

New York City Water Trail

New York City is rich in **WATER**. If you're looking for a few hours of tranquil paddling or a full-day expedition, you'll find it here. The NYC Watertrail **CONNECTS** 160 square miles of rivers, bays, creeks, inlets and ocean in the five boroughs suitable for kayaks, canoes and openwater rowing craft. Novice and experienced paddlers alike can enjoy skyline panoramas, riverside parks, bird sanctuaries, tidal marshlands and boundless vistas of one of the world's premier harbors, **ALL** from a prime sea level vantage.



Going Coastal.



South Beach

BRONX

10 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. The view south towards Manhattan is spectacular.
⚠️ Strong tidal currents and heavy traffic in main shipping channel; restricted access on both Brother Islands (bird sanctuaries) and prohibited at Rikers Island (city's largest jail.)

11 HUNTS POINT RIVERSIDE PARK Edgewater Road & Lafayette Avenue, Hunts Point
A floating dock offers access to the sheltered waters of the Bronx River. Portage is about 200 ft. on an asphalt path. No facilities.
⚠️ A half-mile north, a boom prevents motorized traffic on the Bronx River; to the south, there are strong currents and a busy shipping channel.

12 SHOELACE PARK 219th Street, Bronx 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.
⚠️ Shallow water can make navigation difficult, especially in the summer; several dams, not all posted, require portage.

13 CLASON POINT PARK Orchard Beach Lagoon, Pelham
A concrete ramp provides access to the marshes of Pugsley Creek, the East River, the Hutchinson River drainage, and Long Island Sound. Portage is about 150 ft.
⚠️ Strong currents in the East River, heavy commercial traffic, and lots of broken glass in launch area.

14 PELHAM BAY PARK Orchard Beach Lagoon, Pelham
Near the northwest corner of the parking lot, a ramp provides access to a protected lagoon – ideal 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 boat traffic in season.

BROOKLYN

20 NEWTOWN CREEK Provost Street & Palgde Avenue, Greenpoint
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. No facilities.
⚠️ Commercial traffic; water not suitable for swimming.

21 VALENTINO PARK & PIER Foot of Coffey Street, Red Hook
A sloping gravel beach provides access to Buttermilk Channel and Upper New York Bay. Portage from easy street parking is about 50 yards. Restrooms at nearby Fairway Market.
⚠️ Watch for fishing lines, swift currents off the end of the pier, commercial traffic and a 100-yard security zone around the Cruise Terminal.

22 GOWANUS CANAL Foot of 2nd Street, Carroll Gardens
Floating dock maintained by the Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club is a good starting point for exploring Brooklyn's industrial waterfront. No facilities.
⚠️ The canal is a narrow commercial channel; water is not suitable for swimming.

23 PLUMB BEACH Belt Parkway, just east of Exit 9 Knapp Street (only accessible from the eastbound side)
Calm waters and strong winds make the sand beach a favorite take off for windsurfers and kite boarders. Launching is recommended at high tide as mud flats can make walk to water several hundred yards at low tide.
⚠️ Do not disturb horseshoe crabs in this prime breeding area. Challenging wind and tide conditions. Watch for glass on the beach.

24 SALT MARSH NATURE CENTER Avenue U between Burnett Street & East 33rd Street, Marine Park
A 40-foot portage leads to a rocky launch area at the head of Gerritsen Inlet. Nearby destinations include Plumb Beach, Deadhorse Bay, and Rockaway Inlet. Ample parking in free lot across Avenue U.
⚠️ Heavy motorboat traffic from nearby Gerritsen Beach; wind and tide conditions in Rockaway Inlet can be challenging.



© LIC Community Boathouse

QUEENS NORTH

15 BAYSIDE MARINA Cross Island Pkwy. & 28th Avenue, Bayside
A concrete ramp near the marina and fishing pier offers direct access to Little Neck Bay; the wetlands of Alley Pond Park and Udall's Cove are a short paddle away. Parking and footbridge access at 28th Avenue.
⚠️ Landing at high tide can be difficult heading south toward Alley Pond Park due to extensive riprap.

16 LITTLE BAY PARK Totten Avenue, Bayside
A natural beach on the west side of Fort Totten peninsula is an excellent spot from which to explore Little Neck and Eastchester Bays. Portage is about 40 ft.
⚠️ Currents are strong away from the shore, especially in the main shipping lane; heavy pleasure boat traffic on weekends.

17 FRANCIS LEWIS PARK 3rd Avenue at Parsons Blvd., Whitestone
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.

18 FLUSHING MEADOWS CORONA PARK Grand Central Pkwy. & Northern Blvd., Flushing
One of the city's great parks featuring sports, museums, a zoo, and recreational activities. Access to Flushing Bay is via a dock, submerged at high tide, at the eastern end of World's Fair Marina. If locked, key at Pete's Backyard on Pier 1.
⚠️ Watch footing on steep ramps and slippery dock, mud banks at low tide, heavy motorized traffic to and from the marina, and 100-yard security perimeter around La Guardia Airport.

19 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.

MANHATTAN

1 PIER 40 W Houston Street
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. Car drop off is easy and there is paid parking on the pier.
⚠️ Currents are strong at the pierhead line; 25-yard security zone around the Holland Tunnel ventilator shaft.

2 PIER 66 W 26th Street
The New York River Sports Boathouse offers launch access to the Hudson River and hosts the programs of NY Kayak Polo, Manhattan Kayak Co., and NY Outrigger Canoe. Parking is available at Chelsea Piers, three blocks south.

3 PIER 84 W 44th Street
The launch is a wooden dock connected to the pier by a gangway and accessible when the boathouse, maintained by Floating the Apple, is open. Paid parking is available on Pier 83.
⚠️ Currents on the Hudson can move swiftly; the security zone at the Cruise Line Terminal extends 100 yards out from pierhead.

4 PIER 96 W 56th Street
The dock at Clinton Cove Boathouse, operated by the Downtown Boathouse, is open on weekends and holidays. Boats can be dropped on the service road next to the West Side Highway, leaving a 200-ft carry; paid parking available on 59th Street.
⚠️ River currents are strong. Must be 100 yards out in the river at the cruise ship terminal.

5 RIVERSIDE PARK SOUTH W 72nd Street
The floating dock 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 water.

6 79TH STREET BOAT BASIN W 79th Street, Riverside Park
A dock at the marina is open May through November. During other months marina staff will let you in. Limited paid parking; the nearest street parking is about a quarter-mile away.
⚠️ Dock is sheltered but there are strong currents in the Hudson; small boats are moored seasonally around the marina.

7 WEST HARLEM PIERS 130th Street & Marginal Street (Westside Highway/Route 9A service road), Harlem
A floating dock about 75 feet offshore, a good jumping off point for excursions to upper Manhattan and the Palisades. Food and restrooms at the Fairway across the street; street parking.
⚠️ Watch for a Water Taxi landing in the same embayment; a wastewater treatment plant just to the north sees frequent sludge-ship traffic, and blocks visibility.

8 INWOOD HILL PARK Foot of W Dyckman Street
A small gravel beach provides a good trailhead for excursions on the Harlem River or across the Hudson to the Palisades. Parking on nearby streets is generally easy.
⚠️ 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).

9 SHERMAN CREEK W 202nd Street
Good access to the bucolic Harlem River – a designated no-wake zone.
⚠️ Local college crews row on the Harlem River.

Idlewild Park



Valina Segans



Brooklyn River Alliance

QUEENS SOUTH

30 NORTH CHANNEL BRIDGE Cross Bay Blvd. south of Addabbo Bridge, Broad Channel
The sand beach launch goes in the Grassy Bay portion of Jamaica Bay, a popular kayak fishing destination. Launch only from the east side parking area.
⚠️ Heavy pleasure boat traffic in Jamaica Bay, stay clear of channels. This is a wildlife refuge, do not land on islands nor disturb flora or fauna.

31 IDLEWILD PARK PRESERVE Huxley and Craft Avenues, Rosedale
A narrow ramp offers access to a 160-acre nature preserve just east of JFK airport. The birdwatching is excellent in terrain that ranges from wetlands to marsh islands to a large expanse of open water. No facilities.
⚠️ Launching can be difficult at low tide, due to extensive mud flats; and the ramp can be slippery.

32 BAYSWATER PARK Beach 35th Street & Norton Avenue or Bay 32nd Street & Dwight Avenue, Far Rockaway
Access to Norton Basin and the eastern end of Jamaica Bay is provided by this beach launch.
⚠️ Launch perpendicular to shore, as large, jagged rocks protrude along shoreline; extensive mud flats at low tide.

STATEN ISLAND

33 ALICE AUSTEN PARK/BUONO BEACH Hylan Blvd. & Edgewater Street, Rosebank
The park, historic house and sandy beach on the north shore of Staten Island, comprise an appealing destination for paddlers, and offers an excellent departure point to explore the Lower Harbor. A portage of about 400 feet from on-street parking.
⚠️ Watch for a gas pipeline to the west, jagged rocks at low tide, and significant currents and commercial shipping traffic in the Narrows.

34 SOUTH BEACH Father Capodanno Blvd. & Sand Lane, South Beach
Short (80-100 foot) portages from parking areas to beach launching opposite Hoffman Island, just south of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge.
⚠️ Watch for designated swimming areas, breakwaters and exposed pilings; launching and landing can be hazardous in high surf.

35 MIDLAND BEACH Father Capodanno Blvd. & Lincoln Avenue, Midland Beach
Midland Beach offers access to the Lower Harbor and Raritan Bay. The carry to the water's edge is about 250 ft.
⚠️ Raritan Bay and the Lower Harbor are open to the ocean, and can be rough; launching and landing can be hazardous in high surf.

36 GREAT KILLS PARK Hylan Blvd. & Buffalo Street, Great Kills Harbor
A floating dock at the trailer boat ramp provides access to Great Kills Harbor and a nice shoreline offering 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.

37 LEMON CREEK PARK Hylan Blvd. & Seguin or Sharrott Avenue, Prince's Bay
Two beach launches provide access to Raritan Bay. Portage is 40 ft. at Sharrott, 150 ft. at Seguin. Some outdoor storage.
⚠️ Watch for fishing lines from the pier at Sharrott Ave., the remains of a pier at Seguin, a marked channel in Lemon Creek, and a buoyed channel close to shore.

38 CONFERENCE HOUSE PARK Hylan Blvd. & Satterlee Street, Tottenville
This 265-acre park, the site of a legendary display of American defiance early in the Revolutionary War, marks the southernmost point in New York State. A long (800 feet) but well-paved pedestrian path offers access to the Arthur Kill and to Raritan Bay.
⚠️ Many semi-submerged pilings north and south of the launch site, and a major shipping channel 400 yards offshore.



Lemon Creek

PADDLE SAFETY

- ✓ Wear a USCG-approved lifejacket at all times.
- ✓ Travel with experienced guides and in groups.
- ✓ Dress in weather appropriate clothes, avoid cotton.
- ✓ Dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature.
- ✓ Don a wet suit if water temp is below 65° F.
- ✓ Wear sunblock, hat and sunglasses.
- ✓ Wear protective footwear.
- ✓ Know and obey the navigation rules.
- ✓ Be prepared to swim.
- ✓ Be visible—carry a whistle or air horn, flares and lights.
- ✓ Carry a VHF marine radio & cell phone.
- ✓ Bring plenty of drinking water and food.
- ✓ File a float plan.
- ✓ Consult NOAA weather station, tidal current charts, tide tables, and navigation charts.
- ✓ **BE AWARE!** From a kayak's low vantage point, vessels appear further away.



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Parking	Potable Water	Bathrooms	Restrooms
Storage	Food		