ERIE CANAL

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

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

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

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

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

MORE INFORMATION about navigating the canal system, can be found at **canals.ny.gov**.

Map Symbol Key Water Trail Site Lock Navigation Hazard! Hand Launch Ramp Launch Dock Launch Interstate or Limited Access Highway **US Highway** State Highway County Road Major Local Road Minor Local Road Railroad County Boundary Stream River or Canal Park or Recreation/ Wilderness Area

BUFFALO



Explore New York's second-largest city, one that was transformed when the Erie Canal opened in 1825. As the western terminus, Buffalo became the hub of transportation, immigration, and commerce. The Commercial Slip, where the Erie Canal joined the Buffalo River, was the principal transfer point for cargo and passengers travelling between the upper Great Lakes and the Atlantic. The city that rapidly grew up around the harbor came to be called the "Gateway to the West" and "Queen City of the Lakes." Grain, lumber, and ore from the middle of America were moved from lake freighters to canal boats at docks and elevators along the Buffalo River. By the early 1900s, an increasing portion of the cargo moved from ships to railroad cars. The Erie Barge Canal, built from 1905 to 1918 for

self-propelled vessels, shifted the point of entry from Buffalo to Tonawanda, about 14 miles downstream (north) along the Niagara River. Today, boats heading to the Erie Canal use the river between Buffalo and Tonawanda, passing through the federal lock at Black Rock on their journey.

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

PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

42.93245 -78.87782

Albright-Knox Art Gallery

1285 Elmwood Avenue Buffalo, NY 14222 (716) 882-8700 albrightknox.org

42.87781 -78.87913

Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park

One Naval Park Cove Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 847-1773 buffalonavalpark.org

42.93245 -78.87781

Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens

2655 South Park Avenue Buffalo, NY 14218 (716) 827-1584 buffalogardens.com

42.88179 -78.87754

Buffalo Harbor Museum/Lower Lakes Marine Historical Society

66 Erie Street Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 849-0914 buffaloharbor.org

42.93544 -78.87632

The Buffalo History Museum

1 Museum Court Buffalo, NY 14216 (716) 873-9644 buffalohistory.org 42.86576 -78.86838

Buffalo Maritime Center

90 Arthur Street Buffalo, NY 14207 (716) 881-0111 buffalomaritimecenter.org

42.93762 -78.85169

Buffalo Zoo

300 Parkside Avenue Buffalo, NY 14214 (716) 837-3900 buffalozoo.org

42.87780 -78.88037

Explore & More Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Children's Museum

130 Main Road Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 655-5131 exploreandmore.org

42.93631 -78.85016

Frank Lloyd Wright's **Martin House Complex**

125 Jewett Parkway Buffalo, NY 14214 (716) 856-3858 martinhouse.org

42.90151 -78.87261

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site

641 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 884-0095 trsite.org

WATERWAY CRUISES

42.88108 -78.88898

Buffalo Harbor Cruises

Erie Basin Marina 329 Erie Street Buffalo NY 14202-4225 (716) 856-6696 buffaloharborcruises.com

42.87662 -78.87961

Buffalo River History Tours

44 Prime Street Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 796-4556 buffaloriverhistorytours.com

42.87046 -78.87201

Grand Lady Cruises

359 Ganson Street Buffalo, New York 14203 (716) 873-4630 grandlady.com 42.87857 -78.88643

moondanceCat

329 Erie Street Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 854-7245 moondancecat.com

42.87705 -78.87931

Queen City Bike Ferry

Central Wharf at Canalside 44 Prime Street, Buffalo, NY 14202 queencityferry.com

42.87690 -78.87978

Spirit of Buffalo

44 Prime Street Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 796-7210 spiritofbuffalo.com

PADDLECRAFT RENTALS

42.87073 -78.88182

Longboards Paddle Company at Outer Harbor/Wilkeson Pointe

225 Fuhrmann Boulevard Buffalo, NY 14203 (716) 998-0949 longboardsbeach.com 42.87573 -78.87885

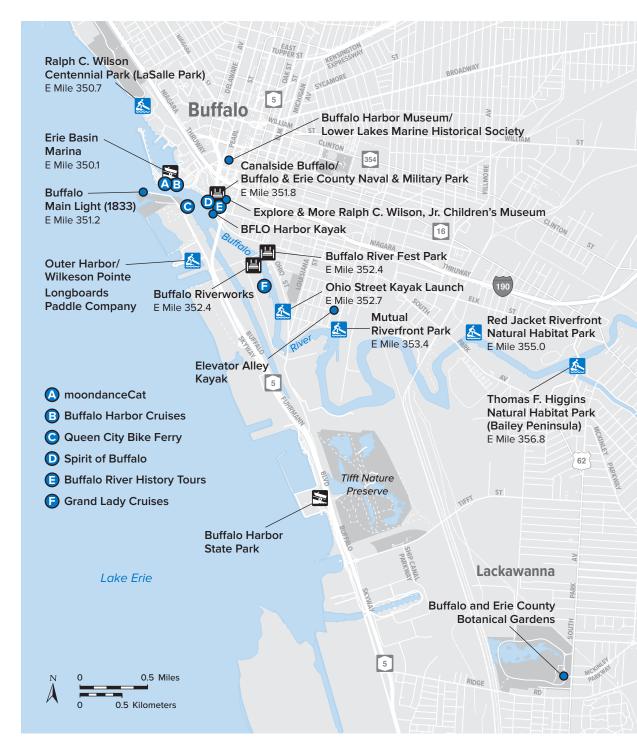
BFLO Harbor Kavak

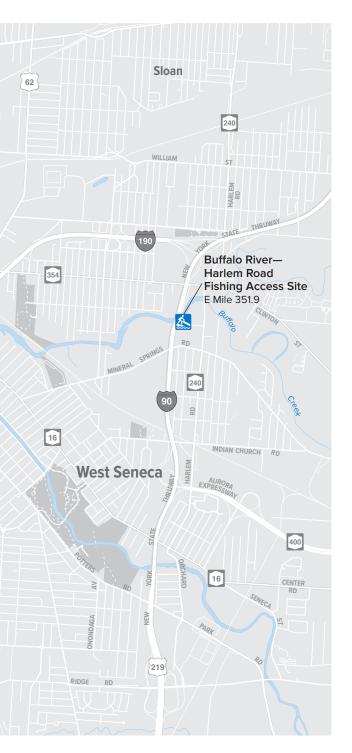
44 Prime Street Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 288-5309 bfloharborkayak.com 42.86619 -78.86291

Elevator Allev Kavak

65 Vandalia Street Buffalo, NY 14204 (716) 997-7925 elevatoralleykayak.com

MORE INFORMATION about things to do in the Buffalo region, including dining and lodging, is available from **visitbuffaloniagara.com** and **niagarafallsusa.com**.





Lake Erie

42.84600 -78.86175

Buffalo Harbor State Park

1111 Fuhrmann Boulevard Buffalo, NY 14203 (716) 822-1207 parks.ny.gov

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

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

42.87073 -78.88182

Outer Harbor/Wilkeson Pointe

225 Fuhrmann Boulevard Buffalo, NY 14203 (716) 436-7100 buffalowaterfront.com

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



BUFFALO RIVER

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

That smell of Cheerios emanates from the General Mills plant at the southern end of the Michigan Avenue lift bridge. Look for the fireboat Edward M. Cotter docked

near the Michigan Avenue lift bridge. Launched in 1900, she is a National Historic Landmark, the oldest working fireboat in the world. She's still an important member of the Buffalo Fire Department, fighting fires at properties that can only be reached by water.

The Buffalo River was declared dead in 1967, a victim of extensive industrial pollution and uncontrolled sewage outflow. The Clean Water Act of 1972 started a long recovery process that continues today. The Buffalo River is now a much friendlier and safer place for paddlers.

The Buffalo Blueway (buffaloblueway. com) is a program by Buffalo-Niagara Waterkeeper to develop and promote safe and accessible launch sites for paddlers along the Buffalo River. Several facilities have recently been built or significantly upgraded and more are in the works. "Go with the 'Flo'."

E Mile 359.1 42.86755 -78.79073

Buffalo River—Harlem Road Fishing Access Site

Harlem Road (north of shopping center) West Seneca, NY 14224

FACILITIES: Parking area with trail to bank launch near the upper limit of paddlecraft navigation on the Buffalo River. Trail from parking area and launch is 125 feet.

E Mile 359.0	42.86755 -78.79131	
NYS Thruway bridges		
E Mile 358.4	42.86478 -78.80217	
South Ogden Street Bridge		
E Mile 358.0	42.86369 -78.81013	
Railroad bridge		
E Mile 357.2	42.886370 -78.84270	
Seneca Street Bridge		
E Mile 356.9	42.86211 -78.82544	
Bailey Avenue Bridge		

Thomas F. Higgins Natural Habitat Park (Bailey Peninsula)

42.86037 -78.82590

E Mile 356.8

Bailey Avenue at the confluence of the Buffalo River and Cazenovia Creek Buffalo, NY 14220 www3.erie.gov/parks/thomas-f-higgins-

natural-habitat-park-bailey-peninsula

FACILITIES: Beach landing at the tip of Bailey Peninsula, parking for 15 cars on the south bank of Cazenovia Creek. A canoe/kayak launch is planned.

E Mile 355.9	42.86303 -78.84270

South Park Avenue bridge—Vertical liftbridge

E Mile 355.2	42.86014 -78.84848

Railroad bascule bridge

E Mile 355.0	42.86365 -78.85152

Red Jacket Riverfront Natural Habitat Park

20 Smith Street Buffalo, NY 14210 www3.erie.gov/parks/red-jacket-riverfront-natural-habitat-park

FACILITIES: Gravel parking area for 10+ cars, beach launch area, nature trails.

1 Wille 334.3 42.80303 -76.83372	E Mile 354.9	42.86303 -78.85372
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Railroad bascule bridge

Elevator Alley

From here to Lake Erie the winding Buffalo River is lined by tall elevators—built to store grain midwestern grain, carried by lake freighters, and transfer it to canal boats and rail cars.

E Mile 353.4 42.86412 -78.86012

Mutual Riverfront Park

41 Hamburg Street (at South Street) Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 823-4707

thevalleycenter.com/parks/mutual-riverfront-park/

Adjacent to Buffalo's historic Elevator Alley, this park has the Mutual Boat House, a replica of an earlier historic building, with a storage area for kayaks and canoes, a roller dock, portable toilets, and street parking nearby.

Erie Canal-Buffalo

PADDLING NOTE: Logs and other floating debris can accumulate at this sharp bend in the river but a floating boom usually keeps the launch area clear.

ROWING SHELLS: Several schools and rowing clubs practice on this section of the river. Stay clear-shells have right of way.

E Mile 353.0	42.86190 -78.86738	
Ohio Street Bridge—Vertical liftbridge		

42.86576 -78.86838

Ohio Street Kayak Launch

421 Ohio Street Buffalo, NY 14204

E Mile 352.7

FACILITIES: Car top launch and concrete ramp. Parking for 12 cars, wheelchair accessible boardwalk and fishing pier, upgraded 2021.

DEC fishing access site.

E Mile 352.4	42.86931 -78.87102
L 11111C 002. 1	12.00001 70.07102

Buffalo Riverworks

359 Ganson Street, Buffalo, NY 14203 716-342-2292 Buffaloriverworks.com

FACILITIES: Paddlecraft rentals, roller dock, ropes course, zip-line, silo climbing, amusement park rides, restaurants, bars, tiki-boat tours.

Look for concrete grain silos painted to look like a Labatts Blue six-pack

E Mile 352.4	42.87053 -78.87086

Buffalo River Fest Park

249 Ohio Street Buffalo, NY 14210 (716) 823-4707 thevalleycenter.com FACILITIES: Restrooms, dock, wharf, boardwalk, trails, gardens, and amphitheater.

E Mile 352.2	42.87158 -78.87278

South Michigan Avenue bridge—Vertical liftbridge

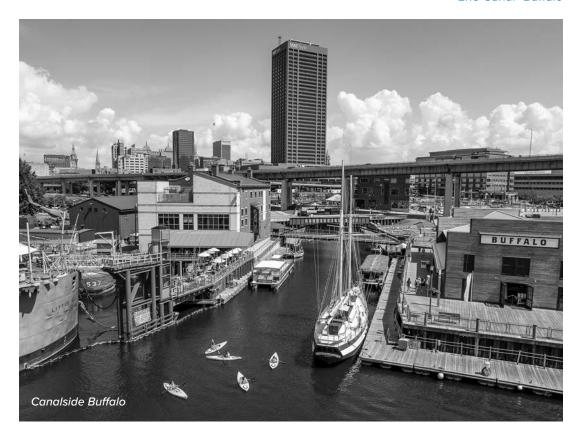
The Buffalo Fire Department's fireboat Edward M. Cotter is based at a slip on the north bank, just west of the South Michigan Avenue Bridge. Launched in 1900 and still in active service, it is the oldest working fireboat in the world and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1996. emcotter.com

E Mile 351.9	42.87428 -78.87828
Buffalo Skyway bridge	
E Mile 351.8	42.87830 -78.87802

Canalside Buffalo

44 Prime Street Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 436-7100 buffalowaterfront.com

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms, low dock, over 1,000 feet of berthing space. Food vendors, restaurants, shops, paddlecraft rentals, Explore & More Children's Museum, ships of the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park, and a branch of the Buffalo Maritime Center all cluster around "Commercial Slip," and branch channels that formed the connection between the Erie Canal and the Great Lakes from 1825 through 1918. Long forgotten but redeveloped over the past 20 years, Canalside now hosts an active schedule of events year-round.



E Mile 351.3

42.84600 -78.86175

Buffalo Main Light

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

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

E Mile 350.2

42.87945 -78.88558

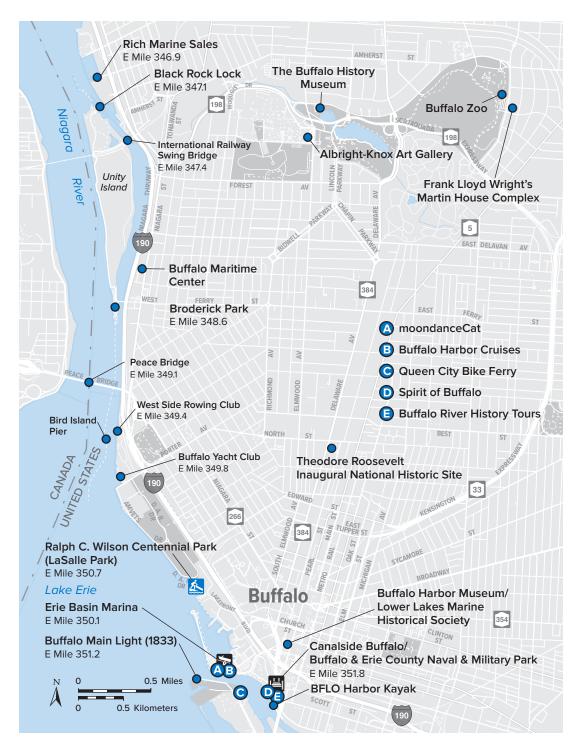
Erie Basin Marina

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

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, parking. Concrete ramp near the entrance.

Once crowded with canal boats and lake freighters, Erie Basin was redeveloped during the 1970s as part of waterfront revitalization, it is now a popular destination, with a casual restaurant, ice cream stand, community flower garden, historic markers, and a viewing platform at the northern tip of the breakwater.

Erie Canal-Buffalo



NIAGARA RIVER

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

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

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

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

F Mile 350.8

42.88708 -78.89016

Ralph C. Wilson Centennial Park (LaSalle Park)

AmVets Drive Buffalo, NY 14201 (716) 851-5553

FACILITIES: Restrooms, picnic tables, picnic shelters, playing fields, fenced dog park.

The 77-acre park is Buffalo's largest water-front park. It was reclaimed from a landfill during the 1930s, renamed in 2021, and is currently being redeveloped with major funding from the estate of Ralph C. Wilson, owner of the Buffalo Bills football team. A canoe and kayak launch with parking are planned for the southern (upstream) end of the park.

Bird Island Pier

A two-mile long stone and concrete structure, first built in 1860, that separates Lake Erie and the Niagara River from the calmer Black Rock Channel. The narrow walkway on top is a popular route for walkers, runners, and anglers and a good place to view sunsets over Lake Erie. Raised sections every few hundred feet provide places to escape rising waters when winds out of the west push up the lake's surface in a tide-like seiche.

E Mile 350.0

42.89649 -78.89944

Colonel Francis G. Ward Pumping Station 2 Porter Avenue Buffalo, NY 14201

The large brick building with arch-topped windows, red roof, and smokestack on the east bank of the Black Rock Channel was built in 1914 to pump drinking water from Niagara River's Emerald Channel to the growing city of Buffalo. The building still houses five massive triple-expansion pump-

ing engines although their work was taken by electric pumps, starting during the late 1930s.

E Mile 349.8 49.89735 -78.90125

Buffalo Yacht Club 1 Porter Avenue Buffalo, NY 14201

No public access. Founded in 1860 the club was housed at several locations along the Buffalo waterfront until the present clubhouse was built in 1893. It has been moved three times since and was rebuilt after a 1951 fire.

PADDLING NOTE: Buffalo Yacht Club is an active training and youth sailing program that uses the upper end of the Black Rock Channel for practice and regattas. Give them space as you pass.

E Mile 349.5

42.90219 -78.90169

West Side Rowing Club 1 Rotary Row Buffalo, NY 14201 (716) 881-9797 wsrc.org

No public access. Founded in 1912, West Side Rowing Club is now home to more than 100 rowing shells—singles, pairs, doubles, fours and eights. The Fontana Boathouse, opened in 2007, is based on a previously unbuilt design by Frank Lloyd Wright.

PADDLING NOTE: Watch out for shells on the Black Rock Channel; they have right-of-way.

E Mile 349.2

42.90697 -78.90582

Peace Bridge

A 5,800 foot long international bridge between the U.S. and Canada, opened in 1927. Five steel arched spans carry it over the Niagara River.

F Mile 348.6

42.91486 -78.90339

Broderick Park

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

PADDLING NOTE: This park is not accessible from the water: do not attempt to land. Street access is via the Robert Rich Bridge.

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

E Mile 347.4

42.93132 -78.90227

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

E Mile 347.1

42.93455 -78.90624

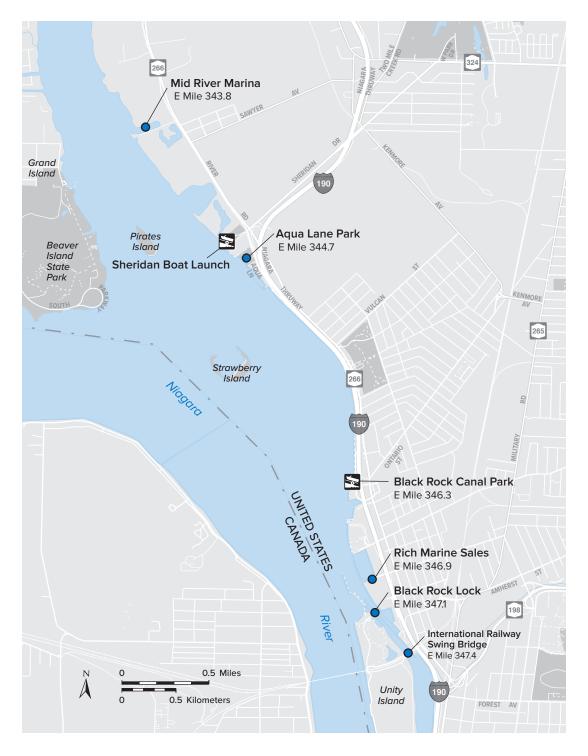
Black Rock Lock

3 Dann Street Buffalo, NY 14207 (716) 879-4403

LIFT: 6 feet.

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

Where's the massive black rock that gives



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

E Mile 346.9

42.93733 -78.90659

Rich Marine Sales

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

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

Large private marina with over 500 slips on 26 acres.

E Mile 346.3

42.94534 -78.90950

Black Rock Canal Park

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

FACILITIES: Two-lane concrete boat launch. Parking for 15 cars and 10 vehicles with boat trailers.

PADDLING NOTE: Watch for scuba divers. The USS Adams/HMS Detroit shipwreck is 2,000 feet from the ramp.

NIAGARA RIVER ISLANDS

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

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

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

THE TONAWANDAS



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

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

PADDLECRAFT RENTALS

43.01536 -78.83416

Paths, Peaks & Paddles, Inc.

1000 Ellicott Creek Road Tonawanda, NY 14150 (716) 213-0350 pathspeakspaddles.com

43.02072 -78.87668

Waterbike Adventures

11 Young Street Tonawanda, NY 14150 (716) 316-3905 waterbikeadventures.com

PLACES OF INTEREST **OFF THE WATER**

43.02105 -78.87584

Benjamin Long Homestead

The Historical Society of the Tonawandas, Inc. 24 East Niagara Street Tonawanda, NY 14150 (716) 694-7406 tonawandashistory.org

Site can be reached from the water.

43.02984 -78.87307

Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum

180 Thompson Street North Tonawanda, NY 14120 (716) 693-1885 carrouselmuseum.org

43.04130 -78.88131

North Tonawanda History Museum

195 Goundry Street North Tonawanda, NY 14120 (716) 213-0554 nthistorymuseum.org

43.02619 - 78.87350

Railroad Museum of the Niagara **Frontier**

111 Oliver Street North Tonawanda, NY 14120 (716) 694-9588 nfcnrhs.org

F Mile 344.7

42.96485 -78.92499

Aqua Lane Park/Sheridan Boat Launch

128 Agua Lane/End of Sheridan Drive Tonawanda, NY 14150 (716) 831-1001

FACILITIES: Restrooms, picnic tables. Large concrete launch ramp. Ample parking.

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

E Mile 343.8

42.97405 -78.93480

Mid River Marina

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

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

Large private marina.

F Mile 342.1

42.94574 -78.93412

Collins Marine

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

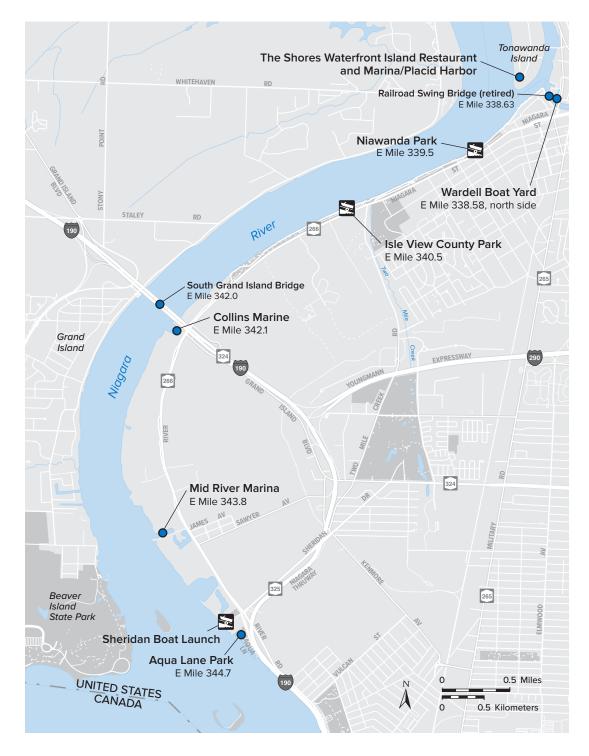
FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms. Concrete ramp.

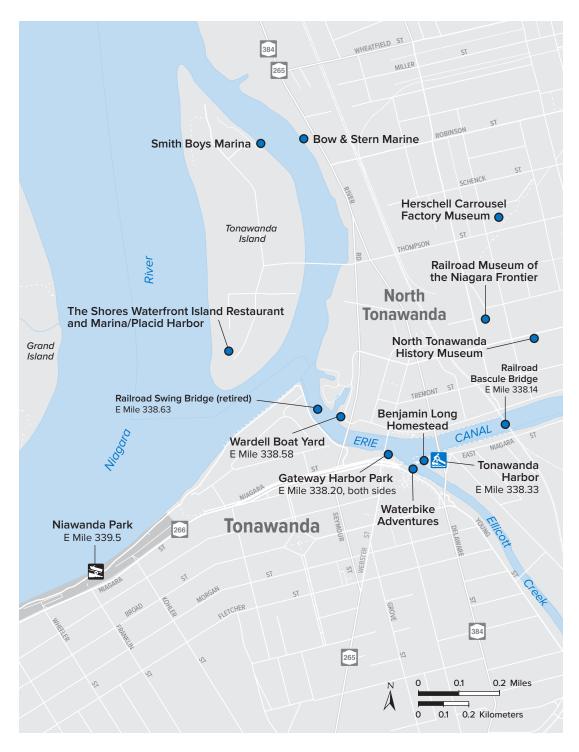
Large private marina.

E Mile 342.0

42.99425 -78.92680

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





E Mile 340.5

43.00971 -78.91018

Isle View County Park

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

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

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

E Mile 339.5

43.01654 -78.89186

Niawanda Park

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

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

Niagara River

43.02380 -78.88468

The Shores Waterfront Island Restaurant and Marina/Placid Harbor

2 Detroit Street North Tonawanda, NY 14120 (716) 693-7971 shoreswaterfront.com

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

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

43.02993 -78.88227

Smith Boys Marina

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

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

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

Niagara River

43.03229 -78.88354

Bow & Stern Marine

400 River Road North Tonawanda, NY 14120 (716) 692-2316 bowandsternmarine.com

FACILITIES: Electric, water.

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

E Mile 338.63

43.02268 -72.88144

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

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

E Mile 338.58, north side

43.02247 -78.88031

Wardell Boat Yard

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

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms, showers. Travel-lift. Private marina.

E Mile 338.54

43.02182 -72.87998

Bridge E249, Seymour Street (NY 265) There is an informal gravel beach launch under the north end of the bridge.

E Mile 338.44

43.02157 -78.87809

Bridge E248, Webster Street

E Mile 338.33, both sides

43.02100 -78.87773

Tonawanda Harbor/Gateway Harbor Park

1 Young Street (just west of Delaware Avenue bridge)

Tonawanda, NY 14150 (716) 695-8520 tonawandasgatewayharbor.com

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Kayak dock with roller launch is on the south side by the harbormaster's office (84 Sweeney Street). Ample parking is on the south side. Food and beverage vendors are active in the park. Shops, restaurants, and historic sites are a short walk from the harbor. Steps to water level on north side allow you to take out.

Gateway Harbor of the Tonawandas is the western terminus of the Erie Canal and is designated a Recreational Hub by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. The Hub boasts many visitor amenities, including: paddle craft launches and boat docks, a visitor's center, interpretive signage, and bicycle paths. As the Hub grows, additional amenities will become available.

Gateway Harbor Park is the largest docking facility on the NYS Canal System. It runs on both sides of the canal for about one-quarter mile from the Gateway Harbor. The docks are operated jointly by the twin cities of North Tonawanda and Tonawanda. A retired buoy boat is on display near the harbormaster's office.

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

E Mile 338.08

43.02097 -72.87684

The junction with Ellicott Creek is on the south, just past the Webster Street Bridge. The Niagara Street pedestrian bridge spans the creek mouth. The Benjamin Long Homestead historic house museum is visible on the east side of the creek and can be reached from the water.

LAUNCHES ON ELLICOTT CREEK

43.01440 -78.86770

Eastern Park

280 Fillmore Avenue Tonawanda, NY 14150

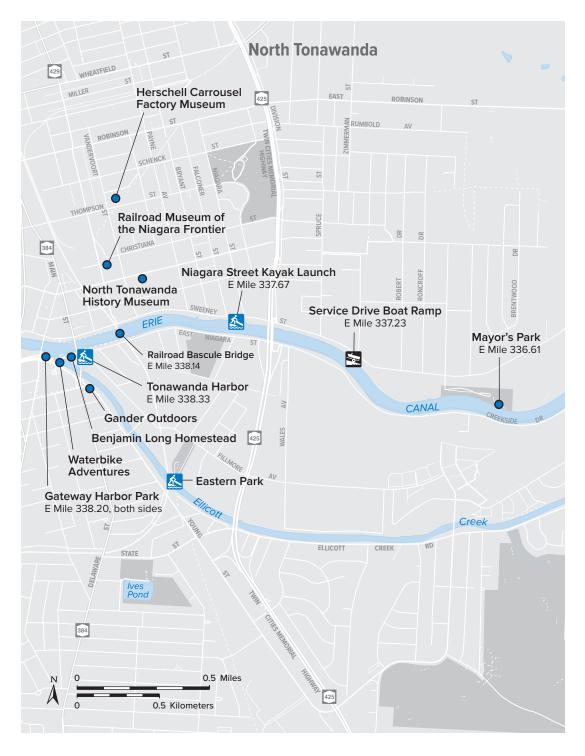
FACILITIES: Water, restrooms. Car top launch, sloped dock. Parking for six cars; distance from parking about 150 feet.

43.02427 -78.82310

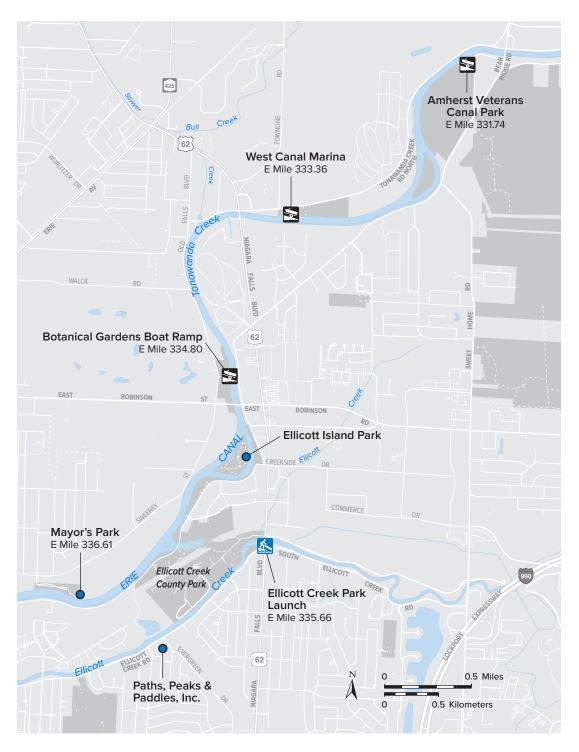
Ellicott Creek Park Launch

1 Ellicott Creek Drive Tonawanda, NY 14150 (716) 693-2971

Located at the corner of Niagara Falls Boulevard and Ellicott Creek Road across from the main entrance to the park.



Erie Canal–The Tonawandas



E Mile 338.31 43.02162 -78.87558

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

E Mile 338.14 43.02247 -78.87229

Bridge E246, Railroad Bascule Bridge A single-leaf bascule draw bridge built in 1918; the overhead counterweight lifts the bridge deck. This is still a functioning railroad bridge but rarely needs to open.

E Mile 337.67, north side 43.02339 -78.86367

Miagara Street Kayak Launch

471 Sweeney Street and Niagara Street North Tonawanda, NY 14120

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

E Mile 337.57 43.02285 -78.86131

Bridges E244A and E244B, Division Street Arterial (NY 425)

E Mile 337.23, north side 43.02164 -78.85480

Service Drive Boat Ramp

Sweeney Street and Service Drive North Tonawanda, NY 14120

FACILITIES: Concrete ramp. Distance from parking approximately 20 feet.

E Mile 336.61, north side 43.01954 -78.84381

Mayor's Park

987 Sweeney Street North Tonawanda, NY 14120 (716) 695-8520

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

E Mile 335.40 43.03163 -78.82570

Ellicott Island Park

1 Ellicott Creek Drive at Park Road Amherst, NY 14120 (716) 693-2971

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

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

E Mile 334.96 43.03602 -78.82615

Bridge E243A, East Robinson Street

E Mile 334.80, north side 43.03830 -78.82718

Botanical Gardens Boat Ramp

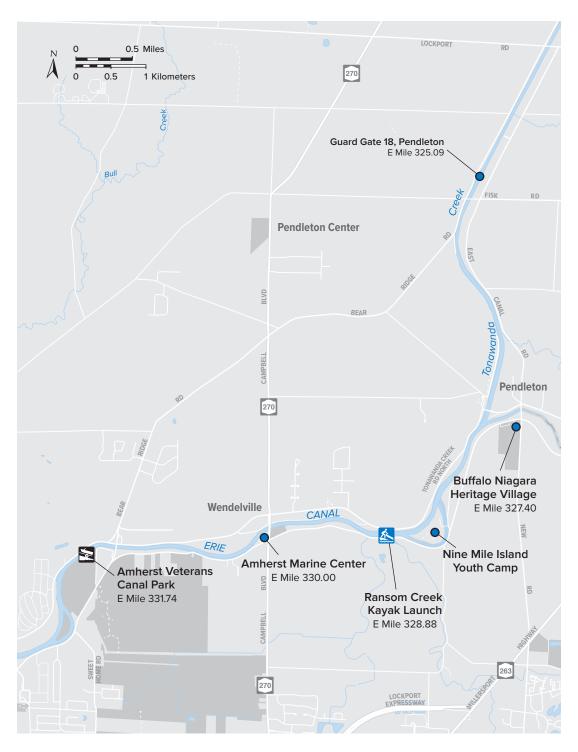
1825 Sweeney Street North Tonawanda, NY 14120 (716) 695-8520

FACILITIES: Concrete ramp. Roller launch. Parking for 40 cars, no overnight parking. Distance from parking approximately 20 feet.

E Mile 333.62 43.05178 -78.82675

Bridge E242A, Niagara Falls Boulevard (US 62)

Erie Canal-Amherst



E Mile 333.36, north side 43.05196 -78.82187

West Canal Marina

4070 Tonawanda Creek Road North Tonawanda, NY 14120 (716) 694-4630 niagaracounty.com/parks/West-Canal-Marina

FACILITIES: Water, restrooms, shelters, picnic tables, grills. Pier and concrete ramp, launch slide. Parking for 50 vehicles; no overnight parking. Distance from parking approximately 20 feet.

A 27-acre county park located in the town of Pendleton. No camping.

E Mile 333.46 43.05766 -78.80611

Paddle to either side of the island. The southern route parallels the Erie Canalway Trail.

E Mile 331.74, south side 43.06508 -78.80262

Amherst Veterans Canal Park

1040 Tonawanda Creek Road Amherst, NY 14228

FACILITIES: Portable toilet. Pavilion, picnic tables, roller dock. Concrete ramp. Parking for 20 cars.

E Mile 331.42 43.06627 -78.79753

Bridge E242, Bear Ridge Road

E Mile 330.00, south side 43.06829 -78.77162

Amherst Marine Center

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

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms, showers.

Private marina with 20 slips.

E Mile 329.96 43.06958 -78.77078

Bridge E241A, Campbell Boulevard (NY 270)

E Mile 328.88, south side 43.06926 -78.75025

Ransom Creek Kayak Launch

Ransom Creek enters the canal on the south side.

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

CAMPING

43.07085 -78.73966

Nine Mile Island Youth Camp

25-355 Orbit Drive Buffalo, NY 14228 (716) 625-8835 ninemileisland.org

FACILITIES: Restrooms, nature trails and camping.

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

E Mile 327.40 43.08468 -78.73292

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

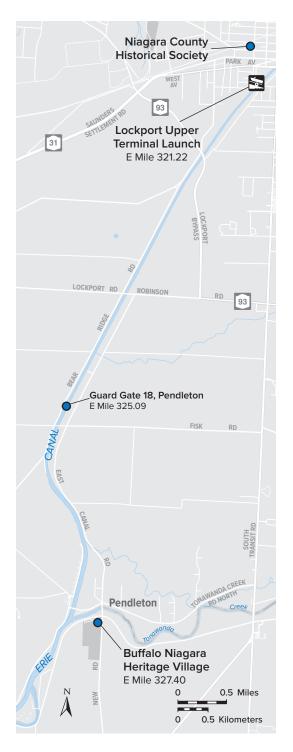
E Mile 327.34 43.08586 -78.73356

Bridge E240, North Tonawanda Creek Road

E Mile 325.31 43.11295 -78.73838

Bridge E238A, Fisk-Fiegle Road

Erie Canal-Pendleton



TONAWANDA CREEK

43.08396 -78.72840

Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village

3755 Tonawanda Creek Road Amherst, NY 14228 (716) 689-1440; bnhv.org

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

ADMISSION: Fee.

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

E Mile 325.09

43.11591 -78.73673

Guard Gate 18. Pendleton

Open throughout the navigation season. Guard gates can be lowered in the event of emergencies and to allow sections of the channel to be isolated and drained for maintenance. During the winter, the Erie Canal from Pendleton Guard Gate to the Genesee River crossing in Rochester is usually dewatered.

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

PADDLING NOTE: Vertical rock walls preclude any boater exit between here and the Upper Lockport Terminal at mile 321.22.

E Mile 323.79

43.13295 -78.72581

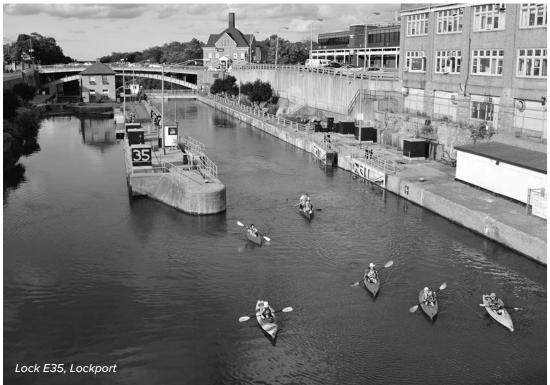
Bridge E237, Robinson Road

E Mile 322.16

43.15405 -78.71128

Bridge E236A, SW Bypass (NY 93)

LOCKPORT



Thomas Fitzrandolph

In Lockport, you'll see how canal engineers built the impressive Lockport Flight to solve the challenge of helping boats climb the 60-foot Niagara Escarpment.

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

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

Get on the water for a narrated tour with Lockport Locks and Erie Canal Cruises (see page 61).

The annual Locktoberfest event takes place in the district at the beginning of October.



RESTORED FLIGHT OF FIVE LOCKS

To carry canal traffic up and down the 60-foot change in elevation created by the Niagara Escarpment in Lockport, canal engineers created two parallel sets of five interconnected locks. The Lockport Flight consisted of Locks 67 through 71, each with a lift of about 10 feet. The first version opened in 1825 and was enlarged in 1849 to accommodate larger boats. Today's Barge Canal, constructed between 1905 to 1918, replaced the southern set of locks with two massive concrete chambers, Locks E35 and E34. The northern staircase of the 1849 lock chambers was retained to serve as a spillway and the principal route for canal water from here to Rochester. Efforts are underway to restore the old part of the Lockport Flight to its towpath-era appearance. Reproduction timber gates have been installed on one chamber and are operated by volunteers on weekends

to demonstrate how the locks worked. Locks 69 and 70 were reopened in 2014. The long-term goal is to restore the entire "Flight of Five" to operating condition.

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

PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

43.17144 -78.69864

Colonel William Bond/Jesse Hawley House

143 Ontario Street Lockport, NY 14094 (716) 434-7433 niagarahistory.org/bond-house

43.17094 -78.69487

Erie Canal Discovery Center

24 Church Street Lockport, NY 14094 (716) 439-0431 niagarahistory.org

43.17153 -78.69223

Erie Canal Museum at Locks 34 and 35

At foot of the Lockport Flight 80 Canal Street Lockport, NY 14094 visitbuffaloniagara.com

43.17087 -78.69555

First Presbyterian Church

21 Church Street Lockport, NY 14094 (716) 433-5905 1stpreslockport.org 43.17191 -78.69259

Lockport Cave & Underground Boat Ride and Niagara Zipper

5 Gooding Street Lockport, NY 14094 (716) 438-0174 lockportcave.com

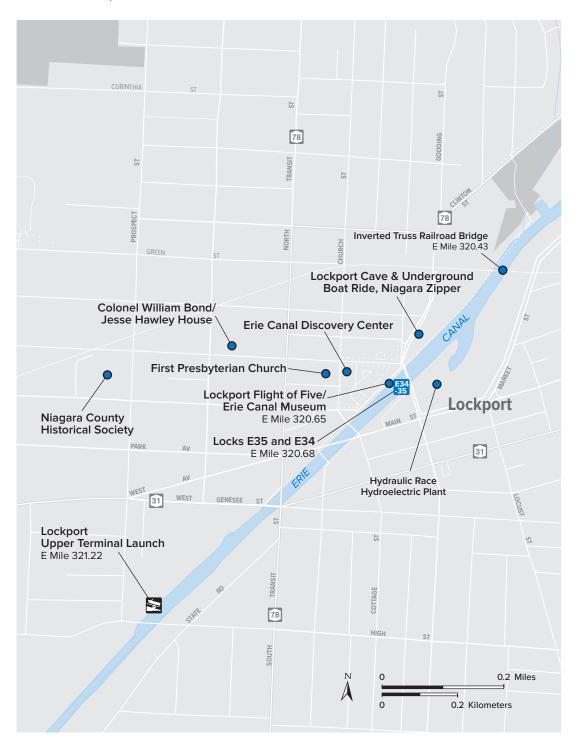
Go underground to explore tunnels that delivered water power to Lockport manufacturers or zip-line across the Erie Canal and back—85 feet above the water.

43.17061 -78.70264

Niagara County Historical Society

215 Niagara Street Lockport, NY 14094 (716) 434-7433 niagarahistory.org

MORE INFORMATION about things to do in the Lockport area is available from **visitbuffaloniagara.com** and **niagarafallsusa.com**.



E Mile 321.25 43.16423 -78.70136

Bridge E235, Stevens Street

E Mile 321.22, north side 43.16518 -78.70080

Prospect Street at Stevens Street Lockport, NY 14094 (716) 434-3140

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

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

E Mile 320.97 43.16774 -78.69703

Bridge E234, Transit Street (NY 31) and Genesee Street (NY 78)

E Mile 320.82 43.16927 -78.69505

Bridge E233, Main Street (Locks Plaza) Lockport's "Big Bridge" is the widest bridge in North America, and one of the widest in the world. It is 299 feet wide with a span of 129 feet. It opened in 1914.

E Mile 320.68 43.17066 -78.69310

Locks E35 and E34, Lockport

80 Canal Street Lockport, NY 14094 (716) 434-3140

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

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

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

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

E Mile 320.67 43.17088 -78.69286

Bridge E232, Pine Street

This bridge passes directly over Locks 35 and 34 and provides a great vantage point for watching boats lock through.

E Mile 320.43 43.17356 -78.69000

Bridge E231, Railroad Bridge

A railroad bridge dating back to 1902. Locally called the "Upside Down" bridge because the truss structure is below the deck.

E Mile 320.44, north side 43.17511 -78.68986

Upson Park

No access from canal due to vertical wall. The site was once a paper mill that produced Upson Board, a widely used building material.

E Mile 320.23 43.17208 -78.68342

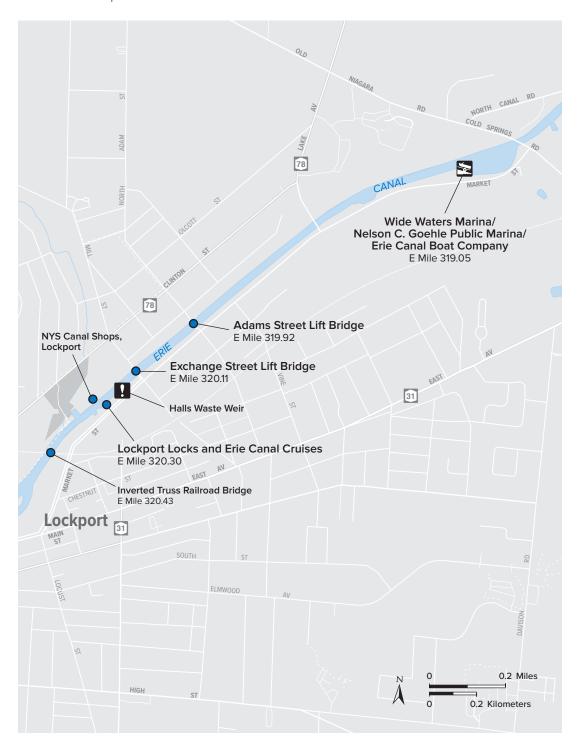
Lockport Locks and Erie Canal Cruises

210 Market Street Lockport, NY 14094 (716) 433-6155 lockportlocks.com

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

TICKET FEE. Reservations suggested.

Erie Canal-Lockport



SCHEDULE: Varies. Call ahead for daily schedule.

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

E Mile 320.11

43.17676 -78.68571

Bridge E230, Exchange Street Lift Bridge

Built in 1915. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 6 inches. Call (716) 434-7368 for service.

E Mile 319.92

43.17867 -78.68282

Bridge E229, Adams Street Lift Bridge

Built in 1918, this bridge was closed to traffic in 2014 and is now kept open; clearance is 16 feet 6 inches.

E Mile 319.50

43.18267 -78.67662

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

E Mile 319.05, south side

43.18501 -78.66909

■ Wide Waters Marina/Nelson C. Goehle Public Marina

768 Market Street Lockport, NY 14094 (716) 628-2134 lockportny.gov/water-activities

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms, showers, laundry. Concrete ramp and kayak launch with roller docks. Parking for 40 cars; overnight

parking allowed. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

Kayak, canoe, and SUP and adaptive rentals through Erie Canal Boat Company; call (585) 748-2628 for information.

E Mile 318.92

43.18620 -78.66631

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

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

E Mile	318.02
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43.19114 -78.65003

Bridge E225, Day Road

E Mile 317.15

43.19357 -78.63316

Bridge E224, North Canal Road (CR 77)

E Mile 315.21

43.19767 -78.59600

Bridge E223, Orangeport Road

E Mile 314.19, south side

43.19937 -78.57651

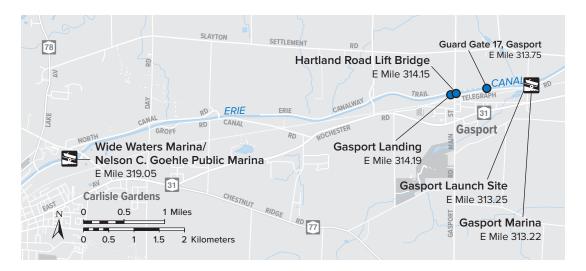
Gasport Landing

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

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

a short walk away.

Erie Canal-Gasport



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

E Mile 314.15 43.19961 -78.57584

Bridge E222, Hartland Road Lift Bridge (CR 108)

Built in 1913. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 6 inches. Call (716) 772-7700 for service.

E Mile 313.75	43.20076 -78.56811
Guard Gate 17, Gasport	

E Mile 313.25, south side 43.20153 -78.55829

Gasport Launch Site

Telegraph Road Gasport, NY 14067

FACILITIES: Concrete ramp, pavilion, limited parking.

E Mile 313.22, south side	43.20167 -78.55726
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Gasport Marina

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

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

Private Marina.

F Mile 312.54

L WIIIE 512.54	43.20078 -78.34002	
Bridge E220, Slayton Settlement Road		
E Mile 311.95	43.20973 -78.53539	
Bridge E219, Wruck Road		
E Mile 310.40	43.21443 -78.50556	
Bridge E218, Peet Street		
E Mile 309.59	43.21320 -78.49026	
Bridge E217, Carmen Road (CR 139)		

43.20678 -78.54602

MIDDLEPORT

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



E Mile 308.99, south side

43.21238 -78.47754

Middleport Harbor/Middleport Park

Middleport, NY 14105 (716) 735-3303 middleport-newyork.com

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

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

E Mile 308.87

43.21289 -78.47646

Bridge E216, Main Street Lift Bridge (NY 271)

Built in 1915. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 6 inches. Call (716) 735-7250 for service.

E Mile 307.34

43.21885 -78.44831

Guard Gate 16, Middleport

Erie Canal-Middleport



E Mile 307.10, south side

43.21624 -78.44440

Middleport Launch Site

Telegraph Road (NY 31E) Middleport, NY 14105

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

E Mile 305.63

43.22213 -78.42090

Bridge E212, Marshall Road

E Mile 304.13

43.22547 -78.39175

Bridge E211, Prospect Avenue Lift Bridge (NY 63)

Built in 1914. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 5 inches. Call (585) 798-0140 for service.

The canal widens and turns sharply southward east of the Prospect Avenue bridge. You are entering the Medina basin and aqueduct.

Both banks of the canal through Medina are lined with vertical walls from the Prospect Avenue lift bridge to the east side of the Horan Avenue/Bank Street bridge about 0.75 mile east. Paddlers may find the floating docks at the Canal Port Marina a bit high, but they are the only means of access/egress within the village.

MEDINA

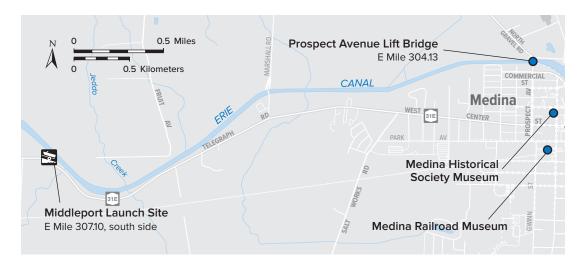


The basin in Medina, with its L shape and straight lines, was built as part of the Barge Canal enlargement of 1905 through 1918. An aqueduct carries the canal about 70 feet above the Old Orchard Creek, which flows south to north and ends at Lake Ontario. This is the only aqueduct on the Barge Canal. The creek drops over Medina Falls just to the north of the canal, then runs into man-made Glenwood Lake.

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

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

Saint John's Episcopal Church on Center Street is made of Medina sandstone. It's listed in Ripley's Believe It or Not as the "church in the middle of the street," because Church Street splits to go around it.



PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

43.22137 -78.38924

Medina Historical Society Museum

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

43.21837 -78.38974

Medina Railroad Museum

530 West Avenue Medina, NY 14103 (585) 798-6106 medinarailroadmuseum.org

E Mile 303.88

43.22395 -78.38761

Bridge E210, Eagle Street/Glenwood Avenue To the east of the Glenwood Avenue/Eagle Street bridge, the canal opens into the large Medina basin.

LODGING

43.22029 -78.38743

Hart House Hotel

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

Located within walking distance of Canal Port Marina dock.

E Mile 303.7, south side

43.22173 -78.38602

Canal Port Marina/Medina Canal **Basin Park**

Manilla Place Medina, NY 14103 (585) 798-0710 villagemedina.org

FACILITIES: Municipal marina features floating docks with accessible paddlecraft launch and gangway, two water-level boarding platforms for paddlers, finger piers and 10 wet slips. Toilets and showers (call ahead for keypad

code), electric, water, gazebo. Parking. Shops, restaurants, and attractions are a short walk from the marina.

PADDLING NOTE: Tall vertical walls line both sides of the channel through downtown Medina from the Prospect Street Lift Bridge in the west to the Horan Road bridge to the east. The low spillway of Medina Waste Weir and the subsurface intake for the Oak Orchard hydroelectric plant are in the south wall just east of Medina basin. The plant is small and intake velocities are low, but it's prudent for paddlers to stay mid-channel.

E Mile 303.50	43.22229 -78.38	239

A ladder built into the western end of the north wall allows agile paddlers an opportunity to climb out and look over the rail for a view of Medina Falls.

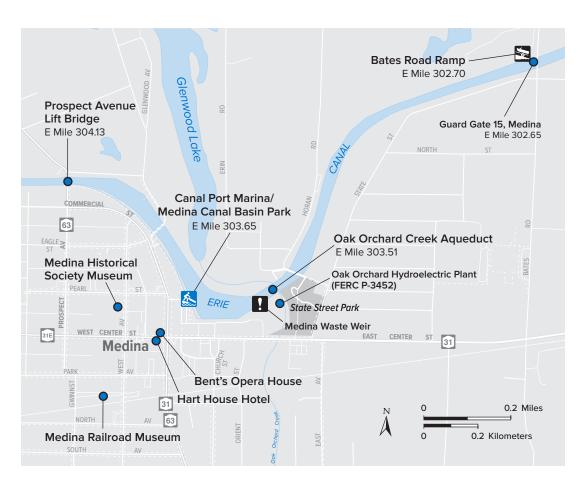
E Mile 303.45	43.22277 -78.38127

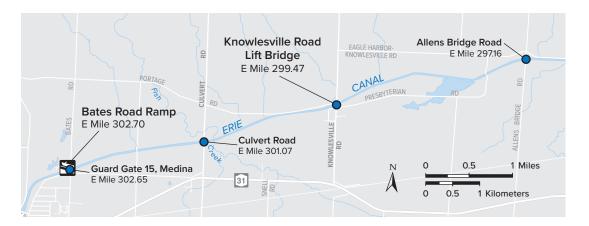
Bridge E209, Horan Road/Bank Street

E Mile 302.70, north side 43.23034 -78.37128

Bates Road Ramp

FACILITIES: Concrete ramp, dock. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet.





E Mile 302.65

43.23008 -78.37076

Guard Gate 15. Medina

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

E Mile 302.64	43.23013 -78.37062

Bridge E208, Bates Road

E Mile 301.84 43.23368 -78.35564

Bridge E207, Beals Road

E Mile 301.07 43.23558 -78.34045

Culvert Road (Culvert 96)

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

E Mile 299.47

43.24263 -78.31060

Bridge E206, Knowlesville Road Lift Bridge (CR 10)

Built in 1910. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 5 inches. Call (585) 798-2050 for service.

E Mile 297.65 43.24861 -78.27666

Bridge E205, Presbyterian Road

E Mile 297.16 43.25146 -78.26785

Bridge E204, Allens Road

E Mile 296.41 43.25187 -78.25310

Bridge E203, Eagle Harbor Road Lift Bridge (CR 21)

Built in 1910. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance open: 16 feet 5 inches. Call (585) 589-0628 for service.

E Mile 295.65 43.25459 -78.23962

The small, disused Gaines Basin opens on the south side.

E Mile 294.86 43.25537 -78.22339

Bridge E202, Gaines Basin Road (CR 88)

ALBION

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

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

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

PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

43.24520 -78.19377

Courthouse Square Historic District

33 South Main Street Albion, NY 14411 (585) 589-4174 43.28716 -78.19100

Cobblestone Museum

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

PADDLECRAFT SALES AND RENTALS

43.31146 -78.25103

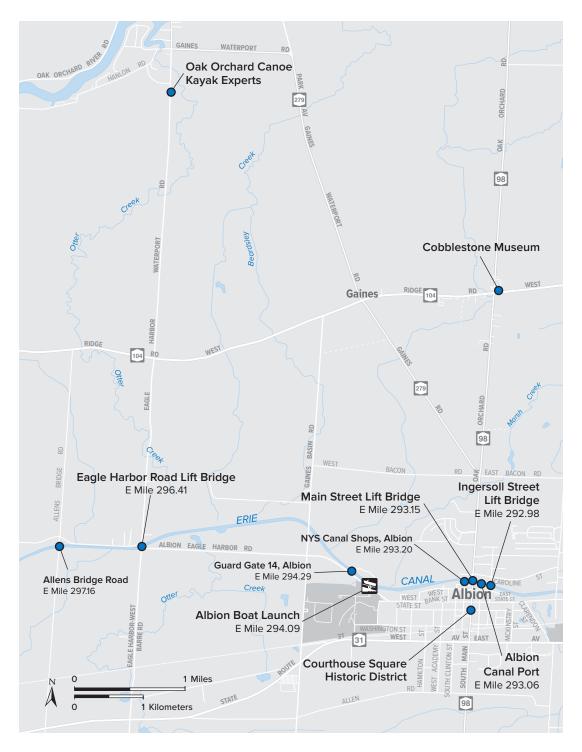
Oak Orchard Canoe Kayak Experts

2133 Eagle Harbor Waterport Road Waterport, NY 14571 (585) 682-4849 oakorchardcanoe.com

E Mile 294.29	43.24971 -78.21537
Guard Gate 14, Albion	

E Mile 294.26 43.24942 -78.21483
Bridge E201, Lattins Farm Road

Erie Canal-Albion



E Mile 294.09, south side	43.24786 -78.21209	E Mile 291.72	43.24874 -78.16599
Albion Boat Laund Eagle Harbor Road	ch	Bridge E197, Butts F	Road
Albion, NY 14411		E Mile 290.88	43.24919 -78.14937
FACILITIES: Picnic tables, grill. Concrete ramp. Parking for five cars; no overnight		Bridge E196, Keitel	Road
parking. Distance from	parking about 20 feet.	E Mile 290.18	43.24930 -78.13544
PADDLING NOTE: The NYS Canal Maintenance Shops will be on the south		Bridge E195, Densr	nore Road (CR 11)
shore as you approach		E Mile 289.15	43.25179 -78.11549
Lift Bridge. Watch out for workboats.		Bridge E194, Transit Road (CR 64)	
E Mile 293.15	43.24907 -78.19364	 F Mile 288.65	43.25318 -78.10582
Bridge E200, Main S	_		
Lift bridge built in 1914		Bridge E193, Hinds	burg Road
3 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 5 inches. Call (585) 589-6255 for service.		E Mile 287.89	43.25362 -78.09090
Can (303) 303 0233 10	or service.		
E Mile 293.06, south side	43.24871 -78.19207	Bridge E192, Fanch	er Road (NY 387)
Albion Canal Port		E Mile 286.58	43.25434 -78.06619
35-37 East Bank Street Albion, NY 14411 (585) 589-9176 orleanscountytourism.com/waterways		Bridge E191, Hulberton Road Lift Bridge Lift bridge built in 1913. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 7 inches. Call (585) 638-8183 for service.	
FACILITIES: Electric, w			
showers on south side	• •	E Mile 285.48	43.24963 -78.04619
and attractions are a short walk from the south side wall.		Bridge E190, Groth	Road
E Mile 292.98	43.24853 -78.19039	E Mile 285.00	43.24471 -78.03942
Bridge E199, Ingerso Lift bridge built in 1911. 3 feet. Clearance oper Call (585) 589-4107 fo	Clearance closed: ned: 16 feet 5 inches.	Bridge E189, Telegr	aph Road (CR 54)

43.24807 -78.17861

E Mile 292.37

Bridge E198, Brown Street

HOLLEY



The village is named for Myron Holley, one of the most influential of the early Erie Canal Commissioners who helped found the anti-slavery Liberty Party in 1840.

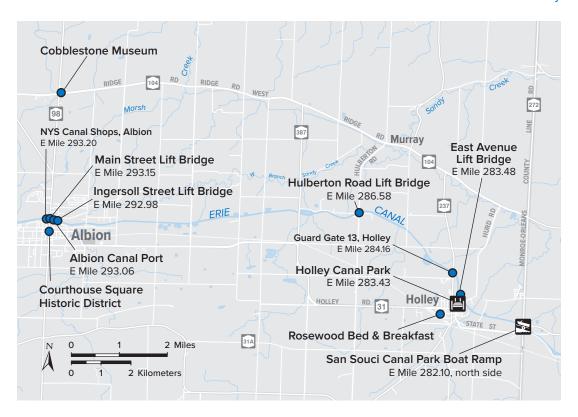
Originally, the Erie Canal swung well south, following the contour and crossing the Sandy Creek closer to the village center. During the 1840s enlargement canal builders built a tall embankment further down the valley (north) to eliminate the sharp bends of the "Holley Loop" and ease the passage of larger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

LODGING

43.22465 -78.03138

Rosewood Bed & Breakfast

68 Geddes Street Holley, NY 14470 (585) 329-4230 rosewoodbnb.com



E Mile 284.16 43.23723 -78.02677

Guard Gate 13, Holley

E Mile 284.14 43.23715 -78.02650

Bridge E188, North Main Street (NY 237)

E Mile 283.48 43.22864 -78.02163

Bridge E187, East Avenue Lift Bridge

Built in 1911; better known as the Holley Lift Bridge. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 7 inches. Call (585) 638-6456 for service. E Mile 283.43, south side 43.22805 -78.02146

Holley Canal Park

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

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, and laundry on south side. Low fixed dock. Parking for 18 cars. Overnight parking allowed (phone ahead). No camping allowed.

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

E Mile 283.00 43.22475 -78.01389

Bridge E186, Bennetts Corners Road

BROCKPORT

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

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

PLACE OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

43.21349 -77.93876

Brockport Community Museum

127 Main Street Brockport, NY 14420 (585) 637-5300 brockportcommunitymuseum.org

This innovative Museum Without Walls incorporates and illuminates Brockport's living heritage through interpretive signs, a self-quided walking tour, public art, rotating displays in public venues, more than 50 builidngs on the State and National Historic Registers, and 37 historic landmarks. 43.21261 -77.93888

Western Monroe Historical Society Morgan-Manning House

151 Main Street Brockport, NY 14420 (585) 637-3645 morganmanninghouse.org

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

E Mile 282.10, north side

43.22175 -77.99687

San Souci Canal Park Boat Ramp

4159 Monroe-Orleans County Line Road (entrance at intersection with NY 31) Brockport, NY 14420 (585) 637-1130 clarksonny.org

FACILITIES: Portable toilet, pavilion, picnic tables, grill. Concrete ramp. Parking for 17 cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet. E Mile 282.03 43.22105 -77.99577

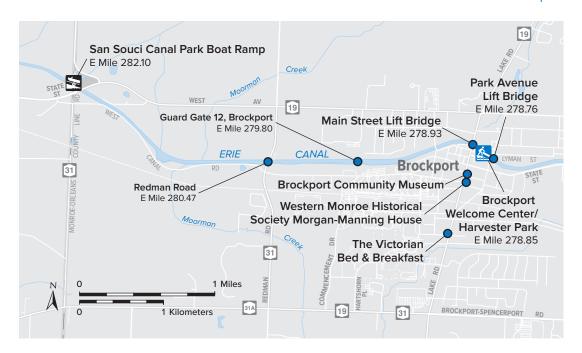
Bridge E185, State Street/West Avenue (NY 31)

E Mile 280.47 43.21406 -77.96799

Bridge E184, Redman Road (CR 236)

E Mile 279.80 43.21442 -77.95487

Guard Gate 12, Brockport Buildings on the campus of SUNY Brockport are visible to the south.



LODGING

43.20706 -77.94133

The Victorian Bed & Breakfast

320 Main Street Brockport, NY 14420 (585) 637-7519 victorianbandb.com

E Mile 279.21

43.21618 -77.94350

Bridge E183, Smith Street

The Brockport terminal wall begins just to the east of the bridge.

E Mile 278.93

43.21668 -77.93811

Bridge E182, Main Street Lift Bridge (NY 19)

Built in 1915. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 7 inches. Call (585) 637-4530 for service. E Mile 278.85, south side

43.21578 -77.93650

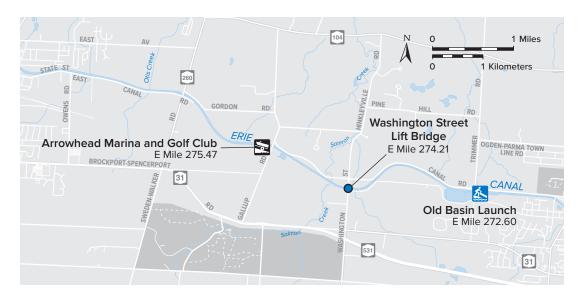
Brockport Welcome Center/ Harvester Park

11 Water Street and Park Avenue Brockport, NY 14420 (585) 637-1000 brockportny.org

FACILITIES: Accessible hand-launch slide for paddlecraft, restrooms, showers, water, showers, electric, wi-fi, parking.

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

Erie Canal-Brockport



E Mile 278.76

43.21537 -77.93540

Bridge E181, Park Avenue Lift Bridge

Built in 1914. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 9 inches. Call (585) 637-0460 for service.

E Mile 276.66

43.21152 -77.89490

Bridge E180, Sweden-Walker Road (NY 260)

E Mile 275.47, south side

43.20255 -77.87516

Arrowhead Marina and Golf Club

655 Gallup Road Spencerport, NY 14559 (585) 352-5500 arrowheadgc.org

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

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

E Mile 275.28

43.20281 -77.87264

Bridge E179, Gallup Road (CR 244)

E Mile 274.21

43.19572 -77.85383

Bridge E178, Washington Street Lift Bridge

Built in 1912: better known as the Adams Basin lift bridge. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 9 inches. Call (585) 352-3548 for service.

E Mile 272.60

43.19589 -77.82693

Old Basin Launch

An old basin is on the south side just to the west of the Trimmer Road bridge. Informal launch with limited parking.

E Mile 272.49

43.19595 -77.82350

Bridge E176, Trimmer Road

F Mile 271.47

43.19504 -77.80336

Bridge E175, Martha Street

SPENCERPORT



Spencerport is named for Daniel Spencer, whose farm was split by the Erie Canal. The village quickly grew up around the canal and thrived on canal transport. The downtown area contains dozens of architecturally distinguished buildings.

The Clyde W. Carter Memorial Gazebo on the south side of the canal, west of the lift bridge hosts an active schedule of concerts and events throughout the navigation season. Spencerport Canal Days are held at the end of July.

Spencerport has over 600 feet of docking facilities on both sides of the canal.

E Mile 271.32, south side

43.19363 -77.80117

Clyde W. Carter Memorial Gazebo

South side, west of lift bridge

FACILITIES: Dock with low floating segment at west end, portable toilet.

PADDLING NOTE: This is the easiest place for paddlers to launch or get out to explore Spencerport.

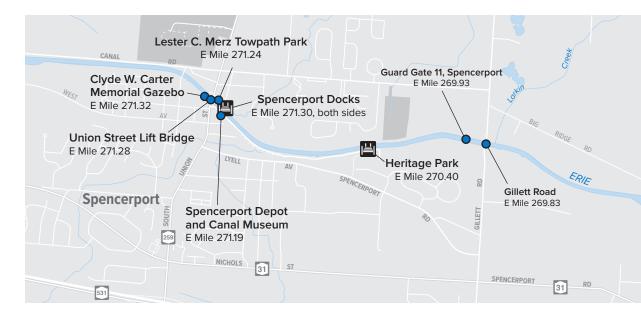
E Mile 271.30

43.19333 -77.80039

Bridge E174, Union Street Lift Bridge (NY 259)

Built in 1915, rehabilitated 2021 with a new control tower; also known as the Spencerport lift bridge. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 17 feet. Call (585) 352-5451 for service.

Erie Canal-Spencerport



E Mile 271.24, north side

43.19325 -77.79983

Lester C. Merz Towpath Park

North side, east of lift bridge

FACILITIES: Picnic shelter. Not accessible to paddlers due to vertical wall.

E Mile 271.19, both sides

43.19257 -77.79955

Spencerport Docks

(585) 352-4771

vil.spencerport.ny.us/boating.html

FACILITIES: Electric, water, free parking. Walk to services at the Spencerport Depot and Village of Spencerport.

E Mile 271.19, south side

43.19229 -77.79947

Spencerport Depot and Canal Museum

16 East Avenue Spencerport, NY 14559 (585) 352-0942 spencerportmuseum.org **FACILITIES:** Small museum and visitor center with excellent services. Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, and laundry in lower level.

E Mile 270.40, south side

43.19021 -77.78499

Heritage Park

2750 Spencerport Road Off Lyell Avenue opposite Cosgrove Middle School, Spencerport, NY 14559 (585) 617-6174

FACILITIES: Picnic tables, portable toilets. Low floating dock. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 450 feet. A walking trail connects to Spencerport to the west.

E Mile 269.93

43.19113 -77.77547

Guard Gate 11, Spencerport

F Mile 269.83

43.19085 -77.77350

Bridge E173, Gillett Road (CR 210)



E Mile 268.75	43.18749 -77.75337
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Bridge E172, Manitou Road (CR 208)

E Mile 267.90, north side 43.1899 -77.73776

Greece Canal Park

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

FACILITIES: Fixed dock, seasonal restrooms near the Towpath and Millennium shelters, tent camping for organized groups (permit required), parking. Distance from dock to parking and restrooms about 900 feet.

PADDLING NOTE: This is a nice place to stop and rest but the dock is high and too far from the road to serve as a put-in/take-out. Use Henpeck Park, about one-third mile east.

E Mile 267.64 43.18852 -77.73216

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

E Mile 267.60, north side 43.18820 -77.73135

Henpeck Park/Robach Landing

2901 Ridgeway Avenue Greece, NY 14612 (585) 225-2000

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

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

Life Carial-Rochester			
E Mile 267.44, south side	43.18549 -77.73003	E Mile 264.66	43.17230 -77.68070
Captain Jeff's Marina 416 Elmgrove Road		Bridge E169, Lee Roa	ad (CR 154)
Rochester, NY 14606		E Mile 264.53	43.17088 -77.67898
(585) 426-5400 FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms, showers. Concrete ramp.		Bridge E168, abandoned railroad bridge built around 1909 for the Rochester Lockport & Buffalo interurban trolley line.	
Large private marina with basin.	60 slips in a large	E Mile 264.51	43.17062 -77.67877
An old quarters boat, once used to house dredge crews, is hauled up on the south		Bridge E167, CSX Railroad	
bank a little east of the m	-	E Mile 264.08	43.16471 -77.67626
E Mile 266.45, north side	43.18473 -77.71079	Bridge E166, Lyell Av	enue (NY 31)
South Greece Junction L	ock	E Mile 264.07	43.16449 -77.67617
Rochester grew from a collection of huts into a thriving city where the Erie Canal crossed the Genesee River. Today's canal route arcs around the city in a deep vertical-walled cut through solid rock. A temporary lock, built in 1917, allowed older canal boats to serve as docks on the west side of Rochester. It had a lift of three feet and was active from 1918 into the 1920s. It's now derelict, but look for remnants of the		Bridge E-165C, water pipeline	
		E Mile 263.58	43.15775 -77.67396
		Bridge E165B, I-490 westbound	
		E Mile 263.54	43.15712 -77.67375
		Bridge E165A, I-490 eastbound	
old concrete walls and re		E Mile 263.04	43.15016 -77.67142
lock gates. A nearby kiosk has historical information.		Bridge E165D, gas and water pipelines	
- MIL 205 04	4240250 7770460	E Mile 263.03	43.14993 -77.67147
E Mile 265.94 43.18258 -77.70160 Bridge E170, Long Pond Road (CR 136) This bridge is the western edge of the metropolitan Rochester region.		Bridge E165, Buffalo Road (NY 33)	
		E Mile 262.92	43.14847 -77.67087
		Bridge E164A, gas pipeline	
E Mile 264.83	43.17380 -77.68318		
Bridge E169B, I-390 southbound		E Mile 262.91	43.14825 -77.67087
E Mile 2CA 94	42.47200 77.00345	Bridge E164, Amtrak	Kalir0a0
E Mile 264.81 43.17368 -77.68315 Bridge E169A, I-390 northbound		E Mile 262.90	43.14810 -77.67082
		Bridge E163A, water pipeline	

