LITTLE FALLS

The City of Little Falls is a fun place to explore before, during, or after your paddle trip. Here you’ll find a 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 explorelittlefalls.com and herkimercountychamber.com/visit.

LODGING

43.04045  -74.85924
The Inn at Stone Mill
410 Canal Place
Little Falls, NY 13365
(315) 823-0208
theinnatstonemill.com
Inn and restaurant. Located 400 feet from Benton’s Landing.

43.04063  -74.85865
Canal Side Inn
395 Canal Place
Little Falls, NY 13365
(315) 823-1170
canalsideinn.com
Inn and restaurant. Located 400 feet from Benton’s Landing.

43.04221  -74.85946
Travelodge by Wyndham Little Falls
20 Albany Street
Little Falls, NY 13365
(315) 823-4954
travelodge.com
Located 0.2 miles from Benton’s Landing.

PADDLECRAFT RENTALS

E Mile 80.10, south side
43.03470  -74.86548

Little Falls Canal Harbor and Rotary Park
125 Southern Avenue at the Erie Canal
Little Falls, NY 13365
(315) 823-1453
cityoflittlefalls.net
E Mile 81.22, north side  43.02564  -74.88209

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 site. Accessible fishing dock.

E Mile 80.10, south side  43.03470  -74.86548

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 and floating dock at western end; long floating 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  43.03592  -74.86560

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.
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.

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.

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.

Stay clear of the hydroelectric plant intake, marked by vertical bar racks and rack raking machine on north bank.

Moss Island
Moss Island, an artificial island covering 14 acres, was created when the Erie Canal was built. The underlying rock of the island is syenite. Glacial meltwater from the last ice age scoured out numerous large, very deep potholes. Profile Rock, a formation in the shape of a human head, has been a prominent canalside feature since the 1820s; nearly half of it is now submerged by the water above Lock E17. The cliffs around Profile Rock are a popular place for rock climbing and bouldering. Moss Island was declared a National Natural Landmark in 1976. The island can be reached on foot from Lock E17 or from below the lock by paddling along the shoreline to the left once you leave the lock.

**FACILITIES:** Portable toilet, picnic tables.

**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 vertical 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  43.02787  -74.81590

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

**FACILITIES:** Picnic area and restrooms. The site is directly on the Erie Canalway Trail.

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.
Exploring the 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.

Padddling 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.

Map Coordinates:
- Rocky Rift Movable Dam: E Mile 75.33, north side 43.01439 -74.78375
- Bridge E29, access road to Lansing Road: E Mile 74.94 43.01243 -74.77868
E Erie Canal–St. Johnsville

E Mile 74.54     43.00943  -74.77206

Guard Gate 3, Indian Castle
The stream entering the canal on the south side is Nowadaga Creek, also known as Castle Creek. You can launch on the gravel beach landing at the end of Canal Lock Road.

E Mile 72.53     42.99583  -74.73735

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

E Mile 71.45     42.99230  -74.71742

Bridge E27, River Road (CR 65)

E Mile 71.36, south side     42.99217  -74.71548

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     42.99226  -74.70858

**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.

Designated Biker-Hiker-Boater site.

E Mile 69.57     42.99360  -74.68058

Bridge E26A, Bridge Street (CR 61)

E Mile 69.48, north side     42.99479  -74.67866

**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 floating 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     42.99091  -74.66588

**Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 33**
St. Johnsville, NY 13452

**FACILITIES:** Rocky beach landing, car top launch. 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 landing. 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     42.96435  -74.63746

Caroga Creek enters the canal.

E Mile 65.79     42.95368  -74.62893

Abeel Island. The main channel is on the north side of the island.
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.

PLACES OF INTEREST
OFF THE WATER

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.

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 Fishing Access Site
Old Station Road
Nelliston, NY 13428

PLACES OF INTEREST
OFF THE WATER

E Mile 64.30, south side 42.93864 -74.62205
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 launches and beach landings above and below lock. 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.

Designated Biker-Hiker-Boater site.

E Mile 63.87 42.93354 -74.62256
Bridge E25, River Street (NY 80)

DEC fishing access site.
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**

42.90745  -74.57178

**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.

Arkell Museum, Canajoharie
E Mile 60.95, north side \[42.90940\] -74.57771

**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. If you land on the artificial island between the lock and dam, use the inside shore of the lock.

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

---

E Mile 60.69, south side \[42.90926\] -74.57048

**Canajoharie Fishing Access Site**
West of NY 10 bridge
Canajoharie, NY 13317
(607) 652-7366

**FACILITIES:** Concrete ramp, kayak storage rack, portable toilets, pavilion. Parking for 20 cars. Overnight parking permitted; 24-hour limit. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

DEC fishing access site.

---

E Mile 60.61 \[42.90960\] -74.57086

Bridge E24, Church Street (NY 10)

---

E Mile 60.55, south side \[42.90926\] -74.57048

**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.

---

E Mile 55.50 \[42.89557\] -74.48175

**Little Nose and Big 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 Appalachian mountains.

---

**LODGING**

---

42.90642 -74.57432

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

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.

---

42.90302 -74.57524

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

Bed and breakfast located 0.5 miles from Riverfront Park.

eriecanalway.org | NEW YORK STATE CANALWAY WATER TRAIL GUIDEBOOK, 2E 183
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.

The Fonda Shop canal maintenance complex has a 600-foot terminal wall. The complex is across the road from the Fonda Speedway and the Montgomery County Fairgrounds.

**Fonda Launch**
NYS Right of Way and South Bridge Street
Fonda, NY 12068

**FACILITIES:** Concrete ramp, restrooms, showers, ample parking.

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.

**PADDLING NOTE:** The ruins of Schoharie Aqueduct can be approached while paddling 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 six 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.
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.

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.

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).
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.

**E Mile 39.29, north side**  
**42.94662 -74.21010**

**Lock E11, Amsterdam**  
366 West Main Street  
Amsterdam, NY 12010  
(518) 843-2120

**LIFT:** 12 feet.

**PADDLING NOTE:** Beach landing at the very eastern end of the north side. 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 39.13  42.94326  -74.20706
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.

E Mile 38.50, south side  42.93867  -74.19991

- **Port Jackson/South Side Launch**
  - Erie Terrace off Gilliland Avenue
  - Amsterdam, NY 12010

  **FACILITIES:** Accessible dock with launch slide and transfer bench and concrete ramp. Kayak storage rack. Portable toilets. Parking for 15 cars; 24-hour limit. Distance from parking about 20 feet. Restaurants and shops are a quarter mile away.

E Mile 38.15  42.93570  -74.19498
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  42.93455  -74.19368
Bridge E19A, NY 30

E Mile 37.95, north side  42.93393  -74.19172

- **Amsterdam Riverlink Park**
  - 2 Front Street
  - Amsterdam, NY 12010
  - (518) 841-4300
  - amsterdammny.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.

  You cannot drive to this location; access by using the pedestrian bridge.

E Mile 37.76  42.93119  -74.18932
Davey Island. The canal channel is to the north.

E Mile 37.27  42.92607  -74.18144
Giording Island. The canal channel is to the north.

E Mile 36.68, north side  42.92384  -74.17101

- **Mohawk River Fishing Access Site**
  - Quist Road off NY 5N
  - Amsterdam, NY 12010

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

  DEC fishing access site.

E Mile 35.02, south side  42.91709  -74.14078

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

  **LIFT:** 15 feet.
The Lock 10 boat launch is at the far end of the lock downstream on the eastern side.

**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.

**E Mile 34.83, south side**  42.91509  -74.13828

**Mohawk River Lock 10 Boat Launch**  
Eastern end of Lock E10  
Amsterdam, NY 12010  
(518) 887-5450  

**FACILITIES:** Concrete ramp and high floating dock. Overnight parking permitted. Distance from parking about 50 feet.  
DEC fishing access site.

**E Mile 33.02**  42.90648  -74.10446  
Swart Island. The canal channel is to the south.

**E Mile 30.43**  42.88474  -74.06489  
Bridge E17, CSX railroad

**E Mile 29.08**  42.87809  -74.04210  
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.
FACILITIES: Gravel beach. Portable toilets. 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. Driftwood accumulates in this area. 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) 374-0263
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, restrooms and picnic tables are available 24 hours a day at the farm site during the navigation season. A path leads up to the farm and historic site.

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

HOURS: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Sunday and Monday.

Rotterdam Kiwanis Park and Boat Ramp
1100 Sunrise Boulevard (NY 5S)
Rotterdam, NY 12306
(518) 355-7575
rotterdamny.org

FACILITIES: Water, portable toilet, pavilion, picnic tables, grills. Ramp. Parking for 40 cars. Distance from parking about 50 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–Glencville**

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

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

Private marina.

**Maalwyck Park**
300 Maalwyck Park Road (NY 5)
Glencville, NY 12302
(518) 688-1221

Just to the west of the movable dam at Lock E8

**FACILITIES:** Rocky beach landings above and below the dam. Water, portable toilets. Ample parking.

**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.

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

**Old Erie Canal Lock 23 (Alexander’s Lock)**

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.

**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.
E Mile 21.94  42.81868  -73.95973
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.

E Mile 21.79, north side  42.82160  -73.95381

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

**FACILITIES:** Water, portable toilet, restrooms, electric, picnic tables. High floating 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. Be cautious of the water ski shows over the summer in the evenings.
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 Schnectady area can be found at discoverschenectady.com. Maps and more information about the byway are at mohawktowpath.org.

LODGING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42.82639 -73.93144</td>
<td>(518) 579-6620</td>
<td>Courtyard Marriott at Mohawk Harbor&lt;br&gt;240 Harborside Drive&lt;br&gt;Schenectady, NY 12305</td>
<td>marriott.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.82568 -73.93222</td>
<td>(518) 579-8840</td>
<td>The Landing Hotel at Rivers Casino &amp; Resort&lt;br&gt;21 Rush Street&lt;br&gt;Schenectady, NY 12308</td>
<td>thelandinghotelny.com</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**PADDLECRAFT RENTALS**

42.82520 -73.93353

**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.

---

**WATERWAY CRUISES**

42.82161 -73.95366

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


---

E Mile 21.61 42.81834 -73.95434
Bridge E13, Western Gateway Bridge (NY 5)

---

E Mile 21.50, south side 42.81783 -73.95200

**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 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.

---

E Mile 20.91, south side 42.82060 -73.94315

**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.

---

E Mile 20.99 42.82213 -73.94349
Bridge E12, CSX railroad

---

E Mile 20.27, south side 42.82525 -73.93343

**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
Harborside Drive
Schenectady NY 12308
(518) 949-0220
themohawkharbor.com

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water. Low docks and dedicated kayak launch. Upstate Kayak Rentals has a full-service kayak rental location. Bike share program and easy access to Mohawk-Hudson Hike-Bike Trail and Erie Canalway Trail. Mohawk River Cruise boat docks here. Free trolley to downtown Schenectady. Restaurants and amenities are within walking distance.

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

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

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

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

DEC fishing access site with accessible dock.
### Erie Canal–Schenectady

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mileage</th>
<th>Lat/Long</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| E Mile 17.33, south side | 42.84935 / -73.88983 | Aqueduct Park  
2757 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.  
Upstate Kayak Rental kiosk is located here.  
Aqueduct Rowing Club and high school rowing clubs operate here. |
| E Mile 16.91, north side | 42.85272 / -73.88420 | Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 21 constructed in 1841 can be seen in a back channel on the north bank. 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. |
| E Mile 17.25 | 42.85028 / -73.88793 | Bridge E8, Balltown Road (NY 146) |
| E Mile 17.20 | 42.85100 / -73.88743 | 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. |
| E Mile 17.21, north side | 42.85200 / -73.88665 | 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. |
| E Mile 17.21, north side | 42.85200 / -73.88665 | Mohawk Landing Nature Preserve  
640 Riverview Road  
Clifton Park, NY 12065  
(518) 371-6651  
cliftonpark.org  
**FACILITIES:** Hand launch, picnic tables. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 850 feet. |
| E Mile 17.33, north side | 42.84935 / -73.89483 | Schenectady Aqueduct Ruins  
The ruins of the Schenectady 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. |
| E Mile 16.02, north side | 42.84957 / -73.87856 | 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. |
| E Mile 14.69, north side | 42.82459 / -73.86063 | Mohawk Landing Nature Preserve  
640 Riverview Road  
Clifton Park, NY 12065  
(518) 371-6651  
cliftonpark.org  
**FACILITIES:** Hand launch, picnic tables. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 850 feet. |
| E Mile 14.75, north side | 42.82649 / -73.85987 | 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. |
| E Mile 14.75, north side | 42.82649 / -73.85987 | 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. |
Niskayuna Lions Park
E Mile 11.02

Niskayuna

Vischer Ferry Car Top Launch
E Mile 12.00

Vischer Ferry Dam
E Mile 13.07

Riverview Orchards
E Mile 14.75

Stony Creek Reservoir

Lock E7, Vischer Ferry (Niskayuna)
E Mile 13.07

Vischer Ferry Hydroelectric Plant (1925 FERC P-4679)

Riverview Orchards
E Mile 14.75

Niskayuna

Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve

Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 21 (1841)

Schenectady Yacht Club
E Mile 17.21

Erie Canal–Rexford

Aqueduct Park
E Mile 17.33

Rexford Aqueduct Ruins

Rexford

Droms Rd

The guidebook provides a detailed map of the Erie Canal’s history and features along with a list of points of interest. The map highlights various locations such as Aqueduct Park, Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 21, Schenectady Yacht Club, and various locks and dams along the canal. It also mentions natural preserves, nature and historic sites, and other significant points along the water trail.
**Erie Canal–Rexford**

E Mile 13.14, south side  42.80335  -73.84904

- **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.

E Mile 13.07, south side  42.80323  -73.84706

- **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. Camping is permitted.

  **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.

E Mile 12.00, north side  42.79419  -73.83120

- **Vischer Ferry Car Top Launch**
  End of Ferry Drive
  Rexford, NY 12148

  **FACILITIES:** Beach landing. Parking for 15 cars. The canalway trail runs through the parking lot. The Vischer Ferry General Store is a 0.3-mile walk away.

E Mile 12.14, north side

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

  The preserve covers 740 acres and stretches along the Mohawk River/Erie Canal for approximately five miles.

  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 one 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 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.
Erie Canal–Niskayuna

E Mile 11.02, south side 42.77751 -73.82289

Niskayuna Lions Park
3439 Rosendale Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309
(518) 386-4504
niskayuna.org

**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 make it very difficult to reach this site from the water during late summer starting in July.

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 42.79159 -73.76138

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.

---

E Mile 7.10, north side 42.79428 -73.76088

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

**FACILITIES:** Electric, water, restrooms, showers. Low dock and concrete ramp. Private yacht club.

---

E Mile 6.88, south side 42.79413 -73.75576

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

**FACILITIES:** Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Low dock and concrete ramp. Private marina.

---

E Mile 6.87, north side 42.79672 -73.75999

Vandenburgh Dunsbach Ferry Launch
Towpath Road
Halfmoon, NY 12065

**FACILITIES:** Beach landing, parking for eight cars. Upstate Kayak Rentals has a kiosk here.

**PADDLING NOTE:** Paddle through the marina to get into the river/canal channel.

---

E Mile 6.86, north side 42.79676 -73.76002

The 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 6.35, south side 42.79948 -73.74787

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. Ample parking. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

**PADDLING NOTE:** Invasive water chestnut make it very difficult to access during late summer starting in July.
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.

**E Mile 4.72, north side** 42.82245 -73.73593

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

**FACILITIES:** Picnic tables. Parking for 20 cars.

**E Mile 4.55** 42.82145 -73.73167

Bridge E6, Loudon Road (NY 9)

**E Mile 4.50, north side** 42.82320 -73.73140

Crescent Terminal Wall
Terminal Road
Halfmoon, NY 12065

**FACILITIES:** Roller dock, portable toilets, picnic tables, convenience store nearby. Upstate Kayak Rentals has a kiosk here.

The ruins of the north abutments of the Crescent Aqueduct (officially, the Lower Mohawk River Aqueduct) can be seen at the west end of the wall. The Crescent Aqueduct was built in 1840 to carry the Enlarged Erie Canal across the Mohawk River to a 12-mile section that stretched west to the Rexford Aqueduct. It was the longest aqueduct on the Erie Canal—1,160 feet long with 26 arches. The aqueduct was removed in 1915 to allow boats to pass through the canalized river. Only the north and south abutments remain visible today.

**E Mile 4.50, south side** 42.82010 -73.72990

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.

**E Mile 4.32, south side** 42.82075 -73.72771

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.

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.

MORE INFORMATION about things to do in the Capital Region is available from Albany.org or try our 3-day Hudson-Mohawk Sampler itinerary. https://eriecanalway.org/explore/Plan-Visit
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42.78906</td>
<td>-73.70892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.69507</td>
<td>-73.78091</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42.79395</td>
<td>-73.67866</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Waterford Historical Museum**

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

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.

**Old Champlain Canal Towpath**

NY 32, Short 5th Street
Waterford NY 12188
(518) 237-0810
**E Mile 3.02, north side**  42.80789  -73.71451

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 0.5-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.
Erie Canal–Waterford

- Alcathy’s Boat Launch: E Mile 3.02
- Guard Gate 1, Crescent: E Mile 2.77
- Lock E6, Waterford: E Mile 2.15
- Lock E5, Waterford: E Mile 1.87
- Waterford: E Mile 1.60
- Lock E3, Waterford: E Mile 1.09
- NYS Canal Shops, Waterford
- Old Champlain Canal Towpath
- Lock E2, Waterford: E Mile 0.63
- Waterford Harbor Visitor Center: E Mile 0.47, north side
- Peebles Island State Park: E Mile 0.47
- Waterford Historical Museum
- Cohoes Falls
- Crescent Dam
- Crescent Hydroelectric Plant (1925 FERC P-4678)
- Guard Gate 2, Crescent: E Mile 2.52
- Lansingburgh Boat Ramp: C Mile 0.27
- Schaghticoke Boat Ramp: C Mile 1.51
- Start of Barge Canal Maintenance: 0.0 on Water Trail

**Map Details:**
- Map includes major points of interest along the Erie Canal in Waterford, including boat ramps, locks, visitor centers, and historical sites.
- Distances are marked in both miles and kilometers.

For more information, visit [eriecanalway.org](http://eriecanalway.org).
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.

---

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.

---

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.

---

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.
### Erie Canal–Waterford

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mile</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E 1.09</td>
<td>42.79486</td>
<td>-73.68613</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lock E3, Waterford</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 Washington Avenue</td>
<td>Waterford, NY 12188</td>
<td>(518) 237-0812</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIFT:</strong> 34.5 feet.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E 0.97</td>
<td>42.79328</td>
<td>-73.68526</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge E4, CP railroad</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E 0.84</td>
<td>42.79159</td>
<td>-73.68420</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge E3, Saratoga Avenue (NY 32)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E 0.63</td>
<td>42.78912</td>
<td>-73.68180</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lock E2, Waterford</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY 32, Short 5th Street</td>
<td>Waterford, NY 12188</td>
<td>(518) 237-0810</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIFT:</strong> 33.6 feet.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FACILITIES:</strong> Picnic tables. Facilities are difficult for paddlers to access at this location due to vertical canal walls.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E 0.57</td>
<td>42.78849</td>
<td>-73.68098</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge E2, 4th Street</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PADDLING NOTE:</strong> The stretch from here to the Hudson can be one of the busiest places on the canal. Watch out for powerboats, tugs and barges.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E 0.47</td>
<td>42.78743</td>
<td>-73.67952</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Waterford Harbor Visitor Center</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Tugboat Alley</td>
<td>Waterford, NY 12188</td>
<td>(518) 233-9123</td>
<td>town.waterford.ny.us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FACILITIES:</strong> Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Shops and restaurants in Waterford are a short walk away. Volunteers provide visitor information. Visitor Center can be accessed from the Waterford Point Boat Ramp 0.19 of a mile east. Designated Biker-Hiker-Boater site.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E 0.47</td>
<td>42.78399</td>
<td>-73.68070</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peebles Island State Park</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Delaware Avenue</td>
<td>Waterford, NY 12188</td>
<td>parks.ny.gov</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FACILITIES:</strong> Water, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, pavilion, hiking trails. Car top launch, beach landing. Parking for 40 cars. Open during daylight hours. Distance from parking about 535 feet. Shops and restaurants in Waterford are a short walk away over the Delaware Avenue Bridge. The 90-acre Peebles Island State Park is located at the confluence of the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers. The park is accessible by a bridge over the Erie Canal or from the water using the launch on the east side of the Island on the Hudson River near the Observation Deck or the dock at the northern end of the island on the Erie Canal. Hiking trails around the island with cliffs, water views, and mature oak woodland. Peebles Island is headquarters to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E 0.41</td>
<td>42.78638</td>
<td>-73.67934</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge E1, 2nd Street (Peebles Island Road)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
E Mile 0.28, north side  42.78554 -73.67745

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 has a full-service kayak rental location.

MORE INFORMATION about things to do in the Capital Region, visit Albany.org or try our 3-day Hudson-Mohawk Sampler itinerary.
https://eriecanalway.org/explore/Plan-Visit

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 256.