LITTLE FALLS

The City of Little Falls is a fun place to explore before, during, or after your paddle trip. Here you’ll find an historic downtown with lots of shops and places to eat, the largest lock on the Erie Canal, and an island with unique geologic features that you can see from the water or explore on land. The best place to launch or take out is from Little Falls Canal Harbor and Rotary Park. You can also rent a canoe or kayak there. From the park, walk across the bridge into town. The annual canal celebration takes place in early August.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
More information about things to do in the Little Falls region, including dining and lodging, is available at explrolittlefalls.com and herkimercountychamber.com/visit.

LODGING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Inn at Stone Mill</td>
<td>410 Canal Place</td>
<td>315-823-0208</td>
<td>Inn and restaurant. Located 400 feet from Benton’s Landing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canal Side Inn</td>
<td>395 Canal Place</td>
<td>315-823-1170</td>
<td>Inn and restaurant. Located 400 feet from Benton’s Landing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelodge by Wyndham Little Falls</td>
<td>20 Albany Street</td>
<td>315-823-4954</td>
<td>Located 0.2 miles from Benton’s Landing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PADDLECRAFT RENTALS

- Little Falls Canal Harbor and Rotary Park
  - E Mile 80.10, south side
  - 43.034697 -74.865476
  - 125 Southern Avenue at the Erie Canal
  - Little Falls, NY 13365
  - (315) 823-1453
  - cityoflittlefalls.net
E Mile 81.22, north side  43.025640  -74.882090

**Little Falls Launch**
75 Riverside Industrial Parkway (western end)
Little Falls, NY 13365

**FACILITIES:** Picnic tables, pavilion. Concrete ramp and floating dock. Parking for 20 cars; 24-hour limit. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

DEC fishing access point. Accessible fishing dock.

E Mile 80.10, south side  43.034697  -74.865476

**Little Falls Canal Harbor and Rotary Park**
125 Southern Avenue at the Erie Canal
Little Falls, NY 13365
(315) 823-1453
cityoflittlefalls.net

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, laundry, picnic tables and grills, camping. Kayak and canoe rentals. Concrete ramp at western end; low dock at eastern end. Ample parking. The facilities are housed in a repurposed 1921 Barge Canal freighthouse.

**PADDLING NOTE:** The next take-out with road access is at St. Johnsville, about 10 miles downstream.

E Mile 79.84, north side  43.035917  -74.865603

Two fixed crest dams span Mohawk River channels to either side of Hansen Island on the north side of the river.

**PADDLING NOTE:** Do not approach the dams or attempt to enter the rapids below. Hug the south bank below Little Falls Harbor/Rotary Park and pass under the guard gate.
E Mile 79.84  43.037560 -74.862237

Guard Gate 4, Little Falls
This guard gate protects Lock E17 from Mohawk River floodwaters by diverting them into the Little Falls rapids.

**PADDLING NOTE**: The canal from here to Lock E17 is lined by vertical concrete and rock walls on both sides. It is subject to surges and sudden changes in water level caused by operations of the lock and a hydroelectric plant.

E Mile 79.74  43.038602 -74.860688

Bridge E32A, NY 167
A segment of the chamber wall of old Lock 39, built in 1850, was incorporated into the north wall just to the west of the bridge.

E Mile 79.59, north side  43.039499 -74.858999

**Benton’s Landing and Canal Place**
Mohawk Street and Mill Street
Little Falls, NY 13365
(315) 823-4309
littlefallsantiquecenter.com

**FACILITIES**: Use Rotary Park to access Canal Place.

**Canal Place**
Canal Place houses an expansive antiques center, boutique shops, and other businesses in two massive stone mill buildings dating to 1855. This vibrant destination also includes the Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts, several restaurants, and a park where events and festivals are frequently held.

**Benton’s Landing**
The remains of a lateral aqueduct that once connected the old Erie Canal to Benton’s Landing can be seen underwater to the east of the Mohawk Street bridge.

E Mile 79.99  43.038350 -74.846689

**Lock E17, Little Falls**
499 South Ann Street
Little Falls, NY 13365
(315) 823-0650

**LIFT**: 40.5 feet.

**FACILITIES**: Portable toilet, picnic tables.
No docking on the upstream side of the lock. Facilities are difficult for paddlers to access at this location due to steep canal walls.

**PADDLING NOTE**: Because the large lock chamber holds more than six million gallons of water, locking through here takes a bit longer than usual, about 25 minutes.

Constructed in 1915, Lock E17 lifts and lowers boats 40.5 feet. It was once the highest.
single lift lock in the world. The lock was built to help boats navigate around multiple drops and rapids that make up the “Little Falls” of the Mohawk River. Lock E17 is the only “shaft lock” on the system. The guillotine gate at the lower end moves vertically rather than swinging side-to-side. It is suspended by chains and counterweights. The view from the bottom of the chamber as it opens can be breathtaking for east-bound boaters but be prepared for drips as you pass underneath.

Herkimer Home State Historic Site, Little Falls

E Mile 77.24, south side  43.027867  -74.815895

Herzimer Home State Historic Site
200 NY 169
Little Falls, NY 13365
(315) 823-0398
parks.ny.gov

FACILITIES: The site has a dedicated floating dock about 0.2 miles from the house. The site is directly on the Erie Canalway Trail. Picnic area and restrooms.

This 1764 Georgian-style mansion was home to Revolutionary War General Nicholas Herkimer, hero of the Battle of Oriskany. The beautiful landscape is very close to what General Herkimer would have seen.

ADMISSION: Fee.

HOURS: Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, Wednesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The grounds are open dawn to dusk year-round.
MOHAWK RIVER REGION

Explore the region where water and the Erie Canal have shaped transportation, agriculture, industry, and settlement for centuries. Sample small town life and friendly hospitality in Mohawk Valley villages that grew up along the original Erie Canal, including Fonda, Fultonville, Canajoharie, Palatine Bridge, Fort Plain, Nelliston, and St. Johnsville. Several have National Register Historic Districts with outstanding architecture. The villages are connected by the canal and the Erie Canalway Trail.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
More information about things to do along the Mohawk River, including dining and lodging, is available at visitmontgomerycountyny.com.

E Mile 73.33, north side  43.014385 -74.783750
Rocky Rift Movable Dam

PADDLING NOTE: Warning buoys mark off the area around the dam. Do not enter this area—currents can be strong.

The Mohawk River splits off from the canal here and runs more or less parallel. It rejoins the canal below Lock E16.

E Mile 74.94  43.012431 -74.778675
Bridge E29, access road to Lansing Road
Erie Canal–St. Johnsville

E Mile 74.54 43.009429 -74.772059

Guard Gate 3, Indian Castle
The stream entering the canal on the south side is Nowadaga Creek, also known as Castle Creek.

E Mile 72.53 42.995827 -74.737345

Bridge E28, River Road (CR 65)
This bridge is closed to traffic.

E Mile 71.45 42.992304 -74.717424
Bridge E27, River Road (CR 65)

E Mile 71.36, south side 42.992168 -74.715479
Remains of Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 34
The wall here is the only remaining piece of the Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 34. The chamber had a lift of 8.2 feet. It was enlarged again in the late 1880s to allow larger vessels to pass. Although the wall is too high for paddlers to dock, you can paddle up close to get a good look at the stonework.

E Mile 71.02 42.992258 -74.708579

Lock E16, St. Johnsville
171 Mindenville Drive
Fort Plain, NY 13339
(518) 568-2636

LIFT: 20.5 feet.

FACILITIES: Picnic tables, parking.

The Mohawk River, supplemented by the flow from East Canada Creek, rejoins the canal here on the north side just below the lock.

E Mile 69.57 42.993604 -74.680581
Bridge E26A, Bridge Street (CR 61)

E Mile 69.48, north side 42.994785 -74.678657

St. Johnsville Municipal Marina and Campground
16 West Main Street
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
(518) 568-7406
stjohnsville.com

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, laundry, picnic tables, grills. Concrete ramp, low dock.

The marina offers full-service camping at the St. Johnsville campgrounds. To reach shops and restaurants in St. Johnsville, use the Bridge Street overpass to the west. Do not attempt to cross the active railroad tracks that run parallel to the canal on the north side here.

E Mile 68.74, south side 42.990914 -74.665878

Enlarged Erie Lock 33
St. Johnsville, NY 13452

FACILITIES: Dock, car top launch, beach landing. Parking for five cars. Distance from parking about 50 feet.

The remains of the old Lock 33 of the Erie Enlarged Canal at St. Johnsville can be seen here about 150 feet from the dock. The lock, with a six-foot lift, was built in the late 1830s; the south chamber was lengthened in 1888. The lock was abandoned around 1917 when the Barge Canal was completed in this section of the Mohawk Valley.

E Mile 66.36, north side 42.964347 -74.637460
Caroga Creek enters the canal.

E Mile 65.79 42.953676 -74.628928
Abeel Island. The main channel is on the north side of the island.
Erie Canal–St. Johnsville

- Rocky Rift Movable Dam
- Lansing Road E Mile 74.94
- Guard Gate 3, Indian Castle E Mile 74.54
- Castle Creek Aqueduct Ruins E Mile 74.54
- Lock E16, St. Johnsville E Mile 71.02
- St. Johnsville Municipal Marina and Campground E Mile 69.48
- Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 33 (1838-40) E Mile 68.74
- Fort Plain Museum and Historical Park
- Abeel Island E Mile 65.87

Erie Canalway
NEW YORK STATE CANALWAY WATER TRAIL GUIDEBOOK
FORT PLAIN

The hilltop fort on the outskirts of town was built during the Revolutionary War. In later years the fort was largely demolished, but archaeology work starting in the 1960s unearthed many artifacts and uncovered the sites of numerous structures. The 75-acre site is now a museum.

The Village of Fort Plain boomed during the Erie Canal years as a textile and furniture center. The prosperity the canal brought can be seen in the Fort Plain Historic District, which includes the central business area and the surrounding residential neighborhoods. The district contains notable examples of Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, and Beaux-Arts style architecture. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2012.

LOCK E15, FORT PLAIN
84 Otsquago Club Road
Fort Plain, NY 13339
(518) 993-4161

LIFT: 8 feet.

FACILITIES: Water, portable toilets, picnic tables, grills, camping. Car top launch and beach landing. Parking for 20 cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet. Tie up at western or eastern walls, south side. Services in Fort Plain are within walking distance.

PLACES OF INTEREST
OFF THE WATER

42.940133  -74.630266

Fort Plain Museum and Historical Park
389 Canal Street
Fort Plain, NY 13339
(518) 993-2527
fortplainmuseum.org

The museum is about a mile from Lock E15 by way of the Erie Canalway Trail and local streets.

42.932195  -74.622555

Fort Plain Free Library
19 Willett Street
Fort Plain, NY 13339
(518) 993-4646
fortplainfreelibrary.org

The library also serves as a welcome center for visitors.

NELLISTON BOAT RAMP
Old Station Road
Nelliston, NY 13428

FACILITIES: Concrete ramp. Parking for 10 cars. Overnight parking permitted; 24-hour limit. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

DEC fishing access site with handicap-accessible fishing dock.
CANAJOHARIE

The name Canajoharie is derived from the Mohawk name Can-a-jor-ha, which means the “pot that washes itself.” The name refers to a geologic pothole at the base of a waterfall in Canajoharie Creek. The pothole is about 20 feet across and 10 feet deep.

For 118 years, Canajoharie was the home of Beech-Nut Nutrition Corporation. The company moved its operations to the nearby Town of Florida in 2009. Today plans are underway to redevelop the site.

PLACE OF INTEREST
OFF THE WATER

42.907454 -74.571781

The Arkell Museum
2 Erie Boulevard
Canajoharie, NY 13317
(518) 673-2314
arkellmuseum.org

The Arkell is within easy walking distance of Riverfront Park.

The art collection is notable for seven Winslow Homer paintings, as well as works by Thomas Benton, Childe Hassam, John Singer Sargent, and many other important American artists.
E Mile 60.95, north side  42.909399 -74.577709

**Lock E14, Canajoharie**
28 Spring Street
Palatine Bridge, NY 13428
(518) 673-3314

**LIFT:** 8 feet.

**PADDLING NOTE:** There can be a strong current toward the movable dam. Stay along the north bank when approaching Lock E14. Do not attempt to land on the artificial island between the lock and dam.

**ACCESS NOTE:** Road access to Lock E14 is strongly discouraged because it requires crossing very busy railroad tracks at a spot without automatic gates or warning lights.

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E Mile 60.69, south side  42.908990 -74.572490

**Canajoharie Boat Ramp**
West of NY 10 bridge
Canajoharie, NY 13317
(607) 652-7366

**FACILITIES:** Concrete ramp. Parking for 20 cars. Overnight parking permitted; 24-hour limit. Distance from parking about 20 feet. DEC fishing access site.

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E Mile 60.61  42.909596 -74.570858
Bridge E24, Church Street (NY 10)

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E Mile 60.55, south side  42.909259 -74.570477

**Canajoharie Riverfront Park**
143 Church Street
Canajoharie, NY 13317
(518) 673-5512

**FACILITIES:** Picnic tables, pavilion. Floating dock, 300-foot concrete wall. Located at the junction of the Erie Canal and Canajoharie Creek, a trail leads to the Canajoharie boat ramp on the western side of the NY 10 bridge. Shops, restaurants, and attractions are a short walk away.

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E Mile 65.50, south side  42.895571 -74.481753

**Little Nose**
A 400-foot-tall cliff called Little Nose, created eons ago by an upthrown fault block from the underlying sedimentary bedrock, is on the south side. Big Nose, the other end of the fault, is about 0.5 miles downstream on the north side. Big Nose is 560 feet high. The Noses mark the gap between the Adirondack and Catskill mountains.

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**LODGING**

| 42.906422 -74.574321 |

**Erie Canal House**
121 West Main Street
Canajoharie, NY 13317
(518) 381-0325
eriecanalhouse.com

Deluxe guest house located 0.4 miles from Riverfront Park.

A beautifully renovated 1853 Erie Canal mule barn accommodates up to six guests. Fully equipped kitchen. Free transfer and storage of kayaks.

| 42.903023 -74.575244 |

**The Pineapple House**
63 Otsego Street
Canajoharie, NY 13317
(518) 673-3923
pineapplehousebb.com

Bed and breakfast located 0.5 miles from Riverfront Park.
Erie Canal–Fultonville

Lock E13, Yosts
195 Old River Road
Fultonville, NY 12072
(518) 922-6173

**LIFT:** 8 feet.

**FACILITIES:** The Mohawk Valley Welcome Center is here, but access from the canal is prohibited.

**PADDLING NOTE:** There are two sunken World War I era concrete barges at the eastern end of the lock. The barges have mooring posts, but be very cautious about tying up here. Currents can be strong near the dam and spillway when the water level is high.

If you are traveling on the New York State Thruway I-90, the welcome center offers a good pit stop. The year-round site includes the lock and dam, a visitors center for the Mohawk Valley region, restrooms, a Taste, NY store featuring local food and beverages, historical exhibits, picnic tables, children’s play area (with climb-on mule), and charging stations for electric cars. A retired canal buoy boat is on display; kiosks provide additional information about Erie Canal history. The rest area is westbound at milepost 187 between New York State Thruway I-90 exit 29 in Canajoharie and exit 28 in Fultonville. There is no access to the rest area from the canal.

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Bridge E23, South Bridge Street (NY 30A)

Fultonville Dock
Riverside Drive and Scholte Avenue
Fultonville, NY 12072
(518) 853-3815

**FACILITIES:** Car top launch and low dock. Parking for two cars; distance from parking about 100 feet. Shops and fast food restaurants are nearby in the Village of Fultonville.

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Schoharie Crossing Boat Ramp
Hartley Lane
Fort Hunter, NY 12069

0.13 miles up Schoharie Creek, south bank

**FACILITIES:** Portable toilet, picnic tables. Concrete ramp, low dock, beach landing. Parking for 20 cars; $5 fee (honor box). Distance from parking about 20 feet. DEC fishing access site.

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Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site
129 Schoharie Street
Fort Hunter, NY 12069
(518) 829-7516
parks.ny.gov

0.56 miles up Schoharie Creek, north bank

**PADDLING NOTE:** The ruins of Schoharie Aqueduct can be approached while paddling between the east end of the wall and the South Bridge Street bridge. The complex is across the road from the Fonda Speedway and the Montgomery County Fairgrounds.
on the Schoharie Creek. The aqueduct is close to the mouth of the creek so you will be paddling upstream for just a short distance.

Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site is a fascinating look at more than 200 years of Erie Canal history. Within the boundaries of this 245-acre site are well-preserved structures including remains of the famed Schoharie Aqueduct and several stone locks.

**ADMISSION:** Free.

The visitor center on the north side of the creek just past the aqueduct has artifacts, exhibits, and restrooms.

**VISITOR CENTER HOURS:** May 1 through October 31, Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The grounds are open dawn to dusk year-round.

To cross the powerful and flood-prone Schoharie Creek, engineers of the original Erie Canal used a dam to create a pool of slack water. The boats were towed across; the mules and horses were ferried to the other side. A later towpath bridge made the troublesome crossing somewhat less dangerous. When the canal was expanded in the 1830s, the route across Schoharie Creek was moved and an aqueduct with 14 stone masonry arches spanning 624 feet was built to carry boats across the creek. Completed in 1841, the aqueduct on the Enlarged Erie stayed in operation until 1916. It was abandoned after the Barge Canal opened. In the 1940s, the Army Corps of Engineers demolished the easternmost six arches to alleviate ice jams. Flooding and storms caused additional arches to collapse; only five of the 14 remain standing.

On land, trails on the east side of Schoharie Creek lead to a section of the original 1825 canal and to the remains of stone locks from the enlarged Erie Canal, dating to the 1840s. The preserved Empire Lock (old Lock 29) is a
side-by-side lock to allow boats going in opposite directions to lock through simultaneously. At the east end of the site are the well-preserved remains of Yankee Hill Lock (Enlarged Erie Lock 28), built in 1841, and the restored Putman Canal Store.

Schoharie Crossing was also the site of Fort Hunter, dating back to 1712. The fort was built next to a Mohawk Village called the Lower Castle that had 40 or 50 houses surrounded by a defensive palisade. The fort and settlement grew larger over the years, but were demolished in 1820 to make room for the Erie Canal. Artifacts from the fort and settlement can be seen in the visitors center.

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**Lock E12, Tribes Hill**
177 Main Street
Tribes Hill, NY 12177
(518) 829-7331

**LIFT:** 11 feet.

**FACILITIES:** Car top launch and beach landing at the end of the upstream approach wall. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 35 feet.

**PADDLING NOTE:** The current from the movable dam can be strong. Stay to the north side when leaving or approaching the lock. The kayak launch here is one of the closest options for accessing the Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site. From Lock E12, cross the CR 27 bridge over the canal and continue on CR 27 (Main Street) for another 0.35 mile to Schoharie Street. Follow Schoharie Street for 0.14 mile to reach the visitors center.

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**Erie Canal–Fort Hunter**

**Bridge E22, Main Street (CR 27)**
This bridge goes over the top of the dam at Lock E12, one of only two movable dams on the Mohawk River to carry highway traffic (the other is in Rotterdam at Lock E9).

**Upper Pepper Island. The canal channel is to the south.**

**Pepper Island, also known as Leppe Island or Island Number Ten. The canal channel is to the south.**

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**Yankee Hill Lock**
Queen Anne Street
Amsterdam, NY 12010

**FACILITIES:** Portable toilets, picnic tables, grills. Car top launch and floating dock. Parking for 20 cars. Distance from parking about 350 feet.

The eastern end of Schoharie Crossing contains the remains of Yankee Hill Lock (Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 28), about 200 feet south of the dock. Built in 1841 with a lift of eight feet, one of the lock chambers was lengthened in 1885. The restored Putman Canal Store houses an exhibit on the grocery stores of the old Erie Canal.

**Robb Island. The canal channel is to the south.**
Amsterdam grew on the north bank of the Mohawk River. Nearby Chuctanunda Creek provided abundant waterpower for manufacturing. Amsterdam became the “Carpet City,” with massive Sanford and Shuttleworth mills turning out thousands of yards of floor coverings every day. Other factories produced brooms, paint, pearl buttons, and knitted underwear. The Erie Canal ran along the south side of the river through the hamlet of Port Jackson. The canal, and later railroads, carried wool, jute, and other raw materials to and finished products from Amsterdam’s manufacturers.

The best place to launch here is the South Side Launch in Port Jackson. There are a few eateries nearby. The Mohawk Valley Gateway Overlook Pedestrian Bridge connects this area with downtown Amsterdam.


**Erie Canal–Amsterdam**

E Mile 39.29, north side  42.946620  -74.210099

**Lock E11, Amsterdam**

366 West Main Street
Amsterdam, NY 12010
(518) 843-2120

**LIFT:** 12 feet.

**PADDLING NOTE:** The current from the movable dam can be strong. Stay to the north side when leaving or approaching the lock.

Guy Park, a stone 1774 Georgian-style mansion adjacent to the lock, was built for Guy Johnson, the nephew of Sir William Johnson, the British superintendent for Indian affairs in colonial New York. The mansion later became a tavern and stagecoach stop. It was used as a field headquarters during Barge Canal construction and later became the Guy Park State Historic Site. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The property was damaged by flooding in 2011 and is currently closed.

E Mile 38.15  42.935702  -74.194982

Bridge E19B, Mohawk Valley Gateway Overlook Pedestrian Bridge

The Mohawk Valley Gateway Overlook Pedestrian Bridge spans 500 feet over the Mohawk River. The bridge connects the two sides of the city of Amsterdam and provides spectacular views over the river. On the north end, the bridge connects to Riverlink Park and downtown Amsterdam. On the south end, the bridge connects to the Erie Canalway Trail.

E Mile 38.06  42.934549  -74.193676

Bridge E19A, NY 30

E Mile 37.95, north side  42.933925  -74.191715

Amsterdam Riverlink Park

2 Front Street
Amsterdam, NY 12010
(518) 320-4868
amsterdamny.gov/our-city/things-to-do/city-parks

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, laundry, picnic tables, playground. Floating docks at the west end. Shops and restaurants in Amsterdam are a short walk away using the pedestrian bridge over the railroad tracks.

E Mile 37.76  42.931187  -74.189317

Davey Island. The canal channel is to the north.

E Mile 37.27  42.926073  -74.181440

Giording Island. The canal channel is to the north.

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**E Mile 39.13  42.943256  -74.207062**

Bronson Island. The canal channel is to the north.

**PADDLING NOTE:** Exercise caution at the western end of the island. The water can be rough here, especially after recent rainfall.

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**E Mile 38.50, south side  42.938630  -74.200029**

Port Jackson/South Side Launch

Erie Terrace off Gilliland Avenue
Amsterdam, NY 12010

**FACILITIES:** Concrete ramp, low dock. Parking for 15 cars; 24-hour limit. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

This is a launch site for Down by the River Kayak Rentals.
**PADDLING NOTE:** The current from the movable dam can be strong. Stay to the south side when leaving or approaching the lock. A large stone quarry surrounds the site. No services are nearby.

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**Amsterdam Boat Ramp**
Quist Road off NY 5N
Amsterdam, NY 12010

**FACILITIES:** Concrete ramp, dock. Parking for 20 cars; 24-hour limit. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

DEC fishing access site.

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**Lock E10, Cranesville**
712 NY 5S
Amsterdam, NY 12010
(518) 887-5450

**LIFT:** 15 feet.

The Town of Florida ramp is at the far end of the eastern terminal wall.

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**Town of Florida Ramp**
Eastern end of Lock E10
Amsterdam, NY 12010
(518) 887-5450

**FACILITIES:** Overnight parking permitted. Distance from parking about 50 feet.

DEC fishing access site.
E Mile 33.02 42.906476 -74.104457
Swart Island. The canal channel is to the south.

E Mile 30.43 42.884737 -74.064888
Bridge E17, CSX railroad

E Mile 29.08 42.878089 -74.042103
Bridge E16, Bridge Street (NY 103)
This traffic bridge goes over the top of the dam at Lock E9, one of only two movable dams on the Mohawk River to carry highway traffic (the other is at Lock E12). NY 103 connects NY 5 on the north with NY 5S on the south. It is the shortest state road in New York.

E Mile 29.07, north side 42.878686 -74.041216

**Lock E9, Rotterdam**
9 State Canal Park Road (NY 103)
Rotterdam Junction, NY 12150
(518) 491-8205

**LIFT:** 15 feet.

**FACILITIES:** Car top launch is at the westernmost end of the lock wall. Parking for 10 cars. Convenience store within walking distance.

**PADDLING NOTE:** The current from the movable dam can be strong. Stay to the north side when leaving or approaching the lock. Sunken concrete barges built during World War I are at either end of the lock approach walls.
Mabee Farm Historic Site
1100 Main Street
Rotterdam Junction, NY 12150
(518) 887-5073
schenectadyhistorical.org

The oldest farm in the Mohawk Valley (1705), this site preserves Mohawk Valley heritage through historic buildings and extensive historical and archaeological collections. The grounds cover 36 acres with orchards, gardens, and trails. The site is also home to two reproduction 18th-century bateaux.

The site is accessible from the canal using the seasonal floating dock. Check ahead to be sure the dock is in place. Water and restrooms are available 24 hours a day at the farm site during the navigation season.

ADMISSION: $8 adults; free for students and children.

HOURS: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Erie Canal–Rotterdam

Rotterdam Kiwanis Park and Boat Ramp
1100 Sunrise Boulevard (NY 5S)
Rotterdam, NY 12306
(518) 355-7450
rotterdamny.org

FACILITIES: Water, portable toilet, pavilion, picnic tables, grills. Ramp. Parking for 40 cars. Distance from parking about 100 feet.

The Van Slyke/Plotter Kill Aqueduct was built around 1842 as part of the Enlarged Erie Canal to carry boats over a small gorge and creek. The aqueduct was in use until around 1915, when the Barge Canal enlargement moved the canal to the north. Today, the arches that carried the towpath are used to carry the Mohawk-Hudson Bikeway over the creek. The arches are visible from the waterway just to the east of the Kiwanis Park.
Erie Canal—Glenville

E Mile 26.06, north side  42.849240 -74.013071

**Arrowhead Marina and RV Park**
2 Van Buren Lane
Glenville, NY 12302
(518) 382-8966
arrowheadmrvp.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, camping. Ramp and low dock.
Private marina.

PADDLING NOTE: The current from the movable dam can be strong. Stay to the south side when leaving or approaching the lock.

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E Mile 25.73  42.849945 -74.005773
Bridge E14A, I-890

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E Mile 25.03  42.841039 -73.997821
Dalys Island, also known as Daleys Island.
The canal channel is to the north.

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E Mile 24.10, north side  42.830700 -73.989400

**Malwyck Park**
300 Malwyck Park Road (NY 5)
Glenville, NY 12302
(518) 688-1221

Just to the west of the movable dam at Lock E8

**FACILITIES:** Water, portable toilets. Ample parking.

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E Mile 24.04, south side  42.829340 -73.991389

**Lock E8, Scotia (Rotterdam)**
115 Rice Road
Rotterdam, NY 12306
(518) 346-4631

**LIFT:** 14 feet.

**FACILITIES:** Portable toilet, picnic tables. Tie up at the eastern or western walls. Informal beach launch at lower end of downstream approach wall. Parking for 12 cars. Distance from parking about 800 feet. No services are within walking distance.

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E Mile 23.42, south side  42.821329 -73.986735

**Old Erie Canal Lock 23 (Alexander’s Lock)** is 0.5 inland here, accessible from the Erie Canalway Trail near the intersection of Rice and Schermerhorn Roads. Exit the water trail below Lock E8 to access this historic site.
The lock dates from 1842 in the Enlarged era. It was bypassed by the Barge Canal and closed in 1918. Today, the site contains two side-by-side lock chambers and a rebuilt lockmaster’s shed. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.

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E Mile 23.75  42.826348 -73.986735
Isle of the Oneidas. The canal channel is to the south.

---

E Mile 22.91, north side  42.816007 -73.971865

Isle of the Onondagas. The canal channel is to the south. The Mohawk River splits off from the canal at the Isle of the Onondagas and flows northward past the Isle of the Senecas and the Isle of the Mohawks.

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E Mile 21.96, north side  42.822110 -73.959459

**Glen Sanders Mansion**
1 Glen Avenue
Scotia, NY 12302
(518) 374-7262
glensandersmansion.com

Restaurant and inn with dedicated dock. Distance from dock about 150 feet.
Isle of the Cayugas. The canal channel is to the south. Turn north to enter the Mohawk River channel that leads to the docks in Freedom Park.

**Scotia Village Docks at Freedom Park**
5 Schonowee Avenue
Scotia, NY 12302
(518) 374-1071
freedomparkscotia.com

**FACILITIES:** Water, restrooms, picnic tables. Low dock, beach landing, and parking near Jumpin Jack’s Drive-In (a favorite place for paddlers and a fixture at the park since 1952) to the east of the Western Gateway bridge.

**PADDLING NOTE:** To reach the docks, leave the Erie Canal and paddle north into the channel between Isle of the Onondagas and Isle of the Cayugas for about 0.50 mile if eastbound and between Isle of the Cayugas and the mainland for about 0.40 miles if westbound.
SCHENECTADY

Dutch settlers arriving along the Mohawk River in the mid-1700s encountered the Mohawk Nation of the Iroquois Confederacy. The area that is now Schenectady was known as Schau-naugh-ta-da, meaning “over the pine plains.” The name came to refer to the bend in the Mohawk River where the city of Schenectady grew.

For centuries, Schenectady had been a jumping-off point for west-bound travelers who moved overland from Albany to avoid rapids and falls on the lower Mohawk, then boarded boats to move further inland. The city was already a road transportation hub when the Erie Canal opened in 1825 and turned it into a canal hub as well. Rail transport was soon added to the region. Locomotive manufacturing began in the city in 1848; by 1901 the massive American Locomotive Company (ALCO) covered many acres along the waterfront. Starting in the 1880s, Thomas Edison’s General Electric Company was also a massive presence in the city. Schenectady became known as “The City That Lights and Hauls the World.”

Changes in the manufacturing economy put ALCO out of business in 1969 and reduced GE’s presence in the city. Starting in 2004, however, economic growth in the city has been strong. The land along the Mohawk River once occupied by ALCO has been revitalized to become Mohawk Harbor, a 60-acre mixed-use development.

Schenectady’s early history is preserved in the Historic Stockade District, which features dozens of Dutch and English Colonial houses dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. It is New York State’s first National Register historic district, designated in 1965.

Erie Canal history in the area can be seen along the Mohawk Towpath Byway, a network of local, county, state, and federal highways that follow the historic route of the Erie Canal from Waterford and Cohoes to Schenectady.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
More information about the Schenectady area can be found at discoverschenectady.com. Maps and more information about the byway are at mohawktowpath.org.

LODGING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courtyard Marriott at Mohawk Harbor&lt;br&gt;240 Harborside Drive&lt;br&gt;Schenectady, NY 12305&lt;br&gt;(518) 579-6620&lt;br&gt;marriott.com</td>
<td>42.826386</td>
<td>-73.931435</td>
<td>The Landing Hotel at Rivers Casino &amp; Resort&lt;br&gt;21 Rush Street&lt;br&gt;Schenectady, NY 12308&lt;br&gt;(518) 579-8840&lt;br&gt;thelandinghotelny.com</td>
<td>42.825684</td>
<td>-73.932223</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Hotel at Mohawk Harbor. Distance to dock about 200 feet.
**PADDLECRAFT RENTALS**

42.825196 -73.933532  
**Upstate Kayak Rentals**  
Harborside Drive  
Schenectady, NY 12305  
(518) 209-1063  
upstatekayakrentals.com  

Several locations along the canal in the Capital Region. In Schenectady, it is located at Mohawk Harbor.

42.848571 -73.889814  
**The Boat House**  
2855 Aqueduct Road  
Schenectady, NY 12309  
(518) 393-5711  
boathousecanoeskayaks.com  


**WATERWAY CRUISES**

42.821606 -73.953656  
**Mohawk River Cruise**  
22 Schonowee Avenue  
Scotia, NY 12302  
(518) 852-9130  
mohawkrivercruise.com  


**EL13, Western Gateway Bridge (NY 5)**

42.818337 -73.954341  
**Gateway Landing/Rotary Park**  
East of Western Gateway Bridge  
Schenectady, NY 12303  
(518) 386-2225  

**FACILITIES:** Picnic tables, gazebo. Car top launch, floating dock, and beach landing. Parking for 20 cars. Distance from parking about 100 feet. Shops and restaurants are in the nearby Historic Stockade area, the oldest neighborhood in Schenectady and marked by Dutch and English 17th- and 18th-century buildings.

This park marks the mouth of the Binnekill, historic point of embarkation for batteaux and Durham boats heading up the Mohawk River in the days before the Erie Canal.

42.819830 -73.946085  
**Riverside Park**  
Washington and Ingersoll Streets  
Schenectady, NY 12305  

A promenade along Schenectady’s waterfront; this park offers access to the adjacent historic neighborhoods. Shops and restaurants are in the nearby Historic Stockade area of Schenectady.

42.820597 -73.943146  
**Front Street Park**  
157 Front Street  
Schenectady, NY 12305  

**FACILITIES:** Restrooms.

This waterfront park is adjacent to the Stockade District. No access from the water trail. Shops and restaurants are nearby.
Erie Canal–Schenectady

- Mohawk Valley Marine
  - E Mile 18.14

- Schenectady Yacht Club
  - E Mile 17.21

- The Boat House/Aqueduct Park
  - E Mile 17.33

- Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 21

- Mohawk Valley Marine
  - E Mile 18.14

- The Waters Edge Lighthouse
  - E Mile 20.01

- Glen Sanders Mansion
  - E Mile 21.96

- Scotia Village Docks at Freedom Park/Mohawk River Cruise
  - E Mile 21.45

- Freemans Bridge Boat Launch
  - E Mile 20.07, north side

- Front Street Park
  - E Mile 20.91

- Riverside Park
  - E Mile 21.05

- Gateway Landing Park
  - E Mile 21.50

- Mohawk Harbor Marina
  - E Mile 20.27

- Upstate Kayak Rentals
- Rivers Casino & Resort
- Courtyard Marriott at Mohawk Harbor

- Gateway Landing Park
  - E Mile 21.50

- Mohawk River Cruise
  - E Mile 21.45

- Scotia Village Docks
  - E Mile 21.45

- Glen Sanders Mansion
  - E Mile 21.96

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  - E Mile 20.07, north side

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  - E Mile 21.45

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  - E Mile 21.96

- Freemans Bridge Boat Launch
  - E Mile 20.07, north side

- Front Street Park
  - E Mile 20.91

- Riverside Park
  - E Mile 21.05

- Gateway Landing Park
  - E Mile 21.50
Mohawk Harbor
Schenectady, NY 12308

Mohawk Harbor, a 60-acre mixed-use development, stretches along the south side of the river for a mile. The community contains luxury apartments, high-tech offices, restaurants, hotels, and retail stores, along with the Rivers Casino & Resort. The waterfront area offers public access for boating and links to the Mohawk-Hudson Hike-Bike Trail and Erie Canalway Trail. Mohawk Harbor was built on the vast workshops of the American Locomotive Company (ALCO). Steam, diesel, and electric locomotives were built here from 1848-1969.

Mohawk Harbor Marina
Schenectady NY 12308
(518) 949-0220
themohawkharbor.com


Mohawk Valley Marine
47 Mohawk Avenue
Alplaus, NY 12008
(518) 399-2719
mohawkvalleymarine.com

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

Freeman’s Bridge Boat Launch
Freemans Bridge Road
Glenville, NY 12301

**FACILITIES:** Picnic tables. Floating dock, concrete ramp. Parking for 20 cars. Overnight parking permitted; 24-hour limit. Distance from parking about 50 feet.

The Waters Edge Lighthouse
2 Freemans Bridge Road
Glenville, NY 12302
(518) 370-5300
thewatersedgelighthouse.com

**Restaurant and lodging with dedicated dock. Distance from dock 100 feet.**

Mohawk River Cruise boat docks here. Free trolley to downtown Schenectady.

Bridge E10, CP railroad

The canal channel is to the north of the island.

Mohawk Valley Marine
47 Mohawk Avenue
Alplaus, NY 12008
(518) 399-2719
mohawkvalleymarine.com

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

Private marina.

Alplaus Kill enters the Mohawk River.
The abutments from an old Schenectady Railway Company deck truss bridge are still in place. The bridge was built in 1904 and abandoned in 1941. The superstructure was removed in 1943 for scrap metal to be used in the war effort.

Aqueduct Park
2855 Aqueduct Road
Schenectady, NY 12309
(518) 386-4504

**FACILITIES:** Portable toilet. Car top launch and low dock. Parking for 15 cars. Distance from parking about 200 feet.

Bridge E8, Balltown Road (NY 146)

Rexford Aqueduct Ruins
The ruins of the Rexford Aqueduct can be seen on both sides of the canal. Constructed in 1841 to carry the Enlarged Erie Canal over the Mohawk River, the central part was removed in 1915 to make way for the Barge Canal. The remaining stone arches supported a truss bridge until 1965, when the Balltown Road Bridge was opened. Today one arch remains on the north (Rexford) side and two on the south (Niskayuna) side.

Schenectady Yacht Club
1676 NY 146
Rexford, NY 12148
(518) 384-9971
sycontheerie.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Low dock.

Private yacht club. The clubhouse is a converted former canal store built around 1900.

Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 21 constructed in 1841 can be seen in a back channel of the Schenectady Yacht Club. This double-chambered lock was in use until 1916. Lock 21 is still in use today as the travel lift for the Schenectady Yacht Club.

The spectacular Rexford Cliff borders the canal on the north for the next 1.2 miles.

Riverview Orchards
660 Riverview Road
Rexford, NY 12148
(518) 371-2174
rivervieworchards.com

To access this historic Erie Canal farm, use the ramp at Mohawk Landing. From the parking area, walk west on Riverview Road for 0.18 miles.

Riverview Farm features locally produced foods and a bakery. Lots of activities for kids.

**HOURS:** Open every day 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. year-round.
Erie Canal–Rexford

- Niskayuna Lions Park (E Mile 11.02)
- Riverview Orchards (E Mile 14.75)
- Mohawk Landing Nature Preserve (E Mile 14.69)
- Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 21 (1841)
- Schenectady Yacht Club (E Mile 17.21)
- Rexford Aqueduct Ruins
- Lock E7, Vischer Ferry (Niskayuna) (E Mile 13.07)
- Vischer Ferry Car Top Launch (E Mile 12.00)
- Vischer Ferry Dam
- Vischer Ferry Hydroelectric Plant (1925 FERC P-4679)

Locations of interest on the map:
- Schenectady Yacht Club
- Aqueduct Park/ The Boat House
- Riverview Orchards
- Mohawk Landing Nature Preserve
- Vischer Ferry Dam
- Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 21
- Rexford Aqueduct Ruins
- Vischer Ferry Car Top Launch
- Niskayuna Lions Park
- Lock E7, Vischer Ferry (Niskayuna)

Distance markers in miles and kilometers:
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
### Mohawk Landing Nature Preserve
Riverview Road  
Clifton Park, NY 12065  
(518) 371-6651  
ciltonpark.org

**FACILITIES:** Hand launch, picnic tables. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 850 feet.

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### Lock E7 boat ramp
Lock 7 Road  
Niskayuna, NY 12309

**FACILITIES:** Portable toilet, picnic tables, grills. Ramp and low dock. Parking for 20 cars. Overnight parking permitted; call (518) 374-7912. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

The boat launch area is tucked away at the base of an inlet behind the western lock wall.

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### Lock E7, Vischer Ferry (Niskayuna)
1280 Lock 7 Road  
Niskayuna, NY 12309  
(518) 374-7912

**LIFT:** 27 feet.

**FACILITIES:** Tie up at the western or eastern terminal walls or use the Lock E7 boat ramp. Portable toilets, picnic tables and parking.

**PADDLING NOTE:** The dam spans the width of the Mohawk River. The current above and below the dam is strong. Do not approach within 100 feet in either direction. Paddle directly into the channel for Lock E7.

Vischer Ferry Dam extends from the lock across the Mohawk River to rocky Goat Island, along the width of the island, and then to the powerhouse.

The Vischer Ferry Hydroelectric Plant is the large, yellow-orange brick building on the north bank of the Mohawk River. It was built in 1925 and is still in operation.

Lock E7 has a 2,300-foot-long breakwater between the river and the north lock wall to provide protection from river currents for vessels approaching from the east. The breakwater was built using rubble from the demolished Crescent Aqueduct.

The 107-acre Mohawk River State Park adjoins Lock 7 Park.

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### Vischer Ferry Car Top Launch
End of Ferry Lane  
Rexford, NY 12148

### Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve
Riverview Road  
Rexford, NY 12148  
(518) 371-6667  
ciltonparkopenspaces.org

The preserve covers 740 acres and stretches along the Mohawk River/Erie Canal for approximately five miles. A dock and kayak and canoe launch are located within the park near Clute’s Dry Dock, however, the site is not accessible from the water trail except during periods on high to moderate water levels.

The preserve contains a number of historic Erie Canal remains. At the main entrance on Riverview Road at VanVranken Road is a rare surviving iron “bowstring” truss bridge designed by engineer Squire Whipple. This one originally spanned the Erie Canal at Fultonville. It was moved here in 1996 and is now a footbridge crossing an original 1825 section of the Erie Canal and towpath. The remains of the double-chamber Lock 19, built in 1842 and enlarged in 1885 are at the
western end of the preserve. A footbridge links the two sides of the lock; a picnic area and observation platform are nearby.

Clute’s Dry Dock, dating from 1852 and abandoned in 1907, is about 1.0 mile east of the Whipple Bridge entrance to the preserve, on the south side of Riverview Road. Canal boats were built and repaired here, but all the workshops and other structures are long gone. The dry dock area is now a large pond. A dock and a kayak and canoe launch are in the dry dock area, however the site is only accessible from the water trail during periods of high to moderate water levels.

E Mile 11.02, south side  42.777509 -73.822890

Niskayuna Lions Park
Rosendale Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309
(518) 386-4504

FACILITIES: Water, restrooms, picnic tables. Car top launch and beach landing. Parking for 20 cars. Distance from parking about 250 feet.

PADDLING NOTE: Thick floating mats of invasive water chestnut can make it difficult to reach this site from the water during late summer.

The Old Niskayuna Train Station, dating from 1834, is now an art exhibit space. The picnic area offers beautiful views of the Mohawk River.

E Mile 7.22  42.791590 -73.761381

Bridge E7A, Adirondack Northway (I-87) Also known as the Thaddeus Kosciusko Bridge or the Twin Bridges. Below the bridge to the east is Dunsbach Ferry, once the site of an important river crossing. In the 1920s, the hamlet was home to many barge canal captains.

Diamond Reef Yacht Club
5 Clamsteam Road
Clifton Park, NY 12065
(518) 371-2716

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms, showers. Low docks and concrete ramp.

Private yacht club.

E Mile 7.10, north side  42.794283 -73.760884

Blain’s Bay Marina
221 Dunsbach Ferry Road
Cohoes, NY 12047
(518) 785-6785


Private marina.

E Mile 6.88, south side  42.794132 -73.760884

Klam’r Tavern & Marina
32 Clamsteam Road
Halfmoon, NY 12065
(518) 930-0577
theklamr.com

FACILITIES: Car top launch, beach landing. Parking for five cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet. Restaurant with dine-in or take-out menu.

E Mile 6.86, north side  42.796760 -73.760020

Mohawk Riverside Landing Park
4071 River Road
Colonie, NY 12110
(518) 783-2760
colonie.org/departments/parksandrec

FACILITIES: Water, restrooms, picnic tables, grills. Car top launch, beach landing. Parking for 20 cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

E Mile 6.35, south side  42.799480 -73.747870
Erie Canal—Halfmoon

E Mile 5.96, north side 42.806922 -73.748486

**Crescent Boat Club**
142 Canal Road
Halfmoon, NY 12065
(518) 371-9864
crescentboatclub.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, grills, overnight RV parking.

Private yacht club.

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E Mile 4.50, south side 42.820099 -73.729900

**Freddie’s Park**
22 North Schermerhorn Road
Cohoes, NY 12047

**FACILITIES:** Picnic tables. Car top launch, beach landing. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 150 feet.

The water around the launch area is heavily vegetated. Remnants of the south abutments of the Crescent Aqueduct can be seen near the launch area.

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E Mile 4.50, north side 42.820099 -73.729900

**Halfmoon-Crescent Park**
1 Old Canal Road
Halfmoon, NY 12065

**FACILITIES:** Picnic tables. Car top launch, beach landing. Parking for eight cars. Distance from parking about 100 feet.

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E Mile 4.32, south side 42.820753 -73.727705

**Albany Marine Services**
1395 New Loudon Road
Cohoes, NY 12047
(518) 783-5333
albanymarine.wixsite.com/mysite

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, restrooms, showers. Low docks, concrete ramp.

Private marina.

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**CAPITAL REGION**

The Mohawk and Hudson Rivers meet here, near the second-largest waterfall in New York, the Cohoes Falls. See the eastern terminus of the Erie Canal and marvel at the engineering genius that unlocked waterway travel west from Albany. Start your paddle trip in Waterford. You’ll find a concentration of interesting sites and services, as well as good visitor information.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**
More information about things to do in the Capital Region, including dining and lodging, is available from albany.org.
WATERFORD

Waterford is the oldest continuously incorporated village in the United States. It is the eastern terminus of the Erie Canal and the southern terminus of the Champlain Canal. The opening of the Waterford Flight of Locks in 1915 transformed Waterford from a small village along the old Champlain Canal into the eastern gateway to the Erie Canal.

Waterford is home to the Tugboat Round-up held each September. It is the largest annual tugboat festival in the Northeast. The annual Canal Fest is held in mid-May. A farmer’s market takes place on the canalfront promenade near the visitor center at Lock 2 on Sunday mornings during canal season.

Restaurants, shops and other services are within walking distance from the Lock 2 Visitor Center. The best places to launch are from the Waterford Point Boat Ramp, Peebles Island State Park, and Alcathy’s Boat Ramp above Lock 6.

PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

42.789057 -73.708922

Cohoes Falls
North Mohawk Street
Cohoes NY 12047
friendsofcohoesfalls.org

The spectacular 85-foot Cohoes Falls on the Mohawk River is a must-see destination that was pivotal to construction of the Erie Canal and the industrialization of America. During the 1820s, engineers constructed 18 locks on the Erie Canal threading through Cohoes to lift and lower boats around the falls. The falls also supplied water power for Harmony Mills and other Cohoes textile companies. In 1915, the falls were harnessed for hydroelectric power at the School Street Hydroelectric Facility.

Falls View Park is located at the north edge of the Harmony Mills National Historic Landmark District on North Mohawk Street. This park is open May through November.

Open year round, Overlook Park on School Street is another spot to see the falls.

42.695071 -73.780909

The Waterford Historical Museum
2 Museum Lane
Waterford, NY 12188
(518) 238-0809
waterfordmuseum.com

42.793952 -73.67866

Old Champlain Canal Towpath
NY 32, Short 5th Street
Waterford NY 12188
(518) 237-0810

Beginning at Lock 2 Park, follow this walking and bike trail south for about one mile to see Old Champlain Canal Lock 4 and Lock 5, the old weigh lock, and several sidecut locks, all dating from the Enlarged era.
E Mile 3.02, north side  42.807890  -73.714510

Alcathy’s Boat Launch
(Flight Lock Road Boat Launch)
Western end of Flight Lock Road
Waterford, NY 12188

FACILITIES: Portable toilet at Guard Gate 2
(0.25 mile east on Flight Lock Road). Ramp,
low dock, beach landing. Parking for 20 cars.
Distance from parking about 25 feet.

DEC fishing access site.

This launch is an outstanding starting point
for paddling through the Waterford Flight of
Locks. There are no services accessible to
paddlers until Lock 2 at Waterford Harbor.
THE WATERFORD FLIGHT

PADDLING THE WATERFORD FLIGHT: Erie Canal Locks 2 through 6 make up the Waterford Flight, a set of five locks with a total lift of 169 feet in just over 1.5 miles. Until recently, these locks were the highest lift in the shortest span in the world. Paddling through the flight makes an outstanding half-day trip, with dramatic scenery, towering locks, and pleasant, easy paddling. Here are a few things of note to ensure a safe and enjoyable journey:

• Safety first! Always wear life jackets. Beware of large boats traversing through the Flight.

• Allow two to three hours to complete the trip and arrive at Waterford Harbor.

• We recommend putting in at Alcathy’s and taking out at Waterford Point Boat Ramp. Leave a vehicle at the take out point to facilitate your return at the end.

• There are no services accessible to paddlers and no take-out points until you reach Waterford Harbor.

• This trip takes you through two guard gates and five locks. Each lock takes about 20 minutes. Call ahead to alert lock operators of your journey so they are prepared to open gates and locks.

• As you start out, stay to the right hand shoreline to enter the canal channel. You’ll paddle through a 0.50-mile long deep rock cut carved in the greywacke shale that forms the crest of Cohoes Falls.

• Large stilling pools between the locks ensure an ample supply of water for the locks and prevent overflow as the massive chambers empty and fill. The slab-on-pier guide walls between Locks E6 and Lock E5 allow the free flow of water into and out of the stilling pools. Stay in the channel; do not attempt to get out and walk on the concrete slabs.

HISTORY OF THE WATERFORD FLIGHT: This remarkable engineering accomplishment was constructed between 1910 and 1915 to bypass the 85-foot barrier of Cohoes Falls on the Mohawk River. The original Erie Canal used 18 locks in Cohoes to lift and lower boats past the Great Falls of the Mohawk (as Cohoes Falls was known then). The Enlarged Erie Canal replaced those locks with 16 pairs of longer double locks following a slightly different route. Barge Canal engineers decided on a completely different approach. They used an Ice Age overflow channel that opened onto the Hudson River about 2.5 miles north of the falls. The five locks of the Waterford Flight, with lifts ranging from 32.5 to 34.5 feet, were completed in 1915.
Crescent Dam, Cohoes
The massive Crescent Dam on the south side is visible. Built in 1911, the 1,922 foot long dam consists of two curved sections separated by a rocky island.

The Crescent Dam spans the Mohawk River; from this point to the junction with the Hudson River in Waterford, the Erie Canal is a true canal of locks and walls.

**PADDLING NOTE:** The current near the dam is strong. Do not approach within 100 feet. Paddle to the north to enter the walled canal.

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Guard Gate 2, Crescent
Eastbound paddlers must call (518) 237-0833 or VHF 13 to open.

**PADDLING NOTE:** Guard Gate 2 is the entry point to the five interconnected locks that make up the Waterford Flight. Once you begin paddling this route, you must continue to the end.

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Guard Gate 1, Crescent
Guard Gate 2 and Guard Gate 1 both protect the Waterford Flight from flooding and allow for maintenance and seasonal drawdowns. The role is so important that canal engineers put in two guard gates just a 0.25-mile apart. They raise and lower alternately to protect the flight. Be prepared for drips as you pass underneath.

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NYS Canal Maintenance Shops, Waterford
The entrance to the canal shops and drydock is on the south side. The shops repair NYS Corporation boats and locks in the eastern end of the system.

**PADDLING NOTE:** Do not enter the canal shops area. Watch out for workboats near the entrance.
Lock E3, Waterford
48 Washington Avenue
Waterford, NY 12188
(518) 237-0812

**LIFT:** 34.5 feet.

E Mile 0.84  42.791589 -73.684201
Bridge E3, Saratoga Avenue (NY 32)

E Mile 0.63  42.789120 -73.681800

Lock E2, Waterford
NY 32, Short 5th Street
Waterford, NY 12188
(518) 237-0810

**LIFT:** 33.6 feet.

**FACILITIES:** Picnic tables. Facilities are difficult for paddlers to access at this location due to steep canal walls.

Lock E2 is the easternmost lock of the Erie Canal. The park on the north side of the lock is a good way to see the old Champlain Sidecut, a flight of five locks that provided an alternate link from the old Champlain Canal to the Hudson River. The stone lock chambers now serve as a spillway for Lock E2. This is a good place to compare the scale of 19th and 20th century canal structures side-by-side.

E Mile 0.57  42.788490 -73.680979
Bridge E2, 4th Street

**PADDLING NOTE:** The stretch from here to the Hudson can be one of the busiest places on the canal. Watch out for powerboats, tugs and barges.
E Mile 0.28, north side  42.785539 -73.677449

Waterford Point Boat Ramp
Confluence of Erie and Champlain Canals
Battery Park, First and Front Streets
Waterford, NY 12188

FACILITIES: Concrete ramp, low dock, beach landing. Parking for 10 cars; overnight parking permitted. Distance from parking about 20 feet. Walk to restrooms, showers, and information at the Waterford Harbor Visitor Center. Upstate Kayak Rentals is located here.

CHAMPLAIN CANAL

The Champlain region is rich in history, starting with Dutch and French explorations. It was a strategic location during the Revolutionary War. The Champlain Canal was a critical north-south transportation route that complemented the east-west Erie Canal.

Water Trail sites along the Champlain Canal can be found starting on page 238.