

# CANAL



See  
Water  
Differently



#EUWaterWise

# CANAL

As we continued our journey to See Water Differently, we took a gentle stroll along the Canal.

Here are some of the things we learned and experienced along the beautiful Canal.



Our starting point



We saw many people enjoying the waters from social walks, friends chilling, people fishing, and canoeing along the way.



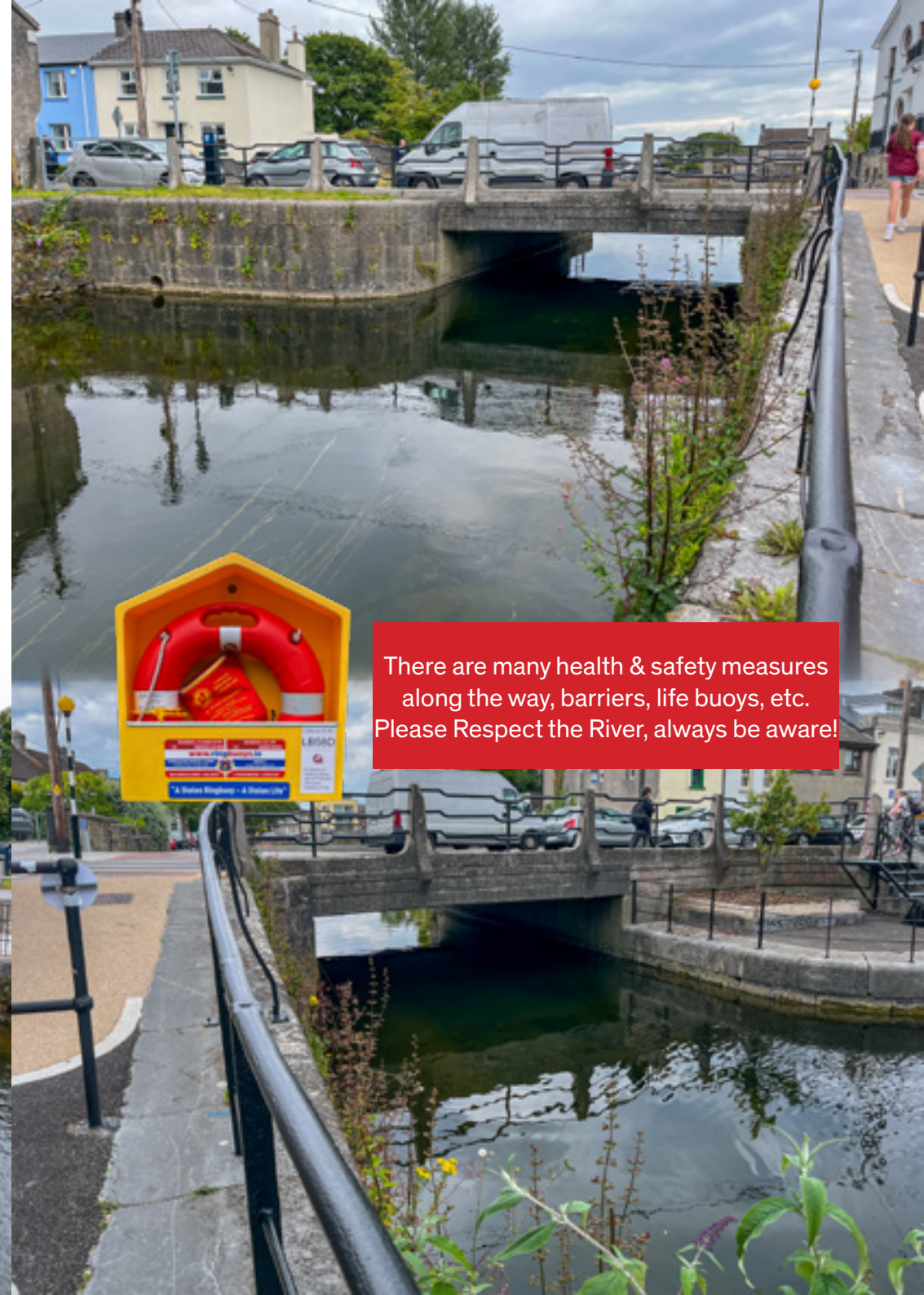
The Eglinton Canal was constructed between 1850 and 1852 for three purposes. The first and most well known was to connect Lough Corrib to the sea at Galway so that goods could be transported in both directions. The second and less well-known reason was to provide a more reliable flow of water to power the many mills that were already located along the natural rivers that were incorporated into this hydrological system. These were the Gaol, St Clare, Parkavera, and Madeira Rivers.

The third reason was to provide paid employment during the famine period. The walls of the Canal were constructed of black limestone taken from the Angliham quarry in Menlo while the spoil from the excavation was used to build foundations for the Queen's College Galway (NUI Galway) quadrangle and the road along the Claddagh Quay.

The canal has two locks: the Parkavera Lock, and a lower lock that links the Claddagh Basin to Galway Bay.

Source: <https://galwaywaterways.ie/>

The canal is named after Archibald William Montgomerie the Earl of Eglinton who as the Lord Lieutenant (governor) of Ireland officially opened the canal on August 28th in 1852.



There are many health & safety measures along the way, barriers, life buoys, etc. Please Respect the River, always be aware!



### **What can I see along the Canal?**

On the day of our walk we saw lots of Seagulls, and Swans. As we looked into the water we noticed lots of Brown Trout, Perch, and Roach.

### **THE SWAN**

The most common swan species in Galway is the mute swan (*Cygnus olor*). Known for their elegant appearance and distinctive orange beaks, mute swans are a familiar sight along the waterways.

Swans typically mate for life and can often be seen in pairs. They build large nests along the riverbanks or in reeds.

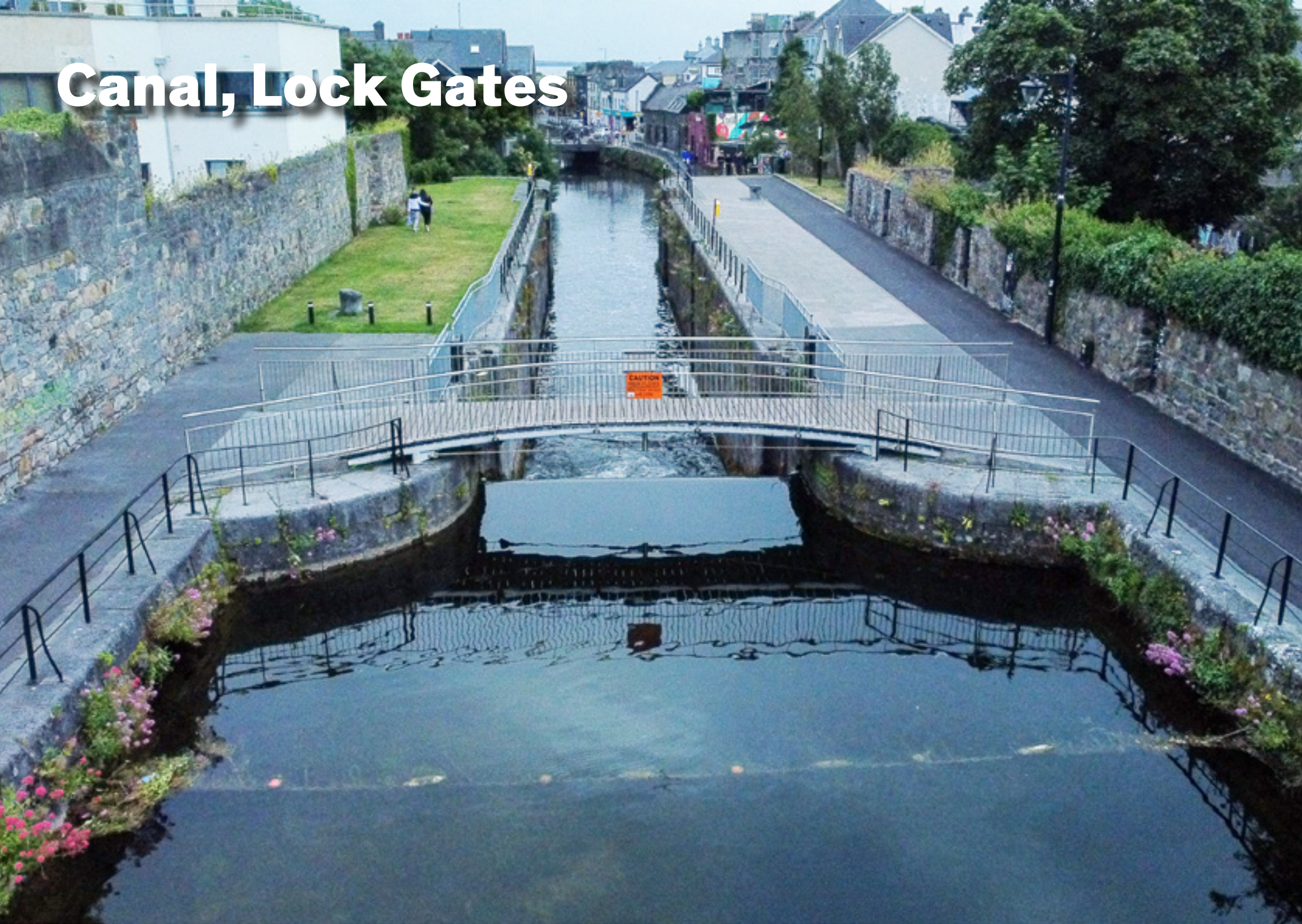
**The St Clare River** was a natural branch of the Corrib that was, previous to human intervention, connected to the Gaol River which runs parallel to it.

Several mills operated along the river and its extensions as it fed the Parkavera and Madeira Rivers and that also, following a diversion, drove the mills on Mill and Dominick Street.

<https://galwaywaterways.ie/st-clare-river/>



# Canal, Lock Gates



## Who invented the LOCK GATES?

### Leonardo da Vinci?

The invention of both canals and canal locks can be traced to Leonardo da Vinci. Leonardo was a genius, who had many ideas that were not understood until centuries after he died. He drew designs for canal locks in his notebooks as far back as the fifteenth century.

The earliest canal locks, known as flash locks, saw their origins with the Romans in mainland Europe and with Viking raiders in Britain and Scandinavia. A weir or barrage would be built across the river with an opening in the middle, usually kept shut with a gate.

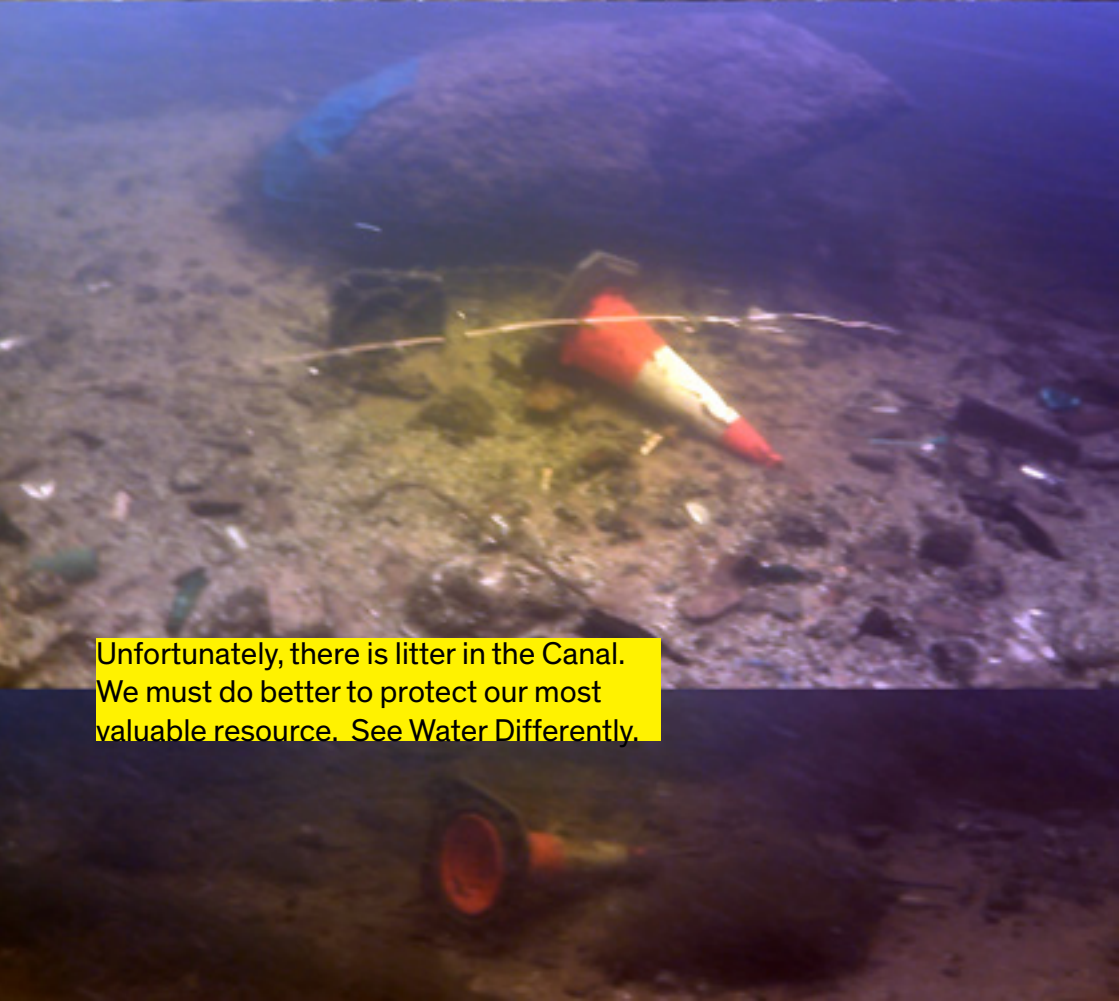
**The canal lock is a simple yet highly effective device that solves the problem of how to get boats to go uphill on rivers and artificial waterways.**



A big wall that surrounded the Atlantic Sawmills, Cloherty & Semple, Proprietors.



During the 18th and 19th Centuries the canals, particularly the Eglinton Canal, were integral to Galway's industrial and commercial development. They facilitated the transportation of goods, supporting local industries such as milling, brewing, and distilling. The canal system helped Galway develop as a key economic hub in the west of Ireland, boosting trade and commerce.







## CANAL

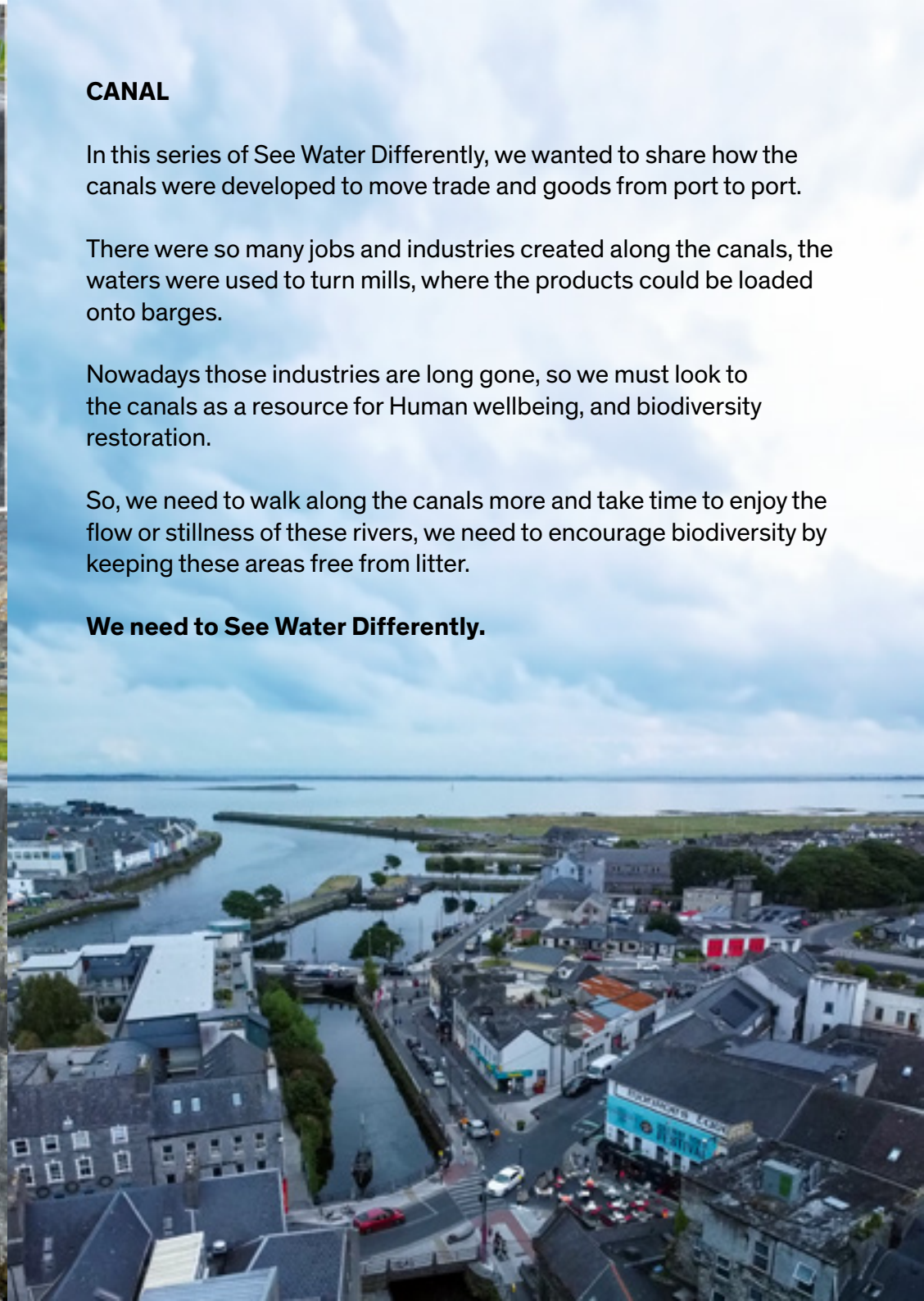
In this series of See Water Differently, we wanted to share how the canals were developed to move trade and goods from port to port.

There were so many jobs and industries created along the canals, the waters were used to turn mills, where the products could be loaded onto barges.

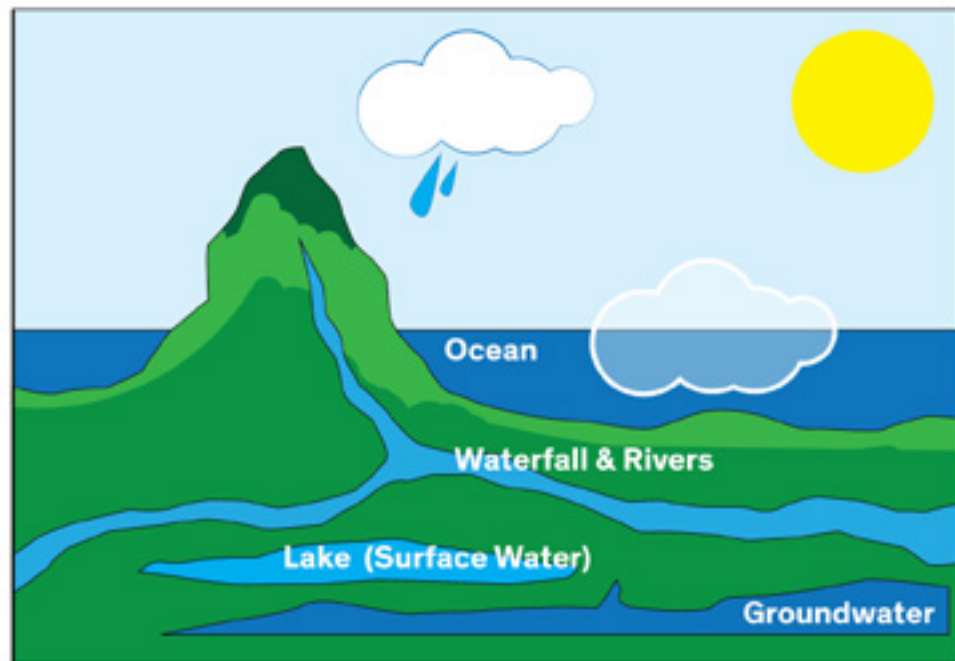
Nowadays those industries are long gone, so we must look to the canals as a resource for Human wellbeing, and biodiversity restoration.

So, we need to walk along the canals more and take time to enjoy the flow or stillness of these rivers, we need to encourage biodiversity by keeping these areas free from litter.

**We need to See Water Differently.**



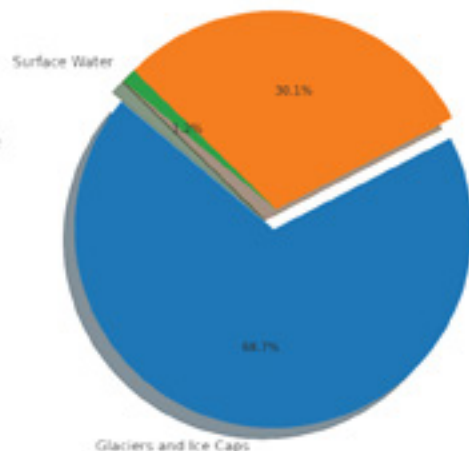
# FRESHWATER FACTS PAGE



The water cycle (or hydrologic cycle or hydrological cycle), is a biogeochemical cycle that involves the continuous movement of water on, above and below the surface of the Earth.

**Water is vital, yet scarce.** Less than 3% of the world's water is freshwater, and most of this is unavailable for human consumption.

Glaciers and Ice Caps: 68.7%  
Groundwater: 30.1%  
Surface Water: 1.2%



Blue water is found in lakes, rivers, and groundwater bodies. It is vital for drinking and household use, but also agriculture: in Europe, farming uses 50% of blue water.



Green water resides in plants, soil, and forests. Healthy ecosystems help retain and purify water, sustaining the global water cycle.



Grey water, from cities and industries, undergoes treatment and can be reused.



Black water, which is used water from toilets, is wastewater that cannot be reused unless it is treated. It is essential that it is managed correctly, so that it does not come into contact with freshwater or ground water sources.

## The Water Footprint



A water footprint is an environmental indicator that measures the volume of fresh water needed to produce the goods and services demanded by society. It enables us to determine the magnitude of the impact generated by human activity and obtain objective data.

For more information on the topics covered in the See Water Differently Campaign, see [WWW.NATIONALAQUARIUM.IE](http://WWW.NATIONALAQUARIUM.IE)



**See Water Differently**

# My River Walk Diary

Date: DD/MM/YYYY

My Name is: \_\_\_\_\_

Feelings Check, Before: \_\_\_\_\_


Feelings Check, After: \_\_\_\_\_




If I get in trouble or see someone in danger I can call 999. I also know what the life buoy is for.



I saw.....



I saw.....




I saw.....



I took \_\_\_\_\_ Photos.  
My best Photo is called \_\_\_\_\_



I saw.....



My River Best Memory

## Some Walking by the River Safety Tips

### Stay on Designated Paths:

Use the marked trails and walkways around the river to avoid unstable ground and minimize environmental impact.

### Supervise Children Closely:

Keep a close eye on children at all times. Make sure they understand the dangers of the water and stay close to you.

### Keep a Safe Distance from the Water's Edge:

Stay a safe distance away from the edge of the river to prevent accidental falls, especially during high water levels or strong currents.

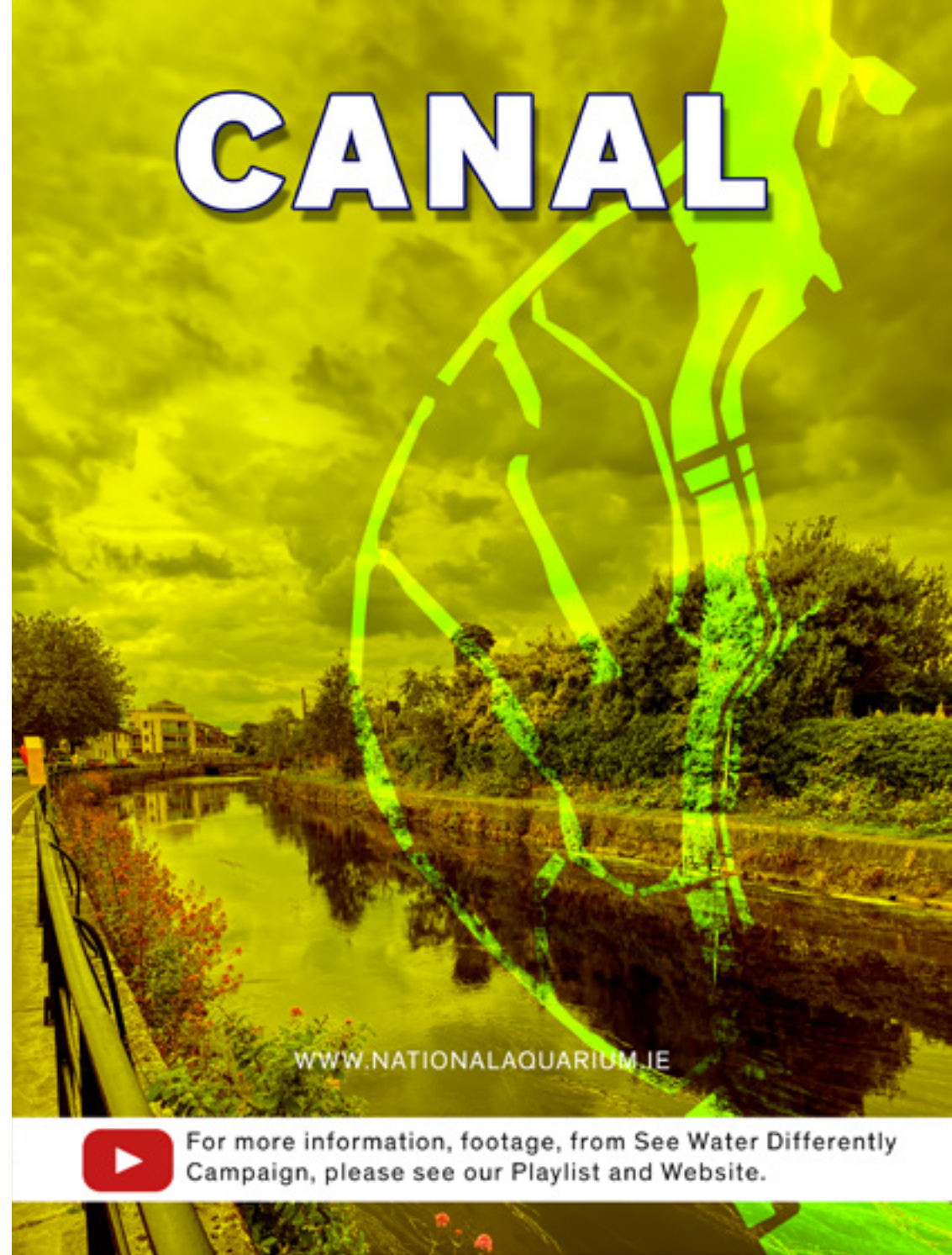
### Wear Appropriate Footwear:

Wear sturdy, non-slip shoes to prevent slips and falls, especially on wet or uneven surfaces.

**This list could go on, always be aware of the dangers of walking by a river.**



[www.nationalaquarium.ie](http://www.nationalaquarium.ie)



[WWW.NATIONALAQUARIUM.IE](http://WWW.NATIONALAQUARIUM.IE)



For more information, footage, from See Water Differently Campaign, please see our Playlist and Website.

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