ERIE CANAL

The largest of the four canals that make up the NYS Canal System, the Erie Canal was built between 1817 and 1825 and traversed 363 miles from Albany to Buffalo. It was the longest artificial waterway and the greatest public works project in North America.

The canal put New York on the map as the Empire State—the leader in population, industry, and economic strength. It transformed New York City into the nation’s principal seaport and opened the interior of North America to settlement.

Equally important, the Erie Canal became a central element forging our national identity. Built with a combination of vision, determination, ingenuity, and hard work, the Erie Canal solidified these central elements of our American character.

It’s here you’ll find engineering marvels, historic vessels and canal sites, and lively Main Streets, along with great recreational opportunities and hundreds of festivals and events. As you travel, you’ll discover that each region has its own distinctive flavor. Visit more than one, or go “end to end” to enjoy it all.

MORE INFORMATION about exploring the canal and its history as well as supporting the preservation and heritage initiatives along the water, is available at ericanalway.org.

MORE INFORMATION about navigating the canal system, can be found at canals.ny.gov.
Explore New York’s second-largest city, one that was transformed when the Erie Canal opened in 1825. As the western terminus, Buffalo became the hub of transportation, immigration, and commerce. The Commercial Slip, where the Erie Canal joined the Buffalo River, was the principal transfer point for cargo and passengers travelling between the upper Great Lakes and the Atlantic. The city that rapidly grew up around the harbor came to be called the “Gateway to the West” and the “Queen City of the Lakes.” Grain, lumber, and ore from the middle of America were moved from lake freighters to canal boats at docks and elevators along the Buffalo River. By the early 1900s, an increasing portion of the cargo moved from ships to railroad cars. The Erie Barge Canal, built from 1905 to 1918 for self-propelled vessels, shifted the point of entry from Buffalo to Tonawanda, about 14 miles downstream (north) along the Niagara River. Today, boats heading to the Erie Canal use the river between Buffalo and Tonawanda, passing through the federal lock at Black Rock on their journey.

The City of Buffalo has transformed the historic western terminus of the Erie Canal into Canalside, a vibrant and bustling combination of public open space and docks, rewatered channels, historical interpretation, recreation, outdoor entertainment, and new businesses. Launch your kayak, canoe, or stand-up paddleboard at Canalside or another public dock in the harbor area and paddle the Inner Harbor and Buffalo River. Rentals are available at the locations listed on page 33.
Erie Canal–Buffalo

- LaSalle Park Kayak Launch
  E Mile 350.1

- Erie Basin Marina
  E Mile 350.7

- Buffalo Main Light (1833)
  E Mile 351.2

- Outer Harbor/ Wilkeson Pointe
  Longboards Paddle Company

- Canalside Buffalo/
  Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park
  E Mile 351.8

- BFLO Harbor Kayak

- Buffalo River Fest Park
  E Mile 352.4

- Ohio Street Kayak Launch
  E Mile 352.7

- Mutual Riverfront Park
  E Mile 353.4

- Silo City Paddling Company

- Buffalo Harbor State Park
  Longboards Paddle Company

- Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens

Lake Erie
**Buffalo Harbor State Park**
1111 Fuhrmann Boulevard
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 822-1207
parks.ny.gov

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, picnic tables, pavilions, playground, beach, restaurant. Eight-lane boat launch on southwest side; small fee for launching. Ample free parking. Kayak and stand-up paddleboard rentals through Longboards Paddle Company.

The city of Buffalo’s first state park has a very large marina (1,100 slips). The 264-acre Tifft Nature Preserve is adjacent to the park. Hiking and bike trails run through the park and preserve.

---

**Outer Harbor/Wilkeson Pointe**
225 Fuhrmann Boulevard
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 436-7073
outerharborbuffalo.com

**FACILITIES:** Restrooms, restaurant. Free parking. Kayak and stand-up paddleboard rentals through Longboards Paddle Company.

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**Mutual Riverfront Park**
41 Hamburg Street (at South Street)
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 823-4707
valleycommunityassociation.xyz

Adjacent to Buffalo’s historic Elevator Alley, this park has the Mutual Boat House, a replica of an earlier historic building, with a storage area for kayaks and canoes, a roller dock, and nearby parking.
### PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

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<td>42.932453</td>
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<td>Albright-Knox Art Gallery</td>
<td>1285 Elmwood Avenue</td>
<td>Buffalo, NY 14222</td>
<td>(716) 882-8700</td>
<td>albrightknox.org</td>
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<td>42.877808</td>
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<td>Buffalo &amp; Erie County Naval &amp; Military Park</td>
<td>One Naval Park Cove</td>
<td>Buffalo, NY 14202</td>
<td>(716) 847-1773</td>
<td>buffalonavalpark.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>42.932453</td>
<td>-78.877812</td>
<td>Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens</td>
<td>2655 South Park Avenue</td>
<td>Buffalo, NY 14218</td>
<td>(716) 827-1584</td>
<td>buffalogardens.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>42.881792</td>
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<td>Buffalo Harbor Museum/Lower Lakes Marine Historical Society</td>
<td>66 Erie Street</td>
<td>Buffalo, NY 14202</td>
<td>(716) 849-0914</td>
<td>llmhs.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>42.935438</td>
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<td>The Buffalo History Museum</td>
<td>1 Museum Court</td>
<td>Buffalo, NY 14216</td>
<td>(716) 873-9644</td>
<td>buffalohistory.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>42.865761</td>
<td>-78.868383</td>
<td>Buffalo Maritime Center</td>
<td>90 Arthur Street</td>
<td>Buffalo, NY 14207</td>
<td>(716) 881-0111</td>
<td>buffalomaritimecenter.org</td>
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<td>42.937617</td>
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<td>Buffalo Zoo</td>
<td>300 Parkside Avenue</td>
<td>Buffalo, NY 14214</td>
<td>(716) 837-3900</td>
<td>buffalozoo.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>42.936309</td>
<td>-78.850164</td>
<td>Frank Lloyd Wright’s Martin House Complex</td>
<td>125 Jewett Parkway</td>
<td>Buffalo, NY 14214</td>
<td>(716) 856-3858</td>
<td>martinhouse.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>42.901509</td>
<td>-78.872614</td>
<td>Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site</td>
<td>641 Delaware Avenue</td>
<td>Buffalo, NY 14202</td>
<td>(716) 884-0095</td>
<td>trsite.org</td>
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**MORE INFORMATION** about things to do in the Buffalo region, including dining and lodging, is available from visitbuffaloniagara.com and niagarafallsusa.com.
### PADDLECRAFT RENTALS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Longboards Paddle Company</td>
<td>(716) 998-0949</td>
<td>longboardsbeach.com</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Buffalo Harbor State Park</td>
<td>Gallagher Beach</td>
<td>(716) 998-0949</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outer Harbor/Wilkeson Pointe</td>
<td>225 Fuhrmann Boulevard</td>
<td>(716) 998-0949</td>
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<td>BFLO Harbor Kayak</td>
<td>1 Naval Park Cove</td>
<td>(716) 288-5309</td>
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<tr>
<td>BFLO Harbor Kayak</td>
<td>1 Naval Park Cove</td>
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<td>BFLO Harbor Kayak</td>
<td>1 Naval Park Cove</td>
<td>(716) 288-5309</td>
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<td>Buffalo River Canoe and Kayak Outfitters</td>
<td>900 Harlem Road</td>
<td>(716) 771-2995</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Buffalo River Canoe and Kayak Outfitters</td>
<td>900 Harlem Road</td>
<td>(716) 771-2995</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silo City Paddling Company</td>
<td>105 Silo City Row</td>
<td>(716) 997-2884</td>
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### WATERWAY CRUISES

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<tr>
<td>Buffalo Harbor Cruises</td>
<td>79 Marine Drive</td>
<td>(716) 856-6696</td>
<td>buffaloharborcruises.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buffalo River History Tours</td>
<td>44 Prime Street</td>
<td>(716) 796-4556</td>
<td>buffaloriverhistorytours.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Lady Cruises</td>
<td>359 Ganson Street</td>
<td>(716) 873.4630</td>
<td>grandlady.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>moondanceCat</td>
<td>329 Erie Street</td>
<td>(716) 854-7245</td>
<td>moondancecat.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen City Bike Ferry</td>
<td>44 Prime Street</td>
<td>(716) 796-7210</td>
<td>spiritoftimeferry.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spirit of Buffalo</td>
<td>44 Prime Street</td>
<td>(716) 796-7210</td>
<td>spiritofbuffalo.com</td>
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</tbody>
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BUFFALO RIVER

Joseph Dart invented the steam-powered grain elevator in 1842. He built the first one on the Buffalo River to move Midwestern grain from large lake freighters to canal boats for transport east on the Erie Canal. The idea caught on fast. By 1900, the winding, eight-mile Buffalo River and connecting creeks were lined with grain elevators. Today grain still comes by ship from the Midwest to Buffalo’s elevators, but it leaves on trains and trucks, not canal boats. One of the best ways to see “Elevator Alley” is from a small boat. Paddlers on the Buffalo River may encounter tugboats and the occasional long, narrow lake freighter, but rowing shells, canoes, kayaks, and small power launches are far more common today.

That smell of Cheerios emanates from the General Mills plant at the southern end of the Michigan Avenue lift bridge. Look for the fireboat Edward M. Cotter docked near the Michigan Avenue lift bridge. Launched in 1900, she is a National Historic Landmark, the oldest working fireboat in the world. She’s still an important member of the Buffalo Fire Department, fighting fires at properties that can only be reached by water.

The Buffalo River was declared dead in 1967, a victim of extensive industrial pollution and uncontrolled sewage outflow. The Clean Water Act of 1972 started a long recovery process that continues today. The Buffalo River is now a much friendlier and safer place for paddlers. Numerous put in points are available.
E Mile 352.7  42.865760 -78.868382

📌 Ohio Street Kayak Launch
421 Ohio Street
Buffalo, NY 14204

**FACILITIES:** Car top launch. Parking for 10 cars.

E Mile 352.4  42.870526 -78.870857

📌 Buffalo River Fest Park
249 Ohio Street
Buffalo, NY 14210
(716) 823-4707
thevalleycenter.com

**FACILITIES:** Restrooms, dock, wharf, boardwalk, trails, gardens, and amphitheater.

E Mile 351.8  42.878298 -78.878022

📌 Canalside Buffalo
44 Prime Street
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 574-1537
canalsidebuffalo.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, restrooms, low dock, over 1,000 feet of berthing space. Food vendors, restaurants, shops, Explore & More Children’s Museum and “Commercial Slip,” which served as the historic juncture between the Erie Canal and the Great Lakes, are on and near Canalside. The Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park is just to the east. An active schedule of events takes place year-round.

E Mile 351.3  42.846002 -78.861752

📌 Buffalo Main Light
1 Fuhrmann Boulevard
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 264-1707
buffalolight.org

First lit in 1833 and now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is located at the mouth of the Buffalo River at the north entrance to Buffalo Harbor.

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**NIAGARA RIVER**

The Niagara River flows north from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario. It drops 327’ in 37 miles between the lakes, most of that at Niagara Falls and the rapids immediately below. The river marks the border between the U.S. and Canada. The entrance to the Erie Canal at Tonawanda is about twelve miles downstream (north) of Buffalo. The falls are about ten miles below that.

From 1825 to 1915, the Erie Canal ran from Buffalo to Tonawanda in its own hand-dug channel along the western bank of the Niagara River. Today, the shipping channel runs in the river itself, with a short canal and the federal lock at Black Rock to help boats pass the rapids under the Peace Bridge.

Paddlers heading downstream toward the Erie Canal have two options: they can hug the eastern (U.S.) shore and transit the Black Rock Lock, or they can run the river. The current in this area is swift and deceptive, even when the surface appears flat and calm. In addition, the area between Buffalo and the Erie Canal entrance is heavily used by commercial traffic and powerboats. Know your abilities before attempting to paddle on the Niagara, keep a sharp eye on the weather, and exercise extreme caution at all times.

If you choose to run the river, hug the east bank and stay well east of Strawberry Island, Frog Island, Motor Island (also known as Pirates Island), and Little Beaver Island. The river is split by Grand Island, with Niagara Falls on the western branch not far beyond the northern (downstream) tip of the island. Stay to the east—you don’t want to paddle against that current.
**E Erie Canalway.org**

**NEW YORK STATE CANALWAY WATER TRAIL GUIDEBOOK**

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**E Mile 350.2**  
42.879450  -78.885581

**Erie Basin Marina**  
329 Erie Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 851-5238  
eriebasinmarina.org

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms.  
Concrete ramp located north of entrance. Free parking in lot to the north near the entrance. Distance from parking about 250 feet.

The Erie Basin was originally a breakwater and commercial dock at the mouth of the Buffalo River. Rebuilt in the 1970s as part of waterfront revitalization, it is now a popular destination, with a casual restaurant, ice cream stand, community flower garden, historic markers, and a viewing platform at the northern tip of the breakwater.

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**E Mile 350.8**  
42.887079  -78.890157

**LaSalle Park Kayak Launch**  
AmVets Drive, south of picnic shelters  
Buffalo, NY 14201  
(716) 851-5553

**FACILITIES:** Restrooms, picnic tables, picnic shelters.

Lasalle Park is Buffalo's largest waterfront park. The southern waterfront area is under development for an improved kayak launch and parking.

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**E Mile 349.2**  
42.906966  -78.905822

**Peace Bridge**  
An international bridge between the U.S. and Canada, the Peace Bridge was opened in 1927 and is 5,800 feet long. Five arched spans carry it over the Niagara River; a Parker through-truss bridge spans the Black Rock Canal.

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**E Mile 348.6**  
42.914863  -78.903388

**Broderick Park**  
1170 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14213  
(716) 218-0303

**PADDLING NOTE:** The park is accessible only by the Robert Rich Bridge; do not attempt to land.

Located on the southern tip of Unity Island (Squaw Island on old charts), Broderick Park was once the final U.S. stop on the Underground Railroad. From here, people fleeing enslavement took a ferry to cross into Canada and freedom. Today, the Park is listed as a designated Network to Freedom site by the National Park Service.

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**E Mile 347.4**  
42.931318  -78.902273

**International Railway Swing Bridge**  
The oldest bridge in Buffalo was opened in 1873 and is still in use. The bridge is 3,651 feet long; the section over the Black Rock Canal is 517 feet long. At its peak in the early 20th century, over 250 trains passed over the bridge every day. Today the bridge averages between 10 and 15 trains a day.
E Mile 347.1    42.934550  -78.906243

**Black Rock Lock**
3 Dann Street
Buffalo, NY 14207
(716) 879-4403

**LIFT:** 6 feet.

**PADDLING NOTE:** Paddlers are required to yield the right-of-way to commercial vessels. Paddlers may lock through downbound on the hour and upbound on the half hour (more information at [lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Black-Rock-Lock](lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Black-Rock-Lock)).

Where’s the massive black rock that gives this lock and surrounding neighborhoods their names? A natural landmark on the river, it was blasted away to make room for the canal. The Black Rock Lock and the Black Rock Channel provide passage for vessels to travel between Buffalo Harbor and Tonawanda Harbor to the Erie Canal around the reefs, rapids, and fast currents of the upstream portion of the Niagara River. The Black Rock Channel extends from Buffalo Harbor to the Black Rock Lock and combined are 3.5 miles long. The lock is 650 feet long, 21.6 feet deep, and 70 feet wide. The channel and lock are operated by the Army Corps of Engineers.

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E Mile 346.9    42.937325  -78.906593

**Rich Marine Sales**
5 Austin Street
Buffalo, NY 14207
(716) 873-4060
richmarinesales.us

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, restrooms, showers. Concrete ramp. Ample parking.

Large private marina with over 500 slips on 26 acres.

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E Mile 346.3    42.945337  -78.909501

**Black Rock Canal Park**
16 Black Rock Harbor
Buffalo, NY 14207
(716) 858-8355
erie.gov

**FACILITIES:** Restrooms. Concrete boat launch. Ample parking.

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**NIAGARA RIVER ISLANDS**

Past the Black Rock Lock are several islands to the west of the canal. Strawberry Island is the dividing point for the east and west branches of the Niagara River.

Further downstream (north) is a string of small islands: Frog Island, Pirates Island (also known as Motor Island), and Little Beaver Island. Along with Strawberry Island, these sites are managed as a fish and wildlife preserve and are closed to the public.

To the west of Strawberry Island is Grand Island, the largest island in the Niagara River and the fourth-largest in New York. Beaver Island State Park at the south end of the island covers 950 acres and has a half-mile sandy beach, a large marina, bike and nature trails, and picnic areas. It’s a great place to paddle along the shoreline, but do not attempt to reach the island from the Niagara River. Drive across the South Grand Island Bridge instead.
THE TONAWANDAS

The western terminus of today’s Erie Barge Canal is in the twin cities of Tonawanda and North Tonawanda. From the Niagara River, turn east and enter the Tonawanda Creek.

Tonawanda Creek and the Erie Canal form the border between the cities of Tonawanda, Erie County and North Tonawanda, Niagara County. Although this section of the creek is placid, Tonawanda means “swift running water” in the Seneca language, a reference to falls and rapids upstream. At the height of commerce on the Erie Canal, the Tonawandas were one of the busiest ports on the Great Lakes. Midwestern lumber was unloaded from lake freighters and transferred onto canal boats to be carried to building sites along the eastern seaboard. Woodworking industries, including boatbuilding and the manufacture of wooden carousel horses, once thrived in the “Lumber City” of North Tonawanda.
PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

43.021051 -78.875836
Benjamin Long Homestead
The Historical Society of the Tonawandas, Inc.
24 East Niagara Street
Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 694-7406
tonawandashistory.org
Site can be reached from the water.

43.029838 -78.873074
Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum
180 Thompson Street
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 693-1885
carrouselmuseum.org

43.041304 -78.881312
North Tonawanda History Museum
712 Oliver Street
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 213-0554
nthistorymuseum.org

43.026185 -78.873495
Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier
111 Oliver Street
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 694-9588

PADDLECRAFT RENTALS

43.015360 -78.834162
Paths, Peaks & Paddles, Inc.
1000 Ellicott Creek Road
Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 213-0350
pathspeakspaddles.com

43.020719 -78.876675
Waterbike and Boat Adventures
11 Young Street
Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 316-3905
waterbikeadventures.com

OUTFITTER

43.019373 -78.874351
Gander Outdoors
880 Young Street
Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 743-2300
ganderoutdoors.com
Erie Canal—The Tonawandas

E Mile 344.7  42.964854  -78.924987

Aqua Lane Park/Sheridan Boat Launch
End of Sheridan Drive
Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 831-1001


The park and launch area are next to the Tonawanda water treatment plant. The ramp is on the north side of the plant.

E Mile 343.8  42.974051  -78.934798

Mid River Marina
3670 River Road
Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 875-7447
midrivermarina.com

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms. Travel-lift, no ramp or hand-launch.

Large private marina.

E Mile 342.1  42.945742  -78.934118

Collins Marine
4444 River Road
Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 875-6000
collinsmarine.com

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms. Concrete ramp.

Large private marina.

E Mile 342.0  42.994245  -78.926796

South Grand Island Bridge (I-190)
Twin two-lane truss arch bridges carry I-190 and NY 324 across the Niagara River from Tonawanda to Grand Island.

E Mile 340.5  43.009706  -78.910178

Isle View County Park
796 Niagara Street
Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 858-8355
erie.gov

FACILITIES: Restrooms, picnic tables, gazebo. Concrete boat ramps are at the northern end of the park, near the park office. Ample parking. Distance from parking about 200 feet.

This long, narrow park stretches for 1.2 miles along the Niagara River. A pedestrian bridge at the north end connects it to Niawanda Park.

E Mile 339.5  43.016537  -78.891857

Niawanda Park
200 Niagara Street
Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 505-1172
tonawandacity.com

FACILITIES: Restrooms, picnic tables. Large concrete boat launch at the northern end near the Franklin Street entrance. Ample parking. Distance from parking about 100 feet.

Niagara River  43.023801  -78.884680

The Shores Waterfront Island
Restaurant and Marina/Placid Harbor
2 Detroit Street
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 693-6226
shoreswaterfront.com

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, restaurant.

Large private marina located on the southern tip of Tonawanda Island in the Niagara River at the mouth of the Erie Canal (Tonawanda Creek).
Niagara River 43.029927 -78.882267

**Smith Boys Marina**
280 Michigan Street
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 695-3472
smithboys.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Travel-lift, no ramp or hand-launch.

Large private marina with 400 slips located on Tonawanda Island in the Niagara River at the mouth of the Erie Canal (Tonawanda Creek).

Niagara River 43.032287 -78.883535

**Bow & Stern Marine**
400 River Road
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 692-2316
bowandsternmarine.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water.

Private Marina. Located on the Little Niagara River between Tonawanda Island and the mainland near the mouth of the Erie Canal (Tonawanda Creek).

E Mile 338.63 43.022677 -72.881435

An old New York Central Railroad swing bridge in the middle of the channel is now fixed in the open position. The vertical locating pin and support ring for rotating the bridge are well-preserved and easy to see.

**PADDLING NOTE:** Pass by on either side of the bridge. Do not attempt to land at or climb onto the bridge. Strong currents are possible near the bridge.

E Mile 338.58, north side 43.022466 -78.880305

**Wardell Boat Yard**
1 Sweeney Street
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 692-9428
wardellboatyard.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, restrooms, showers. Travel-lift, no ramp or hand-launch.

Private marina.

E Mile 338.54 43.021822 -72.879980
Bridge E249, Seymour Street (NY 265)

E Mile 338.44 43.021566 -78.878089
Bridge E248, Webster Street

E Mile 338.33, both sides 43.021000 -78.877733

**Tonawanda Harbor/Gateway Harbor Park**
1 Young Street
(just west of Delaware Avenue bridge)
Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 695-8520
tonawandasgatewayharbor.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Kayak dock with roller launch is on the south side by the harbormaster's office (84 Sweeney Street). Parking is on the south side at the west end to just before the railroad bridge at the east end. Food and beverage vendors are active in the park. Shops, restaurants, and historic sites in Tonawanda and North Tonawanda are a short walk from the harbor.

**PADDLING NOTE:** During summer events and concerts the harbor often fills with powerboats that raft together. Be cautious; larger boats may not see you in time to avoid a collision.

Gateway Harbor Park is the largest docking facility on the NYS Canal System. It runs on both sides of the canal for about one-quarter mile from the Gateway Harbor. The docks are operated jointly by the twin cities of North Tonawanda and Tonawanda. A retired buoy boat is on display near the harbormaster’s office.
The junction with Ellicott Creek is on the south, just past the Webster Street Bridge. The Niagara Street pedestrian bridge spans the creek mouth. The Benjamin Long Homestead historic house museum is visible on the east side of the creek and can be reached from the water.

**LAUNCHES ON ELLICOTT CREEK**

<table>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eastern Park</strong></td>
<td>43.014400, -78.867699</td>
<td>Water, restrooms. Car top launch, sloped dock. Parking for six cars; distance from parking about 150 feet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ellicott Creek Park Launch</strong></td>
<td>43.0242273, -78.823102</td>
<td>Located on Ellicott Creek at the corner of Niagara Falls Boulevard and Ellicott Creek Road across from the main entrance to the park. This is a county park located between the Erie Canal and Ellicott Creek on the east side. The Erie Canalway Trail runs through Ellicott Creek Park; a pedestrian bridge from the trail leads to the east side of Ellicott Island.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bridge E247, Delaware Avenue/East Niagara Street (NY 384)**

Bridge E246, Railroad Bascule Bridge

A single-leaf bascule draw bridge dating back to 1918; the overhead counterweight lifts the bridge deck. This is still a functioning railroad bridge but rarely needs to open.

**Niagara Street Kayak Launch**

Sweeney Street and Niagara Street

North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Facilities: Portable toilets. Car top launch, hand launch, wheelchair accessible launch. Parking for 10 cars; no overnight parking. Distance from parking approximately 100 feet.

**Service Drive Boat Ramp**

Sweeney Street and Service Drive

North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Facilities: None. Concrete ramp. No parking. Distance from parking approximately 20 feet.
Erie Canal–The Tonawandas

North Tonawanda

- Mayor’s Park
  - E Mile 336.61
- Service Drive Boat Ramp
  - E Mile 337.23
- Niagara Street Kayak Launch
  - E Mile 337.67
- Railroad Bascule Bridge
  - E Mile 338.14
- Tonawanda Harbor
  - E Mile 338.33
- Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier
- Gateway Harbor Park
  - E Mile 338.20, both sides
- Gander Outdoors
- Benjamin Long Homestead
- Waterbike and Boat Adventures
- Eastern Park
- Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum
- North Tonawanda History Museum
**Mayor’s Park**  
987 Sweeney Street  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
(716) 695-8520  

**FACILITIES:** Water, restroom, picnic tables, grills. Beach landing. Street parking nearby. Facilities accessible from water via beach landing but not a suitable put-in/take-out.

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**Erie Canalway—Amherst**

E Mile 334.80, north side 43.038299 -78.827179

**Botanical Gardens Boat Ramp**  
1825 Sweeney Street  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120  

**FACILITIES:** Concrete ramp. Roller dock for wheelchair access. Parking for 40 cars, no overnight parking. Distance from parking approximately 20 feet.

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**Ellicott Island Park**  
1 Ellicott Creek Drive  
Amherst, NY 14120  
(716) 693-2971  

**PADDLING NOTE:** Park is accessible from water via beach landing but not a suitable put-in/take-out. Pass Ellicott Island Park to the north to remain in the channel. The south side is navigable for paddlcraft. There is a beach on the west end of the island that paddlers can use to access Ellicott Creek Park.

Ellicott Island Park is part of Ellicott Creek Park. The island is artificial; it was formed during Barge Canal construction (1905 to 1918) by cutting off a sharp bend in Tonawanda Creek to allow larger boats to pass. A number of stone structures on the island were built during the Great Depression by workers from the Works Progress Administration. The island is now used as a dog park. A pedestrian bridge on the east side of the island leads to Ellicott Creek Park.

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**E Mile 334.96 43.036021 -78.826149**

Bridge E243A, East Robinson Street

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**Amherst Veterans Canal Park**  
1040 Tonawanda Creek Road  
Amherst, NY 14228  

**FACILITIES:** Portable toilet. Concrete ramp. Parking for 20 cars.
**E Erie Canal–Pendleton**

E Mile 331.42  43.066265  -78.797528
Bridge E242, Bear Ridge Road

E Mile 330.00, south side  43.068289  -78.771617

**Amherst Marine Center**  
1900 Campbell Boulevard  
Amherst, NY 14228  
(716) 691-6707

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, restrooms, showers.  
Private marina with 20 slips.

E Mile 329.96  43.069581  -78.770777
Bridge E241A, Campbell Boulevard (NY 270)

E Mile 328.88, south side  43.069263  -78.750254

**Ransom Creek Kayak Launch**  
Ransom Creek enters the canal on the south side, just past a church.

**FACILITIES:** Picnic tables, grills. Car top launch, beach landing. Parking for 12 cars. Distance from parking approximately 150 feet.

**TONAWANDA CREEK**

43.083960  -78.728403

**Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village**  
3755 Tonawanda Creek Road  
Amherst, NY 14228  
(716) 689-1440  
bnhv.org

A collection of 16 historic buildings on 35 acres about one-quarter mile east along Tonawanda Creek on the south shore. This is a living history museum that recreates life in the region during the 1800s and early 1900s.

**ADMISSION:** Fee.

**HOURS:** Wednesday through Saturday. Closed Monday, Tuesday, Sunday, and holidays.

Camping

43.070851  -78.739659

Nine Mile Island Youth Camp  
(716) 625-8835  
ninemileisland.org

**FACILITIES:** Restrooms, nature trails and camping.

This 31-acre green space is located on the south side of Tonawanda Creek and is accessible from Orbit Road in Amherst. The facility can be booked for group camping.

E Mile 327.40  43.084682  -78.732915
The Erie Canal diverges from the Tonawanda Creek at this point. Turn east to enter Tonawanda Creek; paddle ahead to stay on the canal. From here to Lock E30 in Macedon the next 90 miles of canal are land-cut and entirely artificial.

E Mile 328.24  43.084806  -78.733052

**Ship N’ Shore Restaurant**  
5612 Tonawanda Creek Road  
Pendleton, NY 14094  
(716) 625-6106  
theshipnshore.com

Open every day year-round. The restaurant has eight slips and a floating dock.
Guard Gate 18, Pendleton
Open throughout the navigation season. Guard gates can be lowered in the event of emergencies and to allow sections of the channel to be isolated and drained for maintenance. During the winter the Erie Canal from Pendleton Guard Gate to the Genesee River crossing in Rochester is usually dewatered.

Between the guard gate and Lock 35 in Lockport, a distance of about 6.5 miles, the canal passes through the “Deep Cut,” first carved through Lockport Dolomite in 1825.

**PADDLING NOTE:** Vertical rock walls preclude any boater exit between here and the Upper Lockport Terminal at mile 321.22.
In Lockport, you’ll see how canal engineers built the impressive Lockport Flight to solve the challenge of helping boats climb the 60-foot Niagara Escarpment.

The Lockport Locks District contains a lot of canal history in a compact area. Canal Street, a bike and pedestrian walk, overlooks the canal on the north side. You’ll find shops, coffee houses, artisan ice cream, restaurants, and attractions there, as well as along Lockport’s main street.

Start your visit to Lockport at the Erie Canal Discovery Center. The interactive interpretive center showcases the history of the Erie Canal and the building of the famous “Flight of Five” Lockport Locks. From there, take a short walk to the Canalside District to see the renowned staircase of stone locks and wooden gates built in the 1800s alongside the similarly remarkable and much enlarged Locks 34 and 35, which usher boats through the Erie Canal today.

Get on the water for a narrated tour with Lockport Locks and Erie Canal Cruises (see page 59).

The annual Locktoberfest event takes place in the District at the beginning of October.
RESTORED FLIGHT OF FIVE LOCKS

To carry canal traffic up and down the 60-foot change in elevation created by the Niagara Escarpment in Lockport, canal engineers created two parallel sets of five interconnected locks. The Lockport Flight consisted of Locks 67 through 71, each with a lift of about 10 feet. The first version opened in 1825 and was enlarged in 1849 to accommodate larger boats. Today’s Barge Canal, constructed between 1905 to 1918, replaced the southern set of locks with two massive concrete chambers, Locks E35 and E34. The northern staircase of the 1849 lock chambers was retained to serve as a spillway and the principal route for canal water from here to Rochester.

Efforts are underway to restore the old part of the Lockport Flight to its Towpath-era appearance. Reproduction timber gates have been installed on one chamber and are operated by volunteers on weekends to demonstrate how the locks worked. Locks 69 and 70 were reopened in 2014. The long-term goal is to restore the entire “Flight of Five” to operating condition.

Lockport is the only location on the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor where historic manual locks and modern electro-mechanical locks operate side by side. Multiple bridges, one at the foot of each lock, cross over the chambers and are a great place to see the locks in action. The wooden boat *Erie Traveler* is a replica of a Durham boat, a type of flat-bottomed, double-ended vessel that plied New York’s rivers before construction of the Erie Canal. Built by volunteers in Buffalo, it is 42 feet long and seven feet wide. Free weekly demonstrations showing the Flight of Five locks in operation take place every Saturday in coordination with the Lockport Community Farmer’s Market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
## PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43.171436</td>
<td>-78.698642</td>
<td>Colonel William Bond/Jesse Hawley House</td>
<td>143 Ontario Street, Lockport, NY 14094</td>
<td>(716) 434-7433</td>
<td>niagarahistory.org/bond-house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43.170940</td>
<td>-78.694869</td>
<td>Erie Canal Discovery Center</td>
<td>24 Church Street, Lockport, NY 14094</td>
<td>(716) 439-0431</td>
<td>niagarahistory.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43.171530</td>
<td>-78.692227</td>
<td>Erie Canal Museum at Locks 34 and 35</td>
<td>At foot of the Lockport Flight, 80 Canal Street, Lockport, NY 14094</td>
<td>(716) 434-7433</td>
<td>niagarahistory.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43.170871</td>
<td>-78.695552</td>
<td>First Presbyterian Church</td>
<td>21 Church Street, Lockport, NY 14094</td>
<td>(716) 433-5905</td>
<td>1stpreslockport.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43.171908</td>
<td>-78.692585</td>
<td>Lockport Cave &amp; Underground Boat Ride and Niagara Zipper</td>
<td>5 Gooding Street, Lockport, NY 14094</td>
<td>(716) 438-0174</td>
<td>lockportcave.com</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Go underground to explore tunnels that delivered water power to Lockport manufacturers or zip-line across the Erie Canal and back—85 feet above the water.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Phone</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43.170613</td>
<td>-78.702643</td>
<td>Niagara County Historical Society</td>
<td>215 Niagara Street, Lockport, NY</td>
<td>(716) 434-7433</td>
<td>niagarahistory.org</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MORE INFORMATION** about things to do in the Lockport area is available from [visitbuffaloniagara.com](http://visitbuffaloniagara.com) and [niagarafallsusa.com](http://niagarafallsusa.com).
Erie Canal–Lockport

E Mile 321.25  43.164228 -78.701364
Bridge E235, Stevens Street

E Mile 321.22, north side  43.165180 -78.700802

ёр Lockport Upper Terminal Launch
Prospect Street at Stevens Street
Lockport, NY 14094
(716) 434-3140

FACILITIES: Steep concrete ramp. Parking for 20 cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

The launch ramp is at the west end of the terminal wall. It can be accessed via an unpaved road leading from the intersection of Prospect and Stevens streets or from an unmarked road off West Genesee Street (NY 31).

E Mile 320.97  43.167736 -78.697025
Bridge E234, Transit Street (NY 31) and Genesee Street (NY 78)

E Mile 320.82  43.169268 -78.695051
Bridge E233, Main Street (Locks Plaza)
Lockport’s “Big Bridge” is the widest bridge in North America, and one of the widest in the world. It is 299 feet wide with a span of 129 feet. It opened in 1914.

E Mile 320.68  43.170659 -78.693100

Locks E35 and E34, Lockport
80 Canal Street
Lockport, NY 14094
(716) 434-3140

LIFT: E35 24.6 feet; E34 24.5 feet; combined lift 49.1 feet.

FACILITIES: A low dock is on the north (left) side of Lock 35 in the channel leading to the spillway.

PADDLING NOTE: The current near the upper end of Lock 35 can be strong as the water is pulled into a hydroelectric plant on the right and a spillway to the left. This area can also be crowded with larger boats.

Locks 35 and 34 are combined locks: the lower gates of Lock 35 are the upper gates of Lock 34. The western end of Lock 35 has double gates for safety in case of a breach. The distance from here to Lock 33 in Henrietta is about 64.2 miles.

E Mile 320.67  43.170878 -78.692860
Bridge E232, Pine Street
This bridge passes directly over Locks 35 and 34 and provides a great vantage point for watching boats lock through.

E Mile 320.43  43.173564 -78.689996
Bridge E231, Railroad Bridge
A railroad bridge dating back to 1902. Locally called the “Upside Down” bridge because the truss structure is below the deck.

E Mile 320.44, north side  43.175112 -78.689863
Upson Park
No access from canal due to vertical wall. The site was once a paper mill that produced Upson Board, a widely used building material.
Erie Canal–Lockport

- Inverted Truss Railroad Bridge
- Hydraulic Race
- Hydroelectric Plant
- Lockport Flight of Five
- Locks E35 and E34
- Niagara County Historical Society
- Colonel William Bond/Jesse Hawley House
- Erie Canal Discovery Center
- First Presbyterian Church
- Lockport Cave & Underground Boat Ride, Niagara Zipper
- Lockport Upper Terminal Launch

Map showing locations along the Erie Canal in Lockport, including Locks E35 and E34, Niagara County Historical Society, Colonel William Bond/Jesse Hawley House, and Erie Canal Discovery Center.
Erie Canal–Lockport

- Wide Waters Marina/ Nelson C. Goehle Public Marina  E Mile 319.05
- Adams Street Lift Bridge  E Mile 319.92
- Exchange Street Lift Bridge  E Mile 320.11
- Halls Waste Weir
- Lockport Locks and Erie Canal Cruises  E Mile 320.30
- Inverted Truss Railroad Bridge  E Mile 320.43

Map showing locations along the Erie Canal in Lockport.
Erie Canal–Lockport

E Mile 320.23  43.172081 -78.683415

Lockport Locks and Erie Canal Cruises
210 Market Street
Lockport, NY 14094
(716) 433-6155
lockportlocks.com

Daily two-hour cruises on the canal and through the locks. Fully accessible.

TICKET FEE. Reservations suggested.

SCHEDULE: Mid-May to mid-June, every day 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.; additional cruise Saturday, 10 a.m. Mid-June to early September, every day 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 3 p.m. Early September to mid-October, every day 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.; additional cruise Saturday, 10 a.m.

PADDLING NOTE: Watch for boat traffic in this area. Lockport Locks and Erie Canal Cruises operate several tour boats from a base on the south bank and the NYS Canal Corporation maintenance shops are on the opposite side. Watch out for cross-currents between the tour boat dock and the Exchange Street lift bridge. A water weir draws water from the south side of the canal and drops it into Eighteen Mile Creek.

E Mile 320.11  43.176763 -78.685710

Bridge E230, Exchange Street Lift Bridge

E Mile 319.92  43.182665 -78.676617

Bridge E228, Lake Avenue/Matt Murphy Way
The canal widens to a widewater area east of this bridge.

E Mile 319.05, south side  43.185012 -78.669085

Wide Waters Marina/Nelson C. Goehle Public Marina
768 Market Street
Lockport, NY 14094
(716) 433-1267
lockportny.gov/water-activities

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms, showers, laundry. Concrete ramp and kayak launch. Parking for 40 cars; overnight parking allowed. Distance from parking about 20 feet. Kayak, canoe, and SUP and adaptive rentals through Erie Canal Boat Company; call (585) 748-2628 for information.

E Mile 318.92  43.186202 -78.666309

Bridge E226, Cold Springs Road
The canal narrows again to its normal width just to the east of this bridge. The Lockport Town and Country Club is on both sides of the bridge on the south side.

From Lockport to Rochester, the canal runs along the edge of the Medina Escarpment. An embankment on the north side gives the impression of a waterway running high above the surrounding countryside. It can be tough to see from a canoe or kayak, but stop along the way and scramble up the north bank. You may find yourself looking over the tops of trees in orchards that stretch from the canal all the way to Lake Ontario.

E Mile 318.02  43.191144 -78.650030

Bridge E225, Day Road
Erie Canal–Gasport

Bridge E224, North Canal Road (CR 77)

E Mile 315.21  43.197674  -78.596000
Bridge E223, Orangeport Road

Gasport Landing
Gasport, NY 14067
Telegraph Road just to the west of the lift bridge
gasportnewyork.blogspot.com

**FACILITIES:** The terminal wall is not suitable for paddlers. Parking for five cars; free overnight parking. Shops and restaurants are a short walk away.

Gasport is the smallest of all the canal towns, with a population of barely over 1,000 people. The town gets its name from the discovery in 1826 of natural gas rising in a spring.

**Bridge E222, Hartland Road Lift Bridge (CR 108)**

Gasport Marina
8647 Telegraph Road
Gasport, NY 14067
(716) 772-2964

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, restrooms. Picnic tables and grills in nearby park. Concrete ramp at western end. Ample free parking. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

Private Marina.

Bridge E220, Slayton Settlement Road
MIDDLEPORT

Middleport takes its name from its location on the Erie Canal halfway between Lockport and Newport, now known as Albion. Watch for the lift bridge, which best marks the village from the water. Although Middleport has good facilities for boaters, the high walls of the harbor make access from the canal difficult for paddlers. The closest launch is one mile east at the Middleport Guard Gate Boat Ramp.
E Erie Canal–Middleport

E Mile 309.16, south side  43.211812 -78.481922

Basket Factory Restaurant & Marina
2 Watson Avenue
Middleport, NY 14106
(716) 735-7250
thebasketfactoryrestaurant.com

FACILITIES: Restrooms.

The area around Middleport is full of fruit orchards. In 1893, the Royalton Basket Company opened on this site to produce baskets for shipping fruit. The logs for the baskets were harvested locally and floated in rafts along the Erie Canal to the square log pond in front of the building. The pond is now the marina; the old basket factory is a restaurant.

E Mile 308.99, south side  43.212380 -78.477541

Middleport Harbor/Middleport Park
Middleport, NY 14105
(716) 735-7250
middleport-newyork.com

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms, showers. Tie up at the north terminal wall just before the lift bridge. Shops and restaurants are a short walk away.

PADDLING NOTE: Vertical walls line both sides of the canal through the center of Middleport, extending about 700 feet on either side of the lift bridge.

E Mile 308.87  43.212890 -78.476457

Bridge E216, Main Street Lift Bridge (NY 271)

E Mile 307.34  43.218848 -78.448307

Guard Gate 16, Middleport

E Mile 307.10, south side  43.216239 -78.444400

Middleport Guard Gate Boat Ramp
Telegraph Road (NY 31E), Middleport

FACILITIES: Picnic tables. Concrete ramp, dock. Parking for 10 cars. Overnight parking permitted. Distance from parking about 20 feet. The ramp is about a quarter of a mile east of the guard gate.

E Mile 305.63  43.222129 -78.420902

Bridge E212, Marshall Road

E Mile 304.13  43.225473 -78.391748

Bridge E211, Prospect Avenue Lift Bridge (NY 63)

The canal widens and turns sharply southward east of the Prospect Avenue bridge. You are entering the Medina basin and aqueduct. Both banks of the canal through Medina are lined with vertical walls from the Prospect Avenue lift bridge to the east side of the Horan Avenue/Bank Street bridge about 0.75 mile east. Paddlers may find the floating docks at the Canal Port Marina a bit high, but they are the only means of access/egress within the village.
The basin in Medina, with its L shape and straight lines, was built as part of the Barge Canal enlargement of 1905 through 1918. An aqueduct carries the canal about 70 feet above the Old Orchard Creek, which flows south to north and ends at Lake Ontario. This is the only aqueduct on the Barge Canal. The creek drops over Medina Falls just to the north of the canal, then runs into man-made Glenwood Lake.

The microclimate of the land between Lake Ontario and the Medina escarpment is ideal for growing apples and other fruit. If you are paddling here in the fall, you’re bound to see big trucks crossing the bridges, carrying crates of apples to cold storage warehouses in towns along the canal and railroad. You may spot pipes running down the canal bank. They are the intakes for siphons that carry water to the orchards and fields.

Medina sandstone was a popular 19th-century building material. Ranging in color from light tan to dark reddish brown, it was quarried in this area and shipped by canal to building sites from Buffalo to New York City and beyond. Architect H.H. Richardson used red Medina sandstone for his landmark Buffalo State Hospital (1871). Medina sandstone is in the towers of the Brooklyn Bridge, the New York State Capitol, Albany City Hall, hundreds of Brooklyn’s brownstones, and even a bit in Buckingham Palace, London. Even so, the densest concentration of Medina sandstone buildings may be here, close to the source. Look for it, in all its shades and colors, used in houses, churches, Main Street stores, municipal buildings, and cemeteries across western New York. You will also see lots of broken pieces used for bank protection along this part of the canal.

Saint John’s Episcopal Church on Center Street is made of Medina sandstone. It’s listed in Ripley’s Believe It or Not as the “church in the middle of the street,” because Church Street splits to go around it.
To the east of the Glenwood Avenue/Eagle Street bridge, the canal opens into the large Medina basin.

PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

43.221367  -78.389244

**Medina Historical Society Museum**
406 West Avenue
Medina, NY 14103
(585) 798-3006
historicmedina.org

43.218372  -78.389739

**Medina Railroad Museum**
530 West Avenue
Medina, NY 14103
(585) 798-6106
medinarailroad.com

43.220288  -78.387434

**Hart House Hotel**
113 West Center Street
Medina, NY 14103
(585) 735-6031
harthousehotel.com

Located 500 feet from Canal Port Marina dock.

43.220924  -78.385065

**Pedal & Paddle**
Manilla Place
Medina, NY 14103
(585) 866-9454
pedalmedina.com

FACILITIES: Electric, water, portable toilet. No ramp, low floating docks, 10 wet slips. Camping is allowed in the park. Parking.

The Medina terminal wall extends to the east and west of the Canal Basin Park on the south side. Shops, restaurants, and attractions are a short walk from the marina.
A ladder built into the western end of the north wall allows agile paddlers an opportunity to climb out and look over the rail for a view of Medina Falls.

**PADDLING NOTE:** The low spillway of Medina Waste Weir and the subsurface intake for the Oak Orchard hydroelectric plant are in the south wall just east of Medina basin. The plant is small and intake velocities are low, but it’s prudent for paddlers to stay mid-channel.
**Guard Gate 15, Medina**

**PADDLING NOTE:** The Bates Road truss bridge is immediately to the east of the guard gate. Views are obstructed in this area; keep an eye out for oncoming boat traffic.

**Bridge E208, Bates Road**

**Bridge E207, Beals Road**

**Culvert Road (Culvert 96)** The Medina Culvert runs underneath the canal here, the only place where a road goes under the canal. Pale concrete bank reinforcement and a plank guardrail along the trail on the north bank help identify the spot from the water. The culvert is a stone arch tunnel originally built in 1823, lengthened during the 1840s, and again around 1916 to accommodate wider canal channels. The vehicle clearance on Culvert Road is only 7 feet 6 inches.

**Bridge E205, Presbyterian Road**

**Bridge E204, Allens Road**


**Bridge E202, Gaines Basin Road (CR 88)**

The small, disused Gaines Basin opens on the south side.
Courthouse Square is the focal point of Albion’s Courthouse Historic District. The 1858 Greek Revival county courthouse is topped by an impressive silver dome. The historic district contains 33 buildings, including many built of the local Medina sandstone; most date from the 1830s to 1910. Seven churches are within the district, representing the strong religious and political currents that swirled along the Erie Canal. The Presbyterian Church has a 175-foot tower and spire that can be seen 10 miles away. The Free Methodist Church is the mother church of this denomination, which grew out of the Abolitionist movement.

George Pullman (1831-1897) grew up in Albion watching the packet boats carry passengers along the Erie Canal. These boats had sleeping quarters made of stacked bunks, an idea that inspired Pullman in the 1860s to develop the Pullman sleeping car for railroads.

PADDLING NOTE: Albion’s vertical concrete walls line both sides of the canal for about a quarter mile through the center of town. The best place for paddlers to pull out if you want to explore the village is on the north bank near the trailhead kiosk, about 100 yards upstream (west) of the Main Street lift bridge.

PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

Courthouse Square Historic District
33 South Main Street
Albion, NY 14411
(585) 589-4174

Cobblestone Museum
14389 Ridge Road
Albion, NY 14411
(585) 589-9013
cobblestonemuseum.org

PADDLECRAFT SALES AND RENTALS

Oak Orchard Canoe Kayak Experts
2133 Eagle Harbor Waterport Road
Waterport, NY 14571
(585) 682-4849
oakorchardcanoe.com
**Erie Canal–Albion**

E Mile 294.29  43.249707  -78.215367
Guard Gate 14, Albion

E Mile 294.26  43.249415  -78.214834
Bridge E201, Lattins Farm Road

E Mile 294.09, south side  43.247858  -78.212087

**Albion Boat Launch**
Eagle Harbor Road
Albion, NY 14411

**FACILITIES:** Picnic tables. Concrete ramp. Parking for five cars; overnight parking allowed. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

**PADDLING NOTE:** The NYS Canal Maintenance Shops will be on the south shore as you approach the Main Street Lift Bridge. Watch out for workboats.

E Mile 293.15  43.249073  -78.193642

**Bridge E200, Main Street Lift Bridge**

E Mile 293.06, south side  43.248705  -78.192071

**Albion Canal Port**
35-37 East Bank Street
Albion, NY 14411
(585) 589-9176
orleanscountytourism.com/waterways

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, restrooms, showers on south side. Shops, restaurants, and attractions are a short walk from the south side wall.

E Mile 292.98  43.248533  -78.190387

**Bridge E199, Ingersoll Street Lift Bridge**

E Mile 292.37  43.248070  -78.178612
Bridge E198, Brown Street

E Mile 291.72  43.248735  -78.165985
Bridge E197, Butts Road

E Mile 290.88  43.249186  -78.149367
Bridge E196, Keitel Road

E Mile 290.18  43.249298  -78.135442
Bridge E195, Densmore Road (CR 11)

E Mile 289.15  43.251789  -78.115492
Bridge E194, Transit Road (CR 64)

E Mile 288.65  43.253178  -78.105819
Bridge E193, Hindsburg Road

E Mile 287.89  43.253618  -78.090899
Bridge E192, Fancher Road (NY 387)

E Mile 286.58  43.254337  -78.066186

**Bridge E191, Hulberton Road Lift Bridge**

E Mile 285.48  43.249632  -78.046194
Bridge E190, Groth Road

E Mile 285.00  43.244707  -78.039420
Bridge E189, Telegraph Road (CR 54)
The village is named for Myron Holley, one of the most influential of the early Erie Canal Commissioners and an anti-slavery Liberty Party founder in 1840.

Originally, the Erie Canal swung well south, following the contour and crossing the Sandy Creek closer to the village center. During the 1840s enlargement canal builders built a tall embankment further down the valley (north) to eliminate the sharp bends of the “Holley Loop” and ease the passage of larger canal boats. Much of the low land between the original canal route and the embankment is now Holley Canal Park, complete with a waterfall formed by overflow water spilling from the canal. The park, which allows camping and has excellent boater services, is a great place for paddlers to access the canal.

**LODGING**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>43.224654</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rosewood Bed &amp; Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>68 Geddes Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holley, NY 14470</td>
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<tr>
<td>(585) 329-4230</td>
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<tr>
<td>rosewoodbnb.com</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Bridge E187, East Avenue Lift Bridge**
Built in 1911; better known as the Holley Lift Bridge. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 7 inches. Call (585) 638-6456 for service.

**Guard Gate 13, Holley**
E Mile 284.16
43.237228 -78.026770

**Bridge E188, North Main Street (NY 237)**
E Mile 284.14
43.237154 -78.026495

**Holley Canal Park**
E Mile 284.16
43.228046 -78.021456

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, and camping on south side. Floating dock and kayak launch. Parking for 18 cars. Overnight parking allowed.

Follow the Canal Park Trail from the south wall for about 1.5 miles to reach the shops and restaurants of Holley’s business district. The waterfall is on the way and is well worth a visit.

**Holley Canal Park**
East Avenue
Holley, NY 14470
(585) 638-6456
villageofholley.org

**Bridge E186, Bennetts Corners Road**
E Mile 283.00
43.224746 -78.013889
BROCKPORT

When the Erie Canal opened, Brockport grew into an important canal port and industrial center. McCormick reapers, which revolutionized agriculture, were manufactured here, starting in 1846. This historic legacy gives its name to Harvester Park. One of the seven toll stations on the Erie Canal was located at 1 Main Street. The highly ornamented building of Medina sandstone still stands.

Barge Canal construction in 1914-1915 widened the channel and replaced the fixed bridges with lift bridges, but did little to alter the center of the village. Today, the Historic Commercial District on both sides of Main Street is a vibrant pedestrian-friendly area of small shops and restaurants. The village hosts an annual Low Bridge High Water canal opening festival every May.

PLACE OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

43.213491 -77.938755

Brockport Community Museum
(585) 637-5300
brookportcommunitymuseum.org

This innovative Museum Without Walls incorporates and illuminates Brockport’s living heritage through interpretive signs, a self-guided walking tour, public art, rotating displays in public venues, more than 50 buildings on the State and National Historic Registers, and 37 historic landmarks.

43.212606 -77.938876

Western Monroe Historical Society
Morgan-Manning House
151 Main Street
Brockport, NY 14420
(585) 637-3645
morganmanninghouse.org

MORE INFORMATION about things to do in the Brockport area is available from brockportny.org.

LODGING

43.207060 -77.941329

The Victorian Bed & Breakfast
320 Main Street
Brockport, NY 14420
(585) 637-7519
victorianbandb.com

E Mile 282.10, north side
43.221750 -77.996870

San Souci Canal Park Boat Ramp
4159 Monroe-Orleans County Line Road
(entrance at intersection with NY 31)
Brockport, NY 14420

FACILITIES: Portable toilet, pavilion, picnic tables, grill. Concrete ramp. Parking for 17 cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

E Mile 282.03
43.221054 -77.995768

Bridge E185, State Street/West Avenue (NY 31)

E Mile 280.47
43.214062 -77.967986

Bridge E184, Redman Road (CR 236)
E Mile 279.80  43.214420  -77.954868
Guard Gate 12, Brockport
Buildings on the campus of SUNY Brockport are visible to the south.

E Mile 279.21  43.216181  -77.943504
Bridge E183, Smith Street
The Brockport terminal wall begins just to the east of the bridge.

E Mile 278.93  43.216678  -77.938111
**Bridge E182, Main Street Lift Bridge (NY 19)**

**Brockport Welcome Center/ Harvester Park**
11 Water Street and Park Avenue
Brockport, NY 14420
(585) 637-1000
brockportny.org

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, grills. Low dock and car top launch. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 50 feet.

Harvester Park is located between the two lift bridges in Brockport. The Welcome Center is open during the boating season seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. It offers free loaner bicycles and wagons to help canal boaters reach the nearby shops, restaurants, and attractions.

A notch in the south wall between the Welcome Center and the Park Avenue Lift Bridge makes it easier for paddlers to disembark.
**Bridge E181, Park Avenue Lift Bridge**

**Bridge E180, Sweden-Walker Road (NY 260)**
E Mile 276.66 43.211516 -77.894901
Bridge E180, Sweden-Walker Road (NY 260)

**Arrowhead Marina and Golf Club**
655 Gallup Road
Spencerport, NY 14559
(585) 352-5500
arrowheadgc.org

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, restrooms, showers. Concrete ramp and boat launch. Kayak and canoe rentals. Snack bar and bar open to the public; free wi-fi in snack bar.

A welcoming golf club open to all. No fee for paddlecraft docking or car parking. The small entrance to the marina opens out into a large basin.

**Bridge E179, Gallup Road (CR 244)**
E Mile 275.28 43.202812 -77.872642
Bridge E179, Gallup Road (CR 244)

**Bridge E178, Washington Street Lift Bridge**
Built in 1912; better known as the Adams Basin lift bridge. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 9 inches. Call (585) 352-3548 for service.

An old basin is on the south side just to the west of the Trimmer Road bridge.

**Bridge E176, Trimmer Road**
E Mile 272.60 43.195889 -77.826925
Bridge E176, Trimmer Road

**Bridge E175, Martha Street**
E Mile 271.47 43.195042 -77.803359
Bridge E175, Martha Street
Spencerport is named for Daniel Spencer, whose farm became this portion of the Erie Canal. The village quickly grew up around the canal. By the late 1800s, Spencerport had an economy that centered on canal transport. The town continued to thrive into the 1920s as the canal expanded. The downtown area contains dozens of architecturally distinguished buildings.

During the canal season, an active schedule of concerts is held at the Clyde W. Carter Memorial Gazebo on the south side of the canal, west of the lift bridge. The Spencerport Canal Days celebration is held at the end of July.

The Spencerport terminal wall has over 600 feet of docking facilities on both sides of the canal from the gazebo to the Spencerport Depot and Canal Museum.

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**E Mile 271.32, south side**  43.193628  -77.801174
Clyde W. Carter Memorial Gazebo
South side, west of lift bridge

**FACILITIES:** See, *Spencerport Docks* (page 76).

**E Mile 271.29, north side**  43.193660  -77.800508
Bridge Tender’s Dock
North side, west side of bridge

**FACILITIES:** Low dock, free parking nearby.

**Bridge E174, Union Street Lift Bridge (NY 259)**
Built in 1915; also known as the Spencerport lift bridge. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 17 feet. Call (585) 352-5451 for service.
E Mile 271.24, north side  43.193252 -77.799830

**Lester C. Merz Towpath Park**  
North side, east of lift bridge  
**FACILITIES:** Picnic shelter. Not accessible to paddlers due to vertical wall.

E Mile 271.19, both sides  43.192571 -77.799548

**Spencerport Docks**  
(585) 352-4771  
vil.spencerport.ny.us/boating.html  
**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, free parking. Walk to services at the Spencerport Depot and Village of Spencerport.

E Mile 271.19, south side  43.192286 -77.799469

**Spencerport Depot and Canal Museum**  
16 East Avenue  
Spencerport, NY 14559  
(585) 352-0942  
spencerportdepot.com  
**FACILITIES:** Small museum and visitor center with excellent services. Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, and laundry in lower level. Easy walk to restaurants, shops and attractions.

E Mile 270.40, south side  43.190206 -77.784994

**Heritage Park**  
Off Lyell Avenue opposite Cosgrove Middle School, Spencerport  
**FACILITIES:** Picnic tables. Floating dock. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 450 feet. A walking trail connects to Spencerport to the west.

E Mile 269.93  43.191130 -77.775467

Guard Gate 11, Spencerport

E Mile 269.83  43.190845 -77.773498

Bridge E173, Gillett Road (CR 210)
E Mile 268.75  43.187487  -77.753374
Bridge E172, Manitou Road (CR 208)

E Mile 267.94, north side  43.189886  -77.737757

Greece Canal Park
241 Elmgrove Road
Manitou Road bridge to Elmgrove Road bridge
Greece, NY 14612
(585) 753-7275
monroecounty.gov/parks

FACILITIES: Seasonal restrooms near the towpath shelter. Low dock. Parking. Distance from parking about 800 feet.

E Mile 267.64  43.188518  -77.732157
Bridge E171, Elmgrove Road (NY 386)
Look on the pier under the main span for murals depicting the three stages of the canal in Greece.

E Mile 267.60, north side  43.188200  -77.731350

Henpeck Park
2901 Ridgeway Avenue
Greece, NY 14612

FACILITIES: Picnic tables, grills. Car top launch, low wall. Parking for 40 cars. Distance from parking about 250 feet.

PADDLING NOTE: This is the last public put-in/take-out until Genesee Valley Park, seven miles to the east. Much of the channel from here runs through a vertical walled “Deep Cut” carved through the Medina Escarpment in 1907.
Erie Canal–Rochester

E Mile 267.44, south side  43.185493 -77.730030

Allen’s Canalside Marina
416 Elmgrove Road
Rochester, NY 14606
(585) 426-5400

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms, showers. Concrete ramp.

Large private marina with 60 slips in a large basin.

An old quarters boat, once used to house dredge crews, is hauled up on the south bank a little east of the marina.

E Mile 266.45, north side  43.184732 -77.710787

South Greece Junction Lock
Rochester grew from a collection of huts into a thriving city where the Erie Canal crossed the Genesee River. Today’s canal route arcs around the city in a deep vertical-walled cut through solid rock.

A temporary lock, built in 1917, allowed older canal boats to serve as docks on the west side of Rochester. It had a lift of three feet and was active from 1918 into the 1920s. It’s now derelict, but look for remnants of the old concrete walls and reproduction wooden lock gates. A nearby kiosk has historical information.

E Mile 265.94  43.182581 -77.701598

Bridge E170, Long Pond Road (CR 136)
This bridge is the western edge of the metropolitan Rochester region.

E Mile 264.83  43.173802 -77.683183

Bridge E169B, I-390 southbound

E Mile 264.81  43.173677 -77.683152

Bridge E169A, I-390 northbound

E Mile 264.66  43.172304 -77.680699

Bridge E169, Lee Road (CR 154)

E Mile 264.53  43.170877 -77.678976

Bridge E168, abandoned railroad bridge built around 1909 for the Rochester Lockport & Buffalo interurban trolley line.

E Mile 264.51  43.170620 -77.678768

Bridge E167, CSX Railroad

E Mile 264.08  43.164709 -77.676258

Bridge E166, Lyell Avenue (NY 31)

E Mile 264.07  43.164488 -77.676170

Bridge E165C, water pipeline

E Mile 263.58  43.157749 -77.673962

Bridge E165B, I-490 westbound

E Mile 263.54  43.157124 -77.673750

Bridge E165A, I-490 eastbound

E Mile 263.04  43.150157 -77.671415

Bridge E165D, gas and water pipelines

E Mile 263.03  43.149928 -77.671468

Bridge E165, Buffalo Road (NY 33)

E Mile 262.92  43.148466 -77.670870

Bridge E164A, gas pipeline

E Mile 262.91  43.148250 -77.670866

Bridge E164, Amtrak Railroad

E Mile 262.90  43.148103 -77.670818

Bridge E163A, water pipeline
South Greece Junction Lock
E Mile 266.45

Staybridge Suites
Rochester University
at Brooks Landing

West Guard Lock
E Mile 261.02

Junction with the
Genesee River
E Mile 260.55

Rochester International Airport

Genesee Rowing Club
E Mile 260.40

East Guard Lock
E Mile 259.95

Genesee Valley Park

Genesee Waterways Center

Erie Canal–Rochester
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<th>Longitude</th>
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<td>E Mile 262.30</td>
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<td>Bridge E163, Chili Avenue (NY 33A)</td>
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<td>Bridge E161A, pipeline</td>
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<td>E Mile 261.54</td>
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<td>Bridge E161, Brooks Avenue (NY 204)</td>
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<td>Bridge E160, abandoned railroad bridge built for New York Central Railroad Falls Branch.</td>
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<td>E Mile 261.02</td>
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<td>West Guard Lock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gates at each end of this chamber are left open during the navigation season, except when the river is unusually high. This guard lock protects the canal from flooding on the Genesee River. It marks the western approach to the Genesee River crossing.</td>
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<td>E Mile 260.71</td>
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<td>Bridge E159, Scottsville Road (NY 383)</td>
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<td>Bridge E157, Westernmost of three arched pedestrian bridges leading to Genesee Valley Park. The bridges were designed by Olmsted Brothers, the successor firm of the famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted.</td>
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