



New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

Estuaries are areas where salty ocean water meets fresh river water, resulting in rich, productive and diverse ecosystems where many types of plants and animals live. People are drawn to them because of their beauty, resources, and because they are ideal locations for ports. The NY-NJ Harbor Estuary is no exception and is home to one of the most vibrant metropolitan areas in the country and the world. We enjoy many benefits from the estuary that bolster our quality of life and economy, such as fishing, boating, swimming, and transportation.

Increasing populations and the Industrial Age have severely affected the health of this estuary. And, though significant legislative actions such as the Clean Water Act have done much to bring the harbor back from the brink, many ongoing problems have yet to be addressed. The New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program (HEP) was established in 1988 under the Clean Water Act, to restore the resources we all share and depend on within the estuary. HEP is a partnership program including many government, non-government, and nonprofit partners. Our mission is to implement our management plan for the estuary.

ENJOY YOUR WILDLIFE!

The estuary is home or breeding ground to a diverse variety of plants and animals – the peregrine falcon, great blue heron, snowy egret, striped bass, blue crab, horseshoe crab, diamondback terrapin, muskrat, salt meadow grass, and swamp rose mallow, to name a few! Bring binoculars or a camera – and remember to leave only footprints and take nothing but photos!



PADDLE RESPONSIBLY

Paddling in the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary can be a safe and rewarding experience, though some areas are more challenging for beginners than others, and may require special preparation ahead of time. BE AWARE that in some areas, traveling long distances down the river is not yet possible due to insufficient portage sites before hazards such as dams, marked on the map. Further, many of our rivers are part of an active port – stay close to the shore! Be sure to follow the list of safety tips below, and always let a friend know where you are going and when you expect to return.

- Remember NY-NJ Harbor Estuary waters belong to everyone!
● Come prepared! Obtain the knowledge and skills necessary.
● Know weather and water conditions and water temperature.
● File a float plan, visit www.floatplancentral.org.
● Avoid paddling alone. Consider joining a local boating program.
● Always wear your life jacket and carry a whistle.
● Paddle with the tide, check www.tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov.
● Stay visible. Be aware of what is in the water around you.
● Observe navigation rules of the road, USCG safety and security zones. Read more: http://homeport.uscg.mill/newyork.



BOATING PROGRAMS

- Appalachian Mountain Club amc-ny.org
Bronx River Alliance paddle.bronxriver.org
Brooklyn Bridge Boathouse bbpboathouse.org
Cranford Canoe Club cranfordcanoeclub.com
Downtown Boathouse downtownboathouse.org
East River Crew eastrivercrew.org
Floating the Apple floatingtheapple.info
Gateway Bike & Boathouse gatewayboathouse.org
Gowanus Dredgers gowanuscanal.org
Hackensack River Canoe & Kayak hrckc.org
Hackensack Riverkeeper hackensackriverkeeper.org
Harlem River Boat Club harlemriverboatclub.org
Hoboken Cove Boathouse hobokencoveboathouse.org
Inwood Canoe Club inwoodcanoeclub.org
Jersey Shore Sea Kayakers Assn. jsska.org
Kayak & Canoe Club of NY kccny.com
Kayak Staten Island kayakstatenland.org
Liberty State Park libertystatepark.org
LIC Community Boathouse licboathouse.org
Navesink River Rowing navesinkriverrowing.shuttlepod.org
Nereid Boat Club nereidbc.org
New York Kayak Polo nykayakpolo.org
NY-NJ Baykeeper nynjbaykeeper.org
New York Outrigger nyoutrigger.org
North Atlantic Canoe & Kayak getthenack.org
North Brooklyn Boat Club northbrooklynboatclub.org
Red Hook Boaters redhookboaters.org
Rocking the Boat rockingtheboat.org
ROW New York rownewyork.org
Sebago Canoe Club sebagocanoeclub.org
Touring Kayak Club of NY touringkayakclub.org
Urban Park Rangers nyc.gov/parks
Village Community Boathouse villagecommunityboathouse.org
Wanda Canoe Club wandacc.org
Weehawken Rowing weerow.org
Yonkers Paddling & Rowing Club ypcc.org

LAUNCHES & LANDINGS

The guide features a collection of accessible boat launch and take-out points that enable people to travel the estuary in human-powered craft. The waterways offer a variety of experiences to satisfy differing interests and skill levels. All of us have done our best to ensure that the information provided here is accurate and useful, however it's a good idea to check the website or call the venue to verify launch conditions and permit requirements before visiting these sites. Even now, changes are occurring or planned in numerous locations. Many of these changes will create even greater accessibility. Also bear in mind that weather, tides and maintenance can alter site conditions.

Table listing boat launches and landings along the Hudson River. Includes details like name, address, phone, and icons for facilities such as ramps, parking, restrooms, and fishing.

Table listing boat launches and landings along the Lower New York Bay. Includes details like name, address, phone, and icons for facilities.

Table listing boat launches and landings along the Raritan/Sandy Hook Bay. Includes details like name, address, phone, and icons for facilities.

Table listing boat launches and landings along the Navesink River and Shrewsbury River & Bay. Includes details like name, address, phone, and icons for facilities.

Table listing boat launches and landings along Jamaica Bay. Includes details like name, address, phone, and icons for facilities.

Table listing boat launches and landings along the Upper Bay, East River to Harlem River. Includes details like name, address, phone, and icons for facilities.

Table listing boat launches and landings along the Hackensack River. Includes details like name, address, phone, and icons for facilities.

Table listing boat launches and landings along the Passaic River. Includes details like name, address, phone, and icons for facilities.

Table listing boat launches and landings along Newark Bay. Includes details like name, address, phone, and icons for facilities.

Table listing boat launches and landings along the East River to Long Island Sound. Includes details like name, address, phone, and icons for facilities.

Table listing boat launches and landings along the Bronx River. Includes details like name, address, phone, and icons for facilities.

- Site Attributes: Boat ramp, Marina, Parking, Restrooms, Food, Caution!, Boathouse, Launch by municipal permit or fee per launch, Fees vary, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation launch permit \$15 annual fee, NPS Jamaica Bay Unit Hand-Launch Vessel Permit \$50 annual fee, two cartop boats

The New York - New Jersey Harbor Estuary Paddling Guide highlights places where the public may launch human-powered boats in the estuary, ranging from the tidal waters of the Hudson at the North, east to the edge of Long Island Sound and Southwest to the Raritan River. These points of access allow the public to navigate our waters and to promote the appreciation, conservation, and protection of our waters and wildlife. Within the Harbor Estuary, there are multiple programs that have successfully advocated for harbor access and health.
These programs have contributed to this and other mapping efforts in their regions within the harbor – check out their websites for more information in your area:
Bronx River Alliance: www.bronxriver.org
Brooklyn Bridge Park: www.brooklynbridgeparknyc.org
Gateway National Recreation Area: www.nps.gov/gate
Going Coastal: www.goingcoastal.org
Hackensack Riverkeeper: www.hackensackriverkeeper.org
Hudson River Park: www.hudsonriverpark.org
Hudson River Water Trail Association: www.hrwa.org
Jersey Shore Kayakers Association: www.jsska.org
Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance: www.waterfrontalliance.org
National Parks of New York Harbor Conservancy www.nyharborparks.org
NY-NJ Baykeeper & Raritan Riverkeeper: www.nynjbaykeeper.org
New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection: www.njdep.gov
NJ Meadowlands Commission: www.njmeadowlands.gov
NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection: www.nyc.gov/dep
NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation: www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/kayak
NYC Water Trail Association: www.nycwatertrailweb.blogspot.com
Rahway River Association: www.rahwayriver.org
Trust for Governor’s Island: www.govisland.com
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Going Coastal NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY HARBOR ESTUARY PADDLING GUIDE



