



## **RESOURCES**

hrwa.org

Going Coastal, Inc. goingcoastal.org

**Hudson River Watertrail Association** 

**NYC Department of Parks & Recreation** 

nycgovparks.org

NYC Department of Environmental Protection

nyc.gov/dep

**NYC Water Trail Association** nycwatertrail.org

**NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program** harborestuary.org

NJ Department of Environmental Protection state.nj.us/dep

**Tides and Currents** 

tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov

forecastweather.gov

## **EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

Local Emergency: 911

NYPD Harbor Unit: VHF Channel 17 or 718-765-4100 NJ Marine Police, Newark Bay: 973-578-8189

US Coast Guard: VHF Channel 16 or 718-354-4120 USCG Traffic Monitor (24/7): VHF Channel 11 & 13

The New York City Water Trail is a network of safe, legal launches and landings originally established by the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. This project supports a growing water trail system to assist the public with accessing and traveling the waters of the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary by human-powered boat to promote appreciation, conservation and protection of the estuary's unique and outstanding natural resources. We are aware of additional water trail efforts in the estuary and will work to incorporate those into future editions. This publication is a joint project of











## MANHATTAN

### 1 INWOOD HILL PARK

Foot of W Dyckman Street The gravel beach is a good put-in for excursions on the Harlem River or across the Hudson to the Palisades. Street parking is generally easy.

The cove behind the pier is protected, but there are strong currents on the Hudson, with turbulence under the George Washington Bridge and at Spuyten Duyvil (the mouth of the Harlem River).

### **WEST HARLEM PIERS** 130th Street & Marginal Street, Harler

A floating dock about 75 feet offshore, a good jumping off point for excursions to upper Manhattan and the Palisades. Restrooms at Fairway across the street; street parking.

a wastewater treatment plant just to the north sees frequent sludge-ship traffic, and blocks visibility.

## 

A dedicated kayak and canoe launch has been added to A-Dock, the public pier at Boat Basin. Limited paid

Hudson; small boats moorings surround the marina.

## 4 RIVERSIDE PARK SOUTH

The floating dock operated by Downtown Boathouse is right off the waterside esplanade at this park on the former site of the NY Central Freight Yard. Parking is on city streets, leaving a lengthy portage that involves descending a long stone staircase.

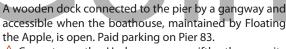
Sunken boats and debris can be obstacles at low tide.

## 5 PIER 96

The dock at the Clinton Cove Boathouse is operated by Downtown Boathouse, open weekends and holidays. Boats can be dropped on the service road to the West Side Highway, leaving a 200-foot carry.







Currents on the Hudson move swiftly; the security zone at the cruise ship terminal extends 100 yards out from the pierhead line.

## 7 PIER 66







The boathouse is operated by NYRiverSports and hosts the programs of New York Kayak Polo, Manhattan Kayak Company, NY Outrigger and Hudson River Community Sailing. Launching and landing only when the boathouse is open. The nearest parking is at Chelsea Piers.

A River currents are strong.

A good launch for experienced paddlers wishing to explore the Upper Harbor. The public dock, operated by the Downtown Boathouse, is about 120 yards out on the south side of the pier. NY Kayak Company and Village Community Boathouse are based here. Car drop off is easy and there is paid parking on the pier.

↑ Currents are strong at the pierhead line: 25-vard security zone around the Holland Tunnel ventilator shaft.

### 9 GOVERNORS ISLAND Pier 101, near the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel Vent

This landing-only site is a small floating dock on the north side of Pier 101, on the northeastern corner of the island. Kayaks must be carried up a gangway with two sharp turns and left on the grass at the top. The Downtown Boathouse runs walk-up kayaking programs on weekends

⚠ Busy shipping channels surround the island, and Pier 101 sees multiple ferry landings every hour. Kayak visitors must be aware of traffic and currents, and should carry and be familiar with VHF radio. 

### **10 SHERMAN CREEK** W 202nd Street

This street-end launch offers good access to the bucolic Harlem River.

⚠ Local college crews row on the Harlem River.





## **BRONX**

### 11 BARRETTO POINT PARK



Foot of Tiffany Street, Hunts Point Launch from a concrete ramp on a cobble beach near the parking lot or a sandy cove at the east end of the park. ↑ Strong tidal currents and heavy traffic in the main shipping channel; restricted access on both Brother Islands (bird sanctuaries) and prohibited at Rikers Island (city's largest jail.)

## 12 HUNTS POINT RIVERSIDE PARK



A gravel beach offers access to the sheltered waters of the Bronx River. Portage is about 200 ft. on an asphalt path. A half mile north, a boom collects debris and helps prevent motorized traffic from going north; to the south are strong currents and a working shipping channel.

## 13 CONCRETE PLANT PARK



This reclaimed cement manufacturing site offers a concrete launch ramp to the Bronx River. There is limited street parking and a long carry from either the entrance at Westchester Avenue (.25 mi.) or Bruckner Boulevard (.15 mi).

⚠ A boom spanning the river collects debris and helps prevent motorized traffic from going north; to the south are strong currents and a working shipping channel.

## 14 SHOELACE PARK





A small 10' by 15' foot dock (150 foot portage) offers easy access to the middle section of the Bronx River, six miles north of its confluence with the East River. Bathrooms and water in nearby playground.

The Bronx River has several dams with portage points, a weir that can most safely be cleared at least two hours before or after low tide, and a DEP debris boom that floats just on the surface of the water but spans the river and needs to be cleared.

### 15 SOUNDVIEW PARK O'Brien Avenue at Leland Avenue. Soundvie



Enter the park and make a left off the main path to an asphalt ramp located near the confluence of the Bronx River and East River (about a three block portage from street parking). The area offers expansive views of the rivers, migratory birds and the distant Manhattan skyline. Barge traffic and other motor boats.

### 16 CLASON POINT PARK



**Foot of Sound View Avenue, Clason Point** A concrete ramp provides access to the marshes of Pugsley Creek, the East River, the Hutchinson River drainage, and Long Island Sound. Portage is 150 feet. Strong currents in the East River, heavy commercial traffic, and lots of broken glass in launch area.

### 17 PELHAM BAY PARK Orchard Beach Lagoon, Pelha



for beginning paddlers, and a good starting point for more experienced boaters to explore the many small islands at the mouth of Long Island Sound.

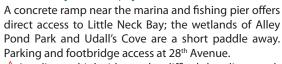
At low tide, launch off gravel and mud surface below the ramp; Orchard Beach is off limits to boaters except in an emergency; heavy motor boat traffic in season.

## **QUEENS NORTH**

### **18 BAYSIDE MARINA** Cross Island Pkwy. & 28th Avenue, Bayside







## Landing at high tide can be difficult heading south toward Alley Pond Park due to extensive riprap.





and Eastchester Bays. Portage is about 40 feet. Currents are strong away from the shore, especially in the main shipping lane; heavy pleasure boat traffic on weekends

### **20 FRANCIS LEWIS PARK** 3rd Avenue at Parsons Blvd., Whiteston



Located beneath the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge, the beach is an ideal launch for exploring the easternmost reaches of the East River. Portage is about two blocks from on-street parking.

⚠ Strong currents, passing ships and barges raise large wakes, and there is a 25-yard security perimeter around the bridge towers.

# 



the key is at Pete's Backyard on Pier 1. ⚠ Watch footing on the steep ramp and slippery dock, mud banks at low tide, heavy motorized traffic, and 100-

## yard security perimeter around LaGuardia Airport. 22 HALLETS COVE



31st Avenue & Vernon Blvd.. Astoria A small beach offers access to the east channel of the East River. Portage is 10 ft. Facilities at Socrates Sculpture Park. £ Even experts can be intimidated by the swift currents of the East River and turbulent waters of Hell Gate.

## **BROOKLYN**

## **23 NEWTOWN CREEK**

Tiered steps go straight into the water at a wastewater treatment plant, operated by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, which provides access to explore the industrial banks of Newtown Creek. ⚠ Commercial traffic; water not suitable for swimming.

## **24 MANHATTAN AVENUE**



This new pocket park has a floating dock on Newtown Creek providing access to the Creek and East River. There is a combination lock on the gate to the dock; access is available to boaters with NYC Parks launch permit.

### Commercial traffic; water not suitable for swimming. **25 BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK**

Foot of Main Street, DUMBO The launch here, in a small city park, is a gravel beach ringed by amphitheater seating on the east side of the cove between the Manhattan and Brooklyn Bridges. Car drop off is close--about 150 feet--but on-street parking in DUMBO is difficult.

A powerful backeddy makes for easy paddling in the cove, but currents outside are powerful. Large, slippery rocks make launching and landing at low tide a trial, and big wakes can create surf-like conditions on the beach.

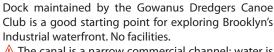
## **26 VALENTINO PARK & PIER**



A gravel beach provides access to Buttermilk Channel and Upper New York Bay. Weekend paddling programs are offered by Red Hook Boaters. Portage from easy street parking is about 50 yards. Restrooms at nearby Fairway Market. Match for fishing lines, swift currents off the end of

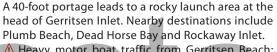
the pier, commercial traffic and a 100-yard security zone around the cruise ship terminal

### **27 GOWANUS CANAL** Foot of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Carroll Garden:



↑ The canal is a narrow commercial channel; water is not suitable for swimming.

## 28 SALT MARSH NATURE CENTER P M M M Avenue U between Burnett & E 33rd Streets, Marine Park



Plumb Beach, Dead Horse Bay and Rockaway Inlet. Heavy motor boat traffic from Gerritsen Beach; conditions in Rockaway Inlet can be challenging. 29 PLUMB BEACH

### Eastbound Belt Parkway, just east of Exit 9 Knapp Street Calm waters and strong winds make the sand beach a favorite take off for windsurfers and kite boarders. Launching is recommended at higher tide as mud flats make the walk to water several hundred

yards at low tide. Permit is required. 1 Do not disturb the horseshoe crabs in this prime breeding area. Challenging wind and tide conditions. Watch for glass on the beach.

## **30 FLOYD BENNETT FIELD**



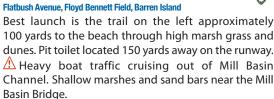


A 1933 seaplane ramp provides access to southwestern Jamaica Bay. Landing on the islands (part of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge) is permitted below the high-tide line only. Permit is required.

Underwater obstacles on southeastern side of ramp; heavy boat traffic and strong currents in offshore channel.

## 31 MILL BASIN OUTLET





### 32 MILL BASIN MARINA Avenue Y & East 69th Street, Bergen Beach (718) 241-501

The marina sits on a protected arm of Jamaica Bay, whose 16,000 acres of open water, salt marshes, and beaches form the bulk of Gateway National Recreational Area. 1 Jet skis are allowed in Mill Basin. Paddling in groups is recommended.

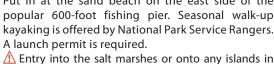
### **33 PAERDEGAT BASIN** 1400 Paerdegat Avenue North, Canarsie (718) 968-1475





dock maintained by the Sebago Canoe Club. Launch through the club's open paddle program or membership. Non-member paddlers are allowed to land. A Paddling in groups is recommended in Jamaica Bay.

### 34 CANARSIE PIER Belt Parkway to Exit 13, Canarsie Put in at the sand beach on the east side of the



## **35 NORTH CHANNEL BEACH**



islands nor disturb flora or fauna.

## **36 IDLEWILD PARK PRESERVE**

mud flats; and the ramp can be slippery.

or Bay 32<sup>nd</sup> Street & Dwight Avenue, Far Rockaway Access to Norton Basin and the eastern end of Jamaica Bay is provided by this beach launch. Launch perpendicular, as large, jagged rocks protrude

point in the State. A long (800 feet) but well-paved pedestrian path offers access to the Arthur Kill and Raritan Bay.

## launch, and a major shipping channel 400 yards offshore.

Hylan Blvd. & Seguine Avenue or Sharrott Avenue, Prince's Bay Two beach launches provide access to Raritan Bay. Portage is 40 feet at Sharrott Avenue, 150 feet at Seguine Avenue. Match for fishing lines from the pier at Sharrott Avenue, the remains of a pier at Seguine Avenue, a

## **40 GREAT KILLS PARK**



A floating dock at the boat ramp offers access to Great Kills Harbor and a nice shoreline of beach, dunes and grasslands. A parking permit is required at the trailer lot. ↑ Heavy pleasure boat traffic and commercial traffic in the offshore shipping lanes.

### 41 MIDLAND BEACH

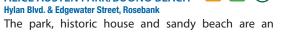


## Raritan Bay and Lower New York Bay are open to the ocean, launching and landing can be hazardous in

south of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge. A Hazardous in high surf. Watch for designated swimming areas, breakwaters and exposed pilings.

to beach launching opposite Hoffman Island, just

## 43 ALICE AUSTEN PARK/BUONO BEACH



appealing destination and offer an excellent departure point to explore the Lower Harbor. A portage of about 400 feet from on-street parking. Match for a gas pipeline to the west, jagged rocks at

## **NEW JERSEY**

## 44 16TH STREET PARK

A concrete ramp and floating dock on Newark Bay providing access to the Arthur Kill and the Hackensack River. Season pass required from Bayonne municipality. ⚠ Heavy commercial traffic near the containerport.

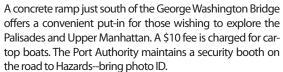
## **45 LIBERTY STATE PARK**

This small beach next to the boat ramp on the south side of the 1100-acre park offers a good spot from which to explore the west side of the Upper Harbor. It's a half-mile paddle to nearby salt marshes and about a mile to the Statue of Liberty. Portage is 100 feet from the parking lot. ⚠ Mudflats at low tide off Caven Point Beach to the south, heavy power boat use, and security zones and steady ferry traffic all year at Liberty and Ellis Islands.

A broad, sandy beach at the southern end of a new waterfront park offers excellent launching and landing in all tidal conditions. Just above the beach is the Hoboken Cove Community Boathouse. Car drop off is

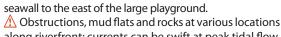
south; watch for heavy traffic and powerful currents on the Hudson River.

## River Road, Palisades Interstate Park, Fort Lee



↑ Obstructions, mud flats and rocks at various locations along riverfront; currents can be swift at peak tidal flow; considerable power boat traffic.

## This former summer camp, north of George Washington



Launch is from Bloomer's Beach at the northern end of a scenic picnic area opposite Spuyten Duyvil. ↑ Obstructions, mud flats and rocks at various locations

- **PADDLE SAFETY**
- ✓ Wear a USCG-approved lifejacket at all times.
- ✓ Travel with experienced guides and in groups.
- ✔ Dress in weather appropriate clothes, avoid cotton.
- ✓ Wear a wet suit if water temperature is below 65° F.
- ✓ Know and obey navigation "rules of the road."
- ✓ Be visible—carry a whistle, air horn, flares, lights.
- ✓ Consult tides, currents and navigation charts.

Bay sites, obtainable at Floyd Bennett Field NPS Ranger Governors Island The dock is open for landing only

**Hudson River Park** Launching and landing is permitted

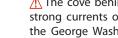
Liberty State Park Public launch open 6am to 10pm. libertystatepark.org 201-915-3405

NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation Launch permit required for \$15 annual fee. Launches open April 1 to December 1,

Palisades Interstate Park Launches open from May 1 to October 31, dawn to dusk. Fees apply. njpalisades.org

Boathouse. nyrp.org 212-333-2552





↑ Watch for a Water Taxi landing in the same embayment;

parking; street parking is a quarter-mile away. 1 Dock is sheltered but there are strong currents in the

Must be 100 yards out in the river at cruise ship termina





19 LITTLE BAY PARK A natural beach on the west side of Fort Totten peninsula is an excellent spot from which to explore Little Neck

Grand Central Pkwy. & Northern Blvd., Flushing Access to Flushing Bay via a dock, submerged at high tide, at the eastern end of World's Fair Marina. If locked,

Jamaica Bay is not permitted. Watch for fishing lines



Provost Street & Paidge Avenue, Greenpoin





## **QUEENS SOUTH**



Heavy pleasure boat traffic in Jamaica Bay, stay clear of channels. This is a wildlife refuge, do not land on

A narrow ramp offers access to a 160-acre nature preserve

just east of JFK airport. The bird watching is excellent in

terrain that ranges from freshwater wetlands to marsh islands to a large expanse of open water. Launching is difficult at low tide, due to extensive

**37 BAYSWATER PARK** Beach 35th Street & Norton Avenue

## along shoreline; extensive mud flats at low tide.

## STATEN ISLAND

38 CONFERENCE HOUSE PARK Hylan Blvd. & Satterlee Street, To The site of a legendary display of American defiance early in the Revolutionary War, and the southernmost

↑ Many semi-submerged pilings north and south of

## marked channel in Lemon Creek, and a buoyed channel close to shore.

Father Capodanno Blvd. & Lincoln Avenue, Midland Beacl Midland Beach offers access to the Lower Harbor and Raritan Bay. The carry to the water is about 250 ft.

### 42 SOUTH BEACH Short (80-100 foot) portages from parking areas

shipping traffic in the Narrows.



low tide, and significant currents and commercial

## **46 MAXWELL PLACE PARK**

about 200 feet and on-street parking available. An active barge repair facility is immediately to the

## **47 HAZARDS BOAT RAMP**

### 48 ROSS DOCK River Road, Palisades Interstate Park, Fort Lee

along riverfront; currents can be swift at peak tidal flow. 49 ENGLEWOOD PICNIC AREA

Bridge, features a small beach landing backed by a rock

along riverfront; currents can be swift at peak tidal flow; considerable boat traffic.

✓ Do not exceed your skill level.

### ✓ Wear sunblock, hat and sunglasses. ✓ Wear protective footwear.

## ✓ BE AWARE! From a kayak's low vantage point, vessels appear further away.

Gateway National Recreation Area Hand Launch Vessel Permit (the former cartop permit) is required at Jamaica Station for annual fee. nps.gov/gate 718-338-5094

only in designated areas during operators open hours. hudsonriverpark.org 212-617-2020

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation nys.state.ny.us 212-866-3100

Project for permission to land at this Harlem River

✓ Dress for the water temperature, not air temperature.

✓ Carry a VHF marine radio & cell phone. ✓ Bring plenty of drinking water and food. ✓ File a float plan.

**PERMITS & POLICIES** Bayonne Parks Department Season permit required at 16th Street launch, open daily 7am to 9pm. 201-858-6070

during public access hours from June 5 to October 10, 10am to 5pm on Fridays, 10am to 7pm on Saturdays and Sundays. governorsisland.com 212-440-2202

dawn to dusk. nycgovparks.org 212-360-8133

Peter Jay Sharp Boathouse Contact New York Restoration

Cover Photos: Rob Buchanan, Andy Novick, Bronx River Alliance; Interior Photos: Zhennya Slootskin, Jeff Chen of Mayor's Cup; Copywriting: Rob Buchanan

# from the pier.