



## Awards Program FAQs

### **1. What is the purpose of the Awards Program?**

The Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence honors and celebrates the significant places of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and recognizes excellence in advancing the goals set forth in the Erie Canalway Preservation and Management Plan.

### **2. When was the program launched? Where can I find out about past winners?**

The first recipients of the Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence were recognized in October 2008. Information about past winners is available on our website at [www.eriecanalway.org/get-involved](http://www.eriecanalway.org/get-involved), click on “Awards Program.”

### **3. Who is eligible to apply?**

Municipalities, community groups, private enterprises, and non-profit organizations, including multiple parties involved in collaborative or regional projects or events.

### **4. Do projects need to be completed? What is the time span for eligibility?**

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor wishes to recognize places that *have been in existence and open to the public for at least one year*. Project work to enhance or protect the place may continue to evolve, but project work for which you are seeking recognition must be complete so that jurors may evaluate how well it has sustained excellence. Because we are looking to recognize and replicate successful models, *how* a project is completed is more important than *when* it was established. Please note that while planning alone is essential to the success of any project, planning alone does not qualify for this award.

### **5. What is the application process?**

Written applications are due by **February 25, 2010**. Applications will be reviewed by a panel of judges who will select up to three finalists to receive a site visit. Site visits will occur by April 30, 2010. The judges will select final award winners based on the written application and site visit.

### **6. Who will judge the award applications and determine winners?**

A panel of five judges facilitated by Commission members. The panel will be responsible for reviewing applications, narrowing the award nominees to up to three finalists, and conducting site visits, with one or more Commission members and staff visiting each finalist.

### **7. When will the awards be announced?**

The awards will be formally announced at the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission meeting in June.