



For Immediate Release: October 18, 2023

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New York State Canal Corporation Donates Retired Vessel to City of Amsterdam for Educational Exhibit

Former Canal Work Boat to be Displayed in City's Riverlink Park along Erie Canal and Mohawk River

New Attraction to Highlight History of New York's Canals and Amsterdam's Connection to the Waterway

Photo of Boat [Here](#)

The New York State Canal Corporation today announced that one of their retired Canal work boats, Tender 4, will be displayed in the City of Amsterdam's Riverlink Park as part of a new educational exhibit featuring the history of New York's Canals in the Mohawk Valley. The vessel being donated to the Montgomery County community has supported maintenance activities on the Erie Canal and Mohawk River for decades and will now serve a new role by teaching park visitors about the waterway and Amsterdam's history as a Canal port.

"For many years, Tender 4 plied the waters of the Erie Canal supporting our workforce as they maintained the navigable waterway, and now through this donation to the City of Amsterdam, we are ensuring residents and park visitors alike learn firsthand about Canal operations," said **New York State Canal Corporation Director Brian U. Stratton**. "I applaud Mayor Cinquanti and his team for creating an educational exhibit that highlights Amsterdam's deep connection to the canal and allows Tender 4 to continue its service as an ambassador for the historic waterway."

The City of Amsterdam intends to display Tender 4 near the amphitheater and docks in Riverlink Park. Informational placards at the site will explain the vessel's role in supporting Canal operations and the history of the Erie Canal in Amsterdam. The boat will be located on the eastern side of the park at the end of an existing walking trail.

City of Amsterdam Mayor Michael Cinquanti said, “This vessel and the story of how it served the Canal’s operational needs over the years will make both a positive visual and educational addition to our waterfront.”

Built in 1926 by American Boiler Works in Erie, Pennsylvania, Tender 4 measures 40 feet long and 11 feet wide. The vessel is one of nine tenders built for the Canal Corporation in the 1920s and is the only tender of that era retired at this time. Tenders, larger than the Canal Corporation’s buoy boats and smaller than its tugboats, were built with a shallow draft to allow greater maneuverability than the fleet’s larger tugs, while also providing more space aboard for workers and supplies than a buoy boat. They were originally built as fleet support vessels, generally tasked with transporting supplies and people from shore to workstations on the water. Over time, they were also deployed in removing debris and pushing or pulling other vessels.

Amsterdam is a stop on the current Canal system for vessels traveling east and west during the navigation season. Local recreational enthusiasts also use the Erie Canal and Mohawk River in the city for kayaking, canoeing and fishing. In addition, the Canal Corporation’s “On the Canals” program hosts free excursions and other community offerings in Amsterdam. For more information about “On the Canals,” visit [here](#).

The City of Amsterdam expects to open the new display in the spring of 2024.

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About the New York State Canal Corporation

New York’s Canal system includes four historic canals: the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga – Seneca. Spanning 524 miles, the waterway links the Hudson River with the Great Lakes, the Finger Lakes and Lake Champlain. The canals connect hundreds of unique and historic communities across upstate New York.

The New York State Canal Corporation is a subsidiary of the New York Power Authority.

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