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## NPS Northeast Region News Release

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### **Beth Sciumeca is Named Executive Director of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor**

**Philadelphia** – National Park Service (NPS) Northeast Regional Director Dennis Reidenbach has selected Beth Sciumeca as the executive director of the 524 mile Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor in upstate New York. Sciumeca will work with the federally appointed Corridor Commission to enhance the sites along the most successful manmade waterway in North America. The Erie Canalway includes a 500 mile long historic operating canal network and over 200 municipalities with a total population of 2.7 million people. She follows Frank Dean, who was promoted to head the National Park Service Centennial Planning Office in Washington, D.C.


“Beth is already well known along the Canalway for her professionalism and track record of solid accomplishments. She has enthusiasm for the stories of the canal, an understanding of its value to the region, a vision to achieve its potential, and the skill to make good things happen.” said Reidenbach.

Since 2005, Sciumeca has worked at the Erie Canalway where, as program manager, she served as liaison to the Corridor’s congressional delegation, managed the communications program, formed a fundraising organization to support the Canalway, and oversaw a project to install 150 gateway signs along state roads to enhance visibility and recognition for the Canalway. Prior to joining Erie Canalway, Sciumeca led the development of a community

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revitalization effort to preserve and enhance the Champlain Canal’s “Old Saratoga” region’s historic, natural, and recreational resources to spur the area’s cultural and economic renewal.

“I’m fortunate to step into this role at an ideal time. Along with our partner organizations and canal communities, we’ve already made great strides toward improving the Canalway. Our Preservation and Management Plan, which sets the course for our work in the Corridor, just received the American Planning Association’s highest honor for a management plan. I’m honored to work with our partners to continue to preserve and interpret our heritage, invite visitors to explore what makes us unique, and ensure a vibrant future for the 2.7 million New Yorkers who call the Erie Canalway home” said Sciumeca.

A native of Buffalo, Sciumeca returned to upstate New York in 2000 after spending fifteen years in Washington, D.C. where she worked for the Environmental Protection Agency on global climate change policies and programs. She holds a Masters degree in Public Policy from the University of Maryland. Sciumeca lives in Saratoga Springs with her husband, Dale Willman, and their two children. They enjoy traveling, kayaking, hiking, and spending time at their camp in the Adirondacks.

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor preserves and interprets the New York State canal system which has been in continuous operation from 1825 until today – longer than any other constructed transportation system on the continent. It is federally designated as nationally significant for its cultural and natural heritage and its collection of sites are operated, owned, or managed by a variety of local municipalities, state agencies, and federal entities. A federal commission provides oversight for the corridor.

For more information about Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, visit [www.nps.gov/erie](http://www.nps.gov/erie)  
For more information about the National Park Service Northeast Region, visit [www.nps.gov/nero](http://www.nps.gov/nero)

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