including] turf, vegetation, armoring or paving that's parallel to the embankment slopes and surfaces." https://canals.ny.gov/Earthen_Embankment/Environmental_Assessment_Form.html.</p> <p>The Program would be implemented by the Draft Embankment Maintenance Guide Book for the Earthen Embankment Integrity Program ("Guidebook"), which proposes to divide the Erie Canal into Earthen Embankment Zones ("Zones"). The Guidebook proposes to remove all woody vegetation growth in Zones 1, 2A, 4, and 5, and may require the removal of vegetation in Zone 2B and 3. According to the Guidebook, any non-compatible vegetation (brush, bushes, and trees), together with their root systems, will be removed. Guidebook §7.3. Further, the removal will include "a distance of H/2 (where H is the height of the embankment from its outboard toe to the crest) but no less than 15 feet from the tow of the embankment," which will impact a significant portion of the Village's waterfront. Guidebook §7.3.1.</p> <p>The Village of Pittsford includes Schoen Place, which is a popular tourist attraction and jewel of the canal system. It has been stated that the walking path at Schoen Place is the most visited section of towpath trail on the entire canal system. Images of Schoen Place waterfront are prominently promoted for New York state tourism programs. This waterfront came about by hard work and it all appears to be threatened by heavy handed and draconian maintenance in the Guidebook with no public benefit.</p> <p>The Village of Pittsford adopted a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program in 2006. After the adoption of this program, three parks were created along the Canal waterfront that utilized millions of taxpayer dollars to establish walking paths, attractive trees and landscaping along the Canal, and attractive amenities that draw countless tourists every year. The Canal Corporation has not previously objected to any of these activities but now is proposing maintenance plans that appear to mandate clearcutting portions of these parks to prevent hypothetical embankment failures.</p> <p>The Canal Corporation has not yet identified any sites it wishes to clear-cut, or whether it intends to perform any Program activities on that part of the Erie Canal located within the Village of Pittsford.</p> <p>For the reasons set forth in this letter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Program is subject to a waterfront consistency determination under the Village LWRP, the special district requirements of the Village Zoning Code and the Village Local Waterfront Consistency Law. The Canal Corporation must obtain a waterfront consistency determination and site plan approval before it undertakes any Program activities in the Village of Pittsford. The Program cannot be implemented in the Village unless it is consistent with the Village Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and comply with the Village Waterfront Overlay District Requirements. 2. Embankment clear-cutting appears to be inconsistent with the LWRP and Village zoning requirements. 3. The Guidebook itself is ill-conceived and its recommendations are irrational. 4. The Canal Corporation, as lead agency under SEQRA, improperly rejected the "No Action" alternative. 5. Adoption of the Guidebook would violate SEQRA's requirement that, after weighing and balancing alternatives, the Lead Agency chose the alternative that minimizes adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable. In this case, the "No Action" alternative is the one that would mitigate adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable and satisfy the lead agency obligations under SEQRA. <p>1. The Program is subject to a waterfront consistency determination under the Village LWRP, the special district requirements of the Village Zoning Code and the Village Local Waterfront Consistency Law. The Canal Corporation must obtain a waterfront consistency determination and site plan approval before it undertakes any Program activities in the Village of Pittsford. The Program cannot be implemented in the Village unless it is consistent with the Village Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and comply with the Village Waterfront Overlay District Requirements.</p> <p>A. <u>Article 42 of NY Executive Law Requires the Program to be Consistent with the Village of Pittsford LWRP</u></p> <p>New York Executive Law Article 42 ("Article 42") requires coordinated planning to preserve, enhance, and protect the state's inland waterway resources, including the Erie Canal and its embankment¹. New York Executive Law sections 910 and 911 (4). All planning actions directly undertaken by state agencies with respect to the state's inland waterways (including the Erie Canal) are subject to the State coastal area policies established under Article 42. New York Executive Law section 919(1).</p> <p>Since the Canal Corporation is a state agency and its Program impacts an inland waterway (the Erie Canal), the Program is a planning activity subject to Article 42's coastal area policies.</p>

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			<p>A local government may prepare its own local waterfront revitalization plan (“LWRP”) and submit it to the Secretary of State for approval. New York Executive Law 919(2). Once the Secretary of State approves a municipality’s LWRP, any future state agency action impacting the local waterfront must not conflict with the municipal LWRP. Executive Law section 915(9).</p> <p>The Village of Pittsford adopted its LWRP in 2006, and the Secretary of State approved the LWRP on June 23, 2006. Consequently, the Program is an agency planning activity that impacts that portion of the Erie Canal within the Village and must not conflict with the Village LWRP under Article 42.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">B. <u>Village of Pittsford Local Waterfront Consistency Law Requires the Program to be Consistent with the Village of Pittsford LWRP</u></p> <p>In 2005, the Village of Pittsford adopted the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (“LWRP”) to revitalize and protect the Village’s waterfront, which is located entirely along the Erie Canal. See Waterfront Revitalization Area Boundary, LWRP, Section 1A.</p> <p>The Village LWRP is implemented through the Village Local Waterfront Consistency Law set forth in Chapter 121 of the Village Code. The Local Waterfront Consistency Law, in turn, requires Local Waterfront Consistency Review (“Consistency Review”) for all actions² located in whole or part along the village’s waterfront area (i.e., the Erie Canal). Village Code 121-5(A). The Consistency Review process requires an LWRP consistency determination by the Village Planning Board before an action may be undertaken in the waterfront area. Village of Pittsford Waterfront Consistency Law §121.</p> <p>The Program is an agency planning activity that impacts that portion of the Erie Canal in the Village of Pittsford. Consequently, the Program is an Action subject to Consistency Review under the Village Local Waterfront Consistency Law.</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 0;"/> <p>¹ New York Canal Law section 2(2). ² Actions are defined as certain SEQRA Type I or Unlisted action, including “Agency planning and policy-making activities that may affect the environment and commit the agency to a definite course of future decisions.” Village Code 121-2(A)(2). The Wayne County Supreme Court determined that the Program is a Type I action under SEQRA. <i>Town of Pittsford, Town of Brighton, and Town of Perinton v. Power Authority of the State of New York and New York State Canal Corporation</i> (Index No. 2018-945), Order and Judgment dated March 8, 2018. The Program is an agency planning and policy-making activity that may affect the environment and commit the agency to a definite course of future decisions. Consequently, the Program is an Action subject to LWRP Review.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">C. <u>Village of Pittsford Zoning Code Requires LWCR and Minor Site Plan Review of the Program</u></p> <p>In addition to the Consistency Review requirement imposed by the Village Local Waterfront Consistency Law, the Village Zoning Code’s Special District Regulations impose further controls on the use and alternation of lands within any Special District. The Local Waterfront Overlay District is one of the special purpose districts regulated by the Special District Regulations. The Erie Canal and its embankment are within the Village Local Waterfront Overlay District.</p> <p>The Special District Regulations independently require Consistency Review for all land alterations within the Waterfront Overlay District. Village Code 210-23.2(D) and 210-23.4(D).</p> <p>In addition, the Special District regulations also require site plan review for land alterations within the Waterfront Overlay District. Village Code 210-23.2(B). Here, Program requires Minor Site Plan approval pursuant to Village Code 210-34.2(A) because it may involve “siting, planting, erecting, or reconfiguring landscaping, fencing, screening, or walkways in association with a nonresidential use or multifamily dwelling” and/ or “the construction of a fence, screening, berm, patio, or deck in a nonresidential district.” Village Code 210-34.2(A)(5) and (11).</p> <p>For these reasons, the Village Special Purpose District regulations require the Canal Corporation to obtain both Consistency Review and minor site plan approval before it undertakes any tree clearing or other physical alteration of land in the Village.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1. [2]Embankment Clear Cutting Appears to be Inconsistent with the Village LWRP Policies</p> <p>The general theme of the LWRP is that landscaping should be used to make attractive sites and provide important buffering to screen roads, parking lots, dumpsters, and other elements. This is evident at Schoen place where street trees have been planted to make attractive walkway along the canal waterfront. Additionally, the LWRP stresses protection of historic resources and scenic landscapes. Several important woodlots are specifically mentioned that require protection. Natural features are to be preserved to the maximum extent practicable.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">For example, please consider the following sections of the Village LWRP:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Section II page 8:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>“Woodlots Wooded areas provide habitats for varied flora and fauna. They also: protect watersheds and soils from flooding and erosion, act as storm buffers by slowing winds and moderating temperature extremes, and purify the air through removal of carbon dioxide and creation of oxygen. In addition, wooded areas provide an important source of recreation and visual pleasure. Pittsford has many woodlots including several in the canal area. The western edge of the town features woodlots on both the north and south shores in the proximity of the turning basin. As well as being the site of a state regulated wetland, the land surrounding the old canal bed extending to Lock 62 is heavily wooded. The south shore of the canal, east of Clover Street and west of the former Monoco property is mostly wooded as far as Jefferson Road and, in some areas, beyond. The canal is lined with trees and heavy undergrowth on both shores from Mitchell Road east to the Town of Pittsford Great Embankment Park. The woods on the north side are deeper, while the trees on the south simply line a narrow strip between the canal and Jefferson Road. The north side of the canal from the Great Embankment east to the town border is heavily wooded. The Great Embankment (See Appendix A) is where the land and canal bed were artificially built up to</u></p>

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			<p><u>support the canal overpass over Irondequoit creek. The Irondequoit creek valley south of the canal is also lined with trees (emphasis supplied)."</u></p> <p>Section III, page 8:</p> <p>"Parking lots and other service entries, storage, maintenance, loading, and refuse collection areas should be screened from view either by the use of vegetation, appropriate fencing, a combination of the two, or through site layout and buildings configuration. The visual impact of parking near the canal should be minimized. The siting of new construction or building alterations should reflect and reinforce the existing building line and be compatible with existing mass and height. New buildings should not compete with, or destroy the existing street line and skyline but should enhance its overall character. <u>The siting of new buildings or building alterations should be respectful of views to and from the canal, existing natural features, and where feasible retain the integrity of the site's character as expressed through its landform and landscape (emphasis supplied)."</u></p> <p>Section III, page 9:</p> <p>"Attractive older buildings and public spaces within the town and village, and along the canal should serve as models for new construction and the design of public spaces. This local vernacular, as expressed through site and architectural details such as roof shape, building scale, window size, fenestration, and appropriate landscape elements, should be incorporated within the design of new buildings and public spaces. Overall, the design of new construction, as well as infill construction, <u>or alterations, should enhance the character of the community and canal and contribute to, not detract from, a unified and memorable Pittsford identity. Visually appealing pedestrian-oriented environments which include the use of landscaping as part of a streetscape improvement program not only attract more interest from passing motorists and help reduce speeds but are also more appealing places for pedestrians.</u> Development should create clear vehicular movement and pedestrian patterns. The town and village will identify potential conflict areas where vehicular and pedestrian interaction occurs and upgrade pedestrian movements to an equal or greater priority than vehicle movements. Traffic calming mechanisms will be incorporated into the existing street network to reduce the potential for vehicular and pedestrian conflict. Such mechanisms include curb bump-outs, paving textural changes, signage, pedestrian crosswalks, incorporation of stop signs and lights where appropriate and beneficial, and the incorporation of pedestrian friendly streetscape elements to further separate vehicles and pedestrians. Pedestrian friendly streetscape elements include, the construction of sidewalks, plantings of street trees, use of bollards to separate traffic patterns -both vehicular and pedestrian, allocation of benches, planters and appropriate signage, as well as the maintenance of building fronts, and public spaces (emphasis supplied)."</p> <p>Section III page 4:</p> <p>"Major New Development The siting of major new development should address the physical location and logical organization of buildings on a site in relation to both the surrounding man-made environment and the encompassing natural environment. <u>The siting of new development should be respectful of existing view sheds and natural features.</u> Where feasible, new developments should retain the integrity of the site's character as expressed through its land form and landscape. Open space, courtyards, and landscaped pathways within any new development should be encouraged to provide transitional areas between public and private spaces (emphasis supplied)."</p> <p>Section III page 5:</p> <p>"The community would be visually enhanced by the addition of landscaping to parking areas that would provide visual relief, shade, and buffer between adjoining land uses. Trees, shrubs, flowers, and ground covers should be used as appropriate. Large areas of asphalt should be divided into smaller units through the use of landscaping or other techniques."</p> <p>Section III page 6-7:</p> <p>Please note that Section II, page 8 identified critical woodlots that form important scenic landscapes to protect.</p> <p>"A key goal of the LWRP is to continue the on-going preservation and retention of historic resources in the Town and Village of Pittsford, including those assets identified in Appendix A and others. Historic preservation, adaptive reuse of historic structures and community connections to the canal within the LWRP boundary shall be maintained to the extent practicable".</p> <p>Historic resources are those structures, <u>landscapes, districts,</u> areas or sites, or underwater structures or artifacts which are on, nominated to be on, or determined eligible to be on the National or State Register of Historic Places. The Erie Canal within the Village of Pittsford is part of the National Register of Historic Places as the New York State Barge Historic District. Moreover, practically the entire Village of Pittsford is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. See Pittsford Village Historic District (Boundary Increase) (villageofpittsford.com).</p> <p>Once a resource has been identified as historic, those elements important in defining the character and value of the resource should be documented. Designation information, available documentation, and original research can be used to quantify important character-defining elements of the historic resource in terms of its time, place, and use; materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships; setting within its physical surroundings and the community; and association with historic events, people, or groups. The value of the historic resource should also be determine as indicated by: its membership within a group of related resources which would be adversely impacted by the loss of any one of the group of resources; the rarity of the resource in terms of the quality of its historic elements or in the significance of it as an example, or the significance of events, people, or groups associated with the resource.</p> <p>Once the character-defining elements of the resource are identified, they should be preserved and retained with the least degree of intervention. Passive approaches are often insufficient to achieve needed preservation; an active commitment to preservation is necessary. In order to achieve complete preservation and retention of the resource, the following standards should be applied to the maximum extent practicable. This includes:</p>

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			<p>a. Evaluating the physical condition of important materials and features.</p> <p>b. Stabilizing materials and features to prevent further deterioration.</p> <p>c. Protecting important materials and features from inadvertent or deliberate removal or damage.</p> <p>d. Ensuring the protection of historic elements through a program of nonintrusive maintenance of important materials and features.</p> <p>Section III page 8:</p> <p>“Maximum retention of historic character is best achieved by using the resource as it was historically used. If the resource cannot be used as it was historically used, a use should be adapted to the historic resource in a way that maximizes retention of character-defining materials and features. When adapting a resource to a new use, alterations to the resource should be minimized in order to preserve and retain its historic character. <u>Therefore necessary updates in systems to meet health and safety code requirements or to conserve energy should be made in a manner which minimizes potential negative impacts on the resource's historic character.</u> Alterations to the resource should only be made as needed to ensure its continued use and only in a manner which minimizes adverse impacts on the resource. Alterations should not obscure, destroy, or radically change character defining spaces, materials, features, or finishes spaces (emphasis supplied).”</p> <p>Section III page 5:</p> <p><u>“The preservation of significant open space areas should continue to be pursued. The concept of a ribbon of green along the canal, should be incorporated into all existing and new projects.</u> For example, in existing commercial areas, the expansion of green space and planting areas can be used to improve the aesthetic nature of the site. In new projects, open space should be required as an integral component of the design scheme, rather than a remnant of the development process. This may be accomplished through the use of buffer areas between different land uses, cluster development, incentive zoning and the transfer of development rights spaces (emphasis supplied).”</p> <p>Section IV page 7:</p> <p>“This is the largest undeveloped tract of land in the village (with the exception of the Powers Farm, most of which has been protected as part of the Pittsford Greenprint resource protection program). Any future use of this area must respond to the environmental setting. Waterfront access via the trail must be maintained. Expanded access to the canal may be possible here through additional docking facilities-- potentially for both public and private users. Specific natural features that need to be recognized and protected include the wetland areas, feeder streams, and wetland-upland edge habitat. The pine plantation on the village-owned land is a noteworthy local resource. <u>Old fields, woodlands and wetlands, and the canal and path render a park like ambiance to the area.</u> The waterfront connection should be emphasized as new uses emerge. Protection of the existing freshwater wetland areas (which will need to be —flagged and mapped prior to detailed site planning or development) and buffer areas will be important. The existing pine plantation offers a unique park like setting, hence offering a natural opportunity to explore the possibilities of a passive park use here. This ambiance speaks to the site’s potential to serve multiple purposes. Some sort of public development would be appropriate here-- primarily on existing town and/or village-owned property. Perhaps this area could be used for community recreation facilities (nature walks, open field for casual ball play, etc.) and for some additional public access to the canal. A nature trail would be a nice addition here. Such a trail could connect from the Auburn Rail Trail at the northern boundary, wind along the edge of the wetland area, link through the evergreen plantation, and connect back to the canal path spaces (emphasis supplied).”</p> <p>Section V page 4:</p> <p>“The Village of Pittsford has added Chapter 121, Local Waterfront Consistency to the Code of the Village of Pittsford. The purpose of the local law is to provide a framework for agencies of the Village of Pittsford to consider the policies and purposes of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program - Town and Village of Pittsford when reviewing applications for actions or direct agency actions located in the coastal area; and to insure that such actions and direct actions are consistent with the said policies and purposes. § 121-4 authorizes the Village of Pittsford Planning Board to review and make all determinations regarding the consistency of proposed actions with Local Waterfront Revitalization Program - Town and Village of Pittsford policy standards and conditions, and the LWRP design guidelines The Village’s Consistency Laws provide a framework for consideration of the policies and purposes of the LWRP when reviewing applications for actions or direct agency actions located in the Town’s and Village’s waterfront area. § 121-5 outlines the procedures for the review of actions.”</p> <p>Section V page 7:</p> <p>Landscaping and trees are required for screening roads, parking areas, dumpsters, storage, etc.</p> <p>“Parking lots and other service entries, storage, maintenance, loading, and refuse collection areas should be regulated to the rear or sides of buildings away from public view. These entities should be screened from view either by the use of vegetation, appropriate fencing, a combination of the two, or through site layout and buildings configuration. <u>The visual impact of parking near the canal should be minimized. All at-grade parking fronting on, or in view of, the canal should be screened from view</u> spaces (emphasis supplied).”</p> <p>Section V page 10:</p> <p>“Buildings and plantings should form an attractive edge to the street instead of a dominance of pavement and parking lots.”</p> <p>Section V page 14:</p> <p>“Parking lots and other service entries, storage, maintenance, loading, and refuse collection areas should be relegated to the rear or sides of buildings away from public view. Whenever possible, these entities should be screened from view either by the use of vegetation, appropriate fencing, a combination of the two, or through site layout, building design and</p>

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			<p>configuration. The creation of additional side and back entrances to buildings will render side and back parking lots more attractive to costumers and the buildings more visually interesting to pedestrians. In addition, <u>the visual impact of parking near the canal should be minimized and all at-grade parking fronting on, or in view of, the canal should be screened from view spaces (emphasis supplied).</u>"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Section V page 14, 15</p> <p>"Visually appealing pedestrian-oriented environments which include the use of landscaping as part of a streetscape improvement program not only attract more interest from passing motorists and help reduce speeds but are also more appealing places for pedestrians. Section V 15 The community would be visually enhanced by the addition of landscaping to parking areas that would provide visual relief, shade, and buffer between adjoining land uses. Trees, shrubs, flowers, and ground covers should be used as appropriate. Large areas of asphalt should be divided into smaller units through the use of landscaping or other techniques. Planting islands should be large enough to support mature trees."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Section V, page 15</p> <p>"The addition of street trees is recommended to shade and enclose the street and to define the edge of the public realm and private space. The addition of street trees also reduces and defines the scale of the pedestrian space and physically separates pedestrian movement from vehicular movement. Streetscape plans should include appropriate planting areas for street trees, and in areas of high traffic should incorporate protective measures such as granite curbs to define tree planters, as well as the use of tree grates and when necessary trunk protectors."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Section V, page 15</p> <p>"The preservation of significant open space areas should continue to be pursued as outlined within the Greenprint. <u>The concept of a ribbon of green along the canal should be incorporated into all existing and new projects.</u> For example, in existing commercial areas, the expansion of green space and planting areas can be used to improve the aesthetic nature of the site. In new projects, open space should be required as an integral component of the design scheme, rather than a remnant of the development process. (The later may be accomplished through the use of buffer areas between different land uses, cluster development, incentive zoning and the transfer of development rights.) New developments should also be respectful of existing viewsheds and natural features. Where feasible the integrity of the sites character as expressed through its landform and landscape, should be retained. Parks and other green spaces within any new development should be encouraged to provide transitional areas between public and private spaces, as well as provide habitat linkages for wildlife spaces (emphasis supplied)."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2. [3] The Guidebook is Ill-Conceived and Its Recommendations Are Irrational</p> <p>The maintenance procedures outlined in section 5 of the Guidebook call for removal of trees and vegetation along canal banks to prevent hypothetical embankment failures. This would have a disastrous environmental impact in the Village of Pittsford. Moreover, for the reasons set forth below, the Guidebook is systemically flawed and must be rejected in its entirety.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Faulty Canal Embankment Definition</u></p> <p>The first fundamental issue with the Guidebook is that it uses a definition of embankment that does not consider its actual geometry and specifies uniform treatment that does not consider physical conditions.</p> <p>The definition of embankment is a problem:</p> <p>CANAL EMBANKMENT – A water-impounding earthen structure, usually constructed in a parallel alignment to the Canal, raising the water surface elevation of the Canal above the adjacent land surface elevation. Such embankments can be on one or more sides of the Canal. These embankments may retain water only during the canal operating season for areas where the canal is drained in the winter, or they may retain water year-round in areas where the canal is not drained or only partially drained.</p> <p>This definition states an embankment consists of land that contains Canal water where adjacent land is below water level. The key failure of this definition is it does not specify any distances or slopes. Images depict steep banks prone to failure:</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p>However, the definition equally applies to broad swaths of land that have little risk of failure such as below:</p>

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The definition of land does not consider whether the distance from the water to the Toe Ditch is 20 feet or 20 miles. Intuition readily concludes that the two scenarios have different odds of failure and need different treatment.

Embankment maintenance policy does not consider geometry

Below is a diagram and summary of policy for Canal Embankments:

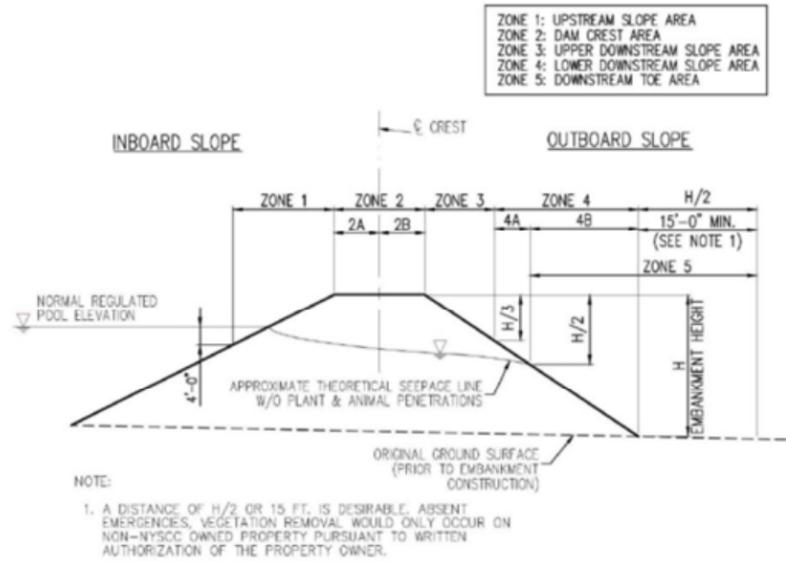
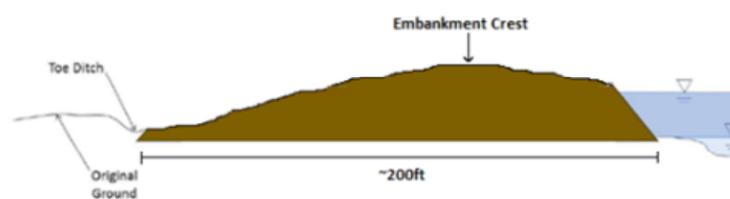


Figure 6.2-1: Embankment Zones

- NYSCC policy is to remove all woody vegetation growth located in Zone 1.
- NYSCC policy is to remove all woody vegetation growth located in Zone 2A.
- NYSCC will consider retaining existing vegetation in Zone 2B following the Scenic Management Guidelines.
- NYSCC policy is that woody vegetation in Zone 3 shall be removed except in very limited instances
- NYSCC policy is to remove all woody vegetation growth located in Zone 4.
- NYSCC policy is to remove all woody vegetation growth located in Zone 5.

The blanket policy of tree eradication for canal embankments that does not differentiate steep embankments 20 feet wide from broad embankments 20 miles wide is irrational. Important Canal embankments in the Village of Pittsford, such as Schoen Place, look more like the diagram below with the crest a long distance from the water with shallow slopes. It is irrational to adopt blanket statements on embankment maintenance without considering their geometry.



The proposed maintenance policy would severely impact Pittsford.

Below are images of Schoen Place in the Village of Pittsford:



Schoen Place waterfront in the Village of Pittsford.

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			 <p><i>Canal embankment at Schoen Place in the Village of Pittsford. Nearly every tree in view is to be removed by the Earthen Embankment Integrity Program as proposed by the New York State Canal Corporation.</i></p> <p>Schoen Place meets the definition of embankment but it is short and very broad. The width of the “embankment” at Schoen Place is over 200 feet wide. A summary of proposed treatment under the Guidebook:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A walking path, planted line of trees, and portions of a road are on the inboard slope (Zone 1). Policy calls for unnecessary removal all trees, and possibly the road and/or walkway. • The crest of the “embankment” at Schoen Place contains parking lots, private yards, and buildings, and portions of a road (Zone 2A, 2B). Policy calls for removal of most or all trees. • Moving further from the Canal are buildings and parking lots (zone 4, zone 5). Policy calls for removal of all landscaping trees around the parking lots and buildings. <p><u>Proposed work is unknown.</u></p> <p>The Guidebook section 3 discusses classifications of embankments based on how much damage may result from an embankment failure, the current condition of the embankment, and risk urgency rating. However, all of this appears to be based on recommendations for dams, and none of it is based on needs of canals. The Erie Canal is not a dam!</p> <p>The Guidebook calls for a uniform treatment of canal banks, states clearcutting of embankments is required, but then states a risk management strategy will prioritize where the work will be done. That leaves municipalities without clarity as to how their community will be impacted. Risk management classification strategy is not a precise science and land is subject to arbitrary reclassification at any time.</p> <p>The Guidebook cites FEMA publication P-1025 Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety Risk Management as the reference for identifying land prone to imminent embankment failures. However, that document provides no objective information at all. That document states: “Methods to calculate and estimate risks are constantly evolving. This document does not try to describe in detail how to analyze risks. It only describes the general practices used by those who analyze risks.” It additionally states “Numerical risk estimates are based on judgments, are typically subjective, and include varying degrees of uncertainty. These estimates should not be the sole basis to inform decisions.”</p> <p>No one knows which Canal embankments are flagged for clearcutting, which ones are to be left alone, and risk classification used to make these decisions is inherently a capricious process subject to change.³ The Guidebook leaves municipalities in the dark.</p> <p>³ The following quotes from the Guidebook support this conclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Numerical risk estimates are based on judgments, are typically subjective, and include varying degrees of uncertainty. These estimates should not be the sole basis to inform decisions.” • “The guidance offered and specific procedures identified in these guidelines are not mandated. Individual agencies may vary in the way they apply these guidelines as necessary to accomplish their respective missions.” • “While dam safety risks cannot be eliminated, they should be reduced to a level that is as low as reasonably practicable.” • “Methods to calculate and estimate risks are constantly evolving. This document does not try to describe in detail how to analyze risks. It only describes the general practices used by those who analyze risks.” • “With approximately 120 miles of embankment presently identified in the Canal system, it is necessary to identify and prioritize those sections most in need of maintenance. In order to create a prioritization, a matrix was developed based on two metrics: hazard classification, and condition rating to assign a resulting risk urgency rating. The matrix prioritizes risk urgency by assigning the highest risk urgency to those segments with the highest hazard classification and lowest condition rating.” <p>3. [4] The Canal Corporation, as lead agency under SEQRA, improperly rejected the “No Action” alternative.</p> <p>To discharge its responsibility under SEQRA, an agency must comply with both the letter and the spirit of SEQRA. Matter of Schenectady Chems. v. Flacke, 83 A.D.2d 460 (3d Dept. 1981) (“Schenectady”). SEQRA requires each EIS to include a discussion of alternatives to the proposed action. ECL 8-0109(4) (EIS “shall discuss” reasonable alternatives to the action; ECL 8-0109(2)(an EIS must include “alternatives to the proposed action”) and ECL 8-0109(2)(d) (EIS must “suggest alternatives to such an action so as to form the basis for a decision whether or not to undertake such action”). This requirement is reiterated in SEQRA’s implementing regulations, which require an EIS to include “a description and evaluation of the range of reasonable alternatives to the action.” 6 NYCRR 617.14(f)(5).</p> <p>This “alternatives analysis” has been repeatedly described as the “heart of SEQRA.” Shawangunk Mountain Environmental Association v. Planning Board of Gardiner, 157 A.D.2d 273 (3d Dept. 1990) (“Shawangunk”). See also Akpan v. Koch, 75 N.Y.2d 561 (1990) (“Akpan”). The goal of the alternatives analysis is to investigate ways to avoid or reduce potentially significant adverse impacts.⁴</p>

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			<p>To be meaningful and to comply with SEQRA, an alternatives assessment must be based on an awareness of all reasonable options other than the proposed action. Webster Associates v. Town of Webster, 59 N.Y.2d 220, 228 (1983) ("Webster"). The description and evaluation of the alternatives "should be at a level of detail sufficient to permit a comparative assessment of the alternatives discussed" and must include a "no action" option. 6 NYCRR 617.9 (b)(5)(v). Here, the DGEIS for the Program does not consider the "No Action" alternative. Rather, it summarily concludes that no action is "unacceptable," even though embankment failures due to trees are unheard of. The lead agency's failure to consider the No Action alternative violates the letter and spirit of SEQRA.</p> <p>⁴ See ECL 8-0109(1)-(2)(d) (explaining that an alternatives analysis is required so that the lead agency can satisfy its obligation to choose alternatives that minimize or avoid adverse environmental impacts).</p> <p>5. Adoption of the Guidebook would violate SEQRA's requirement that, after weighing and balancing alternatives, the Lead Agency chose the alternative that minimizes adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable. In this case, the "No Action" alternative is the one that would mitigate adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable and satisfy the lead agency obligations under SEQRA.</p> <p>Compliance with SEQRA requires that agencies, after reviewing relevant public comment, identify and focus attention on any environmental impact of a proposed action, balance the consequences of the impact against other relevant social and economic considerations, minimize environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable, and articulated a basis for their choices. Jackson, 67 N.Y.2d 400, 416 (1986). Moreover, the Court of Appeals has unequivocally stated that "strict, not substantial, compliance is required." King v. Saratoga County Bd. Of Supervisors, 89 N.Y.2d 341, Schenectady, 83 A.D.2d at 463 ("permitting substantial compliance would not only frustrate the laudable purposes behind SEQRA, but would inevitably lead to numerous lawsuits wherein courts would be asked to weigh the acceptability of alternative procedures").</p> <p>For the reasons set forth above, adoption of the Guidebook would not minimize adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable. We ask the Canal Corporation, as lead agency, to adopt the No Action alternative instead.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CONCLUSIONS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Program is subject to a waterfront consistency determination under the Village LWRP, the special district requirements of the Village Zoning Code and the Village Local Waterfront Consistency Law. The Canal Corporation must obtain a waterfront consistency determination and site plan approval before it undertakes any Program activities in the Village of Pittsford. The Program cannot be implemented in the Village unless it is consistent with the Village Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and comply with the Village Waterfront Overlay District Requirements. 2. Embankment clear-cutting appears to be inconsistent with the LWRP and Village zoning requirements. 3. The Guidebook itself is ill-conceived and its recommendations are irrational. 4. The Canal Corporation, as lead agency under SEQRA, improperly rejected the "No Action" alternative. 5. Adoption of the Guidebook would violate SEQRA's requirement that, after weighing and balancing alternatives, the Lead Agency chose the alternative that minimizes adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable. In this case, the "No Action" alternative is the one that would mitigate adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable and satisfy the lead agency obligations under SEQRA.
1033	10/15/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. We should be planting more, not removing I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1034	10/15/2021	Email	<p>As I attended one of the public meetings i provided, as requested, my email for further getting communications about the topic. I have received exactly 0 emails, suggesting there is no honest intentions to communicate with the interested parties of the public.</p> <p>This reluctance to have an open and respectful communications flow with the public is further expressed in two upfront statements by NYPA's NYSCC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The indication in bold letters in the powerpoint presentation that NYPA is only seeking input on chapter 9, communications, seems a clear indication that NYPA considers the public not to have a right to have a voice in the actual substance of the projects. 2. The opening statement in chapter 9: "Public relations and community outreach for maintenance projects will be handled on a project-by-project basis" suggests that as much as possible, community outreach will be avoided.
1035	10/15/2021	Email	<p>This "chapter" is one single page with vague procedures. Starting with the statement of "case by case" approach, not clear definition is given on what "routine maintenance" and "debris" means, no definition of "when prudent", "if necessary", "when possible". This language leaves me with the impression that as brief as this chapter is, it is also a wordy way of minimizing communications and reachout. If this terms are clerly defined in other chapters, a reference to that chapter/page should be inserted here. "Routine maintenance" that would not prompt notification to the public and should be better defined. In my view "routine maintenance should be limited to mowing of grasses and removal of man made garbage, broken dead wood on the ground, removal of dead tree limbs that present a risk to people on the canal path, and maintenance of man made structures belonging to the NYSCC.</p>

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			<p>Any maintenance that affects plants other than grasses, affects animals and their habitat, should not be considered "routine" and should be subject to review and approval by the NYSDEC. A mechanism should exist to address the environmental concerns in a speedy manner between agencies.</p> <p>Any of these maintenance activities that would no longer be considered "routine" should prompt notification to the public with a reasonable and defined advanced notice. The communication with the public should include direct email to those who register to receive such notifications, regardless of how close to the affected area they live, in addition to newsletters and social media.</p>
1036	10/15/2021	Email	<p>During the public meeting I attended I asked what was the embankments maintenance plan in the past and why there was a need to rewrite a plan. I was told "We don't know" and then they moved to the next question.</p> <p>Such a response is neither acceptable nor believable.</p> <p>I want to reiterate the question and would like a proper, meaningful and complete answer.</p>
1037	10/15/2021	Email	<p>Chapter 9 remits the reader to the FAQ page https://www.canals.ny.gov/Earthen_Embankment/FAQ.html</p> <p>The following (self generated) question does not have a real answer. It does not explain what a GEIS is.</p> <p>"5. What is a GENERIC Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)?</p> <p>The SEQR regulations permit agencies to conduct Generic EISs when a proposed program or plan would have wide geographical application. The Earthen Embankment Integrity Program is a programmatic approach on how to maintain earthen embankments across the entire Canal System."</p>
1038	10/15/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1039	10/15/2021	Email	<p>If a GENERIC environmental impact is allowed due to the large physical extent of the canal system, how and when will SPECIFIC environmental impact studies be handled to avoid local/regional negative environmental impacts and how will the public be informed and included?</p>
1040	10/15/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Govenor Hochul, I am a high schooler in Rochester and I use the canal for biking, running, and roller skiing. The vegetation is an important part of any person's experience on the canal. The trees provide shade and attract important native species. Additionally, in New York's attempt to reach 0 carbon emissions by 2050, as stated under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, trees and vegetation must be preserved.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1041	10/15/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1042	10/15/2021	Email	<p>Mr. James Candiloro -</p> <p>Please accept the attached comment from Historic Pittsford, a 60-year old not-for-profit advocacy organization dedicated to historic preservation and conservation of the natural and built environment.</p> <p>Our community has a commitment to historic preservation; and Historic Pittsford is therefore concerned about the approach State Power Authority is taking regarding the 'maintenance' of the historic Erie Canal Corridor embankments. Historic Pittsford fully supports the positions carefully articulated by the Town of Pittsford 's Supervisor Bill Smith and the expert comments made by Pittsford Town Attorney Robert B Koegel regarding the environmental review.</p> <p>It is our hope that due to these and the many other statements arriving through the comment period, the powers-that-be will not only reconsider their approach, but also revise their overall myopic attitude towards the Erie Canal Corridor and what it means to the State and especially local communities.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>

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			<p>Dear Mr. Candiloro and Mr. Bergmann,</p> <p>On behalf of the Board of Historic Pittsford and the organization's 200+ members, I offer comment on the NYSCC Embankments Environmental Impact Statement. As Pittsford's premier 60-years strong not-for-profit organization dedicated to historic preservation and advocacy thereof, we are concerned about the current 'clear cut' position of the Power Authority for maintenance of the natural environment along the historic Erie Canal, a National, State and very local landmark, treasure and economic powerhouse.</p> <p>In that light, we fully support the consistent positions taken by our Town leadership and reflected in: Town of Pittsford's Attorney Robert B Koegel's August 26, 2021 letter to consultant Bergmann (https://www.townofpittsford.org/files/publications/canal-tree-cutting-EIS-guidebk-comments-ltr-pittsford-town.pdf) Town Supervisor Bill Smith's testimony before public hearing (https://www.townofpittsford.org/files/publications/canal-tree-cutting-statement-supervisor-bill-smith-071421.pdf)</p> <p>As articulated in both Comprehensive Plans, the Town and Village of Pittsford embrace <i>Historic Preservation and Conservation as core community values</i> and are therefore committed to sensitive enhancement of the natural and built environment. Pittsford's joint Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) dated June 26, 2006 clearly outlines the level of respect both hold for the importance of the historic Erie Canal to Pittsford's quality of life.</p> <p>It seems that the Power Authority's present course veers significantly from principles of historic preservation and conservation, comprehensive planning, and sensitive development that, if implemented, will negatively affect the quality of life for our community and many along the Erie Canal National Corridor.</p> <p>Please do not carry out the present proposal. To do so will be a huge mistake.</p> <p>Margaret Caraberis MPH President, Historic Pittsford</p>
1043	10/15/2021	Email	<p>Dear Governor Hochul,</p> <p>Please help stop the clear cutting of trees along the Erie Canal.</p> <p>This will hurt:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The environment 2. Businesses 3. Residents 4. Local property 5. Local views 6. Pedestrian and biking traffic on the canal path 7. Tourism revenues 8. Crew and boating activities on the canal due to increased churn due to increased wind 9. Air Quality <p>Thank you.</p>
1044	10/15/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p> <p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing.</p> <p>The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing.</p> <p>An Alternative Plan for Erie Canal Embankment Stewardship By Bill Maier, 51 Dewey Avenue, Fairport NY 14450 Executive Summary In 2017, the New York State Canal Corporation, under the oversight of the New York Power Authority (NYPA), proposed a major vegetation removal program for all raised embankments in its canal system. A lawsuit against NYPA halted this program, forcing the Corporation to conduct an environmental impact review. In 2021, the Canal Corporation, in conjunction with its environmental impact statement, released its proposed Earthen Embankment Integrity Program (EEIP), which again calls for substantial clearing of natural vegetation. Public opposition to this destructive program and to NYPA's assertion of authority over the future of the canal system has been strong. Herein, I provide an alternative embankment stewardship proposal that better meets the public's and New York State's vision for the Erie Canal corridor. Not only does it acknowledge and support the myriad values natural vegetation adds to the character of the Erie Canal, this plan also proposes an ecological engineering approach to embankment stewardship for the purposes of monitoring and maintaining canal embankments in a more cost-effective and sustainable manner than NYPA's EEIP. I. Overview of the New York State Power Authority (NYPA) Earthen Embankment Integrity Program (EEIP) • Classifies Erie Canal System raised embankments as dams and invokes the Army Corps of Engineers' guidelines for dams • Calls for removing natural vegetation from 125 miles of canal embankments, with minor exceptions. • In rare instances in which certain "community thresholds" are triggered, NYPA would consult affected local communities, but such consultation would occur after considerable vegetation clearing begins. NYPA would retain full authority to decide whether any trees larger than three inches in diameter would be allowed. II. Why NYPA's Earthen Embankment Integrity Program (EEIP) is Broken • The EEIP undermines the public's vision for the Erie Canal corridor as a linear park and scenic, historic, and natural recreationway. • Based on up-to-date research and case studies, the EEIP is not a sensible approach to canal maintenance or public safety. • The proposed plan wastes substantial New York State financial and natural resources. III. How to Fix This: What's Needed for A More Inclusive and Effective Approach • Adapt the embankment inspections process to the natural conditions on the ground, and where necessary, trim minimal vegetation to provide on-site visual inspection. • Fix the Condition Rating System to end the practice of assuming natural vegetation is a risk factor, and integrate more scientifically supported indicators of embankment condition. • Utilize these improvements and an ecological engineering approach to develop a more environmentally-sensitive and cost-effective program of embankment stewardship. • When interventions are necessary, minimize impact to the natural vegetation by using a variety of alternative embankment maintenance strategies. Please note: The NYSCC's EEIP does not take a cost-effective, ecological engineering approach, which would be much more appropriate for the Erie Canal Corridor. I believe such an approach should be pursued and studied so that the public can compare the ecological, social, and financial costs and benefits as compared to the EEIP. In thinking about what an ecological engineering plan might look like for canal embankments, I have drafted an alternative plan. I hereby provide an executive summary of that drafted document.</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need</p>

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			<p>you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1045	10/15/2021	Email	<p>I request acknowledgment of this email and attached document.</p> <p>Introduction This has been our goal from early on. An expert organization with expert membership, is the best path to addressing safety, liability, and other concerns while preserving the many substantial and documented values of the Erie Canal System. This expertise must encompass all aspects of the canal, engineering including safety, embankments, vegetation, locks etc., preservation and enhancement of the resources, recreation, quality of life, tourism, agriculture etc. and the partnership with the public, stake holders, and users. A world class Erie Canal system is our goal.</p> <p>The Erie Canal caretaker organization requires a structure of excellence that restores and preserves the knowledge of the past, seeks out diverse perspectives, understanding and solutions, and continuously develops and retains dedicated specialists with training and experience to strive to be the best in their field. The responsibilities of the caretaker include 2 other main categories other than the physical structure, the cultural significance, and the connection to the people of New York State.</p> <p>Over decades, the Canal Corporation has lost its way. Fiscal restrictions have contributed to deferred maintenance. The culture of expertise is in decline, while the lessons learned by the builders and past overseers, have been forgotten or forsaken. Over the past 4 years, rather than adapting to new canal responsibilities, NYPA has attempted to apply an incompatible and detrimental template of management and standards to the canal system.</p> <p>The solution is to find or create the correct stewardship model. Leadership and staff need to include a collection of specialists that are well versed in all aspects of this engineered canal system, and understand complementary aspects of nature with manmade structures. They must be intimately rather than remotely familiar with each unique segment of the canal. A framework and mission must respect science and data, identify gaps in knowledge, seek out truth, and balance benefits with safety. Comprehension must surpass a simple static built structure, and adjust to and anticipate a dynamic and evolving system. The correct guardian is essential to the future legacy of the Erie Canal.</p> <p>Questions and comments The documents created for the EEIP do not clearly convey the final outcome, or the final impact on the canal for specific locations or in general. The reasoning for the project is also not clear. There are many questions based of those shortcomings.</p> <p>Since it was stated that questions and comments during the public meetings were not official, many of my questions are repeated below. Additionally, some portions of those meetings were recorded to video. Those videos are publicly accessible through the included links and are now submitted as official questions and comments for this process. The audio is not great so hopefully you took careful notes. The YouTube channel name is StopTheCanalClearCut. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrtPBznXd_hDc9zQuKHH_MQ/playlists</p> <p>Restated questions and comments If you remove all vegetation in an area, it is a "clear-cut." Zones 1 and 2a are contiguous and the intention is to clear all vegetation. Zones 4 and 5 are contiguous and the intention is to clear all vegetation. These are still clear-cuts. The selective cut in Zone 2b/3 is a screen. This is a trust issue.</p> <p>We asked to participate in creating the guidebook 2-3 years ago. Why was the public excluded from the process? Are you ready to accept public participation in the guidebook process now?</p> <p>Will all freeboards be cleared on all embankments, including non-earthen?</p> <p>It was stated, the turf embankments are easier to maintain? How is it easier? What is the maintenance cost of treed or wooded embankments?</p> <p>How many identified seeps are there? Are there any seeps on embankments where work was completed on the west side from Medina eastward?</p> <p>Has there been an investigation into the cause of the Macedon/Palmyra breach? What characteristics does the site have? Are any of those characteristics present in other locations along the canal?</p> <p>What effects does watering and rewatering the canal have on earthen embankments and other structures?</p> <p>Who are the authors? What sections? Who set the standards for the documents? Were there any major revisions? Who reviewed the documents? Who approved the documents?</p> <p>Are there any sections copied from external sources? Were there any templates used for the creation of these documents?</p> <p>Where did the embankment diagram come from?</p> <p>Where did the zones come from? Where did zone 2a and 2b come from? The example diagram shows a 16 foot crest. Where would the zones 2a and 2b fall on a 24 foot crest, a 50 foot crest? Where does zone 4a come from?</p> <p>Why is vegetation under 3" to be cleared?</p> <p>Why isn't the freeboard height included? What other dimensions and characteristics are important to determining stability of earthen embankments? Are these dimensions and characteristics part of the embankment inventory?</p> <p>There has been a conscience or subconscious decision that some locations do not pose a risk but there are some that are actually earthen embankments. Perhaps they are not recognized as earthen embankments. Is it possible to define and quantify those attributes so they can be used elsewhere? Can areas be excluded based on those attributes? There are a</p>

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			<p>few examples such as Schoen Place in Pittsford, The Box Factory parking lot in Fairport, the embankment west of Fairport including O'Conner Rd. and the Canal Corp Maintenance facility west of Pittsford. If they are not excluded, how would the zones apply to those specific embankments?</p> <p>Will there be expansions of screening for privacy to fill zone 3 on the west side such as in Holley and Brockport etc.?</p> <p>What does hinder inspection mean?</p> <p>How many trees have been determined to be navigation hazards? How many tree-in-water incidences were there last year? The year before? Is there any data?</p> <p>Clear zones for bike paths are mentioned. What clear zone is planned for the trials?</p> <p>What weight were the embankment crests / paths designed for? What are the weight limits for earthen embankments?</p> <p>What is the service life of various canal structures?</p> <p>Where are drainage blanket and toe drains appropriate?</p> <p>What are the different configurations of the earthen embankments? Are there earthen embankments that are not water impounding structures? What effect do vertical walls have on the seepage line? Do they act as cutoff walls? What impact does a concrete lined section have on the seepage line?</p> <p>Page by page review of EEIP documents</p> <p>Throughout this process, members of the public have been trying to drill down to the real motivation and intention of this proposed project, so that we can address the issue directly. It would have been easier, and taken 4 fewer years if we were provided a truthful reason from the beginning. Starting with the latest level of revelation our responses are as followed,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The best solution for liability is the "World Class Canal system" as described above. • The mitigating actions for inspection hindrance include increased time inspecting and when necessary targeted brush clearing, as demonstrated in Royalton • The resolution of trees on the embankment is the "World Class Canal system" as described above. <p>This proposal was flawed from the beginning. Each and every section appears to point to this conclusion. Trees and woody vegetation have not been demonstrated to pose a direct risk to the earthen embankments. Future study can help better understand this. In some, undocumented cases, vegetation may hinder inspection but there are workarounds. In other instances, the clear-cut method has a plethora of drawbacks. Additionally, as an unintended consequence, there are locations within the recent clear cut areas that now hinder inspection.</p> <p>This environmental review has highlighted the problems with the EEIP and many times has, in a roundabout way, stated the outcome of an Ad-Hoc approach achieves a very similar outcome and demonstrated a different approach is appropriate. The example of Royalton seems to demonstrate success in targeted brush clearing then targeted tree clearing. The necessity to clear approximately 100 feet of embankment does not justify the clearing of 660,000 feet (125 miles) of earthen embankments.</p> <p>These documents are official documents so no false statements may be present. If there are any false statements, they must be removed. Unsupported statements are unacceptable. There are a number of statements within this document that do not have a source or documentation. If the statements have sources then those sources must be cited specifically in-line. If the sources are within the reference documents, they must be directly cited and quoted otherwise they will be treated as unsupported. Any statement that is unsupported must be removed. If the authors and agency wish to present statements that are opinions, that needs to be clearly stated.</p> <p>Many of the questions and comments are related to unsupported statements. The review of these comments may seem tedious, as was the review process. However, answers to many questions can help chart the path to expertise.</p> <p>Embankment Inspection & Maintenance Guide Book 91 pages</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="536 2119 1897 2933"> <tr> <td data-bbox="536 2119 701 2293">Electronic Document Page and section reference</td> <td data-bbox="701 2119 1897 2293">Embankment Inspection & Maintenance Guide Book Relevant sections and words with associated Questions</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="536 2293 701 2355">Cover</td> <td data-bbox="701 2293 1897 2355">Why is Bergmann preparing New York State Canal Corporation EMBANKMENT INSPECTION & MAINTENANCE GUIDE BOOK?</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="536 2355 701 2498">2 iii</td> <td data-bbox="701 2355 1897 2498">Why have you used a confusing page/section/section page layout? For example 6.3 Outboard Slope Embankment Features ... 6-5 is on page 49. Another example, 8.15 SEQR Thresholds and decision procedure... 8-23 is on page 87. 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Aren't the structures excluded such as "waste weirs...vertical walls, culverts etc..." integral in evaluating the risk associated with specific embankments?	x	"The ... (BMP) sheets (Attachment 1) are intended to: Prevent conditions that impair inspections and early identification of hazardous conditions." Does this mean that lights will be installed for night inspection? Does this mean that inspectors are forbidden to consume alcohol? Has the tree removal
Electronic Document Page and section reference	Embankment Inspection & Maintenance Guide Book Relevant sections and words with associated Questions																		
Cover	Why is Bergmann preparing New York State Canal Corporation EMBANKMENT INSPECTION & MAINTENANCE GUIDE BOOK?																		
2 iii	Why have you used a confusing page/section/section page layout? For example 6.3 Outboard Slope Embankment Features ... 6-5 is on page 49. Another example, 8.15 SEQR Thresholds and decision procedure... 8-23 is on page 87. Also, the table of contents are formatted as links to other locations within the document that do not allow return navigation.																		
vi	Why was Revision No. Date Description 0 03-12-2021 Initial Issue kept from public review for so long?																		
vii	As stated, "...professional engineer with familiarity of the overall system as well as the specific conditions at the location where the maintenance..." who has familiarity?																		
viii	What factor(s) poses the greatest risk for embankment failure as stated, "...top priority of reducing risk of embankment failure..."?																		
ix	The illustration at the lower right shows an embankment with a tree. Doesn't the photograph show an embankment that has been eroded except for where there is a presence of trees? The "scope of ... program... and Guide Book includes ... embankments but excludes individual structures." Aren't the structures excluded such as "waste weirs...vertical walls, culverts etc..." integral in evaluating the risk associated with specific embankments?																		
x	"The ... (BMP) sheets (Attachment 1) are intended to: Prevent conditions that impair inspections and early identification of hazardous conditions." Does this mean that lights will be installed for night inspection? Does this mean that inspectors are forbidden to consume alcohol? Has the tree removal																		

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			process, completed on the West side if the Genesee, created conditions that impair inspections in any locations? Would this result be contrary to the intended purpose of the program?
			xi What is the source of wording within the "GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS? " Did it come from external sources, internal sources or a combination?
			xii
			xiii "ENGINEER – For the purposes of this document, refers to an individual who is a professional engineer currently licensed and registered to practice engineering under Article 145 of the Education Law of the State of New York and possesses sufficient specific education, training, and experience..." What "specific education" is required? What "training" is required? What "experience" is required?
			xiv Is the definition of "FOUNDATION – The natural material on which the dam or embankment structure is placed," wrong? Is the definition of "NAVIGATION SEASON – Period of the year that the water level in the Canal is elevated to allow for boat traffic, generally mid-May to mid-November each year," outdated?
			xvi Does the Canal Corp know where the "TOE OF DAM/EMBANKMENT – The base portion of a dam or embankment which intersects with natural ground" is located or, is an assumption made that the Toe is the intersection of the embankment with the perceived surround?
			17 "This Guide Book applies to all embankments under the jurisdiction of the NYSCC with the following exceptions: • It does not apply to dams (which are covered by the Dam Maintenance Guidebook)." Does this mean the embankments are not Dams?
			18 1-2 What is the source of "...typically roughly 18 feet tall,..."? How is "For these situations, it is logical to account for this extra material when evaluating risk and maintenance needs." accounted for? How does extra material effect risk, condition, maintenance, and safety? What are the sources for Figures 1.2-1 and 1.2-2? "At some locations along the 1918 Barge Canal improvement, the original designers provided embankment sections that are wider than required for water retention." What is the source for this statement? "A typical example of an overbuilt canal embankment is shown in the figure below. In this case, additional spoil (material excavated from the canal prism) was disposed of landward of the canal embankment." What is the source of this statement? "For these situations, it is logical to account for this extra material when evaluating risk and maintenance needs." What is the source for this statement? "This is an example of an important factor that reinforces the need for a site-specific evaluation of alternatives instead of a one-size-fits-all approach." Will this "need for a site-specific evaluation of alternatives instead of a one-size-fits-all approach," be implemented prior to the generic Zone 1-5 vegetation removal process? Is this evaluation process being conducted as part of the current embankment inventory process mentioned during the recent public meetings September 20th and 21st?
			19 1-3 1.3 DISTINCTION BETWEEN LEVEES AND CANAL EMBANKMENTS Levees are temporary barriers to protect for infrequent, short-term duration rises in rivers and only function with full water loading in high recurrence interval storm events. In contrast to this, the canal embankments perform for the entire navigation season (6 months of the year) year after year.... 1. the frequency that the levee embankments function ... what is the source for "... so the risk of failure is correspondingly less"? "Vegetation management practices for earth dams are universally accepted within the engineering community with the rule that woody vegetation is not permitted on earth dams." What does "universally mean"? Where is it listed as a "rule"? "1.4 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER AGENCIES The risk reduction strategy for the embankments that likely has the most impact on the community is the management of the vegetation that currently exists on the embankment. What is meant by "the most impact"? Does it mean detrimental impact or safety impact or something else? The word "community" is used in the sentence "The dam safety engineering community..." What is "community" in the previous sentence?
			20 1-4 What is the source of this statement "The Corps' guidance makes it clear that vegetation may remain on and around embankment and related infrastructure, provided that "the safety of the structure is not compromised, and effective surveillance, monitoring, inspection, maintenance, and flood-fighting of the facility are not adversely impacted."?"
			21 1-5 What is a reference source for information and data for "Factors such as vegetation density, size, expected root penetration depth, and location are important factors in the expected performance (i.e. risk) of the embankment."? What are specific Erie Canal examples of "adversely impacted."?
			23 1-7 1.4.1.3 VARIANCES what are the dimensions of the "prism" related to the Erie Canal? "However, there are important differences between the California levee system and lessons learned and the NYSCC canal embankments." What lessons were learned from the NYSCC canal embankments? When were they learned? Where were they learned; what locations?
			24 1-8 "Section 7.16 of the California guidance says: Policies and criteria regarding removing trees and other woody vegetation that have grown and matured on levees are evolving and will be informed by ongoing and future research. Engineers and levee maintaining agencies are encouraged to consider the results of this research when deciding how to manage trees and other woody vegetation on levees." What research is NYSCC pursuing?
			25 1-9 "1.4.2.1.3 NEWLY CONSTRUCTED LEVEES" What dimensions represent "sufficient size and configuration to mitigate potential negative impacts to levee safety"?

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			Is "Trees and other woody vegetation that are within 20 feet of the landside toe should be trimmed up 5 feet above the ground and thinned for visibility and access." a viable approach for the NYSCC embankments? What proportion of embankments will not meet this standard? Where did this standard come from?
26	1-10		Where is it stated, "Standard guidance and best practices dictate that the levee criteria below are not appropriate for canal embankments."?
33	3-2		"Key elements that are examined..." Does the presence of trees directly impact the safety of an embankment? How does a tree impact the safety of an embankment? If trees or vegetation is present, can an inspection still be completed? What dimensions of embankment geometry indicate safe? What dimensions of embankment geometry indicate unsafe? Why are there missing geometric embankment attributes? Does riprap interfere or hinder inspection? Does the presence of nearby development or residential properties change the safety of the embankment?
36	4-1		4.1.1 BANK WALK INSPECTIONS How many work hours are dedicated to bank walk inspections? How many Bank Walk inspectors are there?
37	4-2		Minimum Frequency: Rather than Semiannually etc. what is the frequency for the navigation season? Is there a value and necessity for inspections during the non-navigation season? Isn't there a value to inspect dewatered structures? How many "Dam Safety Engineers" are employed by NYSCC?
38	4-3		"4.2 IDENTIFICATION, REVIEW, AND PROGRAMMING OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS" Why is there no on-site inspection included in the recommendation of corrective actions? Why is there a delay in contacting local officials or members of the public? Could this pose a risk to public safety?
40			Workflow – "Does the work require skills and or equipment outside Canals ability?" What skills or equipment does Canals not have?
42	4-7		4.4 EMERGENCIES Why is "Thruway State Operations Center (TSOC)" the emergency contact?
45	6-1		Figure 5.3-1 On the left side of the figure there is a line labeled as "Original Ground" and an arrow labeled "Toe Ditch." The embankment in dark green extends below those marked features. Where is the embankment Toe located? "6.1 TYPICAL CANAL EMBANKMENT SECTIONS" How many embankment configurations are there? How are they described? There are embankments with vertical and angled inboards. There are sections with concrete bottoms. How are these described and classified?
46	6-2		What are the sources for Figures 631-1 and 621-2?
48	6-4		What is the source of Figure 6.2-1? Why is vegetation allowed in Zone 2B? Why is vegetation allowed in Zone 3? What is the source of "3 inches"? Why is everything below 3" to be removed? Why is the border between Zone 2A and 2B at the centerline? Why is the border between Zone 4A and 4B there? What is the significance of "H/3"? What is the significance of "H/2"? What is the significance of "H"?
50	6-6		"6.3.2 DRAINAGE CHANNELS AND DITCHES Toe Ditch: A drainage swale running parallel to the embankment at the toe, where the embankment meets original ground. The ditch allows for collection and conveyance of seepage and surface drainage." Where is the Toe located? "6.6 STRUCTURES INTEGRATED WITHIN THE EMBANKMENT Structural features ... adjacent to and within the embankment. The maintenance of these ... is outside of the scope of this Guide Book... Detailed inspection of these features is also outside of the scope of this Guide Book..." Do these structures provide telltales of water seepage? Since you have determined "Often, failures initiate at the interface of the embankment with other features..." isn't the exclusion of these interfaces a major blind spot in inspection? What is the source of the statement "Often, failures initiate at the interface..."?
53			Where is "Figure 6.6-3: Concrete Wall along Canal" located?
54	7-1		7.1 "Many of these maintenance tasks ... in-house staff... ..Other items that require special equipment, staff or larger work force." Which items require capabilities outside the Canal Corp.?
55	7-2		Table 7.1-1: Frequency, Risk Priority, and Category..." How was the "Risk*" determined for each category? How was the "frequency" determined? When was the last "as needed" event for each category? For each category, is there any preemptive or preventive maintenance performed? What is historic frequency for each category for example, the last 5 years? How does "Tree and Brush Removal" become a "Medium" risk? "Japanese Knotweed" is an invasive species so why isn't invasive species a category? Why is "Concrete Joint Vegetation" and "Joint Vegetation Removal and Repointing" rated as low priority?
58	7-5		"...these benefits do not outweigh the substantial risks associated with embankment failure that could be initiated by the presence of the vegetation..." What are the "substantial risks"? What is the source for this information? "In contrast, grass or "soft" vegetation is beneficial to the embankment." What is the source of the term "soft." What are the benefits of grass on an embankment? Does grass prevent erosion from rain better than woody vegetation? Does grass prevent foot erosion from foot traffic better than woody vegetation? When and where was the last Erie Canal embankment overtopping event?
58	part 2		7.3.1 WHY IT'S NECESSARY

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			<p>"Non-compatible vegetation can harm the structural integrity of these impoundment structures, obscure visibility of the ground surface (necessary for inspections for other types of failures), impede access for maintenance and inspection, and encourage burrowing by rodents by providing habitat. Woody vegetation with robust root systems can disturb the soil structure in the embankment. Roots that penetrate the phreatic surface in the embankment increase the risk of internal erosion known as piping, the early stages of which can go undetected for decades resulting in a sudden failure of an earthen embankment. Animal burrows pose a similar piping potential – the animal burrow shortens the seepage path potentially leading to piping at the burrow location. Additionally, shade caused by woody vegetation can impede growth of more compatible grassy vegetation. Furthermore, large trees can be uprooted by winds/erosion and leave large holes in the embankment, root systems can decay and rot creating passageways for water through the embankment. Once a significant seepage pathway is initiated, catastrophic embankment failure could be expected to occur within one to two hours. The presence of brush and trees can also hinder critical emergency responses to flooding or repair operations."</p> <p>What are the sources and evidence for each assertion within this section? Where is there an example of vegetation harming the structural integrity of the Erie Canal? Does woody vegetation prevent all inspection of embankments? Does grass impede inspection of embankments? What is the definition of "robust root systems"? What species of woody vegetation penetrates the phreatic surface? Does the penetration of the phreatic surface help reinforce embankments to reduce the potential for slides? What is the numerical risk of "piping" without and with woody vegetation? Is there any evidence of "...large treesuprooted by winds/erosion ..." that left "large holes in the embankment"? Does grass encourage groundhog or other animal burrowing activity?</p> <p>What does "impede access" mean?</p> <p>If "...catastrophic embankment failure could be expected to occur within one to two hours," what is the fastest a "critical emergency responses to flooding or repair operations," could be implemented by the Canal Corp.?</p>
			<p>58 part 3 "The proper maintenance of vegetation for water impounding structures is well understood and accepted by the dam safety community and the various regulatory and advisory agencies tasked with dam safety including the USACE, FERC, USBR and FEMA." Are each of the individual members of these organizations fully versed on the impacts and interactions of vegetation on earthen embankments? How many of individual members of these organizations are fully versed on the impacts and interactions of vegetation on earthen embankments? What is the source for recommendations and guidelines relating to water impoundment structures? Have any members of NYPA or NYSCC contributed to any guidelines or scientific studies of earthen embankments?</p>
			<p>59 7-6 Has the "The NYSDEC Owners Guidance Manual for the Inspection and Maintenance of Dams in New York State [NYSDEC, 1987]" been updated since 1987? Are there any documents from the 1950's you would like to reference?</p> <p>What are the professional requirements for "NYPA Regional Manager"?</p> <p>What "... zones" "intersect the phreatic surface of the water within the embankment..."?</p>
			<p>60 7-7 What is the weight limit for equipment on the embankment crest? What is the source of this information? What is the weight limit for equipment on the embankment slopes? What is the weight limit for equipment within the canal prism?</p> <p>For Zone 2, why is Zone 2 "...subdivided into equal length zones - Zones 2A and 2B by the centerline of embankment."?</p> <p>For Zone 3 "... the seepage line and zone of saturation in this portion of an earthen embankment are typically far enough below the surface," how far below the surface are they? What is your source for information?</p>
			<p>61 7-8 It is stated "Due to the relatively small dimensions of the canal embankments in relationship to the size and influence of root penetration." What are the dimensions of sizes and influences for root penetrations? What are your sources? What relative dimensions represent safe and unsafe?</p> <p>For Zone 4: it is stated, "This zone typically contains the interceptions of both the zone of saturation and the seepage line with the downstream slope." What is the source of this statement? What does it mean?</p>
			<p>62 7-9 "Because the Canal property line is often located in this zone, it is essential to verify property limits prior to performing maintenance in this zone. " How often is "property line is often located in this zone" Zone 5? How often is the property line located in other zones? What impact does the location of the property line have on inspection?</p> <p>"13 Any exceptions to these rules require careful consideration, review by a professional engineer and approval by the Deputy Director, Engineering, Construction and Maintenance. Any such work should be monitored during construction by a professional engineer." Are the "professional engineer" or "Deputy Director" mentioned above required to have any specific training, certification or experience? What criteria will be used to evaluate exceptions?</p>
			<p>65 8-1 "8.2 RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES" As the Canal with wooded earthen embankments often provides a wildlife corridor, will adjacent or contiguous areas be evaluated to determine if activity will sever or hinder a wildlife corridor?</p>
			<p>72 8-8 Who is the current NYSCC Agency Preservation Officer (APO)? Isn't this position just a rubber stamp for NYPA policy and action?</p>
			<p>75 8-11 Were any "hazardous" or "contaminated materials" encountered during the tree removal projects on the west side in 2017 or 2018?</p>
			<p>77 8-13 "8.8 SCENIC MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES 3. Where EEIP activities would have a significant adverse effect an aesthetic resource of Statewide Significance derived from one or more of the categories</p>

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			<p>identified in Section VI.A., of NYSDEC Program Policy DEP-00-2 "Assessing and Mitigating Visual and Aesthetic Impacts." The entire Erie Canal system has been identified as an "aesthetic resource of Statewide Significance" so will the procedures in Section 8.15 be followed at all times?</p> <p>"EIP activities will occur in a planned manner that allows for an assessment to save a minimal quantity of trees." Is "minimal quantity" equal to zero? What numerical value is "minimal quantity"?</p>
77-78			<p>"In all other embankment zones (Zone 1, Zone 2A, Zone 4, and Zone 5) establishing turf grass would be the primary means ofrestoring embankment surfaces" Restoring to what condition or standard? When was this condition or standard established? What evidence do you have for this condition or standard?</p>
78 8-14			<p>What is the difference between "just herbaceous and shrub cover," and trees? How will the NYSCC decide this difference?</p> <p>"2. ...the landscape architect would determine the aesthetic suitability of the preserved tree." What are the standards for tree retention for landscape architects? "engineer would determine the feasibility of its retention with respect to its effect on embankment integrity and trail user safety." As no tree has been shown to pose a risk to embankment integrity, what standards will be used to make this determination? Beyond, integrity, what other factors will be evaluated by an engineer, to decide tree retention?</p> <p>"Specifically, where a recreational trail is present, no tree in Zone 2B will be allowed to remain within the allowable clear zone distance specified outside the edge of travel way in accordance with AASHTO's Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities (AASHTO, 2012)." What is the clear zone specified by AASHTO? How many bicycle tree fatalities or injuries have occurred on the Erie Canal trail system? How many bicycle tree fatalities or injuries are documented anywhere? What is the effect of speed on the size of the clear zone? Are AASHTO standards based on scientific data? Does the AASHTO organization include members that are not experts, or not specifically trained, or do not have first-hand experience in specified topic areas?</p> <p>"Select vegetation may be retained only on the landward side of the embankments in Zone 2B and Zone 3." Can vegetation provide a safety barrier to limit accidental falls or bicycle crashes on to riprap, into the water, or accidental drowning?</p> <p>What is the definition of 3. ... danger tree"? What is the source of this information?</p> <p>What are the dimensions for "4. In areas where there is a very wide...?"</p> <p>"6. Where stone lining occurs." Is stone lining an original canal condition? Is riprap installation a restoration? Is riprap a modification to the embankment?</p> <p>"7. In locations where regulatory or community thresholds identified above are exceeded, and seepage controls are required, NYSCC will make all possible efforts to provide seepage controls (typically located in Zones 4 and 5) that do not include exposed gravel surfaces but buried gravel covered with new turf." Is a exposed gravel surface a standard treatment for seepage? Is it the intent to use exposed gravel surfaces in areas "...where regulatory or community thresholds identified above..." are NOT "...exceeded, and seepage controls are required"?</p>
79 8-15			<p>"8.9 NOISE ...For those loud noise source and noise sensitive receiver situations where a line of sight through more than 200 feet of tall, dense vegetation is planned for removal." What is the definition or standard for tall? What is the definition or standard for dense? What is the source for these definitions or standards? What is an example location of this on the Erie Canal? "The NYSCC will conduct a screening of individual embankment projects to identify lines of sightThe screening will consist of the following steps: 1. A desktop evaluation." When the word screening is used, does that mean evaluation? Has this "desktop evaluation" ever been performed before? If so, please provide documentation.</p>
80 8-16			<p>Why is a "... field visit during the growing season" rather than the non-growing season? What standards and values are used for "3. Acoustics calculations"?</p>
86 8-22			<p>"Endangered/Threatened Species (Incidental Take) Permit... .. Where the "take" of listed species cannot be avoided" Can the "take" of listed species be avoided by not removing trees and woody vegetation?</p>
87 8-23			<p>"NYSCC State Environmental Quality Review Any work not consistent with that described in this Guide Book or beyond the scope or parameters of the SEQR GEIS. • Will require additional environmental review by qualified personnel." Define "qualified personnel."</p>
88			<p>Within "For embankment segments where any of the community thresholds in Error! Reference source not found.are exceeded, the following actions, listed in Figure 8.15-1, would be taken: " What is this "Error! Reference source not found."</p>
88			<p>"1. Remove trees and brush smaller than 3 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) that impede inspections." What is the definition of impede? Does "impede" include use of remote sensing, satellite, areal or drones? Can inspections be performed now? Are there any locations where inspections cannot be performed? Are they critical locations and if yes, what is the definition of critical?</p>
88			<p>2. Perform a tree inventory and an embankment condition survey. What is involved in a tree inventory? What attributes are to be evaluated for "...an embankment condition survey"?</p>
88			<p>"3. Engage with stakeholders based on specific thresholds identified." The word "stakeholders" is used in different contexts. What is the definition for "stakeholder" for each context in this section and in this document?</p>
88			<p>"4. Evaluate the effectiveness of potential mitigation measures from the Guide Book." Have any of the "...potential mitigation measures from the Guide Book..." ever been tested for "...effectiveness"? Where have they been tested? What were the results?</p>
			<p>"5. Perform more detailed inspections, including detection of embankment seepage and embankment stability monitoring." What are the standards for "detection of embankment seepage"? What are the standards for "embankment stability monitoring"?</p>

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			6. If the results of the detection and monitoring of embankment seepage and embankment stability suggest that the embankment is stable
			7. If the results of the, corrective engineering solutions would be implemented. Such solutions are not addressed in the Guide Book. Implementation of corrective engineering solutions would be considered a separate site-specific action under SEQR and would be reviewed accordingly." Why are such solutions not addressed by the guide book?
90			"9.1 COMMUNICATIONS & NOTIFICATIONS All maintenance activities, except those considered routine (e.g., mowing, clearing debris) should include, where prudent:" What is the full list of routine activities? This is pertinent because the CC has shown little respect or understanding of natural vegetation. The latest example occurred near Lockport where vegetation was cut to the ground. Are there any "routine" activities that have generated public distress or ire in the past or are likely to do so in the future?
90			"9.1 COMMUNICATIONS & NOTIFICATIONS All maintenance activities, except those considered routine (e.g., mowing, clearing debris) should include, where prudent." How many days' notice will be provided in notifications? Will notification notice be sufficient to allow review by stakeholders?
			"9.2 PUBLIC MEETINGS Some maintenance projects may require public meetings. This determination and meeting coordination will be at the discretion of NYSCC PIO along with recommendation from Canal Operations Staff and any environmental permitting requirements." The "discretion" will not be tolerated. NYPA and NYSCC have failed repeatedly in this in the past and have not learned any lessons or not implemented any noticeable improvements. What changes will be made to this process? What thresholds will be formally established for meetings?
91			"10 REFERENCES" Were the texts or concepts of any of these references used within this document? If they were used, specifically which text was used? Where is this text located in this document? Were any other external unlisted references used? If they were used, specifically which text was used? Where is this text located in this document?
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		Electronic Document Page and section reference	Earthen Embankment Integrity Program SEQR Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement March 2021
		Cover	Why is this document Prepared by: Bergmann and New York Power Authority
		6 part 1	"Key components of the NYS Canal System are earthen embankments (embankments) that impound water to form navigable waterways or feeders. Proper maintenance of the embankments is imperative to maintain integrity of the structures: for minimizing risks of embankment failures to people that live, work or recreate along the NYS Canal System; for minimizing the risks to property and the environment; and for maintaining the integrity of the NYS Canal System in a cost-effective manner." Vegetation already presents a minimal risk so does removing trees remove the risk? Is the EEIP really cost effective? What data do you have to support this premise?
		6 part 2	"Parts of the embankments have become overgrown with trees, brush and unwanted vegetation, are subject to animal burrowing, and are experiencing erosion, seepage, or settlement." Are "trees, brush and unwanted vegetation" three different categories? What parts of which embankments, have experienced "erosion, seepage, or settlement"? What proportion of the embankments have experienced erosion, seepage, or settlement"? "Concrete and masonry surfaces that follow the embankment lines and grades also suffer from various types of deterioration." What does "Concrete and masonry surfaces that follow the embankment lines and grades" mean? Does embankment vegetation interfere with "Concrete and masonry" maintenance? Has any "Concrete and masonry" maintenance been initiated in sections where the vegetation has already been removed? Which "conditions compromise the integrity of the embankments" and which "hinder safety inspections"? Where are safety inspections hindered? How do they "impede the safe operation of the NYS Canal System"? Which can cause embankment failures."? "Together they represent significant public safety, environmental and economic risks that must be properly managed." Together what? Is it being stated, the failure to maintain "Concrete and masonry" represents a significant risk?
		6 part 3	"To address this pressing need, the NYSCC will implement a comprehensive, system-wide embankment maintenance program (hereafter referred to as the Earthen Embankment Integrity Program, or EEIP) to restore, maintain and manage the integrity of embankments within the NYS Canal system, and has developed the NYSCC Inspection & Maintenance Guide Book (Guide Book) to carry out the program." What is "the integrity of embankments"? What specific examples demonstrate degraded integrity? "The Guide Book provides a system-wide approach to embankment inspections, evaluations..." While the word "evaluation" is used within this document, no actual evaluation is defined. Is there a chapter on evaluations or evaluation processes missing from this document?
		7	Environmental Conservation Law, declares that it is the State's policy to: "... encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and enhance human and community resources; and to enrich the understanding of ecological systems, natural, human and community resources important to the people of the state." The actions described are contrary to every aspect of this quote. When it states "enrich the understanding of ecological systems" does that mean ignore and defy understanding? What actions has the NYSCC taken to enrich understanding of the woody vegetation on embankments?
		9 1-6	"The proposed action involves implementing the EEIP to restore, maintain and manage the integrity of earthen embankments located throughout the NYS Canal System." What specific embankment

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			<p>integrity locations require restoration? What is the definition of restore for the EEIP? What is the definition of restoration for the EEIP?</p> <p>How many "embankment segment"s are there? What is "inadequate drainage"?</p> <p>Does "correcting embankment geometry deficiencies" include altering the rise-run ratio of slopes? What experience does the NYSCC have "repairing seeps"? "The EEIP scope does include all embankment material and impairments..." What are "impairments"? "...from outside the toe of the outboard slope of the canal or feeder to the toe of the inboard embankment slope..." Is the channel of the canal prism included in the EEIP?</p>
			<p>10</p> <p>"Due to the previous long period of deferred maintenance, many embankments will require tree clearing..." How long a "period of deferred maintenance" is associated with trees? What is the documentation that demonstrates the deferral of tree removal?</p> <p>"The process for implementing the proposed project includes the following steps: 1. Identify and locate canal and feeder embankment segments based on desktop reviews..." Does this mean that no locations have been identified so far?</p> <p>"2. Utilize theprioritize the order in which embankment inspections" Does this mean no inspections will take place until after risk assessment?</p>
			<p>11 1-8</p> <p>"1.3.1 Purpose, Need and Benefit of the Project The purpose of the EEIP is to restore the integrity of embankments..." What aspects of integrity will be restored? How is the integrity to be restored? "Without implementation of an embankment maintenance program, embankments will continue to be weakened by various forms of deterioration..." Does that mean that embankments are not being maintained because there is no program? What specific examples are there of embankment deterioration?</p> <p>How significant is the NYSCC "ability to detect deficiencies... ..impaired"? Can the NYSCC circumvent, overcorrect, offset, or mitigate the impairment with additional inspection resources such as time and personnel?</p>
			<p>11 1-8 part 2</p> <p>"When construction of the original Erie Canal began in 1817..." Were there "engineering standards..." when the Barge Canal was rebuilt and realigned starting in 1903? Are any in-service earthen embankments unmodified from before the Barge Canal reconstruction?</p> <p>Have "The effects of the lack of design and construction standards..." been associated with any embankment failures on the Erie or Barge canals since 1903? Has improper evaluation or expertise been associated with any embankment failures on the Erie or Barge canals since 1903?</p>
			<p>12 part 1</p> <p>"The NYSCC has experienced, in recent years...6, a partial failure of Culvert 70 ..." Is this event at all related to vegetation?</p> <p>"...Emergency repairs were required during April and May 2018 at canal embankment sections of the Erie Canal in Perinton and Ogden, NY..." Were emergency repairs necessary in Perinton since the seepage has not changed since the action? Was there existing sheet pile at the Perinton location prior to the "emergency"? Has the Ogden site repair been completed or is the stream eroded undercut still present?</p> <p>Do "emergency construction contracts..." cost more than the EEIP program?</p> <p>"In summary, the need for the EEIP is to reduce the significant risk exposure presented by aging embankments..." Is this the core of the justification for this project? Is liability the primary concern of NTSCC and NYPA? Is there a better path to reduce "the significant risk exposure presented by aging embankments"?</p> <p>Can NYSCC "better manage NYS Canal System assets by performing regular and periodic inspections, prioritizing corrective action and implementing targeted maintenance," right now?</p>
			<p>12 part 1</p> <p>"The public benefits of the Project include..." How will removing all trees in most zones lead to a "Reduction in the risk of life loss, and damage to private property, public infrastructure, utilities, and the environment"?</p> <p>"This will be accomplished by prioritizing embankment maintenance on the basis of condition, hazard classification and risk urgency. " Is "condition" relating to embankment integrity? Is "condition" relating to embankment cosmetics?</p> <p>Will the costs shifted to EEIP related "programmed maintenance dollars" exceed emergency repairs? "...frequency and extent of canal and trailway closures will be significantly reduced..." What value does "significantly" have?</p>
			<p>12 part 3</p> <p>"1.3.2 Location and Physical Dimensions In order to accommodate the potential for temporary access by means of temporary easements or a Site Access/Vegetation Management Permit, an additional 100 feet beyond property under jurisdiction of the NYSCC is included as part of the project area." Have all property owners within an additional 100 feet" been notified of this EEIS?</p>
			<p>13</p> <p>"A full inventory of embankments on the NYS Canal System." What data or information is being collected as part of this inventory? Is sufficient data being collected or will a new inventory be necessary to capture crucial missing data?</p>
			<p>16</p> <p>"For embankment segments where any of the regulatory and community thresholds in Table 1.3-1 are exceeded, the following actions would be taken as shown in Figure 1.3-3: 1. Remove trees and brush smaller than 3 inches..."</p> <p>Would this action be applied to the entire embankment, including sections that are stable and show no signs of risk?</p>

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			<p>What is the process and result of "a tree inventory"?</p> <p>Why is "7. If the results of the seepage and stability monitoring indicate instability or that safe conditions are deteriorating, corrective engineering solutions would be implemented." delayed? Shouldn't some form of inspection happen before step 1? Seriously, is your plan is to drastically disturb the embankment before inspection?</p>
18			"Figure 1.3-3" Why is the type so small and unreadable with so much white space remaining?
19			"1.3.5 Timing and Schedule" What month are the programmed maintenance projects set?
20			Are "concrete and masonry walls" within the embankment part of the EEIP?
21			<p>"2 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED"</p> <p>"2.1 Null or No-Action Alternative" This action is misstated. It should be called the "Abandonment Alternative" This would be an action because of the choice to alter current inspection and maintenance would be made.</p> <p>"2.2 Ad-Hoc Alternative – Project-By-Project Approach" This is actually the "Null or No-Action Alternative" because you are not altering the current process.</p> <p>The repair in Royalton involved incremental vegetation trimming and a targeted localized removal. By Canal Corp. staff accounts, that process was successful. This is more of an Ad-Hoc Alternative, adapting new processes and learning. Why isn't this type of approach included as a program alternative considered? If you honestly included this type of approach as one of the "ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED," would it lay bare the folly of the EEIP?</p>
22			<p>"Ultimately, this alternative would address over time, the existing under-maintained conditions of the embankments. Eventually, this approach would significantly reduce the risk of embankment breaching in locations of the NYS Canal System where capital projects have been implemented." These are your words. Is this an admittance that this process along with some adjustment is very viable?</p> <p>"However, the public would continue to be exposed to risk of embankment breaching for a period of time..." The embankments would still be high hazard earthen embankments and the risk of breaching never goes away." Do you understand this?</p> <p>"This alternative would not differentiate between capital and operations..." The money would come from one source and be split into two pots, then costs would be paid by money from one or both pots, but still from the original source. This is a semantic shell game not safety.</p>
22			"2.3 Alternatives Considered and Dismissed" An awful lot of work was put into some farfetched alternatives. However, a Membrane or cutoff walls may actually be localized solutions.
27			<p>Why would you install a cutoff wall on both sides of the canal rather than just the earthen embankments?</p> <p>"Due to the high capital duration of time... .. would expose the adjacent property owners to an unsafe condition for an extended period of time." Are any embankments unsafe now? Would the CC not inspect or monitor embankments during this time?</p>
28			"So, while clear... ..the potential long term adverse effects on resources such as aesthetics, community plans and community character could be significant. Thus, this alternative is not a practicable alternative." The EEIP is a clear-cut plan in Zones 1, 2A, 4 and 5, and a culling in Zones 2B and 3. The negatives for a clear-cut are essentially the same for the proposed EEIP. Do you understand the considerable similarities and likely outcome? What would be the % loss to the 1.5 Billion tourism industry, local and state taxes and fees? Please do not use the word practicable unless you are a junior lawyer.
29			"3 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS" Would you please do this section over with a targeted brush and tree removal approach rather than the EEIP.
32			<p>"3.2.1 Environmental Setting" What is the source for "the typical canal prism" dimensions?</p> <p>"When canal and feeder embankments were originally constructed, the outboard slope was typically turf covered..." What is the source for this statement?</p> <p>"Over the course of about ... tree-covered, with root systems that create seepage paths..." What is the source of this statement?</p> <p>Do trees impair the regularity or the inspection of "impair their regular inspection?" Do trees prevent inspection? How much time does it take to inspect a grass covered embankment? How much time does it take to inspect a grass covered embankment when the grass has not yet been cut? Do trees provide hand holds on an embankment?</p>
33			"See Figure 3.2-1 for historic photos of canal embankments when recently constructed, circa 1910. Note the absence of tree cover along the embankments." Note the absence of color. The canal was also unwatered when built. It takes years for trees to grow. Were any trees intentionally planted along the Barge Canal soon after completion for aesthetic purposes? Did the engineers for the Barge Canal understand the value of trees for soil stabilization?
34 3-6			<p>"The EEIP would require... .. damaged linings, inadequate drainage, installing instrumentation, repairing surfacing..." Several of these actions seem to be in conflict with other statements that exclude such activities.</p> <p>Is "correcting embankment geometry deficiencies" a modification to original constructed geometry?</p>
34			<p>3.2.2 Has there been a scientific review of "...soil boring and piezometer records available for portions of the western embankment or obtained in connection with planning EEIP activities"?</p> <p>Does the NYSCC have access to historic "...embankment design records"?</p>

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			Will embankments be modified to meet current "...engineering references regarding proper slope of embankments, soil types, vegetation, and other engineering solutions (including drainage)"? "Impermeable soils would be used to restore embankments and to fill stump holes." Will "Impermeable soils" be used on the outer slopes? Will "Impermeable soils" be used to modify outer slopes to 3 to 1 slopes?
35-36			"As an example, in 2019, Bergmann and McMahon & Mann Engineers conducted subsurface explorations..." What was the scope of this? What was the process? Is there a report that details this information? "Water levels in the embankment with the canal full are lower than expected for a homogeneous embankment..." What is the source of information for expected water level? Does the data support the previous statement, "Indications of seeps at or above the toe of existing embankments would indicate high ground water table on the adjacent lands"?
36			What is the extent of current water table data for earthen embankments? What are the "...other embankment conditions that compromise the integrity of the embankments"?
38			"For trees greater than 3 inches DBH, the roots would be removed to avoid hazards caused by seepage through the root system." What evidence is there of seepage caused by root system? What quantity and what composition of "fertilizing" would be applied? What is the yearly cost of "fertilizing"? Is mowing "normal wear and tear"? Does turf seeding not resist "normal wear and tear" such as mowing? Will additional plantings to supplement screening occur in Zone 3 for the completed sections such as Brockport, Holley etc.?
39			"The drainage blanket may be covered either with soil and turf or with gravel fill." Are these standard practices for drainage blankets? Will gravel fill be a finish surface for any embankment outer slopes? How does a berm improve embankment stability.?
41			Have on-site evaluations been used to determine "typical" slopes? "Embankment slopes maintained or repaired under EEIP activities would be the same slope or flatter." Were "engineering investigations" used to determine if there was seepage at the embankments modified in the completed project areas in Brockport, Holley etc.? Why would the outboard slope be flattened but not the inboard? Where does a piping event originate? "Note that replacement of tree cover with turf represents a restoration of original turf conditions when the canal and feeder embankments were constructed between 1910 and 1920." What documentation is there for "original turf"?
			What documentation is there for "stormwater and drainage facilities" during the 1910-1920 rebuild? What were the "stormwater and drainage" "engineering standards" of that time"? "In summary, there would be no significant increase in peak runoff flow or volume beyond the embankment limits due to construction of turf and blanket drain embankment ground cover." Is this statement comparing assumed 1920 condition vs proposed EEIP condition? Is this statement comparing the existing tree cover condition vs proposed EEIP condition?
44			"Indirect Impacts No indirect impacts are anticipated for the EEIP activities." Was this section skipped? Were there any impacts that were considered and dismissed? Does an adverse tourism impact fall into this category?
45			Have any seeps been identified on slopes that have been converted to turf or where the slope has been flattened? How many emergency repairs have occurred each year during the navigation season? 3.2.4 Mitigation "Supplemental plantings are non-woody, with shallow root systems and a maximum mature height of 12 feet." What plants qualify for "shallow root systems and a maximum mature height of 12 feet"? What is the source for this information?
46			What "best practices for embankment repair and vegetation management", will be used other than "New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual... ..and the Blue Book"? Who decides which best practices to use? Are earthen embankments different from water impounding earthen embankments and, are there different best practices? "...Previous canal repair areas..." What does canal repair mean? Are there different meanings for "repair"? Are "embankment prisms" not part of the embankment?
52 3-24			"...Ad-Hoc Alternative, the maintenance would be commenced when conditions become unsafe..." This statement contradicts the description of the Ad-Hoc Alternative.
			Does the NYSCC have a pesticides use policy?

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			This is problematic. "Implementation of the EEIP is not anticipated to increase the frequency of use of pesticides or in the way they are used." What happens when the Operations Manager chooses to use pesticides frequently? Therefore, due to the infrequent use... ..there would not be a significant impact..."? The EEIP needs to specify no increase in use otherwise the assumption is baseless.
67			"NYSCC uses pesticides to control vegetation in areas where mowing or other control measures are difficult or dangerous." What is the definition of difficult? What are locations considered difficult?
69			"None of the anticipated activities performed under the EEIP by themselves are anticipated to alter groundwater levels to an extent that approaches that of the seasonal water fluctuations caused by canal filling and emptying." Is there data from the completed sections in Holley etc. to support this conclusion? "At times, changes to groundwater elevations in an adjacent well or to drainage around or into basements may seem to coincide with EEIP activities, but the magnitude of such changes are expected to be insignificant because the magnitude of groundwater level changes at the canal right-of-way are also expected to be insignificant." Is this an assumption based on an assumption?
70 3-42			"Conclusion The potential for impacts resulting from EEIP activities on groundwater levels and contamination outside the canal right-of-way are expected to be insignificant." This conclusion is not supported.
71			"3.5.4 Mitigation As discussed above in Section 3.4.4, the potential contamination of groundwater would be minimized by following all NYSDEC pesticide regulations (which also cover herbicides), manufacturers regulations, and using proper application and disposal methods. See also the discussion in Section 3.7.4." Following regulations, and using proper application and disposal methods only affects specific application sites. Widespread use can significantly increase contamination. Therefore increased use, even if used correctly, can increase contamination.
72 3-44			Does the EEIP allow "engineering judgment" as a substitute for "through hydraulic analyses or the extent of rise in Base Flood Elevation"?
74 3-46			How does "removing brush and trees... ..maintain embankment integrity"?
77 3-49			Again, "while under the Ad-Hoc Alternative, the maintenance would be commenced when conditions become unsafe" conflicts with the Ad-Hoc Alternative.
79			How does removing vegetation achieve a "high level of safety"? Is the "original engineered configuration" documented? Is the "original engineered configuration" unsafe? Is the "original engineered configuration" durable? Has the "original engineered configuration" lasted 100 years?
90			If "The primary purpose of the vegetation-free zone is to "provide a reliable corridor of access to, and along, levees, floodwalls, embankment dams, and appurtenant structures." then does that mean there are not integrity issues associated with woody vegetation?
91 3-63			Does "Turf grass... ..prevent the establishment of invasive species"? Does turf grass Turf grass of a "desired maximum 12-inch height" impede inspection?
93 3-65			"...landscape is heavily developed due to human activities and lacks lands that can be considered as suitable habitat for plants and animals of any species." Is suburban development unsuitable "for plants and animals of any species"?
95 3-67			"Water temperatures in the canal were collected in several locations including Medina, Eagle Harbor, Albion, and Holley during July and August of 2020." Were water temperatures recorded before the clear cut in those areas? What in the impact on local fishing?
96 3-68			"Indirect impacts caused by EEIP maintenance activities include the potential for a minimal increase in canal water temperatures and the spread of invasive species." Where is the temperature increase detailed? Is the spread of "spread of invasive species" a serious issue?
97			"3.7.4 Mitigation Clearing non-compatible vegetation from earthen embankments is essential for maintaining safety and stability earthen embankments." How does "Clearing non-compatible vegetation from earthen embankments" essential for maintaining "stability... "of "... earthen embankments"?
98			Will it be the policy of the NTSCC to destroy "protected plants"?
106 3-78			"It is important to note, however, that upon completion of the canal, embankments were free of trees and their main visual characteristic was the consistent landform created parallel to the new waterway." Is it also important to note that the trees that grew provided "positive scenic values that are valued for their scenic influence"?
112 3-83			What category do tourists that bike or hike the canal trail? Is there a missing category?
113 3-85			"it is widely known that no one has "a right to a view."" What defines "widely known"? What constitutional or legal document states no one has "a right to a view"? Does the Erie Canal belong to the people of New York? Do the people of New York have a right to that which belongs to them? "The EEIP has been developed to diminish the risk of failure of the canal and feeder embankments while preserving the aesthetic and natural character where appropriate and possible to do so in a manner that minimizes residual risk to adjacent communities." What was the primary purpose of development of the EEIP? Was it liability?
116			"Indirect Impacts Vegetation removal may result in a reduction of enjoyment by users in select areas of the canal trail and waterway due from the direct impacts described above. This could result in fewer

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			users in such areas; however, in the larger scope of the project, such impacts would not be considered significant. Why are such impacts not considered significant?
117 3-88			"There is no meaningful information regarding previous impacts to the embankment areas, as this would be from the original construction of the embankments..." What impacts were there from the clear cut sections near Brockport, Holley etc.? Are those previous impacts?
118 3-89			"3.9.4 Mitigation In progressing EEIP activities, it would not be possible to avoid all potential impacts to visual resources while assuring the stability and safety of the earthen embankments." What assurances will be made regarding stability with the EEIP? What assurances will be made regarding safety with the EEIP?
120 3-92			Will the "Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)" be legally binding?
124			"During the period of significance (1905 to 1963) the earthen embankments for the Barge Canal had just been constructed, and any trees developed after that time." Does this statement declare that none of the trees along the canal (none of the trees subject to the EEIP) were present prior to 1963? How do trees "undermining the structural integrity of the earthen embankment"? How do trees compromise "...the integrity of the earthen embankments"? What is your source?
129			"This review has determined that there are no direct permanent impacts from EEIP activities, nor are permanent indirect or cumulative impacts anticipated." Is the removal of trees and related shade a direct permanent impact on recreation use?
139			"...regular operations, such as mowing, which may occur two to three times each growing season." How many times a year will mowing occur?
140 3-112			Is the EEIP a "worst-case example"?
141			Does brush, bushes, and tree branches covered by snow provide noise mitigation benefits?
142			"2. The proposed removal of dense vegetation... ..would significantly increase light pollution in these residential areas." Is this beneficial?
143			"3.13.4 Mitigation" Do you know that since most vegetation including trees does not pose a demonstrated risk to the integrity of embankments, you could leave the trees stand and not have to conduct a screening of individual embankment projects for lines of sight exceeding 200 feet between sensitive adjacent noise receivers and loud noise sources or light sources? Would leaving the existing trees and vegetation be cost effective?
147			I skipped a few but once again the statement "...while under the Ad-Hoc Alternative, the maintenance would be commenced when conditions become unsafe..." conflicts with the Ad-Hoc Alternative.
161			Has the transition from commercial transportation corridor to recreational and tourism corridor redefined the appropriate aesthetic envelope which is consistently composed of trees and other woody vegetation?
162			3.16.2 Potential Impacts of Proposed Action "As previously mentioned, EEIP activities are all accomplished within land under the jurisdiction of the NYSCC." Are the EEIP activities that use adjacent lands, such as impaired access of agricultural areas, "...all accomplished within land under the jurisdiction of the NYSCC."
163			Who authored "...while under the Ad-Hoc Alternative, the maintenance would be commenced when conditions become unsafe, increasing the potential for a breach..." and who authored the "Ad-Hoc Alternative"? Did they compare notes?
165			How does "...the EEIPdiminish the risk of failure of the earthen embankments? Where is this described? For what percentage of linear embankments is the EEIP "...preserving the aesthetic and natural character"?
168			"While the EEIP would result in irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources, the resources are not in short supply." Are these resources abundant along the canal? "Furthermore, the overall benefits outweigh these commitments." What benefits are there? How do they outweigh these commitments? What are commitments? "Initial consumption of materials and energy in clearing embankments, would allow minimal use of energy in maintaining the embankments in future years." What is the consumption of materials and energy now? What are the projected consumptions of materials for the future? Is a tree lined canal a resource that is not in short supply? "This would be a more efficient use of resources and build more sustainability into the canal system." If this program leads to more consumption in the future compared to now, isn't that less sustainability? "The EEIP would maintain the safety and reliability of the earthen embankments, which would benefit users of the canal as well as reduce the risk of embankment failure to adjacent and downstream properties." Since there is no documented failures due to vegetation, how does removing vegetation reduce risk? As demonstrated by the completed embankments in Medina, Holley etc. removing incompatible vegetation and modifying the slope of embankments does not eliminate risks associated with earthen embankments nor does it eliminate the telltales of potential issues such as seepage.
169 6-1			6 REFERENCES Are there any references not included?

APPENDIX A EMBANKMENT MAINTENANCE GUIDEBOOK ATTACHMENT 1 NYSCC EMBANKMENT MAINTENANCE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS) 76 pages

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			NEW YORK STATE CANAL CORPORATION Earthen Embankment Integrity Program SEQR Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement APPENDIX A EMBANKMENT MAINTENANCE GUIDEBOOK ATTACHMENT 1 NYSCC EMBANKMENT MAINTENANCE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS)
			5 1-2 What are the required qualifications for a Regional Canal Engineer, Dam Safety Engineer? What are the required qualifications for "PE Reviewer"? If the red paragraph is so important, why isn't it located at the beginning of the page? "...dam safety knowledge base has greatly expanded." What evidence is there for this statement? "Because of this, the conditions of the canal do not always conform to dam safety best practices in many instances." This is a false statement. The canal is not a dam. The canal was built before the current dam safety best practices. Do you understand causality? "Compromises must be made in the implementation of the Guide Book and the various BMPs, but those compromises will be made to prioritize public safety and reduce the inherent risk of the embankments." What is each compromise made? How does each "reduce the inherent risk of the embankments"? What is the inherent risk of the embankments? "The best practices and suggested details contained in this manual are general and may require modification based on specific site conditions." Have these "best practices" been tested anywhere on the Erie Canal system? "CAUTIONS AND LIMITATIONS:licensed professional..." What are the required qualifications of "licensed professional"? What are the required qualifications of "competent licensed professional"?
			6 1-3 "These zones have been delineated based on typical seepage characteristics." What are the seepage characteristics for Zones 1 through 5? What is the source for these "typical seepage characteristics"?
			8 What are the required qualifications of "competent licensed professional engineer"? "ConstructionUse had excavation..." Use "had" excavation? "No excavation performed within the embankment should not advance below the water table." How many people reviewed this document?
			9 What is the designation of "Engineer of Record"? What is the purpose and extent of compaction? "Placement and is dependent on the compaction method used." What?
			15 2-6 With all these different heights "maximum 12 in. height "1/3 of the leaf "2-4 in. height" "when grass reaches 6" height" do you understand growth of grass? How many times was the grass cut on the completed clear cut areas in Holley etc.? Did the cutting conform to the above guidelines?
			18 "Growth of woody vegetation on embankments can lead to serious problems..." What "serious problems"? Is there evidence of this? "Trees and brush with DBH greater than 3" can pose a significant threat to an embankment..." What significant threat can trees and brush pose? Are there any other vague ominous descriptions you would like to add?
			19 "A large number of holes or a cluster of repaired holes could lead to instability of the embankment." How could either of these situations lead to instability of the embankment?
			20 2-11 "STUMP AND ROOTBALL REMOVAL PROCEDURES (P.E. SUPERVISION REQUIRED)... ...Professional Engineer (P.E.) must be present during removal." Was a P.E present during the project in Medina, Holley etc.? "DISPOSAL: All wood and brush shall be disposed of and removed from NYSCC property." Doesn't this create a burden, undermine self-sufficiency and sustainability?
			25 Should "this situation is a potential embankment safety emergency" be bold or red type and moved to the top of the page? "Repairs for large sloughs or slides on an embankment should not be addressed in-house." Why?
			29 RODENT BURROWS "These types of damages are widespread throughout the NYSCC portfolio and so maintenance and prevention is of utmost importance." Is there a catalog and data sets for these?
			42 Locations of all noted seepage should be tracked by the Sections and reported to the Dam Safety Engineer on a master tracking sheet and/or GPS tagged file. What is the "master tracking sheet"? What information does it contain?
			45 "The blanket and toe drain can be covered with a soil berm or gravel within the Canal ROW." Are both of these standard practices?
			52 "Use had excavation."
			68 "CONCRETE JOINT VEGETATION Growth of vegetation in the cracks of concrete can exacerbate degradation and can lead to structural damage. Root systems of trees and shrubbery can create deep penetrations in the concrete, which with added freeze/thaw action, can create large cracks in the structure. The management of vegetation on concrete elements is therefore pertinent to structural integrity. Control and removal of vegetation should be done routinely as part of the embankment maintenance program." How critical is this? Elsewhere, concrete structures have been excluded from the scope of the EEIP. This seems to be a discrepancy. Are concrete structures included in the scope of the EEIP?

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			End of Review
1046	10/15/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. NY I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1047	10/15/2021	Email	<p>Dear Mr. Condiloro and Bergmann: Please accept the following as comments of the Village of Pittsford Board of Trustees with regard to the DGEIS and Guide Book for the NYSCC Earthen Embankment Integrity Program ("EEIP").</p> <p>Impact of Proposed EEIP on a Village of Pittsford Historic Resource The Village of Pittsford is the oldest village in Monroe County having been first settled in 1789. Nearly the entire village has been listed in the National Register for more than five decades.</p> <p>Architecturally the village represents periods of significance during the booming Erie Canal era and, undeniably, Village and Canal history are inextricably combined.</p> <p>Today the Village of Pittsford is one of the top Canal corridor destinations for regional residents and tourists who wish to experience a beautifully preserved canal town. Historic Schoen Place along the tree-lined Canal path attracts tens of thousands of visitors annually. Pittsford Village annually hosts the well-known Pittsford Regatta as well as several seasonal festivals and community events on the Canal.</p> <p>Recognizing the Canal as an important part of our nation's story of westward expansion, in 2000 Congress established the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. In 2017, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior designated the entire N.Y.S. Canal System a National Historic Landmark.</p> <p>Clear-cutting along the Canal running through Pittsford Village would have severe consequences-aesthetically, environmentally, and financially. The impact on the Village and the Canal itself would negatively impact two major designated historic resources at the Federal level.</p> <p>Aside from arguments put forth regarding trees potentially compromising the embankment, the additional preservation arguments that clear-cutting would somehow return the Canal back to its "original historic state" are specious and ill-considered.</p> <p>Originally the Canal was primarily used a commercial waterway with mules walking the Canal path pulling barges with ropes. The advent of the steam displaced the mules and the Canal system adapted to use engine driven barges. Over time commercial barges were displaced with more efficient ways of delivering commercial goods.</p> <p>With the disappearance of commerce, over decades the Canal has become an important adaptively reused resource for recreation and tourism, not just for Pittsford Village but for all the towns and villages along the waterway. Canal paths, formerly designed for mules, are now tree-lined linear parks for pedestrian and bicyclists. Trees and natural vegetation that grow along the waterway, now a 540-mile long linear park, play a crucial role in the entire Canal experience for people to enjoy and wildlife to inhabit.</p> <p>This adaptive re-use of a former commercial waterway into a thriving-recreational destination for tourists, boaters, hikers and cyclists has become a multi-million-dollar economic engine for New York State. Adaptive re-use, such as this, is strongly supported by every preservation entity at the local, state and federal level.</p> <p>Clear-cutting trees from miles of park-like settings along the Canal, without consideration of economic consequences for the Village of Pittsford as well as numerous other Canal communities with limited revenue streams, will create long-term damage.</p> <p>Town and Village Local Waterfront Revitalization Program ("LWRP") and Village of Pittsford Local Waterfront Overlay District ("LWO") The Village of Pittsford adopted jointly with the Town of Pittsford the Town and Village of Pittsford Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. That LWRP was duly approved by the Secretary of State and therefore the LWRP is a "...planning and regulatory tool that allows a local community to refine statewide coastal policies to apply to the local situation." See, <i>DGEIS Statement at 3-125 and 3-126</i>. The Village of Pittsford agrees with and supports this statement of NYSCC's obligation with regard to a Secretary of State approved LWRP.</p> <p>However, the Village of Pittsford noted that the above statement is misapplied and misconstrued in many sections of the DGEIS and Guide Book.</p> <p>One example of the misapplication of the effect and requirement of a LWRP on local actions contemplated by state agency can be found at DGEIS Statement 3-129. The first portion of that statement is correct in that: "The activities of federal, state and local government are required to be consistent with a locally-adopted LWRP that has been approved by</p>

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			<p>the Secretary of State." In addition, the statement that "This 'consistency' provision is a strong tool that insures government agencies' actions at all levels are guided by the local program" is also correct. However, there is absolutely no statutory or regulatory basis for the final sentence of that statement which implies that it is the state agency which conducts the consistency review for state agency actions which occur at a local level. In fact, state agency actions which occur at the local level must also be approved by the local government.</p> <p>The Village of Pittsford adopted a new zoning code on November 21, 2019. That zoning code continued the LWO District which was present in the previous zoning code. That LWO includes all Canal lands in the Village of Pittsford which might be the subject of the NYSCC's EEIP. The LWO requires that any alterations in the LWO District require Site Plan Review, Special Use Permit and a Local Waterfront Consistency review.</p> <p>The internally contradictory statement which is present in DGEIS Statement 3-129 is also present in DGEIS Statement 4-4. It has been and will continue to be the position of the Village of Pittsford that the application of the EEIP to any area within the Village of Pittsford will require Site Plan Approval from the Planning Board of the Village of Pittsford, a Special Use Permit from the Planning Board of the Village of Pittsford, and a Local Waterfront Consistency review by the Planning Board of the Village of Pittsford.</p> <p>Contrary to the conclusions reached by the NYSCC in DGEIS Statements 3-125 and 3-126, the clear cutting anticipated by the EEIP is contrary to the clear intent of the Town and Village of Pittsford LWRP.</p> <p>The Long-Term Impact of Clear-Cutting Semi-Mature and Mature Trees on Canal Embankments</p> <p>The clear cutting proposed by the NYSCC's EEIP appears to be a solution which is being applied in the absence of a clearly established and defined problem. There has never been a canal bank failure which has been in any way related to the presence of trees on the canal embankment.</p> <p>The clear cutting proposed by the EEIP relies almost entirely on guidance documents related to the maintenance of earthen embankment dams. This reliance is faulty for several reasons.</p> <p>In point of fact, earthen embankment dams are not canal embankments upon which semi-mature and mature trees have been encouraged to thrive and prosper. Presumably, the vegetation removal advocated for the preservation of embankment dams is intended for dams upon which semi-mature and mature trees have not been permitted to grow.</p> <p>Obviously, the preservation and maintenance of earthen embankment dams which have been kept free of tree growth must be different than the preservation and maintenance of canal embankments where mature trees are now present.</p> <p>As has been indicated by Dr. Donald H. Gray, a highly credential slope stability engineering expert, the long-term effect of the clear cutting of trees on canal embankments will almost certainly lead to future embankment instability. The view is supported by Section 7.16 of the California Guidance document which states</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"Policies and criteria regarding removing trees and other woody vegetation that have grown and matured on levees are evolving and will be informed by ongoing and future research. Engineers and levee maintaining agencies are encouraged to consider the results of this research when deciding how to manage trees and other woody vegetation on levees.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The criteria provide significant flexibility for engineers and levee maintaining agencies to remove or retain existing trees and other woody vegetation. Because of the importance of these critical resources, it is anticipated that implementation of these criteria will result in near-term event retention of a vast majority of existing trees and other woody vegetation that provide important and critical habitat."</p> <p>In short, the NYSCC's clear-cutting policy is tantamount to an uncontrolled statewide experiment regarding the effect of the clear cutting of long stretches of Erie Canal. There is a high degree of probability that such clear cutting will ultimately result in multiple long-term canal bank failures which, ironically, the clear cutting is supposed to prevent.</p> <p>The Alternative to Clear-Cutting</p> <p>Since the long-term risks of the clear cutting proposed by the NYSCC in the EEIP is unknown but potentially catastrophic, a more measured approach to canal embankment maintenance should be adopted by the NYSCC.</p> <p>Contrary to the statement at 3-16 of the DGEIS, the alternative to clear cutting should not be the no-action alternative wherein earthen embankments would be left to fail.</p> <p>Rather, the NYSCC Should adopt an Ad Hoc alternative or project-by-project- approach to canal embankment maintenance. Such an approach would ensure that only harmful trees would be removed leaving the healthy trees in place to provide stability and a recreationally attractive viewshed.</p> <p>In summary, the Village of Pittsford requests that NYSCC abandon the proposed clear cutting of the canal embankments in favor of a case by case analysis of tree removal.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.</p>
1048	10/15/2021	Email	<p>Dear Mr. Candiloro:</p> <p>I write to express my opposition to the adoption of the Earthen Embankment Integrity Program (EEIP) proposed by the New York State Canal Corporation.</p> <p>The Erie Canal (Erie Canal or Canal) opened a world of innovation, communications, commerce, and recreation. In its infancy, the Canal provided market access for the mills and factories powdered by the Genesee River in the center of Rochester and Monroe County. It helped attract inventors, entrepreneurs, and workforce that made our community an industrial giant. In turn, they seeded the institutions that now make our community rich in cultural, social, and education institutions.</p> <p>It is often said that our region has "good bones." If that is the case, then the Erie Canal may be fairly considered Monroe County's spine.</p>

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			<p>“Clinton’s Ditch” was the product of vision, determination, and exquisite foresight. The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor refers to it as “the canal that transformed America.”</p> <p>Generations of New Yorkers have had a hand in transforming the Canal. Through it all, it has remained an iconic symbol of the State’s innovation spirit.</p> <p>The Erie Canal continues to play an essential role in the economy, culture, recreation and history of the communities in its path. While these communities have been benefited from the Canal’s presence, they are also essential partners in its continued success, and they must be treated as such. The EEIP fails in this regard.</p> <p>With more than 40 miles of the Canal passing through Monroe County, we have embraced it as central to our history and culture and as an important resource for recreation and economic development. This includes artifacts of the Canals earlier era such as the Broad Street aqueduct that once arrived the Canal across the Genesee River in Rochester. For most of those 40 miles, earthen embankments support the Canal. Hence, the proposed EEIP will have a disproportionate impact on our communities.</p> <p>Changes in the management and maintenance of the Canal can significantly impact the region’s economy. Towns and villages abutting the Canal have been made important investments in parks, trails, and access to the Canal. Residents living in the proximity to the Canal have been made similar investments. The proposed EEIP represents the most recent effort to propose a major and unanticipated departure from the nearly 200 years of vegetation management.</p> <p>I recognize and endorse efforts to maintain Canal Safety, but the practices offered in the EEIP are not the only approaches to achieving this goal. With decades of experience, the only evidence cited in support of clear cutting is the 1974 Bushnell’s Basin disaster. That incident was caused by the errant management of tunnel construction underneath the Canal and had nothing to do with vegetation.</p> <p>I oppose the EEIP. The plan shows none of the innovation and foresight that made the Erie Canal a state and national treasure. In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EEIP is a “top down” proposal, instead of a program built from the bottom up. An appropriate vegetation management plan is important to the long term health and vitality of the canal, but each section of the Canal deserves a local plan that is developed with the participation of local communities. A well considered and thought out plan is in the best interest of all stakeholders. The Canal remains a unique and important asset, and it is important that we preserve the elements that make it such. Trees are among those elements. • The EEIP begins with the presumption that “clear cutting” is the primary method for controlling vegetation. This policy would mark a wholesale change in NYSCC practice and in the character of important parts of the Canal, particularly in Monroe County. Instead of advancing clear cutting, the vegetation management plan should focus on the removal of dead trees and challenging undergrowth. Each local plan, developed in concert with local communities, could identify vegetation that should be removed and the timeframe in which that work should be completed. Scrap the “top down” approach and replace it with a targeted plan that engages local communities. • The NYSCC should develop multi-year vegetation management process that are well-publicized and assure effective and local input and participation. <p>Adoption of the EEPI with have serous negative consequences in Monroe County, the communities and residents of those communities that abut the Canal, for all the residents of Monroe County. I urge you to set aside this plan and to begin a process of meaningful engagement with residents of Monroe County.</p>
1049	10/15/2021	Email	<p>Please see the attached correspondence which I am respectfully submitting on behalf of the Town of Brighton relative to the above.</p> <p>Dear Mr. Candiloro:</p> <p>Please accept this letter as the written comments submitted by the Town of Brighton, Monroe County (hereinafter “Brighton”) to the New York State Canal Corporation’s (hereinafter “NYSCC”) Earthen Embankment Integrity Program (hereinafter “EEIP”) Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (hereinafter “DGEIS”) under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (hereinafter “SEQR”). Brighton joins in and incorporates herein the comments previously submitted by the Town of Pittsford in the August 26, 2021 correspondence from its Town Attorney Robert B. Koegel, Esq.</p> <p>Brighton is a green and vibrant community that values its trees and vegetation. Brighton is proud to count amongst its accomplishments the achievement of becoming a “Tree City USA” recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation and this year celebrates its twentieth anniversary as a Tree City USA. Trees are such a valued and important part of our community that Brighton adopted twenty years ago a special local tree law to protect our town trees.</p> <p>As recognized in the Brighton Local Tree Law:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">There is a direct relationship between the planting and preservation of trees, shrubs and associated vegetation in sufficient number in populated areas and the health, safety and welfare of communities and the physical and visual qualities of the environment which towns are authorized to protect. Trees and such vegetation abate noise, provide welcome shade to people, preserve the balance of oxygen in the air by removing carbon dioxide and fostering air quality and add color and verdure to human construction. They also help to stabilize the soil and control water pollution by preventing soil erosion and flooding, yield advantageous microclimatic effects and provide a natural habitat for wildlife. The removal of trees and related vegetation impairs the stability and value of both improved and unimproved real property in the area of removal and adversely affects public health, safety and general welfare. The town, in seeking to promote the health, safety and general welfare of its citizens and in seeking to preserve the quality and character of its environment, finds that trees, shrubs and associated vegetation are an important natural resource. The Town recognizes the practical and aesthetic value of trees and wishes to assure that future generations of Town residents will continue to enjoy the benefits of living in a community filled with trees.</p> <p>Brighton Town Code §175-1.</p> <p>The EEIP by NYSCC of effectively clear cutting trees and vegetation from nearly the entire embankment of the Erie Canal that runs through Brighton is anathema to our community and its values as related to trees and vegetation. It is Brighton’s sincere hope and desire that NYSCC seriously reconsider abandoning its current practice of regular inspections</p>

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			<p>and selective tree removal as problem trees are identified or that NYSCC consider adopting a more flexible and tree sensitive program that can provide for the needed maintenance and safety of preserving the canal embankments without the wholesale removal of all trees and vegetation as is contemplated by the present EEIP and Guide Book.</p> <p>I have reviewed the DGEIS with Brighton's staff and find the DGEIS to be lacking. It fails to adequately provide information and analysis as is required under SEQR and does not fulfill the requirements of the New York Power Authority's (hereinafter "NYPA") own regulations. (See, 21 NYCRR 461.9) Under the NYPA regulations:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The body of all draft and final EIS's shall contain at least the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) a concise description of the proposed action, its purpose and need; (2) a concise description of the environmental setting of the areas to be affected, sufficient to permit an understanding of the effects of the proposed action and alternatives; (3) a statement of the important environmental impacts of the proposed action, including short- and long-term effects and typical associated environmental effects; (4) an identification and brief discussion of any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided if the proposed action is implemented; (5) a description and evaluation of reasonable alternatives to the action which would achieve the same or similar objectives. The description and evaluation should be at a level of detail sufficient to permit a comparative assessment of the alternatives discussed. The no-action alternatives must also be discussed and evaluated; (6) an identification of any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources which would be associated with the proposed action should it be implemented; (7) a description of mitigation measures to minimize the adverse environmental impacts; (8) a description of any of the proposed actions, where applicable and significant; (9) a discussion of the effects of the proposed action on the use and conservation of energy, where applicable and significant, provided that in the case of an electric generating facility, the statement shall include a demonstration that the facility will satisfy electric generating capacity needs or other electric system needs in a manner reasonably consistent with the most recent state energy plan; (10) a discussion of the effects of the proposed action on solid waste management where applicable and significant; (11) a discussion of the effects of any proposed action on, and its consistency with, the comprehensive management plan of the special groundwater protection program, as implemented by the commissioner pursuant to article 55 of the Environmental Conservation Law; (12) a list of any underlying studies, reports and other information obtained and considered in preparing the statement; (13) in the case of a final EIS only, copies or a summary of the substantive comments received on the draft EIS and a response to such comments; (14) in the case of a final EIS only, indication and identification of all revisions made to the draft EIS; and (15) for State agency actions in the coastal area: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) when the action is not in an approved local waterfront revitalization program area, an identification of the applicable coastal policies of Executive Law, article 42, as contained in 19 NYCRR 600.5, and a discussion of the effects of the proposed action on such policies; or (ii) when the action is in an approved local waterfront revitalization program area and the action is one identified by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 916(1)(a) of the Executive Law, an identification of the applicable policies of the local program and a discussion of the effects of the proposed action on such policies. <p>21 NYCRR 461.9(d)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>THE NYSCC DGEIS FOR THE EEIP FAILS TO MEET THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS</u></p> <p><u>The DGEIS fails to provide a description sufficient to permit an understanding of the effects of the proposed action and alternatives.</u></p> <p>It is impossible for Brighton to know or understand which areas in Brighton will be stripped clear of trees by NYSCC. In addition, it is unclear under the EEIP and unaddressed in the DGEIS when, how and if municipalities will be notified of actual clearing activities and whether there will be an opportunity for further public comment or review when NYSCC comes in to perform a clear cut of a particular section of the embankment.</p> <p>Moreover, and perhaps even more importantly, there is no study, report or data provided to establish that the removal of trees from the embankment will not do more harm than good. What is known is that human intervention has been the proven cause of embankment failure, particularly the Great Embankment failure in Pittsford in the 70s, and that clear cutting will necessarily involve the use of large machinery and equipment on the embankments, the impact of which has not been adequately assessed or addressed in the DGEIS.</p> <p>It is beyond cavil that the clear cutting of trees and vegetation on the Canal embankment and along the Erie Canal Trail will have a significant negative impact on the environment including a loss of shade, habitat, oxygen producing plants, aesthetics, wildlife and human use and enjoyment. It is unknown and unproven that the removal of such extensive vegetation and the clear cutting of trees on the embankment will provide for long term stabilization. In fact, there is reason to believe that the removal of the trees and vegetation may destabilize the embankment. For two hundred years the Canal has existed in its present state without any wholesale program to clear cut trees and vegetation from the embankment and there is not a single known event of embankment failure due to trees and vegetation.</p> <p>More data must be collected and reviewed before the DGEIS can be considered complete and adequate. Some of the areas in which the DGEIS is inadequate are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Particular attention should be focused on an evaluation of the erosion potential of soils and mitigation measures necessary to control it during and following clearing activities. This should include a detailed discussion of soil erosion control measures which will be taken to avoid discharge of sediment to off-site, downstream receiving waters. These measures should be in compliance with current stormwater and erosion control guidelines. Any proposed development within a Town of Brighton's Steep Slope,

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			<p>Watercourse and Woodlot EPOD must be identified and detailed provisions for disturbance within the EPOD's discussed. Detailed mitigation measures that address all adverse impacts must be presented and discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All areas located within designated floodways and/or floodplain areas should be identified and suitable mitigation measures proposed, if necessary. • A quantification of the loss of vegetative cover types and associated wildlife habitats must be provided. This must include a quantitative estimate of the acreage to be lost of each vegetative ecotype community identified on the project site and all associated wildlife habitat. Measures to avoid or minimize tree removal, especially for any Town of Brighton Woodlot, Steep Slope and Watercourse EPODs must be presented. Detailed mitigation measures that address all adverse impacts must be presented and discussed. • Projections of project generated vehicle and truck traffic must be provided. A detailed description, discussion and justification for all proposed site(s) access points and any proposed roadway improvements must be discussed. • An evaluation of potential impacts of this project to the existing local roadway network must be presented. • Detour routes during trail closures and appropriate signage and design must be identified. • Impacts to surrounding lands, especial Town of Brighton's Town Parks and residential areas must be discussed. Consistency of the proposed project should be demonstrated with the Town of Brighton's Comprehensive Plans as well as with all other relevant local planning documents. Compliance should be demonstrated with the Town of Brighton Tree Law and any other similar laws or ordinances applicable in the project area. • The visual impacts of the project must be presented, through renderings, cross sectional profiles or computer simulations, the visual appearance of the site(s) before and after implementation of the EEIP. • This section should contain an evaluation of all temporary construction related impacts including noise, dust and soil erosion, access and the need for temporary/permanent construction easements. Emphasis should be placed on impacts to residents in adjacent and nearby residences and to potential water quality impacts to downstream receiving waters. Suitable mitigation measures should be recommended to minimize such construction impacts. • An evaluation of potential impacts including but not limited to noise, light, and loss of screening to neighboring properties due to proposed action must be presented. Mitigation measures that address the loss of screening and vegetation must be presented. • Temporary impacts and permanent changes, and loss of desirability for recreational activities along the Canal must be discussed and presented. • The waste disposal sites to be used for the project debris must be identified and any impacts from, or limitations presented by, the presence of any waste disposal sites in the project vicinity must be detailed. • A detailed discussion of the possibility of failure being caused by the proposed EEIP must also be included. <p>Without the above, the agency cannot take a hard look at the impacts and the public cannot fully understand the effects of the proposed action and the alternatives considered.</p> <p><u>The DGEIS fails to provide a description and evaluation of reasonable alternatives to the action which would achieve the same or similar objectives</u></p> <p>The regulations require that the section describing and evaluating alternatives should be at a level of detail sufficient to permit a comparative assessment of the alternatives discussed. The discussion of alternatives is lacking in this regard. While there is a passing discussion of continuation of what the NYSCC refers to as "ad hoc" inspections and removals of trees, the level of analysis as to what has historically been achieved by this very program has been omitted. The discussion and analysis cannot possibly be considered complete when the NYSCC omits the very fact that its so called "ad hoc" program it has pursued since its inception has, in fact, achieved the very goals stated in the DGEIS for the new proposed EEIP. Moreover, the comment in the DGEIS that the so called "ad hoc" approach might be less protective of the environment (DGEIS p 2-2 Sec.2.2) is unsupported and absurd. If the DGEIS is to properly evaluate the alternative that is the NYSCC's present practice, it must do so at a level of detail sufficient to permit a comparative assessment of the alternative and not simply cast the alternative aside as being potentially less protective of the environment. The description and analysis must address the many areas of environmental impact which the proposed action is anticipated to have and make a true comparison with the magnitude of the impact. For example, clear cutting will have a much more significant negative impact on habitat than will selective removal of trees and vegetation. There is simply no analysis included to allow for this necessary comparison of this alternative.</p> <p>Moreover, as pointed out in the correspondence from the Town of Pittsford, the Guide Book spends two pages plus discussing the California program for embankment management which incorporates a process by which existing trees and vegetation can be retained under specific criteria. Mr. Koegel in his correspondence on behalf of the Town of Pittsford inquired "Why can't NYSCC adopt this California approach?" I ask "why was the California approach entirely omitted from the alternatives section of the DGEIS?" Omitting an alternative program which the NYSCC clearly was aware of evinces a callous disregard for the regulation's requirements and renders the DGEIS incomplete. The DGEIS should have not only inserted the California approach as an option, but it also should have included a detailed discussion of the alternative to allow evaluation sufficient to permit a comparative assessment with the significant negative environmental impacts of the proposed EEIP.</p> <p>For all of the above reasons, and those stated in the correspondence submitted by the Town of Pittsford, Brighton implores the NYSCC to reconsider its EEIP and not proceed further with this plan. At a minimum, NYSCC must better evaluate the significant negative environmental impacts of the proposed EEIP and provide a better and more complete comparison of alternatives including the status quo program of regular inspections and the California approach.</p>
1050	10/15/2021	Email	<p>To Whom it May Concern,</p> <p>I am writing to provide thoughts and comments on the current plan of the EEIP, outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - While many studies have been referenced in the rationale for the EEIP, the plan also acknowledges that there is no existing evidence that tree roots are a major cause for concern. This was also acknowledged in a community meeting. I understand the need to observe conditions, however these studies do not lead to the conclusion that trees must be removed to achieve the desired goal.

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			<p>- A reality that we are recognizing in planning today are the issues of environmental justice. As the plan currently stands, clear cutting would be allowed to occur in areas that do not trigger the "decision tree." One critical piece is that local municipalities would have to include language in plans and/or regulations acknowledging the canal as critical to their community. While some municipalities have comprehensive plans, zoning regulations, etc. that would incorporate this, many may not. This could be due to the area being less well-off. If this is the case, folks in these disadvantaged communities could wake up one day to discover that their trees are being cut down and that there was nothing that would have stood in the way. For the EEIP to go forward in support of environmental justice, there needs to be a more robust community engagement plan that takes this situation into account. In order for the EEIP to be fair to all communities, the Canal Corporation should have meetings and outreach in every community along the canal to ensure that they understand what the plan is and give a 5-year grace period for language to be incorporated into their plans and regulations. Until that 5 years is up, it should be assumed that every community would have language protecting the canal in their plans and regulations.</p> <p>- The EEIP does not effectively communicate why the clear cut option outlined was determined to be the best course of action. Alternatives are not discussed to inform the decision. As such it appears that only one was conceived of either before the report began, or without extensive research into alternatives. Alternatives should be thoroughly investigated and presented with a rationale into why one is recommended over the others. These should include potential costs and benefits to establish what is "reasonably practicable."</p> <p>- There appear to be contradictions within the report. For example, the EEIP suggests that natural vegetation would be planted in place of trees. However, appendices suggest that these areas would be continually mowed. In-person meetings confirm this. Renderings and images of the plan's intent should be produced to accurately describe the final conditions and help the community know what to expect the area to look like. These should be of real locations along the canal.</p> <p>- As it currently stands, the end result of this plan as outlined and based on my understanding from the public input sessions is that no trees will be along the Erie Canal. Immediately this will not be the case, but all of the policies outlined will not accommodate new tree growth along the canal. The "decision tree" is built on the assumption that no new trees will be allowed. This is based on studies that have not shown tree roots to be a serious cause of concern. The plan should consider leaning toward a responsible forestry approach - allowing trees to grow on the canal embankments.</p> <p>- Appendix B establishes an acceptable risk level, however it makes a general assumption about the danger of trees along the canal to justify the findings of the report. On page B-7, there is an assumption that the risk of failure due to seepage or poor maintenance is double that of one that has no seepage and is well maintained. However, the rationale for this is not explained which calls into question the conclusion. This should be removed, or explained using statistical evidence or supporting report documentation.</p> <p>- The assumption on B-7 referenced above does not specify that trees add to the issue. It may be inferred, but it is also possible that poor maintenance and seepage occurs without trees. An additional assumption is inferred that trees are part of the poor maintenance for which cited reports within the EEIP do not provide evidence. Additional support to show tree roots are a major cause for seepage and failure is needed to support the conclusion.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
1051	10/15/2021	Email	<p>To whom it concerns.</p> <p>The Canal Corporation/New York Power Authority know that their Earthen Embankment Integrity Plan is not something that the citizens of New York want. In fact, they know that they HATE the plan. They have known that for four years, and most likely is why they rushed to start the project in 2017, just months after taking over the CC.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.They know this because our group STOP the CANAL CLEAR CUT which we started in 2017, for the sole purpose of stopping them, is still growing. We now have over 1,000 members, and NYPA knows this. 2.They know this because we had a rally in August with close to two hundred people, and close to twenty elected officials and candidates. 3.They know that the citizens of New York don't want the canal destroyed because they have filed over 800 comments during this comment period. 4.They know this because they had to extend the comment period two times because our elected officials pushed back. 5.They know this because there were over 150 people at the four live meetings in Perinton, and every single person who stood up to comment said NO! 6.They know this because a letter with over 500 signatures went to the Governor this week. 7.What they know is that we have been asking them for four years to enlist the support and expertise of professionals other than dam engineers. We have been sending them suggestions for four years. We have been asking for people who know more than they do about climate change, and plant biology, and soil, and wildlife habitat, and trees, and historical value, and economic costs to all stakeholders. 8.What they apparently do not know is that we do not want a Public Engagement Director to talk down to us. To say we are here to listen, and then not listen, and make excuses for not listening. We want a panel of diverse experts, not a spin doctor. 9.What they apparently do not know is the actual cost of removing most of the trees and all of the vegetation along the embankments. They do not know in terms of environmental damage, they do not know what the economic impact will be in local communities with canal based businesses, they do not know in terms of carbon sequestration, they do not know in dollars and cents how much more it will cost to maintain a turf lawn on embankments verses hiring more canal inspectors. 10.Our request is simple. Find a better way to maintain the Erie Canal, while keeping in place all the multitude of values that the canal represents, including natural beauty, wildlife habitat, economic impact, recreation, to name just a few. We want NYPA to realize that climate change is real and extreme weather events are happening now, and that they acknowledge this in their guidebook. And if they can't protect and preserve the Erie Canal as the historical landmark that is it, then they need to be replaced with another custodian agency who can. We aren't going to go away and leave our Beloved Erie Canal in their hands.
1052	10/15/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because</p> <p>The canal is unique historic treasure.</p> <p>I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns.</p> <p>I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer.</p> <p>Natural vegetation supports wildlife.</p> <p>Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p> <p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers.</p>

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Comment ID	Date Received	How Received	Comment
			<p>Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. I believe that this will be one of the last comments received before the commenting deadline for this draft GEIS. Fourteen weeks, over 800 comments generated through the link that STOP the CANAL CLEAR CUT created. Dozens of hours of public meetings with more comments. It's been a lot of effort for everyone involved. Here's the thing. We understand that the comments we are making via this tool are not directly addressing the specifics of the DGEIS. That is because the DGEIS is for an approach to managing the embankments of the Erie Canal that is unacceptable. It isn't the public that is approaching this process incorrectly. It is the Canal Corporation and NYPA. The public has been supportive, for decades, of the reimagining of the Erie Canal as a greenway, a linear park, as described in the Canal Recreationway Plan. We've committed to this vision by developing businesses, residences, and trail connections that rely upon, celebrate, and enrich the Canal trail. It was NYPA that redefined major portions of the Canal as a dam and has rigidly insisted that there is only one acceptable environmental condition for those portions. Your concessions to the desires of the public to maintain the natural environment will still result in an embankment that has lost most of its natural character and must be maintained by constant mowing. The comment period for the DGEIS was an opportunity for you to hear that the public does not agree with your redefinition. It is the only mechanism we have had to create a public record of our vision. We don't want you to redefine the Canal. We don't want you to continue to insist that trees and natural vegetation is a danger when there is absolutely no evidence that they are. We want you to think of the whole Erie Canal as a single linear park, a greenway, that in some places will require some creative and sensitive approaches to stewardship in order to preserve what the public values about this trail. New York State can do this. I know we can. After all, we built the Erie Canal. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1053	10/15/2021	Email	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>I live two blocks from the downhill side of the Erie Canal Embankment in Fairport, NY. We are the very people that the Power Authority is suggesting will be flooded by a breach. My neighbors and I are adamantly opposed to the severe "vegetation management" steps that are being proposed for the canal. Our development was built in the early 1960s; we have not been and we are not now at risk from a canal breach due to damage to the embankment caused by natural vegetation growth. The argument that all vegetation over 3 feet tall must be removed so that it is easier to inspect the embankment is a bad tradeoff in multiple ways. Financially: The stated estimate of \$2-4 million per mile to clear cut can pay a lot of inspectors to do the job right – for many years to come. Esthetically: The Power Authority personnel do not live adjacent to the canal as we do. Removing trees on the canal bank will decrease the value of our homes, both by reducing the natural beauty of the setting and by allowing people on the canal path to see into our yards and windows. Recreationally: I regularly walk the canal path in the Perinton and Pittsford areas because it is an attractive place to be. I am a photographer and frequently choose to take advantage of the many beautiful locations to shoot along the canal because of the trees and natural vegetation that line the canal - on both sides. Community: Our communities benefit financially from the tourism dollars that the canal brings, both from day visitors and travelers. An ugly canalside will cost businesses and municipalities important revenue. The reasoning for the proposed clear cut activity, even on a reduced basis, are contrary to actual experience and best practices proscribed by other organizations. In the 100 years of the canal, there have been ZERO document failures due to vegetation on the embankment. The canal embankment is not a dam. More realistic parallels are levees and stream/river banks, where vegetation, specifically trees, is recommended to stabilize embankments. Authorities such as the US Army Corps of Engineers provide virtually opposite guidelines for the management of such embankments. Looking at what was done in earlier years in the Brockport area, it would be a tragedy to see more of the beautiful canal embankment ruined for "reasons" that are flawed and without consideration of the benefits of the vegetation brings. I strongly oppose the proposed vegetation reduction along the Erie Canal.</p>
1054	10/15/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Imagine barren land beside the NYS Erie Canal. This is plentiful reason to stop the clear cut. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1055	10/15/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming.</p>

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			<p>I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. Thank you very much in advance for your consideration, I hope to know I can trust you to make the right decision on this important matter. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1056	10/15/2021	Email	<p>Hello there. I attended one of the public informational meetings about the plan to cut trees on some of the embankments along the Erie Canal. When responding to someone's comments about not wanting the trees disturbed on the embankments, the woman who was the public relations spokesperson for Canal Corporation mentioned that there is some process for requesting an exception to the rules about cutting the trees on some of these affected areas. I'd like information on that process. Under what conditions could an exception to cutting the trees be made and what is the process for making a request for an exception? And what is the process for how these requests are then handled by the Canal Corporation? Much appreciated. Janet</p>
1057	10/15/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments. I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. My son told me a couple of weeks ago when I went to the meeting in Perinton, "Mommy, please save the trees. Don't let them cut them down." I spoke at the meeting that night on his behalf and I felt like the Lorax begging the state employees sitting at the table up in front of us to please think about the future and not clear cut the trees. Yesterday night, as I was getting ready for a Cornell Alumni meeting, my 7 year old told my 5 year old, "I think mommy is going to go to try and save the trees again." I write you today on behalf of my son and countless other children, those children who count on us to represent their voices. And I ask you to please not clear cut the trees. Please, save the trees. Please save them not only for our present but for our children and our children's children's future. They will not forget. They will remember what we did. I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1058	10/15/2021	Email	<p>Dear New York State Canal Corporation, I am a high school student living in Brighton, and I believe that it is nonsensical to cut down the trees on the banks of the Erie Canal. Firstly, I understand the concerns associated with the stability of the earthen embankments, and the safety issues this could potentially cause. However, the majority of the woodlands in question have been in existence for decades, and have never caused a problem. Rather, previous breaches in the canal embankments were caused by human-made structures. The condemnation of trees' place on the embankments is based on FEMA's technical manual for dam owners, but as the canal embankments run parallel, rather than perpendicular, to the flow of the current, it is unreasonable to treat the structures as dams. Furthermore, removing over 125 miles of vegetation would have an immense negative impact on the environment. In an environment like that of Upstate New York, forests absorb much more carbon dioxide than grasses, allowing a significant reduction in our local carbon footprint. They also serve as home to countless species of animals, plants, and insects, supporting the biodiversity so important to an area's ecological health. To expect that residents of eliminated woodlands will "most likely move to any suitable habitat adjacent to the canal" (Environmental Impact Statement) is akin to justifying the spontaneous destruction of blocks of housing by arguing that the people can easily move elsewhere. Finally, trees make the Erie Canal trail far more appealing to recreational visitors. They provide shade and add natural beauty to what would otherwise be a monotonous landscape. For families with children, the prospect of seeing deer and rabbits is a highlight of, and even motivation for, walking along the canal. These trees are vital to the historic, recreational, and environmental aspects of the Erie Canal, so I urge you to consider less detrimental alternatives to eradicating them.</p>
1059	10/15/2021	Email	<p>To Whom it may concern: I am writing in opposition to your draft generic environmental impact statement regarding tree and vegetation removal. Your reasoning for removing the trees and vegetation does not sound plausible. The Erie Canal is special because of its diversity and abundance of plants. You need more plants, not less. I can't believe you want to alter and destroy portions of an ecosystem for maintenance. To give you an overview I am a resident of Florida. I believe my perspective is representative of many other tourists and outdoor enthusiasts who provide the State of New York revenue through our recreational use of the canal's waterway and multi-use trail. I've enjoyed making eight personal trips to New York for recreation since my retirement in 2018, pausing due to the pandemic, resuming with a week and a half in June 2021 and a two week stay in August 2021. I was able to extensively bicycle the Erie Canal towpath through Monroe County, while spending many tourist dollars, as it felt safer in New York than Florida. For example, I spent part of an afternoon laying on the embankment underneath some shade trees by the powerhouse at Lock 33. I cannot believe that you have identified this area for vegetation removal. You have so many beautiful, interesting trees that I cannot identify them all. By contrast, in Florida, we have only palm trees, pine, oak, mangroves, and a few tropical plant species. Our Cross-Florida Barge Canal is an ugly barren failure due to lack of vegetation other than grass. Were it not for the rich diversity of scenery, plants, and wildlife on the Erie Canal, I would not come to visit New York from out of state.</p>

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			<p>In your DGEIS and maps, you are proposing a generic process and the specifics for the removal of natural vegetation and trees that are long preexisting and not planted recently. Removal makes no sense. That destroys the ecosystem as it has come to be for the plants and animals. That also changes the world of the canal in the social sense, in the minds of the canal users. Hypothetically, it would be ok to remove a tree that was purposely planted a year or two ago but failed to thrive for any number of reasons. When you propose removing vegetation and trees in the DGEIS that had long existed in locations, then you are not maintaining proposed sites, but creating something altogether new which is not necessarily better. Many of us think it will be inferior.</p> <p>When the Erie Canal was an actual canal used for transportation and commerce in the 1800s, less vegetation was better. But that does not matter now because the purpose of the canal has changed in today's world. It is solely for recreation and conservation. Therefore, it should remain as wooded and park-like as possible since it is somewhat akin to a state park.</p> <p>In short, the Erie Canal is a public place for the purpose of recreation rather than commerce, to which trees and vegetation are a benefit.</p>
1060	10/15/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. New York</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1061	10/15/2021	Email	<p>I am writing to ask you to protect the natural environment of the Erie Canal from the narrow-minded management of NY Power Authority. They have removed many linear miles of natural vegetation along the Canal's raised embankments and replaced it with sterile turf grass. They plan on continuing to remove natural vegetation for up to 125 miles of these embankments.</p> <p>I believe trees belong on the Canal embankments because The canal is unique historic treasure. I like how the natural vegetation enhances the ambiance of the canal port towns. I love biking the tree shaded trails in the summer. Natural vegetation supports wildlife. Natural vegetation helps to fight global warming. I like seeing pollinators on all the flowers. Trees and shrubs make boating down the canal so relaxing. The natural vegetation makes the canal a great place to photograph sunsets. The natural vegetation makes it a nice place to go fishing. New York</p> <p>I want my elected representatives to defend the values in the state's Canal Recreationway Plan (https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/crc/c5.pdf) and expressed by myself and hundreds of other concerned citizens. We need you to act now to stop NYPA's mismanagement of the Erie Canal. We need a stewardship plan that develops more environmentally sensitive and cost effective solutions.</p>
1062	10/15/2021	Email	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide community input into the EEIP. My name is Jane McConnochie and I am a resident of Perinton, NY. My comment pertains to three aspects of the program:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community thresholds. 2. Ways to communicate with stakeholders. 3. Vegetation management. <p>Community thresholds for consultation. First, I believe the Canal Corporation should use an expanded definition of "community threshold" for determining whether an action requires "consultation" versus "notification" of the community. Every human being in New York State as well as the planet has a critical stake in any decision to clear cut, or even selectively remove, mature trees. Every tree is a carbon storage device, provider of oxygen, and a critical resource for biodiversity, and we need them to be healthy and growing.</p> <p>As such, I believe that a local advisory board that includes engineers, biologists, ecologists, arborists, and hydrologists, should be consulted before engaging in <i>any</i> significant action that includes vegetation removal along the canal. And after a determination has been made on how to mitigate potential negative impacts, those decisions should be widely disseminated.</p> <p>Also, "notification" should include education, with specific evidence-based reasons for particular solutions, if action is necessary. Notification should include some lead time for questions if possible, as well as a chance for residents to transplant native plants from the affected area.</p> <p>Stakeholder communication. Second, I attended an information session in Perinton that I had only heard about because my state assembly person posted a notice about it on Twitter, and I happen to follow her. I also happen to have a flexible work schedule which is not the case for most. I suggest the following channels for future communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-blasts that community members sign up for based on the part of the canal they are concerned about (bounded by particular mile markers, for example) • Nextdoor app

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask local politicians to post it on their Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram feeds • Town newsletters • Town websites • A main icon on the Canal Corporation’s website—I had to dig and dig for information about the information sessions • Local mainstream news outlets like the Democrat & Chronicle and WXXI <p>If you must take an action in order to maintain the integrity of the embankment, it’s important that you are clear in your messaging about what exactly you will be doing and why. What equipment will you use, where exactly on the canal will the work take place, when will the work start, can residents save native plants prior to the work starting, etc. Videos as well as webcasts can help ensure wider public understanding, at least because they can be thoughtfully scripted for clarity and conciseness.</p> <p>I’ve titled this section “communication” rather than “engagement” because I did not particularly feel engaged with at the information session. Although there was a chance for questions and ‘answers’, I won’t feel like I was actually heard until I see the changes made to the plan based on these attempts to “engage” the community. The only thing the presenters seemed interested in hearing about from us was how we wanted to be notified or consulted, which could easily be interpreted as they were simply asking how we preferred to be ignored.</p> <p>Vegetation management. Third, I am quite dubious of the corporation’s claim that trees weaken embankments. I believe that the truth is much more nuanced, depending on the type of tree and stand density. Tree roots typically do not grow very deep, particularly in compacted soil. They need oxygen to grow, so only in very sandy soil do they grow more than 4 feet deep. Typically they only grow 2-4 feet down at most, and most roots of any given tree actually only occupy the top 3 inches of soil -- the same soil space that turf grass does (see the research conducted by Ed Gilman from the University of South Florida, summarized here: https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/roots-intro.shtml).</p> <p>Stand density matters because trees are less likely to get blown over when their roots are intertwined with their neighbors’. Stand density will also affect the canopy, which can shade out understory plants that can make inspection difficult. So a healthy mature forest may be the EEIP’s best friend since unlike turf grass they do not need to be mowed.</p> <p>As mentioned earlier, native trees provide enormous benefits to biodiversity. Oaks for example are host to hundreds of species of moths and butterflies, which are critical food sources for migrating birds and other animals. The turf grass that has replaced embankment trees along some parts of the canal are host to none.</p> <p>Unfortunately, at least in the embankment that is part of the Great Embankment Park in Pittsford, the embankment does not contain mature forests with native tree species.</p> <p>A group of students I worked with through the Pittsford Recreation Program found that about 94 percent of the vegetation sampled at Great Embankment Park was composed of introduced and invasive trees and plants. For example, we found buckthorn (<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>), tree of heaven (<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>), and Japanese honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera</i> spp.), as well as swallow-wort, garlic mustard, mugwort, and non-native bittersweet vines. We also found quite a few black locust trees (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>), which are native to the US, but not New York.</p> <p>Although we found a small number of native plants that pollinators and other wildlife depend on such as milkweed, vervain, and cottonwood and black walnut trees, these were relatively few in number. It is possible that if the Corporation focused on identifying and removing invasive vegetation and replacing it with shallow-rooted native trees more beneficial to migrating birds and local wildlife, program goals could be achieved with less community pushback and indeed even community support. I encourage the Corporation to seriously consider such alternatives.</p> <p>Finally, at the Great Embankment Park we observed a great deal of invasive vegetation growing directly out of the concrete walls of the canal itself. We were told that that was not part of the EEIP, which seems, frankly, ridiculous. Hopefully, fixing the concrete lining would be the first line of defense against seepage, and is remediated prior to other more drastic measures on the embankment itself.</p>
1063	10/16/2021 1 Late Comment	Email	Please leave the trees alone! Trees are essential to wildlife and the environment. I and my Pittsford and Perinton neighbors are opposed to clear cutting the trees by the Power Authority. We are taxpayers and pay your salaries! Do not continue this devastation of natural resources. Leave the natural world alone!!!
1064	10/17/2021 1 Late Comment	Email	About ten years ago I wrote an article about six species of songbirds singing at sunrise as they searched for food to feed their hatchlings. They had nested in bushes right on the bank between the canal and the towpath trail. You could walk the trail or kayak along the edge of the canal and enjoy their songs! I was asking for kayak slips to be made for easy access to the waterway. The Mayor and Palmyra Town Board installed a slip in the town’s harbor! There is a nice cafe there, and you can easily walk up a short street and enjoy the busy shops on Main St. If you paddle to the East there are miles of open water on both the Erie Canal and the historic canal channel where there are miles of shoreline plants growing that shelter many species of wildlife.
1065	10/18/2021 1	Email	I am strongly opposed to removing vegetation from the banks of the Erie Canal. Keeping these trees is vital for the environment in addition to being important for residents of Rochester. If anything, we should be planting more, not removing plant life.
1066	8/2021	Letter	<p>Dear Mr. Candiloro,</p> <p>My name is Barbara Jablonski. I live at 44 Meadow Cove Road in “Mitchell Estates.” I am the original homeowner and have lived here for almost 33 years. My house is located at the beginning of the Great Embankment. I view the Cartersville Gate and the Towpath Bridge which extends over the overflow waterfalls from my kitchen window.</p> <p><u>I AM AGAINST OR OPPOSE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>“Clear Cutting” of Trees.</u> Many of the trees are healthy and stabilize the earth against erosion. The canal at the embankment of the Cartersville Gate the Canal is about 40’ above the Mitchell Estates Properties. Many of the tree roots growing on this steep hill are well BELOW the Canal’s floor bottom and don’t impact the Canal Structure. These healthy tree roots hold the soil within this steep incline. <p><u>I AM IN AGREEMENT WITH AND RECOMMEND:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>That standing dead trees should be removed from the canal embankment especially where they may fall on people’s property.</u> Work with the property owners. • Through the years the branches of “weed trees” may have been cut down, but these junk trees continue to grow AND the roots continue to grow creating massive cracks in the canal walls. <u>The roots need to be removed.</u>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Plant quality, stabilizing trees on the embankment.</u> It will add to the beauty of the Canal, and safety from intruders and retain privacy. • Cartersville Spillway and Creek. The Canal folks need to maintain the spillway and remove trees and growing <u>through</u> and over the spillway's cement floors. Near the waterfalls there is a HUGH junk tree that's decades old growing right through the cement floor. If there is an emergency and the Cartersville Gate needs to be lowered quickly the water will flow over the top of the spillway and rush down the stream. This mammoth mass of vegetation will deter this rush of water and cause the water to flow over the cement walls of the spillway flooding our properties. • Presently, neighbors are working with the Supervisor Jim Dickson regarding removing standing dead trees that are on the north side of overflow creek. His team has assisted in the removal of fallen trees though the years. We are appreciative of Jim Dickson and his workers efforts.
1067	8/2021	Letter	<p>Dear Sir,</p> <p>I am against clear-cutting along the Erie Canal.</p> <p>I am a homeowner in Pittsford Village, and my residence is about a mile from Erie Canal. I walk or run along the canal five or more times per week, all year around. The Canal has been my place to exercise in a natural area filled with trees, and I find that it is great for relieving stress.</p> <p>I am now 72 years old, and I have been very worried about the Covid pandemic, even though I have been vaccinated. I try to go out for essential trips, but the Canal gives me a chance to get outdoors in a tree-filled, cooler environment in a relatively safe way.</p> <p>The trees make the Canal a beautiful space, and the trees keep our Village so much cooler in the Summer. When we have had out-of-town friends visit us from Texas, Colorado, and Canada, we always take them to walk along the Canal. They are always delighted to see the Erie Canal because they have heard about it when learning about American history.</p> <p>Our Erie Canal is a treasure, and it deserves to be treated well, not to be mindlessly cleared of trees. We need to be better stewards of the Canal.</p>
1068	8/2021	Letter	<p>Dear Mr. Candiloro,</p> <p>I am writing in regards to the recent release of the EEIP Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement and guide book. The Town of Minetto lauds your agency for undertaking this project. Additionally, we support these documents. Upon review of the documents, it is apparent a great deal of effort went into their creation.</p> <p>The Town of Minetto's River View Park features over 500 feet of riprap shoreline on the west bank of the Oswego Canal. Installed over 25 years ago, the materials on the shoreline have shifted and are in need of attention. With each passing year the condition of the shoreline worsens. The Town of Minetto is the smallest town in Oswego County. We have limited financial resources. It is our hope the DGEIS will be the first step in a process whereby grant funding will be made available to municipalities to maintain and repair the shoreline along the canal. An alternative would be for the Canal Corporation to undertake and administer their own shoreline restoration project.</p> <p>Thank you for your time!</p>
1069	8/25/2021	Letter	<p>Dear Canal Corporation and Mr. Candiloro,</p> <p>As a resident of Pittsford Village, NY along the Erie Canal, I am writing to oppose your Clear Cut plans for the Erie Canal. You have not demonstrated a need for this clear cut plan.</p> <p>In this time of global warming, environmental impacts of losing thousands of trees and wildlife habitats along our canal, combined with the economic impact loss, I oppose your plan.</p>
1070	9/2/2021	Letter	<p>Dear Mr. Candiloro,</p> <p>I am writing to request that the New York State Canal Corporation (NYSCC_ and New York Power Authority (NYPA) reach a reasonable accommodation with the Town of Pittsford regarding the Erie Canal. I am requesting that the NYSCC and NYPA not clear-cut trees, but instead remove only the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trees that pose a hazard to house along the embankment 2. Deadwood 3. Trees that pose an obvious threat to the integrity of the embankment <p>It is my understanding that the NYPA has not established a need for clearcutting and that its actions are subject to approval by the Pittsford Planning Board, according to the Town's Local Waterfront Redevelopment Plan, which NYPA I bound by law to observe.</p> <p>Thank you to everyone at NYSCC and NYPA for all the work they have done to maintain canal embankments so they continue to be safe, I am confident the tow agencies can collaborated with the Town of Pittsford on this project.</p>
1071	8/26/2021	Letter	<p>Dear Mr. Candiloro and Bergmann,</p> <p>On behalf of the Town of Pittsford, I am submitting the following written comments on the DGEIS and Guide Book for the EEIP.</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Exactly two hundred years ago from this year, work commenced on the Great Embankment, an earthen structure built within the Town of Pittsford to carry the Erie Canal across the 70-foot-deep, one-mile wide Irondequoit Creek Valley. It is considered one of the most significant engineering feats of the entire canal. The Great Embankment was enlarged in the 1850's and again in the early 1900's. It is still the highest canal embankment in the world. <i>See, Town and Village of Pittsford Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP), Appendix A at 10, approved by the New York Secretary of State on June 23, 2006 and available at https://docs.dos.ny.gov/opd-lwrp/LWRP/Pittsford_V&T/Index.html.</i></p> <p>A photograph of a State heritage sign alongside the canal towpath adjacent to the Town's Great Embankment Park is shown below.</p>

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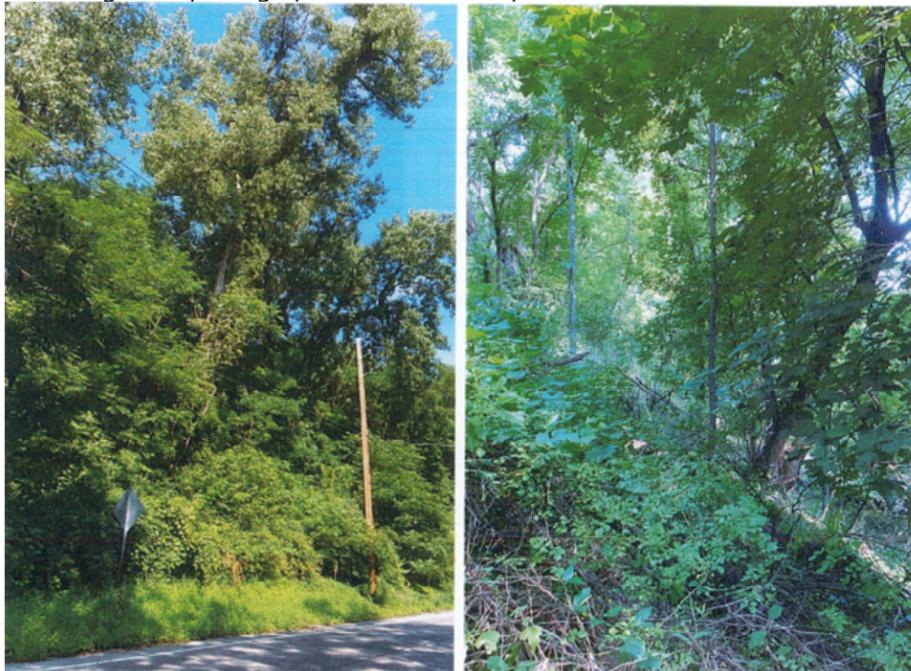


Of course, when the Great Embankment was first built and later enlarged, there were no trees on it, just as there were no trees on other canal embankments as they were built and expanded. But that does not mean that trees were never intended to be allowed to grow on the canal embankments, or that their presence on the embankments is the result of the State's neglect. The State has never produced engineering plans for the canal which specify that no trees should exist on canal embankments. Instead, regarding the Great Embankment, there is anecdotal evidence that black locust trees, well known for their rot-resistant qualities, were encouraged to grow on the embankment to help hold it together. A typical black locust tree on the Great Embankment is shown below.



Over the years, trees have grown on the canal embankments, whether intended or not. It was not until 1998 the NYSCC decided that it didn't want trees on the embankments anymore, through the adoption of a guideline directing embankments to be clear of brush and trees. A year later, in 1999, NYSCC showed up at the Great Embankment with chain saws. Neighbors organized and vehemently objected to the indiscriminate clear-cutting of trees on the embankment. NYSCC relented and went away, without performing any structural maintenance of the embankment which was supposed to be facilitated by the vegetation removal. *See, Town of Pittsford v. Power Authority of the State of New York, Sup. Ct., Monroe Co., Index No. 2018-945, Administrative Record at 33; Reply Affidavit of Lucinda Enriot at 3.*

A photograph of the lush vegetation on the outboard toe of the Great Embankment taken at Marsh Road is shown below left, alongside a photograph taken on the slope of the Great Embankment, showing its significant pitch.



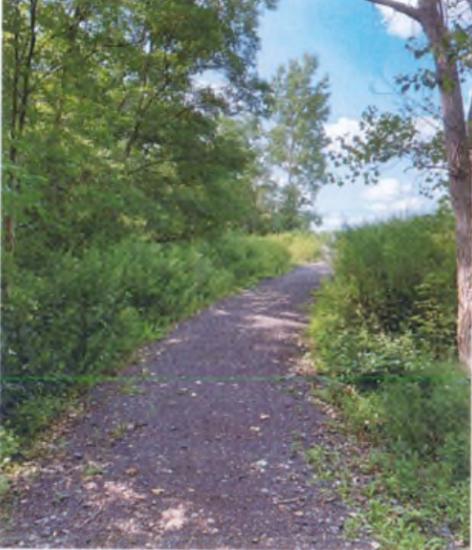
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			<p>In 2017, NYSCC initiated a multi-million dollar project to remove vegetation from the canal embankments. Identifying 53 separate locations covering about 145 acres (later reduced to 122 acres) across the entire canal system, NYSCC included a 13.48-acre site (later reduced to 10.9 acres) along the Great Embankment within the Town, contiguous to the Town's Great Embankment Park. NYSCC maintained that its vegetation removal project amounted to "maintenance" of existing landscaping or natural growth and hence did not require any environmental review under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). Commencing a civil action against NYSCC and the Power Authority, the Town of Pittsford, as well as the adjoining towns of Brighton and Perinton, asserted that the planned vegetation removal of 10 or more acres of land required SEQRA review. The Supreme Court agreed with the three towns and ordered NYSCC and the Power Authority to cease their clear-cutting plans until they complied with SEQRA. <i>See Town of Pittsford v. Power Authority of New York, supra; Affidavit of James Condiloro at 5-8; Petition at 3, 7; Order and Judgment of Hon. Daniel G. Barrett at 3.</i></p> <p>Now NYSCC has proposed its Earthen Embankment Integrity Program ("EEIP"), which, like its former vegetation removal project, fully endorses and requires extensive clear-cutting of trees on the embankments of the entire canal system. This new clear-cutting program covers 120 miles of embankments across the 534-mile canal system. Within the Town of Pittsford, about 458 acres of land (including 137 acres of water) would be subject to clear-cutting of trees. <i>See, NYSCC SEQRA Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) Part 1 Supplemental.</i> As the program is proposed, NYSCC would follow a series of "Guide Book" steps before it cut down trees on sensitive sites, as discussed below. But NYSCC has not yet identified any site it wished to clear-cut, so municipalities and residents across the State have no idea if and how they will be affected. This makes very difficult for them to garner the time and resources to comment intelligently on the program. For the Town of Pittsford, will the Great Embankment be targeted again for clear-cutting? Moreover, even for sensitive sites, the EEIP still requires clear-cutting on most portions of the embankments and leaves all power to NYSCC to decide what gets clear-cut and when. Powers granted to municipalities to protect their environmental resources have been outright rejected by NYSCC, as will be discussed below.</p> <p>All of this turmoil has been generated by NYSCC's insistence that the continued presence of trees on canal embankments will cause them to fail. The Great Embankment has stood with trees for nearly two centuries, and it has never failed because of trees. Ironically, there was a breach in the Great Embankment in 1974 when indiscriminate digging of a water or sewer line under the canal at the location caused the canal bed to collapse and water to pour out. <i>Town of Pittsford v. Power Authority, supra, Enriot Aff. at 2.</i> This incident should discourage the kind of man-made assault on the wooded embankments that the EEIP represents. What's more, NYSCC has not pointed to one instance in the 200-year history of the entire canal system where the presence of trees has caused an embankment to fail. That's worth repeating: trees have never caused an Erie/Barge canal embankment to fail.</p> <p>Statements from and Comments to the DEGEIS and Guide Book <u>DGEIS</u></p> <p>Statement at 1-8:</p> <p>"1.3.1 Purpose, Need and Benefit of the Project. The purpose of the EEIP is to restore the integrity of embankments, a capital asset, and improve the NYSCC's continued ability to properly maintain embankments so that the risk to nearby people, property and the environment from flooding due to embankment failures is reduced. This work involves the proper maintenance of embankment features as described in the Guide Book. Without implementation of an embankment maintenance program, embankments will continue to be weakened by various forms of deterioration, and the NYSCC's ability to detect deficiencies will remain significantly impaired."</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> SEQRA regulations require all draft EISs to contain a statement of the purpose, "public need," and benefits of proposed action. 6 NYCRR §617.9(b)(5)(i). The Town applauds NYSCC's efforts to maintain the security of all canal embankments through inspection, monitoring, repair, and renovation as circumstances warrant. This, of course, includes the selective removal of dead, dying, or dangerous trees, which the Town fully supports. However, NYSCC has not demonstrated why and how wholesale clear-cutting of trees on all canal embankments is necessary to provide that security. On the contrary, the widespread removal of all live, well-established trees and root systems from canal embankments may well weaken them, as well as deprive canal visitors and nearby residents of the many salutary benefits of trees.</p> <p>Statement at 1-8:</p> <p>"Today, in New York State, dams that are not otherwise regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) or United States Army Corps Engineers (USACE), are regulated by 6 NYCRR Part 673 and the engineering of dams is covered by Guidelines For the Design of Dams. Although canal and feeder earthen embankments are not regulated as dams, these embankments do retain water for certain parts of the year and uncontrolled breaches could result in damage to life and property. As such, guidance documents related to earthen dam maintenance and inspections are utilized by the NYSCC as part of its inspection and maintenance program of these earthen structures and referenced in this GEIS and the Guide Book."</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> This is an important concession: Canal earthen embankments are <u>not</u> regulated as dams. All of the guidance documents relied upon by NYSCC for vegetation management do not, on their face, apply to canals. The State dam safety regulations define a "dam" to include any earthen barrier which impounds waters, such as a barrier intercepting drainage over land, crossing a watercourse, or diverting waters to a reservoir. 6 NYCRR §673.2(f). A "canal," on the other hand, means the "channel and adjacent State-owned banks of the inland waterways of the State." 21 NYCRR §150.1(f). Even the Guide Book's own definitions for a "dam" and a "canal embankment" differentiate the two different structures. <i>Guide Book</i> at xii. NYSCC is choosing to refer to the vegetation management guidance for dams to support its <i>policy</i> of clear-cutting canal embankments, not to comply with actual standards that apply to canal embankments. If tree clear-cutting were necessary for canal embankments, it would be the law, not policy.</p> <p>Statement at 1-8, 1-9:</p> <p>"The NYSCC has experienced, in recent years, several incidents involving canal and feeder embankments that have been closed and repaired under costly emergency contracts. In June 2016, a partial failure of Culvert 70 near Hulberton, NY required extensive and costly repairs, and closed the partial failure of Culvert 70 near Hulberton, NY required extensive</p>

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Accordingly, the court rejected NYSCC’s attempt to justify its clear-cutting program under SEQRA emergency action exception. NYSCC’s citing of this Perinton matter to support its new clear-cutting program damages its credibility in general. <i>Town of Pittsford v. Power Authority, supra, Affidavit of Howard M. Goebel at 10-11; Decision of Hon. Daniel G. Barrett at 4-5.</i></p> <p>Statement at 1-10:</p> <p>“A full inventory of embankments on the NYS Canal System has not been completed but is underway. The project area for this GEIS has been selected to include most NYS Canal System lands such that when embankments are located within the GEIS project area, future embankment maintenance will be covered by the impact thresholds set up through the GEIS.”</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> As noted in the Introduction, without the designation of the sites which will be subject to clear-cutting as determined by NYSCC, it is impossible for municipalities and residents to gauge if and how to respond. NYSCC should refrain from adopting the EEIP until it identifies the sites to which the program will be applied. Perhaps Pittsford will be spared.</p> <p>Statement at 1-13, 1-14:</p> <p>“Table 1.3-1: Regulatory and Community Thresholds:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Federal or State rare, threatened, or engaged plant species are located on NYSCC property or on adjacent lands that would experience an incidental take as defined in 6 NYSCC Part 182 as a result of being disturbed by EEIP activities. EEIP activities would significantly reduce or degrade occupied habitat (as defined in 6 NYSCRR Part 182) used by any rare, threatened or endangered species.</p> <p>EEIP activities would significantly reduce the quantity or quality of the resource or characteristic which was the basis for designation as Critical Environmental Area.</p> <p>EEIP activities that would cause the loss of any wetlands in the Montezuma Marshes Natural Landmark as identified in Section 3.3 f the Generic EIS.</p> <p>NYSCC property where EEIP activities are contemplated involves or is adjacent to a public park, and those activities would significantly impair the park’s aesthetic, historic, or recreational function.</p> <p>Where historic resources listed or eligible for inclusion in the State or National Registers of historic places, are located on or in close proximity to NYSCC property where EEIP activities are contemplated, and the EEIP activities would result in a determination of an adverse effect on the historic resource by the Agency Preservation Officer or the SHPO.</p> <p>Where EEIP activities would significantly adversely affect aesthetic resources of Statewide Significance derived from one or more of the categories identified in Section VI.A, of NYSDEC Program Policy DEP-00-2 ‘Assessing and Mitigating Visual and Aesthetic Impacts,’</p> <p>http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/permits_ej_operations_pdf/visualpolicydep002.pdf.</p> <p>Where EEIP activities are inconsistent with an approved Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) accordance with the New York State Waterfront Revitalization of Coastal Areas and Inland Waterways Act (NYS Executive Law, Article 42).</p> </div> <p>For embankment segments where any of the regulatory and community thresholds in Table 1.3-1 are exceeded, the following actions would be taken as shown in Figure 1.3-3:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove trees and brush smaller than 3 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) that impede inspections and trees larger than 3 inches DBH that are dead, diseased, and imminently dangerous to property and people. Provide, as necessary, emergency response to stabilize embankments. 2. Perform a tree inventory and an embankment condition survey. Identified the limit of Zones 2B and 3 on the involved earthen embankment. This would be used to develop mitigation or alternative EEIP procedures as described in Section 3.9.4 of this GEIS. 3. Engage with stakeholders based on specific thresholds identified. 4. Evaluate potential mitigation measures for the DGEIS. If any are appropriate, these measures would be implemented and the EEIP activities would continue as prescribed in the <i>Guide Book</i>. If none of the mitigation measures are appropriate, continue with Action Item 5. 5. Perform more detailed inspections, including detection of embankment seepage and embankment stability monitoring. The prescribed content and frequency of inspections is provided in the <i>Guide Book</i>. These include bi-weekly to monthly Bank Walk Inspections and quarterly Enhanced Embankment Monitoring for a more detailed investigation. 6. If the results if the initial seepage monitoring suggest that the embankment is stable, a seepage and monitoring program would be developed and implemented. Monitoring may include: piezometers, slope indicators, observation wells and seepage weir boxes. Seepage and stability monitoring would continue for an additional 5 years if the gathered information suggests that the embankment is stable. Following the five years, the earthen embankment would be reassessed and the <i>Guide Book</i> procedure would commence again as shown on Figure 1.3-3. 7. If the results of the seepage and stability monitoring indicate instability or that safe conditions are deteriorating, corrective engineering solutions would be implemented. Such solutions are not addressed in the GEIS. Implementation of corrective engineering solutions would be considered a separate site-specific action under SEQRA and would be reviewed accordingly.” <p><i>Comment:</i> At a minimum, the following regulatory and community thresholds are exceeded by the embankment segments within the Town of Pittsford: EEIP activities contemplated at or near the Great Embankment Park, Lock 32 State Canal Park, and King’s Bend Park; the Town’s adopted comprehensive plan recognizes trees along the canal as an</p>

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Vegetation is a major hinderance of dam inspections."</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> As noted above, government publications pertaining to <i>dams</i> and irrigation canals out west have no application to the canal embankments of New York. Indeed, the dismissive, even hostile, view of trees by the author of FEMA guidance most heavily relied upon by NYSCC demonstrates the close-mindedness of certain federal regulators: riffing on Joyce Kilmer's famous lines, "I think that I shall never see / A poem as lovely as a tree," the author quips, "I think that I shall never see / A sight so wonderful as a tree / Removed from an earthen dam / Whose future safety we wish to see." <i>FEMA. Technical Manual for Dam Owners: Impact of Plants on Earthen Dams (FEMA Publication 534, Sept. 2005), at 1-7.</i> In fact, there is no consensus in the <i>dam</i> safety technical community over the impact of woody vegetation on earthen slopes. Dr. Donald H. Gray, a highly credentialed slope stability engineering expert who contributed an affidavit in the prior litigation against NYSCC referred to above, has compiled a literature review of the effect of woody vegetation removal on the hydrology and stability of slopes. See, http://greenbeltconsulting.com/assets/pdfs/VegLitReview.pdf. Among his observations are the following paragraphs:</p> <p>"One way to settle the argument about the effect of woody vegetation on the hydrology and stability of slopes is to cut down all the trees and see what happens. The effects of a wide spread vegetation removal on the stability of natural slopes have been studied extensively as a result of a timber harvesting practice known as clear-cutting. It is useful and instructive to examine the consequences of such a practice vis a vis a policy promulgated and now being carried out by the US Army Corps of Engineers to remove all woody vegetation over 2 inches in diameter growing on or near the toe of the earthen embankments or levees.</p> <p>Widespread removal (clear-cutting) of trees on natural slopes and streambanks generally leads to an increase in slope failures. This is the overwhelming consensus of papers published in the scientific and technical literature as documented in the attached literature review. In some cases, there may be a short-term benefit from the tree removal resulting from a decrease in shear forces transmitted to a slope from wind. The adverse effect of wind depends, however, on such factors as the size and height of the canopy, stand density, and wind direction. The presence of tall, rigid trees growing near the water line of levees may also promote scour erosion and around the base of the tree. These offending trees can be identified, selectively removed and/or pruned as part of an alternative vegetation management policy.</p> <p>In the long run, cutting of trees on slopes leads to a gradual decrease in mass stability as a result of the decay of roots which previously acted as tensile reinforcements in the slope. Root decay can also lead to the formation of pipes in a slopes [sic] which promote internal or seepage erosion. The removal of tree canopy results in the loss of interception and evapo-transpiration which tends to promote wetter and less secure slopes. Canopy removal also results in less attenuation in the delivery rate of rainfall of the ground surface.</p> <p>Considerably fewer studies have been carried out on the effects of woody vegetation removal on the mass stability of artificial embankments and levees. However, many of the results and findings from clear-cutting studies of natural slopes apply...and are a cause for alarm in the case of a blanket, unexamined removal polity on levees. Such a policy is tantamount in effect to an uncontrolled, national experiment. At the very least the position, size, age, etc. of every tree that is removed on or near a levee should be entered into a GPS data base so that possible cause and effect relationships can be studied and the wisdom of such a policy evaluated at a later date.</p> <p>One of the main arguments advanced by proponents of tree removal on levees is improved access, visibility, and flood fighting. It would be a great irony if all these goals were realized only to better witness, gain access to, and attempt to fight floods on a levee that is disintegrating the failing because of woody vegetation removal."</p> <p>Notice that the issue of trees and burrowing animals is not addressed in the above comments by Dr. Gray. However, in his affidavit, he stated the following:</p> <p>"A consideration that has not been addressed (reported) in the Canal Corporation tree removal plan is the effect on burrowing animals. Tree removal and conversions to grass can promote the incursion [of] burrowing animals and construction of their underground tunnels. Evidence in the technical literature indicates that these underground tunnels can pose a much great danger to embankment stability than any possible threat from tree roots. Tree removal can also eliminate or compromise the control that raptors have on burrowing animals (e.g., muskrat) populations." <i>Town of Pittsford v. Power Authority, supra, Gray Aff. ¶ 9.</i></p> <p>Statement at 3-9: "Change in Vegetation Cover: The principal EEIP activity to affect vegetation would be removal of trees and brush, and replacement with turf grass. All vegetation should be removed in Zones 1, 2A, 4 and 5 of the embankment, under ideal conditions extending to a distance of H/2, where H is the embankment height from the toe to the crest, but not less than 15 feet beyond the toe of the embankment. Absent emergencies, vegetation removal would only occur on non-NYSCC owned property pursuant to written authorization of the property owner. The embankment zones are shown in Figure 3.2-2 below."</p>

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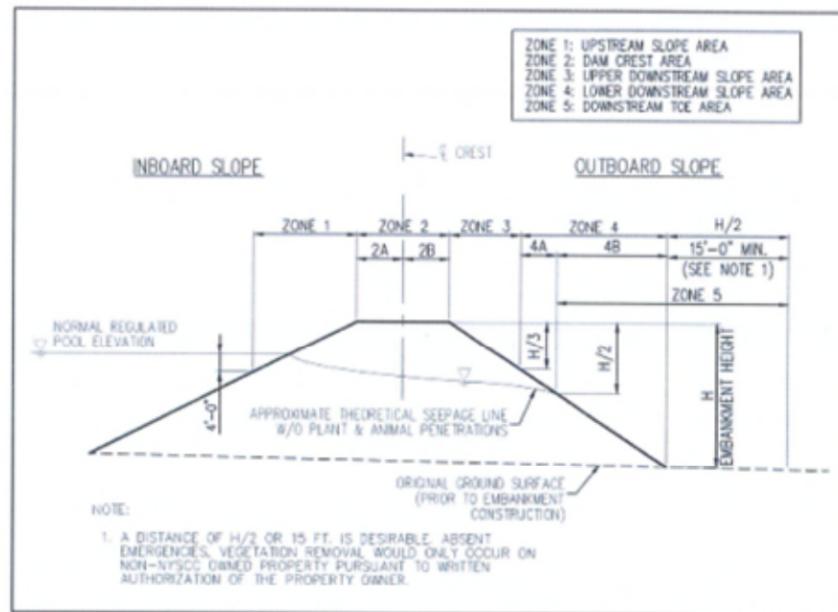
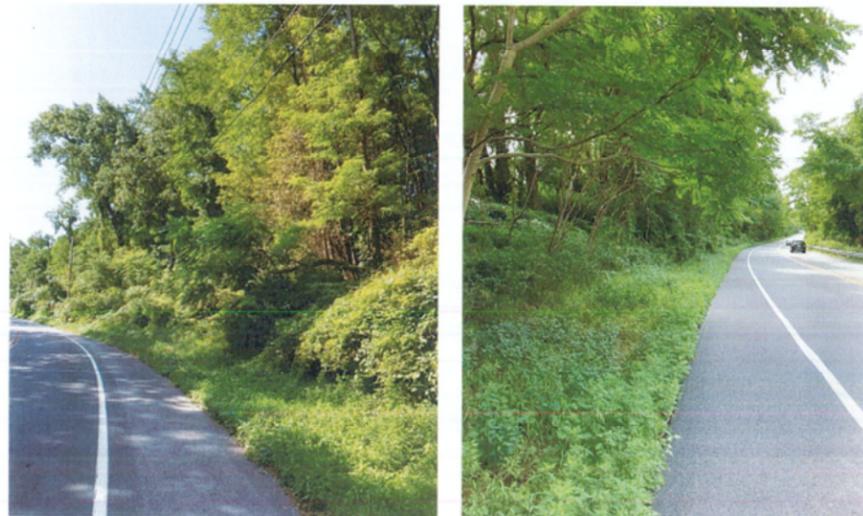


Figure 3.2-2: Embankment Zones for Vegetation Management
Source: DGEIS

Comment: This figure shows the typical shaped embankment and the “zones” that have been designated for tree removal. Note that under the EEIP, all trees on all zones of the embankments would have to be removed, except that trees might be selectively thinned in zone 2B, which is the side of the crest approaching the outboard slope, and zone 3, which is the top 1/3 of the outboard slope. The following photographs show what this removal would look like in Pittsford.



All of these trees photographed above left along Marsh Road, the outboard slope toe of the Great Embankment, would have to be removed. This removal would continue at least two-thirds up the entire 70-foot embankment, where some trees could be saved before the crest.

These trees, above right, along State Route 96 are on the canal embankment directly across the canal from the Great Embankment. They provide a nice tunnel effect for the cars, shield the noise from cars to canal towpath users, and help secure the bank. They, too, would be removed under EEIP.

Statement 3-16

“Under the Null or No-Action Alternative, any earthen embankments would be left to fail.”

Comment: This statement, repeated in the “Potential Impact of Alternatives” sections throughout the DGEIS, should be removed, throughout the DGEIS, because the no-action alternative is not the cessation of all canal maintenance of any kind which might lead to failure, but failure the continuation of current NYSCC maintenance procedures which do not include tree clear-cutting. As the canal embankments have never failed because of the trees, there is no evidence that the continued level of maintenance without clear-cutting would render the embankments “left to fail.”

Statement 3-17:

“Under the Ad-Hoc Alternative or Project-by-Project Approach, the ultimate impact to land use inside or outside of the earthen embankments would be similar to that of the proposed action.”

Comment: This statement, also repeated in the “Potential Impact of Alternatives” sections throughout the DGEIS, doesn’t make sense. Under the project-by-project approach, only the harmful trees are removed, and the multiple benefits of trees remain. Under EEIP, all trees are taken and none of the benefits remain. The ultimate impact of selective tree removal and EEIP clear-cutting is entirely different.

Statement 3-62:

“As discussed in the Guide Book, woody vegetation with robust root systems can disturb the soil structure in the embankment. Roots that penetrate the phreatic surface in the embankment increase the risk of internal erosion known as piping, the early stages of which can go undetected for decades resulting in a sudden failure of an earthen embankment. Animal burrows pose a similar piping potential. The animal burrow shortens the seepage path potentially leading to piping at the burrow location. Furthermore, large trees can be uprooted by winds/erosion and leave large holes in the embankment, root systems can decay and rot creating passageways for water through the embankment. Once a significant seepage pathway is initiated, catastrophic embankment failure could be expected to occur within one to two hours.”

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			<p><i>Comment:</i> NYSCC has not identified one embankment failure caused by trees in the history of the canal, and yet predicts that a "significant seepage pathway" caused by trees will lead to a "catastrophic embankment failure" in "one to two hours." This is mere fear-mongering.</p> <p>Statement at 3-63:</p> <p>"According to the Guide Book, all not compatible vegetation must be removed from Zones 1, 2A, 4 and 5 of the embankments at least to the NYCC [sic]- owned property line (see Figure 3.2-2). Some non-compatible vegetation may be allowed in Zones 2B and 3 in accordance with Section 8 of the Guide Book and Section 3.9 of this GEIS."</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Non-compatible vegetation "includes most brush, bushes, and trees." <i>DGEIS at 3-62.</i> The statement above confirms that under the EEIP, all of it must be removed from all zones of the embankments, except zones 2B and 3, where "some" non-compatible vegetation "may" be allowed. No exceptions are granted.</p> <p>Statement at 3-64:</p> <p>"Although the proposed action would cause loss of existing woody vegetation, the width of vegetation cover planned for removal would be less than 200 feet wide in most locations."</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> The Great Embankment outboard slope appears to exceed 200 feet. The EEIP would have a disproportionate negative impact there.</p> <p>Statement at 3-88:</p> <p>"On the other hand, many areas of cleared embankments will open up new scenic views from adjacent trail or from the waterway that were not visible before due to the intervening embankment vegetation. Tree clearing in some areas surrounded by dense wooded areas may also add some variety to the visual experience for area users."</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Although this statement is theoretically possible, clear-cutting the embankments in Pittsford would not "open up new scenic views" nor "add some variety to the visual experience for area users." Instead, it would desecrate the views, remove beauty and desirable shade, exacerbate vehicular noise, and diminish the privacy of abutting private landowners.</p> <p>Statements at 3-90:</p> <p>"Select vegetation may be retained only on the landward side of the embankments in Zones 2B and Zone 3."</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> This statement in the "Mitigation" section of the DGEIS concerning "Aesthetic Resources" is part of a longer discussion of the "planned manner" in which trees would be removed from the canal embankments. While the discussion gives the appearance of providing for a careful, judicious process the tree removal, the simple fact is that the EEIP requires tree clear-cutting on all parts of all canal embankments, except zones 2B and 3, where "a minimal amount of vegetation including trees" could be saved. <i>DGEIS at 3-90.</i></p> <p>Statement at 3-96:</p> <p>"The removal of trees should not be considered an effect/impact on the New York State Barge Canal Historic District. During the period of significance (1905 to 1963) the earthen embankments for the Barge Canal had just been constructed, and any trees developed after that time. (See Fig. 3.9-1 below.) The criteria for listing (Criteria A and C as stated above) did not include trees or historic landscapes. In fact, in addition to undermining the structural integrity of the earthen embankment resource, there is potential that trees are obscuring views of some of the contributing features to the district in addition to compromising the integrity of the earthen embankments. Some of the EEIP activities include the clearing of trees and reconstruction of the earthen embankment in order to restore the integrity of the earthen embankment. In so doing, the EEIP activity would be restoring the earthen embankment. The National Park Service defines restoration as the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The removal of the trees and reconstruction of the earthen embankments may be done as a treatment of a historic property and would be beneficial effect to the historic district/NHL."</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Whether or not the presence of trees on the canal embankments was among the criteria for listing the canal system as an historic district, the removal of all trees would clearly have a significant, deleterious impact on and use and enjoyment of the district. There is no "potential" for the existing trees to be "obscuring views of some of the contributing features of the district." Certainly, removal of trees would <i>not</i> be "a beneficial effect to the historic district/NHL." It is also noted here that NYSCC appears to have missed an important historic resource existing on the canal embankment directly across the canal from the Great Embankment, which is an early Seneca Native American trail. A photograph of the sign directly across from the Great Embankment. Removing all of the trees from the trail would don't "restore" the trail's natural condition.</p>

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			<p>Statement at 3-112:</p> <p>"In one of the highest embankment sections on the Erie Canal system, the "Great Embankment" near where Irondequoit Creek crossed under the Erie Canal, in Pittsford, NY, the height of the towpath above the surrounding ground is approximately 65 feet, and the distance from the outside shoulder break of the canal embankment to the base of embankment is approximately 180 feet. It is possible, therefore, that there could be lines of sight between noise and sensitive active use areas in this residential community that exceed 200 feet and have significant opacity due to the tall, dense existing vegetation. The embankment in this area is forested, and there is a residential neighborhood on the north side of Marsh Road. For the loss of vegetation to have a noise impact, there needs to be a noise source that is presently obscured by the vegetation. In this neighborhood, New York State Route 96, located on the south side of the canal embankment, is a significant noise source. However, in this case, <i>even if the forested portion on the north side of embankment is cleared</i>, the embankment itself will still behave as an earth berm noise barrier, providing significant all-season noise reduction of New York State 96 and other noise sources. Based on this worst-case example, the effects of loss of tree vegetation on noise levels in the residential neighborhood north of Marsh Road are expected to be unnoticeable to tolerable." [Emphasis added]</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Is NYSCC tipping its hand here? Will the Great Embankment be clear-cut? Neighbors of the Great Embankment have not concentrated their adamant opposition to clear-cutting on the potential for increased noise for State Route 96 vehicular traffic. Instead, they have expressed their concern that clear-cutting will weaken, rather than strengthen, the stability of the embankment which looms over them, that their sylvan view will be destroyed, that their privacy will be lost, and that the market value of their properties will be significantly reduced. See, e.g., <i>Town of Pittsford v. Power Authority, supra, Affidavit of Eric J. Norsen at 2</i>. However, if all of the trees on the canal embankment across the canal from the Great Embankment abutting State Route 96 were cut down, the increased noise and visibility of cars would be substantial at the towpath enjoyed by so many people. A photograph showing the trees that would be lost is shown below.</p> <p>Statement at 3-113:</p> <p>"As discussed in Section 1.3.4, the NYSCC is not subject to procedural or substantive requirements of Community Plans, local laws, etc."</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Again, please identify the community plans, local laws, and "etc." the NYSCC is not "subject to," and the authority for making this assertion.</p> <p>Statement at 3-121:</p>

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			<p>"The NYSCC is not subject to procedural or substantive requirements of Community Plans, local laws, etc., as complying with hundreds of different local laws would make maintaining earthen embankments in a safe manner impossible and unduly prejudices the NYSCC when it comes to implementing its statutory authority."</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> The Town understands why NYSCC does not want to comply or contend with lots of local laws which might make its canal security responsibilities more time-consuming. But again, what authority allows NYSCC to avoid compliance with these local laws and requirements?</p> <p>Statement at 3-125, 3-126:</p> <p>"The LWRP is the only planning and regulatory tool that allows a local community to refine statewide coastal policies to apply the local situation. According to 19 CRR-NY 600.3 [sic], "No State agency involved in an action shall carry out, fund or approve the action until it has complied with the provisions of article 42 of the Executive Law." Article 42, § 919. Coordination of state actions and programs, states that "the secretary shall review actions proposed by state agencies which may affect the achievement of the policies of this article and shall make recommendations to such agencies with respect to achievement of such policies." The following Erie Canalway communities have NYSDOS-approved LWRPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="text-align: center;">... <li style="text-align: center;">• Town/Village of Pittsford (Monroe County) <li style="text-align: center;">... <p>For example, the Town and Village of Pittsford LWRP (2006) provides the following policy statement about natural resource protection:</p> <p>Policy 1.3 Maintain and enhance natural areas, recreation and open space</p> <p>The preservation of significant open space areas should continue to be pursued. The concept of a ribbon of green along the canal, should be incorporated into all existing and new projects. For example, in existing commercial areas, the expansion of green space and planting areas can be used to improve the aesthetic nature of the site. In new projects, open space should be required as an integral component of the design scheme, rather than a remnant of the development process. This may be accomplished using buffer areas between different land uses, cluster development, incentive zoning and the transfer of development rights."</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Let's take a look at the Town and Village of Pittsford LWRP. For starters, consider the following statement contained therein: "A survey of residents conducted for the preparations of the town's comprehensive plan noted that the canal trail was the 'favorite place' among Pittsford residents." <i>Pittsford LWRP</i> at II-2. It is safe to assume that Pittsford residents appreciate the canal trail with its trees, not without them. Here's another quote from the LWRP: "Jefferson Road (NYS route 96) runs along the south shore in the sections [across from the Great Embankment], but a narrow strip with trees and picnic areas has been maintained between the road and the canal as an informal linear park." <i>Id.</i> at II-6. These trees would have to go under the EEIP. Under "Woodlots," the LWRP begins: "Wooded areas provide habitats for varied flora and fauna. They also protect watersheds and soil from flooding and erosion, act as storm buffers by slowing winds and moderating temperature extremes and purify the air through removal of carbon dioxide and creation of oxygen. In addition, wooded areas provide an important source of recreation and visual pleasure." <i>Id.</i> at II-8. This statement is entirely inconsistent with canal clear-cutting. It is in this context that the "concept if a ribbon of green along the canal" referenced in Policy 1.3 above should be understood. The "ribbon of green" certainly does not mean the "green" left over after all of the trees are cut down and replaced by grass. It means the trees that are there and meant to be preserved. Other LWRP policies support tree protection. For example, Policy 4.2, "Preserve and restore natural protective features," includes "Avoiding alteration or interference with natural conditions," and "Using practical vegetation approaches to stabilize natural features." <i>Id.</i> at III-14. It is also noted that the Town's waterfront consistency law and local waterfront overlay district law are annexed to the LWRP, approved by the Secretary of State, as Appendices B and C.</p> <p>Statement at 3-129:</p> <p>"The activities of federal, state, and local government are required to be consistent with a locally adopted LWRP that has been approved by the Secretary of State. This 'consistency' provision is a strong tool that ensures government agency at all levels are guided by the local program. Municipalities with an approved LWRP also conduct local review for local actions. State agencies conduct consistency review for state agency actions."</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Does NYSCC maintain that any consistency review on the EEIP applied within the Town of Pittsford would be conducted by state agency, and the Town would be without power to perform and enforce its own consistency review on the project within the Town? If so, please supply the authority for that position.</p> <p>Statement at 3-131:</p> <p>"As noted in Section 3.15, the NYSCC is not subject to procedural or substantive requirements of local governments."</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Once again, please cite the authority for this statement.</p> <p>Statement at 4-4:</p> <p>"Section 3.15 Community Plans points out that the NYSCC is not subject to procedural or substantive requirements of Community Plans, local laws, etc., as complying with hundreds of different local laws would make maintaining earthen embankments in a safe manner impossible and unduly prejudices the NYSCC when it comes to implementing its statutory authority. However, the activities of federal, state, and local government are required to be consistent in communities where a locally adopted Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) has been approved by the Secretary of State. The section discussed how community plans can provide guidance to assess potential impacts; and help in identifying where mitigation measures may be important to consider and incorporate into the implementation of the EEIP in a specific location. NYSCC will assess whether site specific proposed earthen embankment maintenance activities may have the potential for significant adverse impacts on areas that have been identified as part of a Community Plan. These identified areas will be given consideration for the NYSCC to avoid, minimize or mitigate to the extent practicable."</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Are there any circumstances under which any trees can be spared from clearcutting in zones 1, 2A, 4, and 5 of the canal embankments, and if so, what are those circumstances?</p>

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			<p><u>Guide Book</u></p> <p>Statements at 1-3:</p> <p>“Vegetation management practices for earth dams are universally accepted within the engineering community with the rule that woody vegetation s not permitted on earth dams....The dam safety engineering community recommends clearing of all woody vegetation from the embankments to eliminate concerns of seepage paths created by tree roots, the possibility of tree blowdowns creating large depressions that could weaken the embankment or cause a breach and the difficulty the vegetation causes to embankment inspection, among other factors.”</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> As explained above, it is <u>not</u> universally accepted in the engineering community that woody vegetation should not be permitted on earthen embankments. On the contrary, trees can stabilize earthen embankments, not necessarily weaken them. As the previous photographs of the Great Embankment have shown, trees do not impede access to inspection, particularly the “bank walk” inspections which NYSCC says it undertakes.</p> <p>Statement at 1-3, 1-4:</p> <p>“Adjacent landowners and canal users view the trees and vegetated sloped as beneficial to the canal setting for such things as shade, visual site barrier to adjacent properties, wildlife refuge, and more. Finding a solution that addresses the needs and desire of both sides is critical. Reducing the risk of a catastrophic embankment failure is a clear need. Developing a cost-effective option that allows <i>some</i> woody vegetation to remain is a goal.” <i>[Emphasis added]</i></p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Change the word “some” to “most” and we are getting somewhere. But imposing an across-the-board policy of clear-cutting all trees on all embankments save possibly in a few areas in incomprehensible to the Town. Surely, NYSCC can propose a policy that gives some leeway to canal adjoining municipalities like the Town.</p> <p>Statement at 1-8:</p> <p>“Section 7.16 of the California guidance says:</p> <p>Policies and criteria regarding removing trees and other woody vegetation that have grown and matured on levees are evolving and will be informed by ongoing and future research. Engineers and levee maintaining agencies are encouraged to consider the results of this research when deciding how to manage trees and other woody vegetation on levees.</p> <p>In goes on the <i>[sic]</i> say:</p> <p>The criteria provide significant flexibility for engineers and levee maintaining agencies to remove or retain existing trees and other woody vegetation. Because of the importance of these critical resources, it is anticipated that implementation of these criteria will result in near-term retention of the vast majority of existing trees and other woody vegetation that provide important and critical habitat. In the long-term, it is anticipated that the vast majority of trees and other woody vegetation on the lower waterside levee slope would continue to grow with little or no management.”</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Why can’t NYSCC adopt this California approach?</p> <p>Statement at 1-11:</p> <p>“Although canal and feeder embankments are not regulated as dams...”</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> This concession, also made in the DGEIS as noted above, demonstrates that NYSCC is not required to clear-cut, but is proposing to do so as a policy choice which it can change.</p> <p>Statements at 7-7, 7-8:</p> <p>“Zone 1: ... NYSCC policy is to remove all woody vegetation growth located in Zone 1.</p> <p>Zone 2: ... NYSCC policy is to remove all woody vegetation growth located in Zone 2A. NYSCC will consider retaining existing vegetation in Zone 2B following the Scenic Management Guidelines.</p> <p>Zone 3: ... Due to the relatively small dimensions of the canal embankments in relation to the size and influence of root penetration, NYSCC policy is that woody vegetation in Zone 3 shall be removed except in limited instances, following the Scenic Management Guidelines.</p> <p>Zone 4: ... NYSCC policy is to remove all woody vegetation growth located in Zone 4.</p> <p>Zone 5: ... NYSCC policy is to remove all woody vegetation growth located in Zone 5.”</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> These bold-print Guide Book rules make clear the proposed policy of removing all trees from all parts of the canal embankments, with the very limited exception for partial removal on zones 2B and 3. The Town seeks greater flexibility.</p> <p>Statement at 8-11:</p> <p>“Table 8.5-1: Commonly Encountered Invasive Species in New York State... Black Locust...”</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> While eradication of many invasive species of plants might make sense in ordinary circumstances, the removal of black locust trees on the canal embankments is counter-productive to stabilizing the banks. They should be protected, not removed. Thus, Scenic Management Guideline 3 set forth at 8-14 of the Guide Book which does not allow any invasive species trees to remain in zones 2B or 3 of the embankments, should be modified to make exception for trees such as the black locust which stabilize embankments.</p>

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			<p>Statement at 8-14:</p> <p>“The Scenic Management Guidelines include:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">...</p> <p>2. If a mix of semi- to mature trees are identified in Zones 2B and 3, a site would be performed with an arborist, landscape architect, and engineer to assess the potential of preserving any trees. The arborist would determine the tree’s health and viability; the landscape architect would determine the aesthetic suitability of the preserved tree within the context of the overall project limits; and the engineer would determine the feasibility of its retention with respect to its effect on embankment integrity and trail user safety. Specifically, where a recreational trail is present, no tree in Zone 2B will be allowed to remain within the allowable clear zone distance specified outside the edge of travel way in accordance with AASHTO’s Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities (AASHTO, 2012). Select vegetation may be retained only on the landward side of the embankments in Zone 2B and Zone 3.”</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> The photograph below shows large, healthy black locust trees adjoining the canal recreational trail at the Great Embankment being enjoyed by bicyclists. A long line of these and other healthy trees hug the trail. Would all of these have to come down under the EEIP?</p>  <p>Statement at 8-14:</p> <p>“The Scenic Management Guidelines include:</p> <p>3. Assuming the tree vegetation (>3” DBH) is not an invasive species, is healthy, is not a danger tree, is appropriately located, and falls within Zones 2B or 3, it would be a candidate for preservation. No trees located with Zones 2A which are lands on the canal side of the center line of the embankment crest, or in Zone 1 will be allowed to remain.”</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Just to be clear, would any non-invasive, healthy, safe tree over 3” DBH <u>not</u> in zones 2B or 3 be a candidate for preservation?</p> <p>Statement at 8-14:</p> <p>“The Scenic Management Guideline include:</p> <p>4. In areas where there is a very wide Zone 2B relative to embankment height, vegetation should be preserved to the greatest extent possible, whether or not the embankment section falls within a threshold area as identified in Section 8.15.”</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Describe how this would operate on the Great Embankment.</p> <p>Statement at 8-22:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">NYSDOS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;">Coastal Consistency – Required for any State or Federal Permits</td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;">Any work in areas within Coastal Zones (i.e., Erie Canal between Niagara River and 900 feet upstream of SR 62, and Oswego Canal between Lake Ontario and 150 feet upstream of Varick Dam²¹) and within municipalities that have Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs approved by the NYSDOS</td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires review by NYSDOS for consistency with State Coastal Policies and/or Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) Policies </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Source: Guide Book</i></p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Does EEIP work within Pittsford require consistency review by the Town’s Planning Board in accordance with the Town’s LWRP policies and local laws, or is the only consistency review of EEIP work within Pittsfield done by the NYSDOS? If it is the latter, when does NYSDOS do its consistency review? At the time NYSCC adopts the EEIP for the statement application? At the time NYSCC selects Pittsford for EEIP work? Will NYSCC notify the Town before the consistency review is performed and provide a copy of the review document to the Town as soon as it is completed?</p>	NYSDOS			Coastal Consistency – Required for any State or Federal Permits	Any work in areas within Coastal Zones (i.e., Erie Canal between Niagara River and 900 feet upstream of SR 62, and Oswego Canal between Lake Ontario and 150 feet upstream of Varick Dam ²¹) and within municipalities that have Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs approved by the NYSDOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires review by NYSDOS for consistency with State Coastal Policies and/or Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) Policies
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			<p>Statement at 8-22:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="540 329 1766 537"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3" data-bbox="540 329 1766 366">NYSDOS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="540 366 862 537">State Environmental Quality Review</td> <td data-bbox="862 366 1372 537">Any work not consistent with that described in this Guide Book or beyond the scope or parameters of the SEQR GEIS.</td> <td data-bbox="1372 366 1766 537"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will require additional environmental review by qualified personnel </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Comment:</i> Can NYSCC provide any examples of EEIP work within the Town of Pittsford which would not be consistent with work described in the Guide Book or beyond the scope or parameters of the DGEIS, such that separate, additional SEQRA review would be required?</p> <p>Statements at 8-23, 8-24:</p> <p>The "SEQR Thresholds and Decision Procedure" set forth in section 8.15 of the Guide Book is the same procedure set forth in the DGEIS at 1-13, 1-14, which is copied and commented upon above.</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> The same comments there apply here. The core concerns is: is there any flexibility to the clear-cutting rules outside of the limited discretion for trees in zones 2B and 3?</p> <p>Statement at 9-1:</p> <p>"All maintenance activities, except those considered routine (e.g., mowing, clearing debris) should include, where prudent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification to adjacent property owners Notification to local municipalities if necessary" <p><i>Comment:</i> With there be personal notification to adjacent property owners? When will notification to local municipalities not be "necessary?" How will local municipalities be notified? How soon before site mobilization will municipalities be notified?</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>As noted in the first comment of this letter, the Town supports NYSCC's goal of maintaining canal embankments so that they will continue to be safe. When it comes to vegetation on the embankments, the Town routinely receives "Dangerous Tree Determinations" from NYSCC and regularly acquiesces to the removal of these dangerous trees. A photograph of such a dangerous tree recently provided by NYSCC to the Town is shown below.</p>  <p>The Town recognized that canal embankment vegetation management is much more than removing large dead trees. To that end, the Town appreciates all of the vegetation inspection, monitoring, risk assessment, and necessary remediation that NYSCC already undertakes, and the Town encourages NYSCC to make vegetation management more robust to address observed problems. But the science of such vegetation management is not settled, and blanket clear-cutting as proposed by the EEIP may not only be ineffective but harmful to embankment security, and will undoubtedly forfeit the environmental qualities of trees. We can all do better.</p> <p>The Town asks NYSCC to revise the EEIP to reject embankment clear-cutting as its underlying rigid policy, to embrace a more thorough, robust program of inspection, monitoring, risk assessment and remediation which allows flexibility in management for differing circumstances, and collaborates with localities such as Pittsford and its residents to preserve both public safety and environmental quality.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration</p>	NYSDOS			State Environmental Quality Review	Any work not consistent with that described in this Guide Book or beyond the scope or parameters of the SEQR GEIS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will require additional environmental review by qualified personnel
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1072	10/19/2021 Late Comment	Email	<p>I don't know WHY on earth you would clear-cut along the canal.... This would take away any reason people have to recreate along the canal, in at fast as both shade in the summer and aesthetics year-round. Please show this email to whomever you recurve funding from to provide you with the funding needed to do this job properly. Thank you.</p>						
1073	10/20/2021 Late	Email	<p>The letter was a joke... And Mr Bello...just another local politician who believes it's better to support causes that may yield votes, than to support efforts to improve public safety in the Erie Canal Corridor.</p>						

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	Comment		<p>No trees on dams, unless they meet a very limited and narrow criteria that will insure dam sustainability and public safety. That's the rule, the best practice and the DEC requirement in many US states. I'm sure that Mr Bello does not think this same way about other safety related issues, like Car, Health, and Life insurance purchases. Probably hasn't been in a car accident but still makes sure he has insurance. It's a rule to drive and protect oneself. Same reason that people and property owners clear vegetation on earthen dams. Mr Bello probably hasn't been sick in awhile, but still makes sure his family is protected with affordable health care... won't leave that to chance. But he can let Canal Communities and Neighbors live in danger from unsafe earthen embankments. And he's healthy, why bother with life insurance, when death seems so far away? No, I'm sure that he has a policy to protect his family in the event of unforeseen circumstances. Just like State Requirements for keeping Earthen Embankments covered with grass and not invasive vegetation. Just another political hypocrite in Monroe County...what's new? Don't waste your breath Mike, Mr Bello doesn't appear to care about facts, truth, or public safety. Why else would he think he could find the answers to safer canal embankment dams on Facebook, in a group fighting against public safety and safer water impoundments. What a joke his letter was, not one shred of truth, not one statement that supports the safety of NY residents... But I'm sure he has the admiration (and votes) from the Stop the Canal Clear-cut leaders and the members they have brainwashed. And one day he just might wake up to see how wrong he was on public safety... How can anyone sleep at night that turns a public safety program into an augment about "the environment"? It has to be the most crass thing anyone can do..this is about shade to some, while those in danger gave to worry about water washing their homes and lives away. Go on Mr Bello...please DENY the public safety issue with unsafe Erie Canal dams as much as you want...the only one looking foolish will be you. Tell the local news that you and a group on Facebook don't believe the danger is "real". Mike, I don't know why you let these ignorant people bother you so much. In the end those that fight against public safety will be shown for what they truly are... wrong.</p> <p>Take care all, Please release your EEIP package and restore safety to canal neighbors, before more politicians make fools of themselves.</p>
1074	10/20/2021 1 Late Comment	Email	<p>Mr Bello Sir I found a copy of your letter to the NYPA on the STCC Facebook page. As I read it, it soon became obvious you were parroting much of the rhetoric spouted by this radical group. "Clinton's Ditch" was thrown together in a hurry by people who had no understanding of dam failures, they didn't understand how important slope angles had to be to ensure the Phreatic Line did not cause a breach. They certainly did not anticipate people would be so stupid as to let 150 feet tall Cottonwoods grow and infest the slope of these dams. Nor did they realize no one would be able to thoroughly inspect the slopes for leaks because of dense undergrowth. You mention you support a 'bottom up' plan, but what exactly is that? What is your 'targeted plan'? Have you actually discussed this with any dam engineers, like the ASDSO, FEMA or USACE? Because they ALL say - NO TREES ON A DAM! You can't get around the fact that it is impossible to maintain these dangerous slopes with all the junk growing on them. In the event of a breach, heavy equipment could not get in fast enough to effect a repair and lives would be lost. Did you realize that there are HUNDREDS of houses down in the Flood Hazard Zone below the canal? Have you no concern for those people and their property? Perhaps you should ask the Canal Corp for their Flood Inundation Zone maps? It sounds like you are taking your advise from people like Elizabeth Agte & Virginia Maier, the STCC Founders, because what they are proposing is similar to your letter. They do not have a specific plan, never have had one! They talk in romantic vagaries, about shade, squirrels, and oxygen. Good stuff for getting support - and votes, but no concrete alternative to the NYPA's proposal. As for your comment urging the NYPA to begin 'a meaningful engagement with residents of Monroe County', I must ask. Where have you been for the last four years? The NYPA have been dealing with this all this time, but when common sense and a complete lack of engineering skills from the residents and most politicians is missing, its very difficult to deal with. Perhaps you should be considering the safety of the residents here. All the engineers say these dams are unsafe, and the vegetation must be removed. Rizzo Engineering reported in 1018 that they classified the Perinton Embankment dam as Class C HIGH HAZARD - UNABLE TO INSPECT thoroughly, due to undergrowth and trees. But that doesn't fly well with the STCC, they'd rather not talk about THAT! There is so much they have glossed over, but you can get many facts to disprove much of what the STCC has spouted here- www.eriecanalfacts.wordpress.com And please go and talk to some dam engineers, they have some really good ones at the NYPA. People could die without their EEIP plan being implemented.</p>
1075	9/27/2021	Email	<p>Hi James, Below are a few comments on the EEIP Draft EIS and Embankment Maintenance Guidebook we can go over on our call later today. Comments generally provide clarification of when DEC should be contacted regarding endangered or threatened species within/near a project site and state regulated freshwater wetlands. Clarification of this in the documents would provide DEC a more thorough record (supporting DEC findings) for possible issuance of a general permit for these activities occurring within a state freshwater wetland or adjacent area. I have also attached a copy of the freshwater wetland permit DEC issued to Canals for this same type of activity in 2017. This permit could be used as a template with a list of authorized activities added – since it would not be project specific. I anticipate Canals could submit similar application materials (and a finalized Maintenance Guidebook) that it did for the 2017 permit – we can discuss this process more later.</p> <p>Comments on DEIS and Guidebook: <u>RTE species:</u></p> <p>Canals proposed procedure is for site surveys to be required when a known occurrence of a state listed species is identified. When a survey identifies habitat for a species is present, Canals would implement measures to avoid the habitat, if the habitat can't be avoided, then Canals would engage with DEC. DEC suggests this language be modified, such that Canals should contact DEC at the time (as early in the project planning as possible) they would contemplate proceeding with an action in an area where a listed species occurs (identified through screening). In particular, Canals should reach out to the</p>

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			<p>applicable DEC Regional Division of Environmental Permits office for review. DEC should be consulted at a minimum before Canals implements any surveys. This is to meet two concerns: 1) proper protocol for surveys is followed and 2) proper licenses (if required) are obtained to do the surveys).</p> <p>The documents (reference as noted below) should replace "Natural Heritage" with Regional DEP office once they have a hit on either the Heritage database or the Environmental Resource Mapper (it should be the same underlying info). The only reason to consult with NHP is if Canals didn't have access to the data to know what species was present (as is the case if screening just uses the ERM). Once they know the species, all consultation should be initiated with DEC regional office where the project is located, as NHP does not have a role in review or issuance of Part 182 permits.</p> <p>The relevant sections where the above are discussed in the documents are identified below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DGEIS section 3.7.2 (page 3-61) Potential Impacts – the narrative indicates when the project cannot fully avoid impacts to a listed species (potential presence identified using Natural Heritage data or other, e.g., DEC Environmental Resource Mapper or Environmental Assessment Form mapper) the Part 182 permit requirements come into play. • DGEIS section 3.7.4 (page 3-69) Mitigation – when screening identifies a hit, and the species or habitat are confirmed through site visits, efforts will be made <u>to avoid the habitat. If not feasible, Canals would initiate consultation with DEC.</u> • Guidebook section 8.2 RTE (page 8-1) – canals states that "Prior to the commencement of any maintenance activity that would require permit authorization or approval by a state or federal agency, qualified personnel must evaluate the project area for the potential for RTE species and, if necessary, consult with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or NYSDEC Natural Heritage Program. • Guidebook section 8.14, page 8-21, table 8.14-1 Permits, Thresholds and Requirements – the table (3rd row) has Consultation w/Natural Heritage Program – required for NYSDEC permits. Possibly should reference Natural Heritage Program, I would think this category falls under E/T species (and or rare) Permit (the next row in the table) and Canals should identify NYSDEC (regional office) and not Natural Heritage for consultation. Natural heritage can be useful to help identify known occurrences at the screening stage but not for consulting with regard to potential impacts and permit jurisdiction. <p><u>ECL Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands:</u></p> <p>The DEIS and Guidebook narratives are fairly sufficient in this area. DEIS page 3-27 (setting), page 3-31 (potential direct impacts), page 3-35 (mitigation) Guidebook section 8.3.2 (page 8-6)</p> <p>DEC did not note much of concern and or need for clarification/additional information. The documents indicate that Canals anticipates and or currently screens projects sites for state freshwater wetlands using the Environmental Resource Mapper 500 foot check zone, and coordinates with DEC when wetlands are identified within/near the project site. As part of the initial lead agency coordination, Canals provided spreadsheets that included identification of wetlands within/adjacent to Canal embankment properties – so Canals is already aware of those areas. The DEIS identifies the potential impacts and mitigation (in general work with DEC to determine) but also notes avoidance and minimization would be followed as per the freshwater wetland regulations (6 NYCRR Part 633).</p> <p>A few suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DEIS could note on page 3-29 that applications of pesticides within 100 feet of wetlands requires an Article 24 permit in addition to the requirements in Section 33 of the ECL. • It should be noted somewhere in the guidebook that the application of pesticides within 100 feet of any state-regulated wetland requires a permit. <p><u>Waterbodies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DEIS should recognize that in addition to regulating protected streams, ECL Article 15 regulates excavation and fill in navigable waters such as the canal (3-27 of the DEIS). • The guide book (page 8-5) should be changed to clarify that NYSCC is not exempt from Article 15. Rather, NYSCC is not required to obtain permits from NYSDEC but it must comply with the substantive requirements in Article 15 and regulation 6 NYCRR Part 608. These requirements may go beyond the best management practices discussed on page 8-6. Thus, it is recommended that the guide book include consultation with NYSDEC similar to what is described in the wetlands section (see page 8-7). <p>Please let me know if you have questions. -Jim</p> <p>(Attachment)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PERMIT Under the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) Permittee and Facility Information</p> <p>Permit Issued To: NYS CANAL CORPORATION 200 SOUTHERN BLVD PO BOX 189 ALBANY, NY 12201-0189 (518) 471-5926</p> <p>Facility: NYS BARGE CANAL SECTIONS 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 STATEWIDE, NY</p>

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			<p>Facility Location: in SEVERAL COUNTIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE Facility Principal Reference Point: NYTM-E: NYTM-N: Latitude: Longitude:</p> <p>Project Location: Various location along Erie Canal Authorized Activity: Maintenance and stabilization along portions of the Erie Canal embankment in Orleans, Monroe, Seneca, and Saratoga Counties for the our proposed of maintaining structural and hydraulic integrity and operability of the canal. Work will occur at 56 different sites, totaling approximately 155 acres, of which 9 sites contain state regulated freshwater wetlands. Approximately 12.8 acres of regulated adjacent area will be impacted, no work will occur within the wetland proper. Phase I authorizes the cutting and removal of vegetation including trees and shrubs along the embankments. Phase II authorized the stripping and stockpiling of topsoil, the removal of stumps and root balls, restoration or embankment line, grading, seeding, mulching and the establishment of permanent turf cover.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Permit Authorizations</p> <p>Freshwater Wetlands – Under Article 24 Permit ID 0-9999-00031/00017 New Permit Effective Date: 11/2/2017 Expiration Date: 12/31/2020</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NYSDEC Approval</p> <p>By acceptance of this permit, the permittee agrees that the permit is contingent upon strict compliance with ECL, all applicable regulations, and all conditions included as part of this permit.</p> <p>Permit Administrator: MICHAEL T HIGGINS, Deputy Chief Permit Administrator Address: NYSDEC Headquarters 625 Broadway Albany, NY 12233</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Distribution List</p> <p>James Candiloro, Canals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Permit Components</p> <p>NATURAL RESPURCE PERMIT CONDITIONS GENERAL CONDITIONS, APPLY TO <u>ALL</u> AUTHORIZED PERMITS NOTIFICATION OF OTHER PERMITEE OBLIGATIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Permit Attachments</p> <p>Project Location Map</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NATURAL RESOURCE PERMIT CONDITIONS- Apply to the Following Permits: FRESHWATER WETLANDS</p> <p>1. Conformance With Plans All activities by this permit must be in strict conformance with the approved plans submitted by the applicant’s agent as part of the permit application. Such approved plans were prepared by Rizzo/WSP Team, dated September 27, 2017 and titled “Freshwater Wetlands Article 24 Permit Report, Embankment Vegetation Removal Project Phases I and II.</p> <p>2. Conditions Prevail Over Plans If any conditions of this permit conflicts with the approved plans the permit conditions shall prevail over the plans.</p> <p>3. Changes to Plans If design or plan changes are proposed, revised plans must be submitted for Department review and approval before work can proceed. Changes in plans may necessitate a permit modification.</p> <p>4. Notice of Intent to Commence Work The Permittee shall notify the Department 3 to 5 days prior to the commencement of work on the project by emailing Kristen. Cady-Poulin@dec.ny.gov. The email needs to include the permit number, permittee and the project start date.</p> <p>5. SPDES Construction Stormwater Permit The Permittee must obtain coverage under the NYSDEC SPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges for Construction Activity by filing a Notice of Intent (NOI) form with the Department and complying with all provisions and conditions of the permit.</p> <p>6. Site Access and Work Access to work sites shall only occur from existing canal access points and all work shall be conducted from the top of canal embankment.</p> <p>7. Five (5) Acre Work Limit a. No more than five acres of contiguous land is authorized to be disturbed at any one point in time. b. When undertaking work on Sites A004, A029, A030, A049, A051, A056, A057 and Extent 2a, documentation of interim site of stabilization, in the form of SPDES Stormwater Inspection Reports, shall be provided to the Department via email to Luke.Scannell@dec.ny.gov to ensure that no more than five acres of contiguous land is disturbed at any point in time.</p> <p>8. Work Windows for Tree Clearing Tree clearing shall only occur between October 1 and March 31, of any year this permit is in effect.</p> <p>9. Precautions Against Contamination of Waters All necessary precautions shall be taken to preclude contamination of any wetland or waterway by suspended solids, sediments, fuels, solvents, lubricants, epoxy coatings, paints, concrete, leachate or any other environmentally deleterious materials associated with the project.</p> <p>10. Prevent Introduction and Spread of Invasive Species Precautions shall be taken to prevent the introduction, transportation and spread of invasive species. The “List of Invasive Species Prohibited and Regulated in New York State pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 575 can be found at http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forest_pdf/islist.pdf</p>

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			<p>11. No Equipment in Wetland Heavy equipment, including bulldozers, backhoes, payloaders, etc., shall not be operated in the wetland.</p> <p>12. Install, Maintain Erosion Controls Necessary erosion control measures, i.e., straw bales, silt fencing, etc., are to be placed on the downslope edge of any disturbed area. This sediment barrier is to be put in place before any disturbance of the ground occurs and is to be maintained in good and functional condition until thick vegetation cover is established.</p> <p>13. Control Erosion during Construction Provisions shall be made to minimize erosion during the construction of the project and to prevent sedimentation or turbidity to any waterbody within or adjacent to the project sites.</p> <p>14. Equipment Storage 100' from Wetland, Water Body All equipment and machinery shall be stored and safely contained greater than 100 feet landward of the regulated wetland or water body at the end of each work day. This will serve to avoid the inadvertent leakage of deleterious substances into the regulated area.</p> <p>15. No Brush or Debris Disposal in Wetland The placement of fill, trees, brush and construction debris within any portion of the wetland (outside the project area identified in the plans) is strictly prohibited.</p> <p>16. Stockpile Areas Excavated materials and/or fill materials shall be stockpiled more than 100 feet landward or water body and shall be contained by straw bales or silt fencing to prevent erosion,</p> <p>17. Clean Fill Only All fill material utilized for this project shall consist of uncontaminated earthen materials only. Acceptable fill materials include gravel, rock, overburden, topsoil and similar natural mineral resources.</p> <p>18. Grading Excess soil shall not be placed in or pushed towards any wetland. Grading activities shall not result in the introduction of additional soils to any wetland.</p> <p>19. Stabilization of Stockpiled Soil Any stockpiled soil shall be suitability retained and covered so that there is no turbid runoff either directly or indirectly into the indicated waterway or wetland,</p> <p>20. Stabilize Disturbed Areas All areas of disturbance from the project shall be immediately stabilized to prevent sedimentation, erosion, and turbidity.</p> <p>21. Seed, Mulch Disturbed Areas All areas of soil disturbance resulting from this project shall be seeded with an appropriate perennial grass, and mulched with straw immediately upon completion of the project, within two days of final grading, or by expiration of the permit, whichever is first.</p> <p>22. Submission of Post-Construction Photographs Within 30 days of completion of the authorized work, color photographs, taken from at least two different angles, showing the revegetation of the jurisdictional wetland locations, at each of the 9 wetland sites, shall be submitted to the Department at Kristen.Cady-Poulin@dec.ny.gov.</p> <p>23. Reporting of Spills An spillage of fuels, waste oils, other petroleum products or hazardous materials shall be reported to the Department's Spill Hotline (1-800-457-7362) within 2 hours.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL CONDITIONS- Apply to ALL Authorized Permits:</p> <p>1. Facility Inspection by The Department The permitted site or facility, including relevant records, is subject to inspection at reasonable hours and intervals by an authorized representative of the Department of Environmental Conservation (the Department) to determine whether the permittee is complying with this permit and the ECL. Such representative may order the work suspended pursuant to ECL 71-0301 and SAPA 401(3).</p> <p>The permittee shall provide a person to accompany the Department's representative during an inspection to permit area when requested by the Department.</p> <p>A copy of this permit, including all referenced maps, drawings and special conditions, must be available for inspection by the Department at all times at the project site or facility. Failure to produce a copy of the permit upon request by a Department representative is a violation of this permit.</p> <p>2. Relationship of this Permit to Other Department orders and Determinations Unless expressly provided for by the Department, issuance of this permit does not modify, supersede or rescind any order or determination previously issued by the Department or any of the terms, conditions or requirements contained in such order or determination.</p> <p>3. Applications For Permit Renewals, Modifications or Transfers The permittee must submit a separate written application to the Department for permit renewal, modification or transfer of this permit. Such application must include any forms or supplemental information of the Department requires. Any renewal, modification or transfer granted by the Department must be in writing. Submission of applications for permit renewal modification or transfer are to be submitted to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Deputy Chief Permit Administrator NYSDEC Headquarters 625 Broadway Albany, NY 12233</p> <p>4. Submission of Renewal Application The permittee must submit a renewal application at least 30 days before permit expiration for the following permit authorizations: Freshwater Wetlands.</p> <p>5. Permit Modifications, Suspensions and Revocations by the Department The Department reserves the right to exercise all available authority to modify, suspend or revoke this permit. The grounds for modification, suspension or revocation include:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. materially false or inaccurate statements in the permit application or supporting papers;</p>

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1076		Comment Card	Illegible statement
1077		Comment Card	We would like to see modeling + input from public health + climate scientists about public health effects of heat-related illnesses due to loss of cooling effect of trees
1078		Comment Card	<p>1) We need trees for temperature control</p> <p>2) Tree roots keep the earth binded together</p> <p>3) Environment needs temp control</p> <p>Rethink.</p>
1079		Comment Card	<p>It would be beneficial to have a more granular, closer look at the specific areas of the engineered embankments that are being considered for cutting. The large map of the canal, while identifying the sections w/ color codes but it's far too large in scale.</p> <p>That should be fairly easy to include on a web site section where the E.E.I.P. is being communicated.</p>
1080		Comment Card	<p>I keep hearing that you're "required" to meet with us and you want to improve communication. Unspoken is whether you'll even consider our comments relating to the scope of projects.</p> <p>Keep the trees. Uproot the arrogant NYPA.</p> <p>The entire Canal is both a park and an historic site. Take a more surgical approach. Restore with something other than turf grass. Grass is terrible.</p>
1081		Comment Card	<p>I have lived by and used the canal path all my life (66 yrs) I am vehemently opposed to the tree cutting and destruction of the canal path. You should be planting trees, shrubs and lilacs, not cutting vegetation down. Please stop! What I have seen is criminal!</p> <p>There should be more environmentalists on this board.</p>
1082		Comment Card	Please save trees as much as possible!
1083		Comment Card	I have been in favor of the program. I will tell my neighbors.
1084	9/21/21	Comment Card	<p>Instead of alienating the citizens, allow them to help keep the canal safe.</p> <p>1) Stop cutting trees along the canal except where a particular tree is demonstrably responsible for seepage.</p> <p>2) Develop a <u>volunteer</u> corps of canal stewards who would each be trained to recognize seepage or other issues, and assigned a particular part of the canal (possibly a 1-mile stretch) which they would inspect daily for any issues + then report to the Canal Corp</p> <p>3) Respond appropriately to any identified hazards.</p>
1085		Comment Card	I believe #1 concern is safety but the understanding to "clear all trees" is over kill + detrimental to the value of property. It is considered "easy" + less expensive to "clear cut". If the corporation would consider "prudent" cutting even at an expense, is requested.
1086		Comment Card	<p>As residents in the neighborhood of Perinton we use the canal for walking, biking and recreation (for over 30 years). We are opposed to "clear cut" but are favor of trimming and safety measures, but most importantly of existing structures.</p> <p>Thank you –</p>
1087		Comment Card	<p>1) How will clear cutting impact the crumbling walls of the great embankment section of the canal?</p> <p>2) Do communities have the right to opt-out of the removal of the plants on the embankment</p> <p>3) The canal corp should notify citizens of <u>any</u> planned removal of plants.</p>

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			4) Can the community stop plant removal or is removal a done deal in spite of community opposition 5) What will be done to preserve the integrity of the soil after clearing?
1088		Comment Card	I have ridden and still do ride thousands of miles on the canal path. The shade from the trees is greatly appreciated. Do not cut the trees. Instead of removing oxygen producing trees more should be planted. Do not cut the trees!
1089	7/14/2021	Morning Public Hearing	My name is Doug Kucmerowski and I am calling representing a group called Erie Canal Neighbors Association -- Just to comment would have been nice if you had stated that no questions would be asked because most of my comments were in the form of questions. So, I'll reroute those. In some of your appendix items, especially the flood inundation mapping, you showed many areas that have already had embankments cleared. I believe that a plan for your appendix should include areas like Perinton and Pittsford, that are 40 to 60 feet below the canal. Those flood inundation maps would help Perinton neighbors decide whether they need to get flood insurance or not while you're trying to decide how to fix unsafe embankments in their area. I, myself, am part of the embankment restoration project that took off 27 miles of unsafe embankments from your list and your EEIP document guidebook. Your Environmental Impact Statement doesn't mention whether the neighbors who are affected by the original program will now fall under the EEIP program. So, if you could somehow get an answer to all of us in the western section of the canal. We'd like to know how we get an audience with the Canal Corporation to address issues caused by embankment clearing here. And I've submitted documents to James from the Erie Canal Neighbors Association for both the Guidebook and Environmental Impact Statement already, hopeful that we'll see those start to come out or answers to those questions start to come out, or the comments that we've made be added, where necessary. That's all I've got to say.
1090	7/14/2021	Morning Public Hearing	My name's Simon Levin, and I'm representing myself and the group of the people who lives around Bushnell's Basin Inn. During the pandemic last year, the Bushnell's Basin Inn, which locate right directly at the embankment on the Marsh Road decided to stop the operation as a party house and decided to work with the Tailor Construction building the apartments and the townhomes. The 129-unit apartments will be right next to the embankment at the Marsh Road just across the historic place on the other side. To be able to do that they need to, first of all, have the permission from the Perinton town to allow to do this change of the zoning because it's zoned commercial now, and it will be required mixed or residential. In addition to that, they are sitting on the same dilemma in using the septic tank at this point. However, to do the construction of the rental units, and the townhomes, they will be required to do the sewage from the other locations to bring it to the Marsh Road, which does not have it. One of the options they showed us is going to be a sewage line under the canal in that area. We were concerned about that because the breakage of the sewage line will affect the water in the canal, plus the embankment could be affected too. So, the first one of the questions we're posing: is the Canal Corporation involved with the propositions of the Tailor Construction Company and the owners of the building investing in and looking of the environmental impact of the buildings, which will be built right at the end of the- right adjacent to the embankment on the Marsh Road canal area. So, we are trying to understand that impact and the Canal Cooperation be aware of that particular construction propositions. It's basically all.
1091	7/14/2021	Morning Public Hearing	Thank you very much. Yes, my name is Bill Smith. I'm Supervisor of the Town of Pittsford. Our first objection to the new proposal is the Power Authority has not yet established a public need for clear cutting along the canal. It cites certain guidelines applicable to levees and dams. Now when Pittsford obtained a court injunction in 2018 to prevent the Power Authority from clear cutting trees in the town, we carried the day in court with expert testimony from a recognized slope stability engineer at the University of Michigan, to the effect that trees and embankments, not only do no harm to the stability of structures, they enhance them, because their root systems help to hold the earth and banks together. As the lead agency under SEQR, the Power Authority has not shown, in its Generic Environmental Impact Statement, the public need for clear cutting as required by the applicable SEQR regulations. Secondly, we are concerned that the Power Authority denies the town's authority to regulate the clear cutting. The Environmental Impact Statement and proposed Guidebook provide that the Power Authority can ignore "community thresholds" as they're called. These are things like the town's Comprehensive Plan, and the standards established in the Town's Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan. Instead, the Authority claims all decision-making power. In several places throughout the Impact Statement and the Guidebook, the Power Authority asserts that municipal authorities have no jurisdiction over this process. In fact, the Power Authority is subject to the zoning provisions of the town's Local Waterfront Revitalization District that covers the canal from the entire Town, and the Power Authority may not perform activities within that district that are planning board finds inconsistent with the town's Waterfront Revitalization Plan. The final Environmental Impact Statement and the Final Guidebook should recognize this. We object further that Power Authority does not identify areas proposed for clear cutting. In 2018, with the first proposal, the Authority identified specific land for cutting. At least the town knew what will be affected and could advise of negative environmental effects. This time around, the Power Authority has established a policy of removing all woody vegetation from all zones of embankments throughout all 524 miles of the canal system. So now, we're in the position of having at risk the entire length of the canal embankment as it winds through Pittsford, not just specific sites previously identified by the Power Authority. Consequently, the Authority's new proposal ostensibly, to mitigate the harmful effects of clear cutting, intensifies them instead. We object to the fact that there is no meaningful public voice, while the new policy would include public notice and possibly public feedback, no municipal or public control is allowed. The Power Authority retains all decision-making power to itself. We thank you for this opportunity. The Town of Pittsford will assert its rights in this matter as vigorously as we have in the past. Thank you.
1092	7/14/2021	Morning Public Hearing	My name is Melinda Solazzo. I am a fourth generation Bushnell's Basinite. I have had family experience with both breaches on our Great Embankment, 1912 and 1974, which decimated several houses and part of a neighborhood by cavalierly tunneling under the canal in an effort to put a line which caused our Great Embankment, which is nothing but sand and alluvial material built at a very steep grade above where most residents are, and in, in retrospect, the trees that were planted in 1900 were specifically designated black locust to hold the sand, because the entire neighborhood between Pittsford and Perinton is nothing but alluvial material built up, way beyond grade, and consequently, a very precarious thing to be tunneling through and removing vegetation from. In the last go-around in 2018, no one seemed to understand that we are a very different part of the canal system from the Albany and Buffalo aspects and we have a somewhat Netherlands-like situation where once the water starts to seep, there's no stopping it. My family owned the property from the 1912 breach, the spillway is still there, and several years ago the Canal Corporation thought that it would be nice to open that floodgate, not realizing there are hundreds of homes that are below grade, and we had to go put a stop to that and I'm going back probably 10 years, but I'm not quite sure anymore, time passes. But in order to protect a very precarious part of the canal, we need to know exactly what kind of cutting. In our experience the canal is above our Irondequoit Creek, and at one point they cut and left stumps on a very steep embankment because they couldn't figure out what to do after they cut them all down. And it goes right cascading onto the road, Marsh Road, that we live on.

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			I'm not sure on the other side, which is Route 96, that has the same steep embankments that- that they've considered what cutting those trees will do to the erosion that is quite possible because of the alluvial material that is the makeup of the entire embankment. I'm not sure what all of this is- is supposed to do for us, other than become a perilous situation that we have to now insure ourselves against, because the cavalier attitudes seem to be "Oh it's all it's all the same. We'll just cut it all down and we'll put in grass."
1093	7/14/2021	Morning Public Hearing	<p>Marilyn Woelkl'm a resident and business owner, and I live above Bushnell's Basin. I know that the walls there are deteriorating. I am concerned about the noise, traffic, and impact on the canal and surrounding environment of just taking out all these trees and re-doing to the section of the canal there.</p> <p>Basically, I just want to make a general statement first about the lack of cohesive planning and development lately in Perinton. I have seen buildings built along the canal that are very modern. I have seen trees taken out and I have seen that none of it is in keeping the historic nature of this community as a canal town. Basically, we have not taken any concern for the view of the canal from the folks who are going down the canal in boating or the view of the canal from residents. There's just been massive construction. That construction displaces wildlife, and it causes noise. Echoes come up that hill that we live on, so we hear all the construction equipment that's parked down at the Park & Ride at the end of Bushnell's Basin. Every time they drop a metal, a piece of metal, or they move something, you hear it all at night.</p> <p>I am not opposed to repair the canal, or to development, but we have to take those noise considerations for residents into consideration and also the traffic. But in displacing the wildlife, I don't know what studies have been done about that, but I can just tell you that my neighbor cut down five trees, and the next- now we've never had a problem here, right after we cut down those five trees, we had all the woodpeckers attack our house, and put holes all the way around the top of our house. They were obviously not happy wildlife and to say that they will just move is very optimistic. So, I think we have to have some studies on the impact of that for the nature of wildlife.</p> <p>I would just say that in general there seems to be a big push to develop everything. And it's not in an intelligent, cohesive manner, with the community and with the inputs, so I'm thankful that you're taking some input now, but this does need to be a long discussion.</p> <p>I'm very concerned about tunneling under the canal and any of the impact that the construction of apartment buildings would have with heavy equipment so close to the canal. I think that's going to be a very potentially dangerous situation even from the vibration and weight of that equipment so close to the canal. I would just say that in general, I think that this community needs to plan better for place making the community and to preserve the historic nature and the quiet nature of this community, which is why property owners, like us, purchased here in the first place. Thank you.</p>
1094	7/14/2021	Morning Public Hearing	<p>My name is Jennifer Rutledge, and I live near the canal, and I use it quite often, and I see lots of other people out there enjoying it as well, and I have been listening to the comments and I need to add my own. This process feels like a sham designed to bulldoze as citizens and canal users who are directly affected by the work you are proposing. I have to wonder what sweet deals and contracts were made behind the scenes, and with which contractors will benefit financially. Why else would you force this irresponsible work on us against our will? Especially at a time when we need to preserve nature most and work to prevent, not cause, environmental catastrophes, more than ever.</p> <p>The citizens, Bill Smith, and the experts he hired are right. There are no benefits, only detrimental effects to your plan. You haven't even addressed the problems that you've already created on the parts of the canal that you previously clear cut. You have not taken the time to investigate and solve those problems, yet you want to continue work on other places? Reason dictates that you need to investigate those problems, solve them, and learn from them before even considering moving forward at all. Again, I just have to keep wondering what sweet deals have been made with contractors waiting in the wings to do this clear cutting. Are they going to be paid by the mile? It sure looks like it based on all those red dots you have all the way down the canal.</p> <p>You should reveal the details of those contracts related to the clear-cutting project immediately so it's all transparent. The Canal Corporation is wrong to cut the vegetation along the canal, in every respect, and we -my family and all the families in my neighborhood - are going to support every effort to stop it in any way we can. Thank you.</p>
1095	7/14/2021	Morning Public Hearing	<p>My name is John Sussman. I'm a resident of Pittsford, New York. I'm a frequent user of the canal towpath in the Village of Pittsford, as well as the Town of Pittsford. I'm a frequent user of these areas for commerce, leisure, and as well as civic purposes. I have reviewed the Canal Corporation website and site location maps related to the Earthen Embankment Integrity Program.</p> <p>I am asking that the Power Authority reach a reasonable accommodation with local authorities, such that no clear cutting occurs, but rather a selective culling of trees that pose a threat to homes and property along the embankment, and otherwise that only trees posing a clear threat to the integrity of the embankment are removed. I'm also persuaded that there has been no clear need for clear cutting established by the Power Authority, and I feel it is vital that the Power Authority recognize local authorities' ability to regulate the proposed clear cutting pursuant to local zoning provisions. Thank you very much for this opportunity to share.</p>
1096	7/14/2021	Evening Public Hearing	<p>I'm Ginny Maier, I'm from Stop the Canal Clear Cut.</p> <p>The guidance for managing vegetation on the embankment is based on a flawed understanding of plant biology and there's little direct evidence of risk to the embankments caused by tree roots. The assertion that trees do not belong on earthen dams comes from a FEMA publication called the Technical Manual for Dam Owners. The first clue that this publication lacked input from any plant biologist or ecologist is the eye-popping statement that calls the fact that tree roots stabilize soil, a "myth," and it claims roots, in fact, "destabilize soil." The list of references for this erroneous statement is short and dismisses the evidence of hundreds of peer-reviewed, easily available papers that have established the value of roots, especially larger tree roots, in maintaining the stability of earthen slopes. I, of course, have pointed this out to the Canal Corporation, that the assertion that trees weaken slopes is highly questionable and deserves further investigation, especially when the stakes for surrounding communities of removing trees is so high. But instead of consulting other experts, the EIS repeats the assertion from FEMA, without question.</p> <p>Even if I'm wrong, and engineered earthen dams are different from the tree covers natural slopes that biologists study, it is clear from both the current structure of the embankments and the engineering documents of the time they were built, that these are not made of compacted earth. In the section on the purpose of the maintenance manual, the EIS authors state that the canal embankments were not built to modern engineering standards. The fact that these essentially unsorted piles of dirt have maintained their integrity for many decades, is an indication that trees on the embankments have not been a problem. In fact, one could argue that the roots are part of what makes these structures stable.</p> <p>Rather than preserve and study these unique structures, NYPA and the Canal Corporation, seek to destroy a unique, historic, functional structure, to recreate an engineered structure that never actually existed.</p> <p>Finally, despite over four years since this embankment clear cutting project was conceived, the Canal Corporation has produced no evidence that woody vegetation has weakened the canal embankments. We have multiple examples of canal breaches occurring due to failures and engineered structures like culverts and aqueducts, or by the actions of engineers</p>

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			<p>themselves accidentally causing a breach. Yet the EIS continues to use fear mongering about the risk of catastrophic failure to justify converting hundreds of acres of naturalistic landscape into turf grass.</p> <p>The document cites two deadly dam collapses from the 19th century as justification for this work, including the famous Johnstown flood, which was caused by humans modifying a functional dam. It is grotesque that the EIS turns the preventable deaths of hundreds of people into a tool to stifle debate about the costs and benefits of clear cutting the canal and to prohibit the development of a more thoughtful and targeted approach that concentrates on known risks and relies on innovation and monitoring. Removing all the woody vegetation to prevent something that has never happened in the history of the canal, and which has poor empirical support is a huge overreaction to a small risk and that will significantly degrade the quality of the canal. Thank you.</p>
1097	7/14/2021	Evening Public Hearing	<p>Hi, my name is Karen Anvelt. I live off Marsh Road across the street from the Erie Canal, and in close proximity to Irondequoit Creek. The canal and its resources have been a big part of our lives since my family and I moved to your 26 years ago. We have always admired the natural beauty of the area and came to respect the flora and fauna it has to offer. We have observed and admired among the wooded canal path areas deer, fox, rabbits, raccoons, and many types of birds, including bald eagles, two just last week.</p> <p>With that said, I am totally opposed to the plan to clear trees along the areas of canal path. I feel this action will displace wildlife, take away the canal's aesthetic beauty, expose neighborhoods to extreme heat and wind, and lower property values.</p> <p>I've read the documents pertaining to why you want to clear cut, and I feel you have weak arguments concerning tree root stabilization, with no clarification on its findings. Also, an explanation should be made on what exactly is an earthen dam. The canal is supported by banks, not dams. I've also researched reaches along the Erie Canal and discovered to this day, that all breaches have been man made, not natural.</p> <p>I feel selective tree and debris removal should be considered by NYPA and the Canal Corporation to help clean up the areas of the canal and should be managed by a qualified arborist. By the way, the black walnut trees were planted to support canal bank structure and, oh excuse me, and have been doing so for over 100 years.</p> <p>There are also drainage pipes and grates at the bottom of the bank that can be open to check for leaks. I do not think these have been opened in a very long time since they are rusted over. Also, there is no way tree roots, 30 feet below the bottom of the canal, even growing laterally, would have an impact.</p> <p>In closing, I think this is a very unprofessional way of holding a public meeting. There should have been in person public meeting for questions and answers, and anybody who would be able to call in. NYPA really has no expertise leading the Historic New York Erie Canal Project. And according to your website your mission states, and I quote, "to power the economic growth and competitiveness of New York State, by providing customers low cost clean, reliable power, and the innovative energy infrastructure and services they value." So, I'm asking you, what's the X Factor here? What's your ulterior motive? Who are your stakeholders? Thank you.</p>
1098	7/14/2021	Evening Public Hearing	<p>My name is Elizabeth Agte and I am the co-founder of Stop the Canal Clear Cut.</p> <p>In January 2017, the New York Power Authority took over the Canal Corporation. Eight months later, with no environmental impact study and without consulting a single scientist, biologist, or environmentalist, NYPA began to clear cut trees along the embankment of the Historic Erie Canal. Their intention to start clear cutting in the towns of Brighton, Pittsford, and Perinton, in January of 2018, was put on hold, as vigorous opposition mounted. They conducted two public hearings, and when faced with overwhelming public outcry they promised to take a more tailored approach when addressing the maintenance of the treed embankments. The EIS and the Guidebook show none of that promised tailored approach. For all its pages, it is vague about when or where they will take action, saying repeatedly that they will clear cut, plant grass, apply pesticides, as needed.</p> <p>As Bill Smith, town supervisor of Pittsford stated this morning, NYPA has appointed itself the sole decider. During the four years of NYPA's tenure, it has dug its heels in, repeatedly making statements such as "we will assume that trees are dangerous on earthen embankments" without the input of a single scientist and discounting the very real fact that not one single breach has been caused by a tree in the entire history of the Erie Canal. Instead, NYPA relies solely on the advice of engineers, for whom the canal is simply another infrastructure problem, completely discounting its value as a scenic historic treasure.</p> <p>Nowhere in the Guidebook is the issue of climate change addressed, which is totally irresponsible for a State Power Authority. Replacing natural habitat that provides environmental benefit with one that must be continuously maintained by human labor, fossil fuels, and pesticides, is going backward, scientifically, environmentally, and globally.</p> <p>We have never advocated for a do-nothing maintenance plan, but we understand there is value in preserving the natural quality of the canal, as its beauty is a recreational and economic driver for towns and businesses along its banks. People come from around the world to enjoy this unique, bucolic treasure. If NYPA reduced it to the hot, treeless embankments on the cover of the Guidebook, it would be a different story.</p> <p>In conclusion, we believe that NYPA is the wrong custodian for our beloved Erie Canal. It is absolutely inappropriate for NYPA to treat this 524-mile park, as if it is nothing more than a dam. As the previous Deputy Director said in 2018, "this is your canal, we just take care of it for you." Thank you.</p>
1099	7/14/2021	Evening Public Hearing	<p>So, no comments just a bunch of questions if you could, as you mentioned before, you can relay them to the people to provide answers, I'd appreciate it.</p> <p>So, first question/comment is: Has a tree ever caused a breach? So that's one question.</p> <p>Two, in looking through the Environmental Impact Statements and so forth, I didn't see anywhere where the extra environmental impact of maintenance was. So, what was that? What's the extra environmental impact of maintenance and where was it quantified? That's a question.</p> <p>Another question is: what's the baseline risk of no action? I didn't see that quantified anywhere on the Draft GEIS. In Section 2.3, it states that the model parameters were based on written and anecdotal information provided by Bergmann, supplemented with personal experience of the modelers. So, would the personal -- would the modelers be willing to write down and state what their personal experience was and tell us how they use this in the model? It looks like they use data from the Mississippi River. Maybe they could also explain how the Mississippi River is analogous to the Erie Canal here and quantify that. They didn't seem to talk about whether the risks for a large river are different than say, for example, the risks in Pittsford. They didn't talk about what the effect of gates and locks are within the space of limited number of miles, so I didn't understand that.</p> <p>And also, in the part three of the environmental section, there's a little blurb where they say "other aspects of community character impacts will be further explored in the scoping and the DGIS", but what does further explored mean? Do you have a plan for these embellishments of the embankments and so forth? If so, what's the plan? Where did you write it down?</p> <p>And the last question I had was, there was a statement in the Full Environmental Assessment Form, Section D 2.B, where you talk about if chemical herbicide treatments will be used specified product, and it says to be determined. So, my understanding is you started this process four years ago, and you don't know what products you're going to use for</p>

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			chemicals or herbicides, right? Or if you do know it hasn't been written down. So, with that, that's the last of the questions I have. Thank you for your time.
1100	7/14/2021	Evening Public Hearing	<p>My name is Doug Kucmerowski. I'm representing the Erie Canal neighbors Association, and for the hearing impaired, I put a link in the chat box to what I'm going to say.</p> <p>The New York State Canal Corporation has done a good job outlining the dangers with their aging earthen embankments and provided enough evidence to show that trees on earthen dams can spell disaster, if not properly maintained. Anyone stating that trees stabilize earthen dams or the only time that canal has seen issues is when work is being done on it, are simply not stating known facts. A recent embankment breach in Macedon and Palmyra has limited all canal travel there since May 17 this year. The Canal Corporation also had to close 15 miles of the canal system, keep it empty from Brockport to Holley, earlier this season due to escaping water at the Erie Street embankment in Brockport. That is where steel plating was hammered in to strengthen the weakened earthen dam there similar to what happened in Spencerport and Perinton in 2018.</p> <p>The Draft Environmental Impact Statement released as part of the EEIP program has dispelled the myth being spread by a local Facebook group about what some are calling a clear cutting that is going on. The SEQR EIS document explains that a clear cut approach was an option that was rejected along with actually abandoning the canal and leaving it empty. Think that over. The owners and caretakers of the canal system actually thought the seriousness of unsafe dams was enough to warrant closure to save the cost of repair, which will be nearly 300 million for the hundred miles of earthen embankments that still need repair, as just one way to ensure public safety. Listed in the New York State Canal Corporation's EEIP Environmental Impact Statement, are the consequences of doing nothing and letting trees continue to grow along the canal. The Canal Corporation has shown that a flood, with possible loss of life and property could be the result in all cases along the canal if this were to happen anywhere. Public Safety should not be a debatable topic. It should never be minimized to that level. There is never a right time to leave the public in danger from unsafe canal embankments and these embankments must all be repaired. It's not a matter of personal preference anymore, it's about public safety now. Issues that may affect the safety and wellbeing of New York residents cannot be ignored by state agencies like the New York State Canal Corporation or New York Power Authority. They have taken an oath to protect all of us, the public. For those who think the Canal Corporation should change their minds about earthen dam safety or NYPA should ignore the recent embankment inspections that resulted in identification of urgent high hazard dams along the Erie Canal, they can't. They understand that in the end, the state of New York will be liable for a canal flood. Okay, you can read the rest of my comment at the website.</p>
1101	7/14/2021	Evening Public Hearing	<p>My name is Barbara Jablonksi. I live at 44 Meadow Cove Road in the development known as Mitchell Estates. I am the original owner and have lived in my house for almost 33 years. My house is located at the beginning of the Great Embankment. I look at the Cartersville Gate and the towpath bridge which extends over the waterfalls from my kitchen window. Some would say I live at the bottom of the dam, but I affectionately say I live at the bottom of the Great Embankment. I have a couple points. I have three points I'd like to make.</p> <p>With trees or no trees on the embankment. If the Canal Authority doesn't remove the woody vegetation growing within the canal's walls and repair the massive cracks there will be a big leak eventually. Presently, they would cut down the trees, but they continue to grow, and the roots continue to grow, growing deeper and deeper. You have to remove those weed trees that are breaking up the canal walls.</p> <p>Point two, the canal at the embankment of the Cartersville Gate is about 40 feet above the Mitchell Estate Properties. I actually look up to the towpath. Many of the tree's roots growing along the steep hill are well below the canal's floor bottom and don't impact the canal structure at all. If these are healthy trees, they hold the soil in this steep incline. However, in this area there are many standing dead trees. I know the consequences of dead roots absorbing the water of a leak and causing a mudslide. We had many standing dead trees on this hill. Trees have already fallen across the spillover, and your canal folks, your canal personnel, have been wonderful in removing the trees. They're very helpful, very punctual, friendly, and I've had a wonderful relationship with them for over 30 years. Many more trees need to be removed but beware of the poison ivy. There are some trees that threaten the properties, too, and I believe that this is what you should be addressing the maintenance and the prevention of damage. Not the stripping of all the trees. Please consider planting quality trees when you remove some trees on the embankment that would be appropriate. They add to the beauty of the canal and the safety from the intruders who may wish to enter the homeowner's property, down below.</p> <p>Point three: spillway and stream. The canal folks need to maintain the spillway and remove the trees growing through, and over the spillway cement floors, and repair the cracks in the floors and walls. Near the waterfalls, there is a huge weed tree that's decades old. It's growing right through the cement floor. If there's an emergency of any type, and the Cartersville Gate needs to be lowered quickly, the water will flow over the top of the spillway and fall and rush down the stream. But this mammoth vegetation and tree area will deter the rush of water and cause the water to flow over the cement walls of the spillway, flooding our properties. This area needs repair and clearing quickly. This is an "aha" moment. If there's a problem, anywhere, and that gate has to come down. Okay, I'll give you my conclusions. In conclusion, my opinions mirror that of the Towns of Pittsford. Plus I'm asking you to do even more. It's important you work with the neighbors whose property abuts the canal property. It's important that you do preventive maintenance regarding the canal walls themselves, spillway, stream floors and walls, and it's vitally important that you remove standing dead trees for the structural safety and property protection. Please plant quality trees to maintain the beauty of our canal and do what I believe needs to be done, not to strip the trees but to do preventive maintenance. So, thank you.</p>
1102	7/14/2021	Evening Public Hearing	<p>While NYPA may have the resources, they do not seem to have expertise. You stated that experts will review the statements. I'd like to know who these experts are. Engineering is a general field where earthen embankments is a specialty, just like a foot doctor is not an eye doctor. A hundred years ago, the professionals in charge of the canal reconstruction had expertise. They knew that culverts were a weak point. They preemptively set up communication system at the culverts during the refill and when one of those started to leak and fail, immediately stopped the process to rebuild the culvert. One hundred years later, much of that knowledge has been lost by the Canal Corporation. NYPA never had that knowledge but are now calling the shots. During the clear cut on the west side, an unknown number of trees were removed, perhaps hundreds or thousands. As far as I can tell, no data about the root extents was collected. Rather than expending so many resources on defending your position, invest those resources to understand the interaction of vegetation and embankments.</p> <p>First of all, digitize the Canal Corporation archives. Make it searchable and indexed. Initiate a scientific literature review to restore that lost knowledge base. Second, provide grants to state college - colleges to do hands-on, in the field research on vegetation and embankments, to advance and expand understanding of the interaction between the natural world and the construction- constructed structures. You've had two years to restore the knowledge base, this summer is a great time for a new start.</p> <p>In 100 years along 125 miles. That's 12,500-year miles, there have been no documented tree related embankment failures. Until you demonstrate and understanding and respect for data and science, I will continue to challenge your poorly supported premise. Thank you.</p>

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Comment ID	Date Received	How Received	Comment
1103	7/14/2021	Evening Public Hearing	Hi, my name is Michael Buggie. I live along the canal in the Great Embankment region, and I am against the majority of vegetation removal for a few different reasons. First one is that the trees have been here for over a hundred years and hasn't caused any major issues to date. Not aware or heard of any breach of the canal due to them. At least in my area, there is very sandy soil that would be subject to erosion if the trees were gone. I know from experience that trees help to hold banks and even flat land together against erosion. There's a lot of wildlife in the area that live in that vegetation that the neighborhood likes to see, as well as the public that uses the towpaths along the canal. If a lot of trees were removed, it would be increased traffic noise from the major roads around here, and that is my comments. Thank you.
1104	7/14/2021	Evening Public Hearing	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. My name is Bill Maier, and I'm a resident of Fairport Village. My comments tonight concern liability. I believe one of the Canal Corporation's motivations for the proposed tree cutting on Erie Canal embankments relates directly to liability issues. The Canal Corporation wants to avoid being held liable for losses, in the event of a canal embankment breach. I want to make clear that the Corporation is relying on a weak defense. Corporation believes if it takes the actions contained in its proposed management plan, the Corporation cannot be held responsible should a breach occur because it can simply claim it follow the Army Corps' guidance relating to earthen dam embankments. This defense will not spare the Corporation from being held liable for losses in the event of an embankment breach should one occur during or following the removal of vegetation. Here's why. Number one, the Canal Corporation understands today that canal embankments are not the same as dam embankments. It's stance that they are similar is a weak interpretation. Think about it. The force of water behind a dam wall is proportional to the depth of the reservoir, which is proportional to the height of the dam itself. The force of water upon canal embankment is proportional to the canal depth, which is roughly constant along the length of the canal, regardless of the height of its various embankments. For example, most of what's behind the Great Embankment, here in Monroe County, is a ravine carved out by around Irondequoit Creek, not a deep reservoir of water. Canal embankments are not dams. The Corporation knows that today.</p> <p>The theory that the Army Corps relies on for its guidelines relating to dams, that is tree root piping, is based on very little actual scientific testing on earthen dams, much less canal embankments. That tree root piping even exists on Erie Canal embankments has never been established. That such piping exists, and is a risk on your Erie Canal embankments, is a weak conjecture. The Canal Corporation knows this today. The Canal Corporation knows the history of the canal as it relates to embankment breaches. It knows that historically, breaches that have caused damage have been disproportionately linked to times when people have worked on the canal. Breaches have not been caused by natural vegetation growing on the canal. What the Corporation is proposing to do, work on the canal with heavy machinery, is exactly one of the chief threats to canal embankment integrity. The Corporation is ignoring this historical data, and its engineers know that today.</p> <p>I will conclude by thanking you again for the opportunity to provide comment. I believe the Canal Corporation's proposed plan is based on poor interpretations, but interpretations that their engineers know are poor. And if an embankment fails during, or after the Corporation orders the removal of vegetation. I want the public to know the Corporation should be held liable for any losses, because the Corporation fully understands the scientific weaknesses of their plan, and it consciously chooses to ignore those weaknesses. Thank you.</p>
1105	7/14/2021	Evening Public Hearing	<p>Okay, my husband is out this evening, but I am going to read a letter that he wrote to Governor Cuomo today in regards to this. It is:</p> <p>Dear Governor Cuomo, the New York Power Authority and the Canal Corporation have once again taken up their crusade to clear cut large tracts of land along the Erie Canal. I live near the canal in Pittsford, New York, and I am asking for your assistance to intervene and ensure that local concerns are heard and heeded. The town of Pittsford has objected to this clear cutting in the past, and has prevailed, based on sound scientific study.</p> <p>The Canal Corporation has argued that tree roots threaten the integrity of canal embankments. The science indicates the tree roots help to stabilize the soils and reinforce these embankments. Further, these trees enhance our neighborhoods and communities in a multitude of other ways. Towns to the west of Pittsford, that were previously unable to mobilize quickly enough to stop this clear cutting, are still reeling from the aftermath. Representatives from the Erie Canal Neighbors Association have indicated that their ongoing questions and concerns are not being addressed. We have sound land use planning processes in our community. The Power Authority and Canal Corporation should not be allowed to exercise sole jurisdiction, without due consideration of local needs, and in the face of sound science that contradicts their stated justification for this project.</p> <p>We have opposed this project in the past and prevailed for good reasons. We should not have to waste taxpayer money and precious local resources to fight it again and again. Thank you for your consideration of my request for assistance on this matter.</p> <p>Regards, Brad Rutledge. Thank you.</p>
1106	10/27/2021 Late Comment	Email	<p>It's one thing to do what would be 'simple' trimming along the canal and towpath.</p> <p>'Simple' trimming to keep low, overhanging branches that would significantly and negatively impact the (safe) passage of walkers, cyclists, boaters, etc. It's another thing to cut things back to such a degree that the embankments and towpaths look like the lonesome highways snaking through the Southwest U.S. Sure, the cacti, mountains and such are beautiful and awe-inspiring sites. Yet our region is blessed with regular amounts of snow and rainfall, which produces lush, bountiful vegetation. It's what provides this historic passageway such great character.</p> <p>Long story short – leave it alone. How bad is it, really?</p>