



GUIDEBOOK

Your complete guide to paddling the
New York State Canal System

COMPLIMENTARY



**NEW YORK STATE CANALWAY
WATER TRAIL
GUIDEBOOK**

Including the Erie, Oswego, Cayuga-Seneca,
and Champlain Canals



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HELP US IMPROVE THE PADDLING EXPERIENCE

The NYS Canalway Water Trail guidebook and map set are living documents that will improve with feedback from paddlers like you. If you have suggestions for improvement, find an error, or simply want to share your favorite paddling spot or trip, we welcome you to contact us at **paddler@eriecanalway.org**. We will incorporate your ideas and revisions into future editions.



ERIE CANALWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

The New York State Canal System's exceptional scenery history, culture, and natural resources earned the 524-mile waterway and the communities along its shores Congressional designation as the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor in 2000. The waterway was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2016.

Many partners work together to preserve the best of the past, while ensuring a vibrant future along this legendary waterway.

The **Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor** and **Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, Inc.** preserve our extraordinary canal heritage, promote the Corridor as a world-class tourism destination, and foster vibrant communities connected by more than 500 miles of historic waterway. These organizations work in partnership with the National Park Service, New York State agencies, non-profit organizations, local residents, and more than 200 communities across the full expanse of upstate New York.

eriecanalway.org

THE CORRIDOR ENCOMPASSES:

524

Continuous miles of navigable waterway

230

Municipalities

4,834

Square miles

23

Part of 23 counties home to 3.2 million people



NEW YORK STATE CANAL CORPORATION

The **New York State Canal Corporation** operates and maintains the New York State Canal System. A subsidiary of the New York Power Authority, the NYS Canal Corporation oversees tourism promotion; renewable power generation; public, agricultural and industrial water supplies; commercial shipping; and recreational activities along the canals. It also oversees management of the Erie Canalway Trail, a 365-mile multi-use trail from Buffalo to Albany that attracts more than 1.5 million pedestrians, bicyclists, and cross-country skiers annually. The NYS Canal Corporation also works collaboratively with community partners to improve waterway access and services, sponsor major events, and honor the historic legacy of the Erie Canal and connecting waterways.

canals.ny.gov

THE NYS CANAL SYSTEM SUPPORTS

\$7.5 BILLION +

annually in economic activity, fostering sustainable economic development throughout the canal corridor.

NEARLY

80%

of Upstate New York's population lives within 25 miles of the Erie Canal.



New York State is celebrating the bicentennial of canal construction and opening from 2017 to 2025. Watch for special events, lectures, and tours marking significant anniversaries.



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NYS CANALWAY WATER TRAIL DISCLAIMER

Your utilization of these materials and/or use of the NYS Canalway Water Trail acknowledges that you are participating at your own risk. If you paddle with minor child(ren), you acknowledge that the risks apply to them as well, and you will take any necessary precautions to keep them safe. Paddling and related activities can be unpredictable and/or dangerous.

Paddlers risk injury and even death from drowning, hypothermia, and other hazards. These materials do not replace proper planning or instruction by a qualified instructor, nor do they replace the skill, proper equipment, experience, and judgment that every paddler needs. Be sure to read and follow all safety suggestions. By paddling on the NYS Canal System, you understand that there are risks including but not limited to physical injury, pain, and temporary or permanent disability which may arise from your or others' actions, inactions, or negligence or the condition of the activity's location. By participating, you acknowledge and agree the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, Inc. and its affiliates shall not be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature (direct, indirect, consequential or other) that may arise as a result of your participation or that of any minor child(ren) under your care in this or any other activities.

WELCOME

BY PAUL L. COMSTOCK

I grew up around the Erie Canal. My grandfather, who I never knew, began working on the canal as a 10-year-old boy, leading mules along the towpath. Later, he became a tug captain, who traveled the waterway for the rest of his life. As a young girl, my mother joined him on some of his canal trips, and she often shared her experiences with me.

By the time I was growing up around the canal in the 1950s and 1960s, this waterway, once teeming with activity, was largely ignored. I took the canal for granted until 50 years later. While I was attending a kayak symposium, one of the presenters described an incredible water journey that had led him through the Erie Canal. A light went on. What a great idea! I would paddle the canal I had heard so much about as I was growing up. Perhaps I could also get a better sense of who my grandfather was by traveling the waterway that had been such a major part of his life.

I had no idea when I launched at the western end in North Tonawanda that by the time I pulled out in Waterford my paddle trip would become a major highlight of my life. I was permanently connected not only to my family history but also to the incredible role the canal played in the development of this country.

Once I became an “End-to-ENDER,” I felt compelled to paddle each of the other three New York State canals: Oswego, Cayuga-Seneca, and Champlain. That led me down the Hudson River and up to Lake Champlain.

Knowing of my experiences, the organizers of this guide asked me to participate in its development. I am honored to have done so.

The guide you are holding contains the gateway to many incredible paddle opportu-

nities. Whether this is your first time visiting the Erie Canalway, you are returning again and again, or you are taking on the challenge of becoming an “End-to-ENDER,” take advantage of this guide to make your trip special.

This guide will help you to plan the distance you will travel based on the time you have to spend. It will allow you to become familiar with what you will find at each launch and take out site. It will also help you find the many special land sites to visit during your trip. Time your trips, when possible, to include one or more of the many community celebrations that occur regularly throughout the Erie Canalway. Your trip will be enriched by the many new friends you will meet.

Finally, I encourage you to explore your personal family history for connections to this waterway. I am certain there will be surprises as you do so. Take time to read about the history of where you will paddle. Read one of the many accounts of the building of the waterway you will be on. Learn of the early development of the communities you will travel through or visit. Seek to understand the experience of those who plied the canal commercially, those who settled along the canal to enjoy the economic benefits it created—and continues to create—and the multitude of people who were transported on it to a better life. As you do, you'll find commonality in what others before you experienced.

As you paddle along New York State's iconic canals, you will discover all that is right in America. Now, open the pages of this guide and plan a trip. As you do, prepare to become hooked on paddling this incredible waterway. Welcome aboard!



THE NYS CANALWAY WATER TRAIL

The NYS Canalway Water Trail is comprised of over 450 miles of canals and interconnected lakes and rivers with more than 140 public access points for paddlers. The water trail follows the NYS Canal System across the full expanse of upstate New York, offering paddlers a wealth of places to visit and sights to see. The waterway flows through time and history, connecting magnificent scenery and remarkable communities, many of which have been welcoming canal travelers for 200 years.

Among the things that makes the NYS Canalway Water Trail distinct from other water trails is the nature of the canal itself. Paddlers navigate century-old locks, pass stunning stone aqueducts used to carry boats over rivers and streams in the 1800s; paddle alongside tugboats and cruisers; experience narrow flatwater stretches and wider river segments. For a constructed waterway, the canal is surprisingly serene and natural. Paddlers can expect to see a diversity of birds and wildlife, unique geology, and varying terrain.

This guidebook will introduce you to its many treasures. It will help you get on the water for a few hours or an entire day, or to plan an overnight trip or longer excursions within the canal corridor.

Enjoy and paddle on!



GET CONNECTED @nyscanalwaywatertrail

Join the NYS Canalway Water Trail Facebook group to connect with other paddlers, ask questions, and share your experiences.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guidebook is divided into three main sections: the front section provides general information about paddling on the canals, staying safe on the water, and taking advantage of the great things to see and do here. The main section is where you will find maps and mile-by-mile information. You'll find useful references in the back section.

Refer to the guidebook when planning a trip to familiarize yourself with where you are going or carry it with you so that you have a valuable reference on the water. Use it alone or in combination with the navigational map set developed for paddlers.

Mile by Mile

This book is a mile-by-mile description of sites along the NYS Canal System. It begins in Buffalo and follows the Erie Canal east to Waterford. The Oswego, Cayuga-Seneca, and Champlain canals are also covered. The Canalway Water Trail includes portions of the Buffalo and Niagara rivers that are not officially part of the NYS Canal System but does not include the full length of Cayuga and Seneca Lakes.

• NUTS AND BOLTS

Each site description is designed to provide the information paddlers need to plan enjoyable trips, such as access points, parking, restrooms, and visitor information. Water trail sites are listed in bold face type and are highlighted on maps near the site listing. Launches are identified with an icon.

• SITES ALONG THE WAY

Locks and other canal structures, ports and towns, access sites, canal attractions, heritage sites, and other places of interest are also included. Distances are listed in statute miles. Coordinates are latitude/longitude (WGS 84). Most of the places described are on the canal system or within about one-half mile of the water.

• SAFETY INFORMATION

Hazards and important safety information appear in paddling notes that accompany the site listings. It is always prudent to check the NYS Canal Corporation's "Notices and Alerts" webpage before heading out: canals.ny.gov/wwwapps/tas/notices

• NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST

Although the canals don't run in straight lines, for the purpose of this guidebook the banks of the Erie Canal and the Cayuga-Seneca Canal are described as being on the north side or the south side, even when the compass direction might be different. Similarly, the banks of the Oswego Canal and the Champlain Canal, which run approximately north-south, are described as being west side and east side.

• EXPLORING ON SHORE

Half the fun of paddling is what you will find on shore. This guide includes many sites of interest, but does not include a listing of the many great places to eat, drink, and shop throughout the canal corridor. You will find ice cream and coffee shops, restaurants, breweries, wineries, farm stands, and other recreational opportunities in almost every community. We recommend you check with individual businesses regarding their services and operating hours. County Tourism offices, listed on pages 270-271, can help you plan your trip.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF NEW YORK'S CANALS



New York State Archives

New York has long been a state of big ideas and the kind of can-do spirit that turns them into reality. Credit for this entrepreneurial attitude is due, in part, to a nationally-significant treasure: the Erie Canal. Built between 1817 and 1825, the original Erie Canal 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. Equally important, the Erie Canal solidified these central elements of America’s national identity: vision, determination, ingenuity, and hard work.

For eight years of wet, heat, and cold, surveyors and laborers cut through fields, forests, rocky cliffs, and swamps; crossed rivers on aqueducts; and overcame hills with 83 lift locks. Upon completion, the Erie Canal and a system of connecting waterways fulfilled Governor DeWitt Clinton’s prophecy

of making New York America’s preeminent state, populated border-to-border and generating wealth for its people.

People and new ideas flowed into the many new cities sprouting up along the canal. Social reform movements like abolitionism and women’s suffrage, Utopian communities, and various religious movements thrived in the canal corridor. The Erie Canal carried more westbound immigrants than any other trans-Appalachian canal. These newcomers infused the nation with different languages, customs, practices, and religions.

In 2000, the United States Congress recognized the Erie Canal’s significance to our nation by establishing the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. The 524-mile corridor threads more than 200 diverse communities connected by a waterway that changed not just the landscape of the state, but also our nation and its history. In 2016, the NYS Canal System became a National Historic Landmark.

WHAT’S IN A NAME?

As you read this guide, you’ll see references to the three main eras of the Erie Canal:

• 1825—CLINTON’S DITCH

This was the original Erie Canal dug between 1817 and 1825.

• 1862—ENLARGED ERIE CANAL

If you see an old stone lock, canal wall, or aqueduct, it likely dates to the Enlarged Erie, a period from 1836 to 1862 when the canal was widened and deepened to accommodate more and bigger boats.

• 1918—BARGE CANAL

The structures and channels of the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca canals operate today largely as they did when the canals were enlarged between 1905 and 1918. Renamed the NYS Barge Canal to reflect commercial shipping, the word “barge” is used infrequently today and the canals are now collectively known as the NYS Canal System.



Lock 12, Whitehall, 1917

The New York State Canal System Today

The NYS Canal System has been in continuous operation since 1825, longer than any other constructed transportation system on the North American continent. Since its grand opening, the canal has been enlarged three times to accommodate larger boats and more traffic. Changes were made to the route and to canal structures like locks and bridges each time.

Today, navigable portions of the system include:

- **Erie Canal**, which connects the Hudson River to the Niagara River, 339 miles to the west;
- **Champlain Canal**, connecting Lake Champlain to the Erie Canal and tidal portion of the Hudson River 62 miles south;
- **Oswego Canal**, descending along the Oswego River from the Erie Canal to Lake Ontario, 23 miles north;
- **Cayuga-Seneca Canal**, a 17 mile canal that connects the Erie Canal to New York’s two largest Finger Lakes, each about 38 miles long.
- There are also short navigable branches that connect the Erie Canal to downtown Syracuse and Rochester.

The system is owned and operated by the NYS Canal Corporation, a subsidiary of the New York Power Authority.

PADDLING ON THE CANAL SYSTEM

Canal Season and Hours

The canals are typically open from May through October. Opening and closing dates vary from year to year, depending on conditions. The standard hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Some locks and lift bridges have extended hours until 10 p.m. from mid-May to mid-September. Some sections of the canal close during mid-season floods. Check ahead at canals.ny.gov.

Canal Features and Structures

The NYS Canal System includes a number of unique and historic structures used to regulate the flow of water and enable boats to transit changing elevations.

- **LOCKS:** There are 57 locks on New York's canal system, including 35 on the Erie Canal, 11 on the Champlain Canal, seven on the Oswego Canal, and four on the Cayuga-Seneca Canal.

- **LIFT BRIDGES:** Fifteen lift bridges built between 1905 and 1918 still carry traffic over the Erie Canal in western New York. Stairs and walkways allow pedestrians to cross while the bridge is up.

- **MOVABLE DAMS:** There are eight between Fort Plain and Schenectady that regulate water flow on the Mohawk River. There are a number of fixed dams on the canal as well. All are clearly marked. Stay away from all dams while paddling.

- **GUARD GATES:** These isolate sections of the canal in case of emergency, such as a break in a canal wall, accident, or extreme high water. Guard gates also allow sections of the canal to be drained for maintenance and winter freeze protection.



Power House, Lock 20, Whitesboro

- **POWER HOUSES AND GATE CABINETS:** Most locks have distinctive white buildings on site where electricity was generated to power lock gates and valves. There are also blue-and-gold cabinets that display the number of the lock and house the motors and gearing that operate its valves and gates.
- **SHORELINE AND WALLS:** To keep the banks of the canal system from eroding, many parts are lined with rip-rap, a facing of layered rocks. Some sections are lined with vertical concrete walls. Paddlers should use designated launch and landing sites in these areas, rather than attempt to scramble up steep walls.



Lock 19, Frankfort

WATCH FOR HISTORIC CANAL VESSELS

As you paddle the NYS Canal System, you're likely to see distinctive blue and yellow tugboats and other workboats doing maintenance work to keep the canals safe. Most of these vessels were built prior to 1940. Thanks to the diligence of generations of canal captains, engineers, and deck hands, these vessels are still at work, brass and paint still gleaming. Two of the oldest are tugs *Governor Roosevelt* and *Governor Cleveland*, built in 1928.

Canal Notices, Alerts, and Mileage

The NYS Canal Corporation issues "Notices to Mariners" as needed, including openings/closures, water levels, construction, hazards, and other elements affecting navigation. These are posted on the website; notices and alerts are available by email and text message. For more information or to sign up for the messages, go to canals.ny.gov or follow @NYSCanalCorp on Twitter.

Also available on page 284 and the NYS Canal Corporation website is a "Profile and Mileage Table" for the NYS Canal System. It shows distances between many points and illustrates how much you will ascend or descend through a series of locks.

Paddling Through a Lock

Going through locks is one of the special experiences of traveling along the canal. The locks are 310 feet long and 45 feet wide, with massive steel gates at either end. Lifts range from six feet to more than 40. From a canoe, kayak, paddleboard, or rowboat, floating into this huge steel and cement structure can be a bit daunting at first—but it’s also exciting. Lock operators are on hand to recommend the safest place to tie-up, answer questions, and assist if needed.

Here’s what to do:

- 1. ALERT THE LOCK OPERATOR.**
Don’t assume that the operator will see you coming. Alert them by calling or signaling as you approach. Lock telephone numbers are listed throughout this guide. In places with poor cell coverage, use three blasts of a loud whistle or horn to alert the operator. Canal lock and lift bridge operators monitor and respond to Channel 13, if you have a portable VHF marine band radio.
- 2. WAIT FOR THE GREEN LIGHT.**
Each lock has a green and red traffic light at either end. Wait for the green light for permission to enter and exit the lock.
- 3. PADDLE INTO THE LOCK CHAMBER.**
Position yourself alongside the lock wall as directed by the lock operator.
- 4. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS OF THE LOCK OPERATOR.** You will be directed to hold on to vertical ropes or glide rails on the lock walls as the chamber fills or empties. Do not tie your boat to the drop line. Some boaters opt for gloves because the drop ropes and rails can be slimy. The sensation of rising or falling water is very gentle. You will be in the lock for about 15 minutes.

- 5. STAY CLEAR OF LOCK GATES AS THEY OPEN.** Don’t rush to exit the lock. Lock operators will not see you if you get pinned behind an opening gate. When the lock gates open, paddle out slowly, taking care to avoid other boats.
- 6. PAY ATTENTION AS YOU EXIT.**
Some locks have adjacent dams and spillways that produce unexpected cross-currents downstream. Get stable before you leave the chamber.

TIP: Before you launch, make a float plan that includes the phone numbers of the locks you will pass through. (See page 15.)

NOTE: No permits or fees are required for locking through with a non-commercial vessel, including kayak, canoe, stand-up paddleboard, rowboat.

FOR A SIMPLE VIDEO GUIDE TO LOCKING:
canals.ny.gov/navinfo



Thomas Fitzrandolph

Lock 34/35, Lockport

Other Things to Know

• **RIGHT-OF-WAY**

Paddlers share the canal system with commercial vessels, tour boats, motor-boats, and personal watercraft (jet skis). **Commercial vessels have the right of way.** Stay well clear—they move a lot faster than you expect and can produce big wakes. Rowing shells and organized events also take precedence. Stay clear.

Paddlers should move to the right when facing oncoming boats and when being overtaken. Sometimes it's safest to move outside the marked channel to allow big boats to pass.

• **BUOYS AND NAVIGATIONAL MARKERS**

Red and green buoys and fixed markers line the edge of the 12-foot deep navigation channel. Buoys are numbered sequentially (even for red, odd for green). Red buoys mark the north side of the channel on the Erie and Cayuga-Seneca canals and the east side on the Oswego and Champlain canals. Things can be a bit confusing where the Cayuga-Seneca and Oswego branch off from the Erie. Pay attention to the maps and guidebook descriptions in those two areas.

• **CURRENTS**

Although it appears placid on the surface there is a noticeable current in most segments of the canal system. While flows in the Erie west of Rochester are fairly consistent, they can fluctuate widely in canalized rivers that make up about two-thirds of the system. The Seneca, Oswego, Oneida, Mohawk, and Hudson rivers drain very large areas of New York State. Some high flow events in those sections are produced by storms far from the canal.

This guide was compiled in a generally downstream direction (west to east on the Erie, north to south on the Champlain, south to north on the Oswego). End-to-end boaters on the Erie and Champlain will need to do some upstream paddling in order to get over drainage divides. If you want to start and end your trip at the same launch site it's usually a good idea to paddle upstream on the first leg so you have the current helping your return.

• **PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES**

Boats, trailers, and other equipment can spread invasive species from one waterbody to another unless properly cleaned after use. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regulations prohibit boats from launching or leaving DEC launch sites without first draining and cleaning visible plant and animal material from the boat, trailer, and other equipment. Follow these DEC guidelines to prevent the spread of invasive species:

1. Inspect your boat, trailer, and other equipment and remove any visible mud, plants, fish, or animals before transporting equipment.
2. Eliminate all water from equipment before transporting.
3. Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with the water, including boats, trailers, and all other boating and fishing equipment. Paddlers should be particularly aware of areas that are difficult to inspect and dry.
4. Disinfect if you cannot dry equipment.
5. Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP

Know your skill level

The canal system presents opportunities suited to beginners through advanced paddlers. Novices and families with children will find protected sections of the dug canal with flat water, particularly from Tonawanda to Lyons and along the Cayuga-Seneca Canal. More experience is needed to paddle river and lake sections where currents and wind affect conditions on the water. Plan your destination and time on the water according to your skills.

Trip Duration

How far can you paddle in an hour, an afternoon, a day, a weekend? On average, most adults paddle about 3-4 miles per hour when straight paddling in open water, without any significant current or wind.

Build your float plan around the slowest person in your group. Also account for going through locks, which take about 15 to 20 minutes each.

Paddlers going from end to end of the Erie Canal typically plan 2.5 to 3 weeks to make the 338-mile journey. For day or weekend trips, choose mileage that will be comfortable for you to cover in a day—and leave time to stop and explore on land.

Lastly, give serendipity its due. You might discover a lovely place to stop for lunch or a historic site you can visit.

ADAPTIVE PADDLING

Paddling on the NYS Canal System is an increasingly inclusive sport. Many municipal and NYS DEC docks have been improved to allow handicapped access.

Rochester Accessible Adventures (RAA) helps companies make recreation on the canal system simple and inexpensive for people with disabilities and their families and friends. In 2016, RAA formed a partnership with the Erie Canal Boat Company (ECBC) in Fairport and developed the Adaptive Paddling and Cycling Center (APACC). In addition to experienced staff and volunteers, the center at ECBC has a dock-mounted Hoyer lift, floating docks low to the water, and a ramp entry that opens paddling opportunities to people of all physical abilities. RAA's free CanalPal program sends a trained volunteer out with kayakers to provide training and support.

The ECBC and RAA are expanding this model program. A second site in Lockport opened at the Wide Waters Marina in 2018 and more are planned.

TO LEARN ABOUT ACCESSIBLE KAYAK LAUNCHES, CONTACT:

Rochester Accessible Adventures
2165 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Road
Rochester, NY 14623
(585) 491-6011
rochesteraccessibleadventures.org

EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

BOAT GEAR

- ☐ Canoe, kayak, stand-up paddle-board, rowboat, or other vessel(s) suitable for the water conditions and number of people on the trip. [Do NOT overload]
- ☐ Coast Guard Approved wearable Personal Flotation Device (PFD/life vest)—required for every participant
- ☐ Whistle/horn (required)
- ☐ Waterproof light (required)

ADDITIONAL BOAT GEAR

- ☐ Paddles (and a spare)
- ☐ Bailer or pump
- ☐ Bow and stern lines (painters)
- ☐ Waterproof gear storage bags
- ☐ Cable and lock (to secure boat when you go into town)

COMMUNICATIONS AND SAFETY

- ☐ Cell phone in waterproof container
- ☐ Portable VHF marine band radio (useful but not required—canal lock and bridge operators and many boaters monitor Channel 13)
- ☐ Binoculars (useful but not required for reading buoy numbers and far-off bridge names)
- ☐ Float plan with emergency contact information

PERSONAL GEAR

- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Wide-brimmed hat
- ☐ Rain gear
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Gloves (to handle lock lines)
- ☐ Knife
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Cold and warm weather clothing
- ☐ Water shoes
- ☐ Quarters (coin-op shower, laundry, parking meters, etc.)

SHELTER

- ☐ Tent
- ☐ Sleeping bag
- ☐ Sleeping pad

FOOD AND COOKING

- ☐ Meals and snacks
- ☐ Portable stove
- ☐ Fuel
- ☐ Waterproof matches and/or lighter
- ☐ Water jug
- ☐ Cooking gear and utensils
- ☐ Trash bags (if you pack it in, pack it out)

Accommodations

Some portions of the canal system pass through populated areas with a choice of hotels, motels, B&Bs, and other lodgings. Other parts are more sparsely populated where lodgings may be scarce or far from the water. This book includes lodgings that are easily accessible from the canal. Additional options for lodging are available off the canal system. See pages 269-271 for information on camping sites and tourism offices.

The NYS Canal Corporation has designated a number of biker-hiker-boater campsites along the canal system. These tent-only informal campsites have space for tents, and offer potable water, portable toilets, picnic tables, and grills. Stays are limited to 48 hours. Contact the site in advance to make sure space is available.

Camping is permitted at most other canal locks on a case-by-case, first-come, first-served basis. Camping at these non-designated sites is limited to a maximum of four tents per night. Contact the Lock Operator in advance to determine if camping is permissible and where to set up. At most non-designated locks, the camping facilities are limited—drinking water and restrooms may not be available for overnight stays.

Paddlers should think ahead about overnight boat storage and security. When booking lodgings, ask about parking lot security and whether there is a place to store your boat overnight. We recommend bringing a cable lock system to anchor your boat to a tree, fence, boat rack, or your car roof rack.

Useful Websites and Planning Resources

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor: eriecanalway.org

New York State Canal Corporation: canals.ny.gov

NYS Canalway Water Trail Facebook group: facebook.com/groups/nyscanalwaywatertrail

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: dec.ny.gov

Parks & Trails New York: ptny.org

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration: weather.gov

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation: parks.ny.gov

I LOVE New York: ILoveNY.com



Enter the Erie Canalway Photo Contest

Entering is a snap: find an entry form and tips on our website: www.eriecanalway.org/get-involved/photo-contest

Winning images will be published in the annual Erie Canalway calendar

BE SAFE ON THE WATER

- **Always wear a personal flotation device (PFD).** The U.S. Coast Guard requires a PFD for each person on board. Canal regulations require that the PFD be worn when passing through a lock. Wear a PFD whenever you're on the water.
 - **Learn to swim.** Better yet, take a lifesaving course.
 - **Check the NYS Canal Corporation "Notices and Alerts" website** for current information about the segment you plan to paddle: canals.ny.gov/wwwapps/tas/notices
 - **Check the weather forecast before leaving shore.** Start with the weather report page for the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at weather.gov or use the free NOAA app.
 - **If you get caught in a storm:** Paddle to shore and hug the shoreline until reaching a safe place to exit the water. Lightning is a major hazard for boaters. Do not pull over and tie up to the tallest isolated tree. A far safer strategy is to keep paddling, briefly, until you find a safe take-out place, preferably one with shelter nearby.
 - **Identify launch and exit sites.** Consult the mile-by-mile information in this guide and on navigational maps to identify places you can exit the water if needed during your trip. Carry a waterproof map or nautical chart with the exit points marked.
 - **Bring your cell phone.** Keep it in a waterproof case, dry bag, or zip-lock plastic bag. Secure the phone to your boat or PFD.
 - **File a float plan with someone on shore.** See opposite page for details.
 - **Carry identification and emergency contact information.**
 - **Carry drinking water and snacks,** such as energy bars. You'll want them both during a long paddle.
 - **Protect yourself from the sun.** Wear sunglasses, a hat, and sunscreen.
 - **Be prepared for a variety of conditions.** Wear water shoes or old sneakers. Pack bug repellent and a small first aid kit, with materials to deal with blisters. Have dry clothing waiting for you in your car on return. If you're paddling a long distance, take dry clothes on board in a waterproof bag.
 - **Use the restroom before you leave.** In a waterproof bag, carry toilet paper and some sanitary wipes, plus another sealable plastic bag for waste paper. Carry out everything you carry in. Leave no trace behind.
 - **Bring a bailer or pump** to bail out the boat.
 - **Bring enough line** to tie up both the stern and the bow of the boat along the shore or at a dock should a storm approach and to allow for a tow, if necessary.
 - **Paddle with others whenever possible.**
 - **Do not use alcohol or recreational drugs while paddling.**
- In an emergency, call 911 or request assistance using channel 16 on a VHF radio.**



Commercial Slip, Buffalo

MAKE A FLOAT PLAN

A float plan will help to ensure your safety should something unexpected arise during your trip. Leave the information with a reliable person who will notify the authorities if you do not return as scheduled. If you are delayed and it is not an emergency, inform the person with your float plan to avoid an unnecessary search. Let the person know when you arrive home.

Include the following in your plan:

- Departure time and expected return time
- Names and phone numbers of all persons on the trip
- Trip route, with direction and destination(s)
- Boat description
- Description of your vehicle, plate number, and where it will be parked
- List of emergency safety equipment on board (flares, VHF radio)

BE SMART: Put your name and contact information in or on your boat in a way that easily can be seen. This will aid in tracking down a boat that has gone missing, on or off the water. Paddlers should always carry some sort of waterproof ID with emergency contact information that can ride along with you in your pocket or in your boat.

Some areas of the canals have poor, or no, cellular signal reception. This could affect access to 911 emergency services or other communication needs. Most canal facilities and other private businesses do have landlines should you find limited cellular service during your journey.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

In addition to great paddling, there is a lot more to do in the canal corridor. Here is a sampling; you will find additional details in the mile-by-mile information and in “Places of Interest Off the Water” highlighted throughout the guidebook. Extensive online resources are available at eriecanalway.org.

Taste History Along New York’s Canals

In the 1800s the Erie Canal carried New York’s rich agricultural products to the nation. Today agriculture remains an important part of life along the canal corridor, and most paddling journeys would not be complete without sampling the local fare. Visit the canal corridor’s many microbreweries, wineries, farmers markets, farm stands, ice cream parlors, local shops and ethnic restaurants for a great taste of the many flavors of the region.

- Inquire about local market days in the towns you visit or find locations and dates at localharvest.org or agriculture.ny.gov.
- Find pick-your-own orchards, farm tours, apple festivals, and more apple fun along the canal system at applesfromNY.com. To find farm cideries producing hard cider, check, NYcider.com.
- For information about wineries, visit fingerlakeswinecountry.com.
- Check out breweries along the Adirondack Craft Beverage Trail (adkcrafbbev.com), the Finger Lakes Beer Trail (fingerlakesbeertrail.com), the Heart of New York Craft Beverage Trail (brewcentralny.com), and the Rochester/Finger Lakes Craft Beverage Trail (rocflxcraftbevtrail.com).



- You can also discover locally grown and made food and drink while getting to and from your travel destination at the Taste NY Markets found at three travel plazas in the canal corridor:

Chittenango Travel Plaza
New York State Thruway I-90 Westbound
Milepost 266
Chittenango, NY 13037

Finger Lakes Welcome Center
35 Lake Front Drive
Geneva, NY 14456

Mohawk Valley Welcome Center
New York State Thruway I-90 Westbound
Milepost 187 between exit 28 and 29
Randall, NY 12072

Canal Communities

Be sure to spend time in the villages, towns, and cities along the canal. You’ll discover communities that showcase their canal heritage through waterfront festivals, historical murals, walking tours, and preservation initiatives. Look for evidence of New York’s canal age in the buildings and streetscapes of communities along the canal. Not only do canal towns share similarities in layout and orientation to the waterway, in most cases, their architecture reflects the prosperity that characterized upstate New York from 1825 through the end of the 19th century.

Cultural and Heritage Sites and Museums

World class museums, four national parks, 34 national historic landmarks, historic canal sites and vessels, grand movie palaces and theaters, and a 100-mile mural trail provide a wealth of choices for exploring culture and history. Canal-themed museums share the powerful story of this waterway’s role in shaping New York and the nation. Art lovers will enjoy a wealth of local galleries, outstanding museum collections, craft festivals, and art trails. The changing light and mood of the waterway also presents excellent opportunities for photography and painting.

State Parks and State Historic Sites

Within the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, there are nine New York State Historic Sites and 24 state parks managed by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). State parks generally have parking areas, roads, trails, docks, and restrooms. Some have recreational facilities, including beaches, swimming pools, and playgrounds.

Most state parks charge a vehicle use fee for day use, and some may also charge additional fees for boat launches, picnic shelter reservations and other amenities. Historic sites generally charge an admission fee.

Empire Pass holders get unlimited day use vehicle entry to most facilities operated by New York State Parks and the state DEC. For details, visit shop.parks.ny.gov or call 518-474-0458.

Camping is allowed at many state parks. Reservations are strongly suggested and can be made from one day to nine months in advance. To reserve a campsite, visit newyorkstateparks.reserveamerica.com or call 800-456-CAMP.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about park and historic site locations, fees, hours, and facilities, visit parks.ny.gov.



PASSPORT TO PARKS

A fun way to remember your canal journey is with the special Passport to Your National Parks program’s cancellation stamps, available free at more than 30 canal heritage sites. Find a list at eriecanalway.org/explore/culture-heritage.



Old Erie Canal State Historic Park, Chittenango Creek Aqueduct

Cycling the Erie Canalway Trail

Enjoy unparalleled cycling along the 365-mile Erie Canalway Trail. The paved and stone dust trail follows both active and bypassed sections of the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Albany—much of it along the canal’s former towpath. More than three-quarters of it is off-road; trail markers and wayfinding signs make the trail easy to follow and connect the off- and on-road segments. The trail is a perfect way to access all sorts of interesting canal sites that you might miss in a car. The Erie Canalway Trail is a central element of the Empire State Trail, a 750-mile network that will soon be the longest multi-use state trail in the nation.

Fishing

As a gateway to New York’s waterways, the canal offers access to a wide range of fishing opportunities—from small streams to the Great Lakes. Many anglers seek out areas near the canal system’s locks, where fish often congregate. Common catches include: walleye, northern pike, small and large mouth bass, panfish, and carp. New York State requires everyone above the age of 16 to have a license to fish in New York’s freshwaters. The NYS DEC maintains a number of fishing access sites along the canal that are also boat launches—these sites are included in this book. Find details:

dec.ny.gov/outdoor/fishing.html

Birdwatching

The quiet waters of today’s canals, along with the many wetlands that have filled in the original 1800s canals, are perfect places to watch for birds. Migratory songbirds and waterfowl use the corridor on their yearly travels and many stay to nest along its shores. Swallows, herons, and waterfowl are common.

The following locations offer premier birdwatching for wading birds, waterfowl, and songbirds and are directly accessible from the water:

- **BUCKHORN ISLAND BIRD CONSERVATION AREA**
Part of Buckhorn Island State Park north of Grand Island; within the Niagara River corridor, near the western terminus of the Erie Canal.
- **MONTEZUMA WETLANDS COMPLEX**
Located at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, this famed site features massive numbers of migratory waterfowl.
- **CAYUGA LAKE**
All 38 miles of Cayuga Lake, including the Cayuga-Seneca Canal.
- **ONEIDA LAKE ISLANDS**
Three small, rocky islands (Little Island, Long Island, and Wantray Island) in western Oneida Lake.
- **THREE MILE BAY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**
Located on the north shore of Oneida Lake.
- **VISCHER FERRY NATURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVE**
Important wetland habitat with cattail marshes located along the eastern Erie Canal.

FOR MORE INFORMATION visit ibirdny.org. The I Bird NY program is an excellent source of up-to-date information, including where to see and learn more about birds.



Montezuma

Fred Bertram

Festivals and Events

Communities throughout the canal corridor celebrate their canal connection with annual events, including fairs, festivals, concerts, fireworks, boat floats, races, and more. These events are fun, great for families, and usually free. They make a great destination for a day trip or overnight paddle.

In the list of annual canal events below, bear in mind that dates vary—always check ahead for dates, times, and cancellation. You can find updated details about canal events at eriecanalway.org and canals.ny.gov.

LOCATION	EVENT	MORE INFORMATION
APRIL		
Corridor-wide	Canal Clean Sweep	ptny.org
MAY		
Brockport	Low Bridge High Water Festival	brockportny.org
Niskayuna	Pedal-Paddle-Run Triathlon	schenectadycounty.com
Pittsford	Paddle and Pour	townofpittsford.org
Waterloo	Commemorate Memorial Day	waterloony.com
JUNE THROUGH AUGUST		
Baldwinsville	Summer Concert Series	baldwinsville.org
Newark	Music on the Erie	newarknychamber.org
JUNE		
Baldwinsville	Seneca River Days	baldwinsvillerotary.org
Chittenanago	Old Erie Canal Boat Float	tourthetowpath.com
Fairport	Canal Days	fairportcanaldays.com
Phoenix	Canal Days	villageofphoenix.ny.gov
JULY		
Fort Hunter	Schoharie Crossing Canal Days	parks.ny.gov
North Tonawanda	Canal Fest of the Tonawandas	canalfest.org
Oswego	Harborfest	oswegoharborfest.com
Rotterdam Junction	Mabee Farm Canal Fest	schenectadyhistorical.org
Spencerport	Canal Days	spencerportcanaldays.com
AUGUST		
Albion	Canal Splash	eriecanalway.org
Amsterdam	Rock-the-Park Festival	villageofalbionny.com
Camillus	RiverFest	amsterdamny.gov
Clyde	Towpath Day	townofcamillus.com
DeWitt	Fireworks Display	clydeny.com
	Annual Canal Day	townofdewitt.com



Jim McKnight

Fulton-Oswego	Oswego Paddlefest	visitoswegony.com
Little Falls	Canal Celebration	littlefallsny.com
Medina	Canal Heritage Festival	orleansnyheritage.wordpress.com
Pittsford	Lockapalooza	lock32.com
Rome	Canalfest	romechamber.com
Schuylerville	Cardboard Boat Race	hudsoncrossingpark.org
Schuylerville	Champlain Canalway Trail Bicycle Tour	saratoga.com
Sylvan Beach	Canal Fest	sylvanbeachny.com
SEPTEMBER		
DeWitt	Tour the Towpath	tourthetowpath.com
Holley/Albion/Medina	Orleans County Heritage Festival	orleansnyheritage.wordpress.com
Waterford	Tugboat Roundup	tugboatroundup.com
Waterford	Kayaking 4 Meso	kayaking4meso.org
OCTOBER		
Fairport	Oktoberfest	fairportoktoberfest.org
Fort Edward	Locktoberfest	villageoffortedward.com
Lockport	Locktoberfest	locktoberfest.org
Rome	Locktoberfest	romenewyork.com
Phoenix	Locktoberfest	villageofphoenix-ny.gov
Rexford	Mohawk Towpath Byway Duathlon	mohawktowpath.org
Rochester	Genesee River Romance Weekend	cityofrochester.gov
Seneca Falls	Locktoberfest	locktoberfest.senecafalls.com

BEST BET PADDLING DAY TRIPS

Region	Canal	Start Location	Start Mile	End Location	End Mile	Total Miles
Cayuga-Seneca	Cayuga-Seneca	Oak Island Park, Waterloo	12.45	Lock CS2-3, Seneca Falls	8.01	4.44
Champlain	Champlain	Moreau Boat Launch, Fort Edward	36.79	Lock C5 Launch, Schuylerville	26.28	10.51
Champlain	Champlain	Alfred Z. Solomon Launch, Lock C5, Schuylerville	26.15	Stillwater Hudson Riverfront Park	17.21	8.94
Buffalo to Rochester	Erie	Canalside Buffalo	351.7	Smith Street/Red Jacket Riverfront Park and return	355.02	6.6
Buffalo to Rochester	Erie	Ransom Creek Kayak Launch, Amherst	328.88	Nelson Goehle Public Marina Boat Launch, Lockport	319.50	9.38
Buffalo to Rochester	Erie	Harvester Park, Brockport	278.85	Holley Canal Park and return	283.43	9.16
Rochester to Syracuse	Erie	Genesee Waterways Center, Genesee Valley Park, Rochester	Off the canal	Corn Hill Landing and return	Off the canal	6.8
Rochester to Syracuse	Erie	Erie Canal Boat Company, Fairport	246.77	Bushnell's Basin and return	250.63	7.7
Rochester to Syracuse	Erie	Above Lock E25, Mays Point, off NY 89	203.11	Montezuma Heritage Park, Montezuma and return	200.82	4.6

One-way or round trip	Number of Locks	Notes
one way	1	This scenic paddling trip takes you on the Cayuga-Seneca canal, through one lock at Waterloo, and on to Seneca Falls. If you don't have your own boat you can rent one from Stivers Seneca Marine, Fuzzy Guppies, or Canalside Experiences, a short distance upstream of Oak Island Park.
one way	1	This trip is a nice mix of river and land-cut paddling, passing through Lock C6 Fort Miller and ending at Lock C5 and Hudson Crossing Park.
one way	0	Enjoy a lovely float past Saratoga Battlefield with places to stop and stretch at Fort Hardy Park or the Schuyler Home in Schuylerville.
round trip	0	Paddle up the winding Buffalo River between towering grain elevators where midwestern grain is stored. It was once transferred here from lake freighters to canal boats, but now goes by rail. River Fest Park and Mutual Riverfront Park are nice places to get out and stretch. There are several places to rent canoes and kayaks at Canalside and along the river or you can launch your own at Ohio Street.
one way	2	Descend the Niagara Escarpment without going over the falls. Pass through the "deep cut" and staircase Locks 34/35 of the Lockport Flight. A low dock at the top of Lock E35 provides an opportunity to get out, stretch your legs, and explore Lockport. Good ice cream and food options available near take out.
round trip	0	Paddle up to Holley for a picnic in the gazebo and let the canal's mild current help on your return.
round trip	0	Rent a canoe or kayak or launch your own at Genesee Waterways Center and follow the river through Genesee Valley Park, designed by the famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. You'll paddle past the University of Rochester campus and into the heart of downtown Rochester. The variety of riverscapes is striking along this short stretch. Just remember that you'll be paddling against the river's current on your return.
round trip	0	Rent a canoe or kayak at Erie Canal Boat Company or launch your own at their ramp and paddle up to Bushnell's Basin. Enjoy ice cream, coffee, and several places to eat there before your return to Fairport.
round trip	1	Pull out on the shoreline just north of the aqueduct. Explore the nature trails and historic canal sites within the park, including the remains of Clinton's Ditch Lock 62, a paper mill, drydock, bird lookout deck, and old Cayuga-Seneca Canal Lock 11. Two murals are also located in the park.

Region	Canal	Start Location	Start Mile	End Location	End Mile	Total Miles
Syracuse to Little Falls	Erie	Old Erie Canal State Park, Cedar Bay Park, DeWitt	Off the canal	Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, Chittenango	Off the canal	9.40
Syracuse to Little Falls	Erie	Ilion Marina (or Fulmer Creek Access, Mohawk or Gems Along the Mohawk, Herkimer)	89.07	Little Falls Rotary Park	80.1	8.97
Little Falls to Albany	Erie	Little Falls Rotary Park	80.10	Lock E18 and return	83.19	6.20
Little Falls to Albany	Erie	Little Falls Rotary Park	80.10	Saint Johnsville Municipal Marina	69.48	10.62
Little Falls to Albany	Erie	Schoharie Crossing Boat Ramp, Fort Hunter	43.90	Port Jackson/ South Side Launch, Amsterdam	38.5	5.40
Little Falls to Albany	Erie	Aqueduct Park, Schenectady	17.33	Lock E7 and return	13.07	8.50
Little Falls to Albany	Erie	Aqueduct Park, Schenectady	17.33	Niskayuna Lions Park	11.2	6.13
Little Falls to Albany	Erie	Alcathy's Boat Ramp, Waterford	3.02	Waterford Point Boat Ramp	0.28	2.74
Oswego	Oswego	Indian Point Landing, Fulton	12.90	Lock O8 Ramp, Oswego	22.89	9.99
Oswego	Oswego	Lock Island Park, Phoenix	2.33	Indian Point Landing, Fulton	12.9	10.57

One-way or round trip	Number of Locks	Notes
one way	0	Paddle a stretch of towpath-era canal, still watered but bypassed since 1918. Cross two stone aqueducts above Limestone and Chittenango creeks.
one way	1	Paddle a lovely combination of river- and land-cut canal sections. This stretch is generally free from road noise once you get past the New York State Thruway I-90 bridge east of Herkimer. Good places to stop for a break at Fort Herkimer Church and Lock E18.
round trip	0	Rent a canoe or kayak at Little Falls Harbor or launch your own and paddle up to Lock E18 through a beautiful part of the Mohawk Valley. It is generally quiet here with the roads far from the river. At Lock 18 you can paddle for some distance up the Mohawk to get a sense of what the river looked like before it was canalized.
one way	2	This trip provides the opportunity to pass through the highest lift on the canal system (Lock E17), stop at the home of Revolutionary War General Nicholas Herkimer, pass through Lock E16, and end at a place with warm showers.
one way	2	Take time to paddle up Schoharie Creek and explore Schoharie Aqueduct, then head down river through Locks E12 and E11, stopping to explore the old Yankee Hill Lock along the way.
one way	0	Rent a canoe or kayak at the Boat House or launch your own to explore a deep and largely unknown gorge of the Mohawk River. NOTE: You will be paddling upstream on your return. Leave extra time and energy.
one way	1	Paddle through a deep gorge that few people know about. Explore Rexford Aqueduct, Enlarged Erie Lock 21, drop 27 feet at Lock E7, get out and explore the Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve. NOTE: This trip is best done in spring/early summer, before the water chestnut gets too dense to take out at Niskayuna Lions Park. Use Vischer Ferry Car Top Launch in August or September.
one way	5	Take a fascinating trip through the Waterford flight of five locks. Enjoy varied paddling through rock cut sections, wide open basins with big views east to the Hudson River Valley, past the Waterford Canal Shops, and through the locks. Restrooms and amenities available at the end in Waterford.
one way	4	This is the route of the annual Oswego River Paddlefest. Minetto is a nice place for a break.
one way	2	Here's a great opportunity to paddle through old Oswego Canal locks along the east shore, get out for a stretch at Great Bear Springs Recreation Area, and pass through two deep locks in Fulton. A take-out at the Stop 28 Ramp, upstream of Fulton, shortens the trip by 4 miles and 2 lockages.

MILE BY MILE GUIDE:

NYS CANALWAY

WATER TRAIL SITES

TYPES OF SITES

The following pages provide a mile-by-mile listing of sites along the Canal System beginning at the Erie Canal in Buffalo and ending in Waterford. The Oswego, Cayuga-Seneca, and Champlain canals follow.

Locks and other canal structures, ports and towns, access sites, canal attractions, heritage sites, and other places of interest to paddlers along the water trail are described in detail. Paddlecraft sales and rentals, outfitters, waterway cruises, as well as camping and lodging options are broken out in sidebars for easy reference. Most of the locations listed are directly on the canal or are within about one-half mile of it.

Additional historical sites and popular attractions are listed as places of interest off the water. Throughout the canalway, you will find ice cream and coffee shops, restaurants, breweries, wineries, farm stands, boat tours and other recreational opportunities. Where possible, we have listed websites where you can find additional information for those businesses.

SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site descriptions include information paddlers need to plan enjoyable trips, such as address and contact information, access points, restrooms, parking, and other amenities. While some listings may include hours of operation, we recommend you check with individual businesses regarding their current schedule.

When available, mileage and coordinates are provided. Although the canals don't run in straight lines, for the purposes of this guide the banks of the Erie Canal and the Cayuga-Seneca Canal are described as being on the north side or the south side, even when the compass direction might be different. Similarly, the banks of the Oswego Canal and the Champlain Canal, which run approximately north-south, are described as being west side and east side.

Map scales vary, so please be sure to check each scale to gauge distances between sites and points of reference. In most cases distances can be calculated using the mileage marker with the site listings.

Water trail sites listed in bold face appear on maps near the site listing. Mileage and canal structure names (locks, bridges, and guard gates) are listed with the prefix “E” along the Erie Canal, “CS” on the Cayuga-Seneca, “O” on the Oswego, and “C” along the Champlain. Mileages are based on the official NYS Canal Corporation “Table of Distances.” Mile 0.00 on the Erie and Champlain canals is in the Hudson River opposite Peebles Island, Waterford, about 2 miles above the head of tide at the federal lock and dam in Troy. Mile 0.00 on the Cayuga-Seneca Canal is at Kipp Island, which marks its confluence with the Erie Canal. Mile 0.00 on the Oswego Canal is at Three Rivers Point where the Seneca River and Oneida Lake Outlet come together to form the Oswego River and the Oswego Canal branches off from the Erie. Mileage is not shown for points of interest and businesses that are off the water or on side channels.

Coordinates appear as decimal Latitude, Longitude based on WGS 84 datum.

Hand launch sites are identified with a  icon. Public boat ramps, suitable for both trailer and hand launch are indicated by a  icon. The dock  icon is used for sites that are accessible from the water but are not suitable for put-in or take-out. Canal communities are building additional paddler-friendly facilities every year. Check the eriecanalway.org website for updates.

Hazards and important safety information appear as **PADDLING NOTES**.

 Water Trail Site

 Lock

 Navigation Hazard!

 Hand Launch

 Ramp Launch

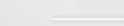
 Dock

 Interstate or Limited Access Highway

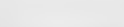
 US Highway

 State Highway

 County Road

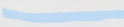
 Major Local Road

 Minor Local Road

 Railroad

 County Boundary

 Stream

 River or Canal

 Park or Recreation/Wilderness Area

MORE INFORMATION for exploring all there is to see and do along the canalway, including suggested itineraries, can be found at eriecanalway.org.

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.

BUFFALO

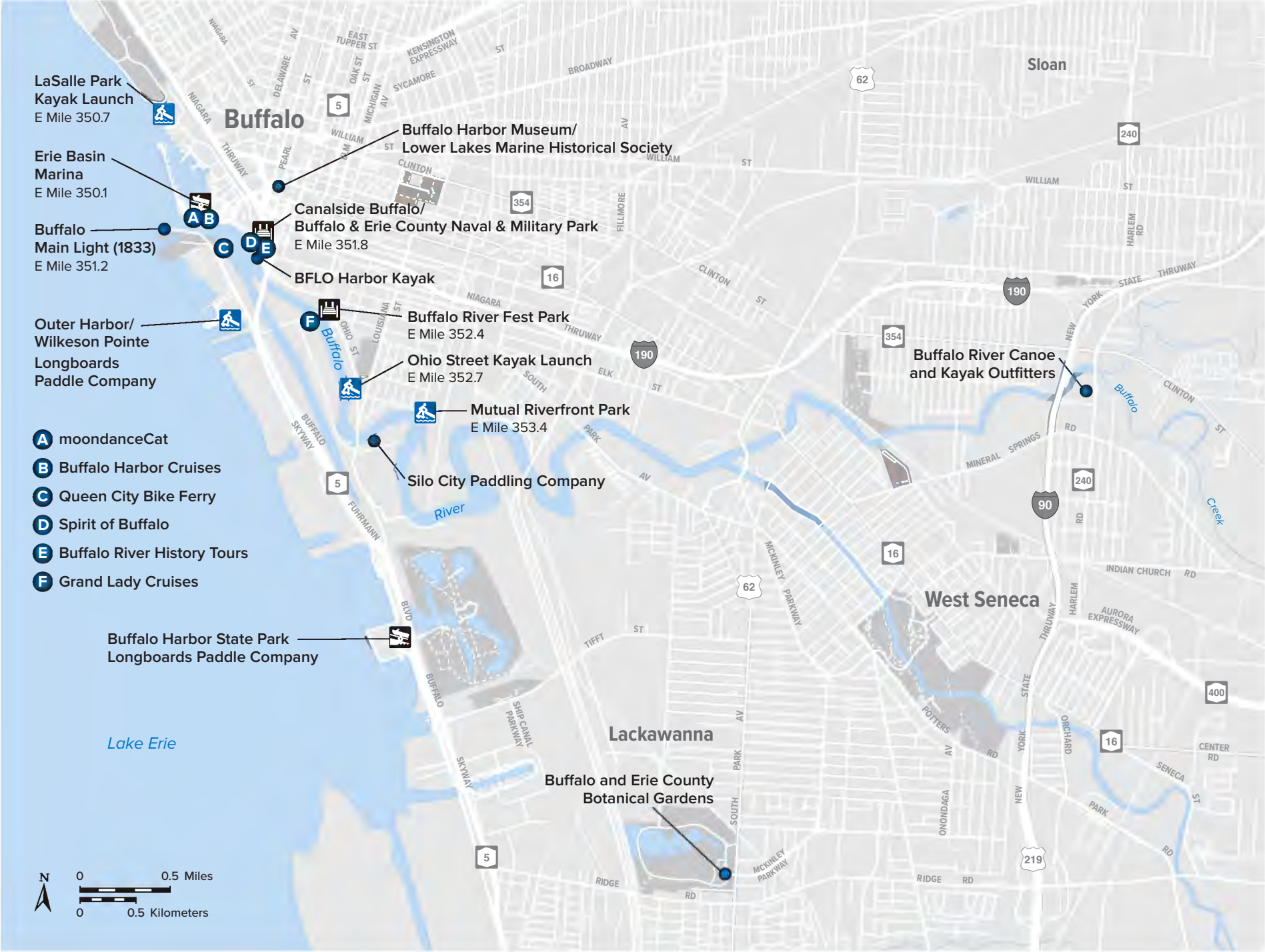


Commercial Slip, Canalside, Buffalo

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 the “Queen City of the Lakes.” Grain, lumber, and ore from the middle of America were moved from lake freighters to canal boats at docks and elevators along the Buffalo River. By the early 1900s, an increasing portion of the cargo moved from ships to railroad cars. The Erie Barge Canal, built from 1905 to 1918

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

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



42.846001 -78.861751

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 Tiffit Nature Preserve is adjacent to the park. Hiking and bike trails run through the park and preserve.

42.870732 -78.881821

Outer Harbor/Wilkeson Pointe

225 Fuhrmann Boulevard
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 436-7073
outerharborbuffalo.com

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

E Mile 353.4 42.864123 -78.860116

Mutual Riverfront Park

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

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

PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

42.932453 -78.877812

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

42.877808 -78.879126

Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park
One Naval Park Cove
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 847-1773
buffalonaavalpark.org

42.932453 -78.877812

Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens
2655 South Park Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14218
(716) 827-1584
buffalogardens.com

42.881792 -78.877536

Buffalo Harbor Museum/Lower Lakes Marine Historical Society
66 Erie Street
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 849-0914
llmhs.org

42.935438 -78.876315

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

42.865761 -78.868383

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

42.937617 -78.851687

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

42.936309 -78.850164

Frank Lloyd Wright's Martin House Complex
125 Jewett Parkway
Buffalo, NY 14214
(716) 856-3858
martinhouse.org

42.901509 -78.872614

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site
641 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 884-0095
trssite.org

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

PADDLECRAFT RENTALS

Longboards Paddle Company
(716) 998-0949
longboardsbeach.com
Two locations:
42.846002 -78.861752

Buffalo Harbor State Park
Gallagher Beach
1111 Fuhrmann Boulevard
Buffalo, NY 14203

42.870732 -78.881821

Outer Harbor/Wilkeson Pointe
225 Fuhrmann Boulevard
Buffalo, NY 14203

42.875729 -78.878850

BFLO Harbor Kayak
1 Naval Park Cove
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 288-5309
bfloharborkayak.com

42.868256 -78.788165

Buffalo River Canoe and Kayak Outfitters
900 Harlem Road
West Seneca, NY 14224
(716) 771-2995
paddlebuffalo.com

On the Buffalo River. Launch point is the DEC Harlem Road Access Point, 880 Harlem Road, West Seneca, NY 14224.

42.861638 -78.865554

Silo City Paddling Company
105 Silo City Row
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 997-2884
silocitypaddling.com

WATERWAY CRUISES

42.881082 -78.888977

Buffalo Harbor Cruises
79 Marine Drive
Buffalo NY 14202-4225
(716) 856-6696
buffaloharborcruises.com

42.876621 -78.879612

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

42.870458 -78.872010

Grand Lady Cruises
359 Ganson Street
Buffalo, New York 14203
(716) 873.4630
grandlady.com

42.878568 -78.886426

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

42.877053 -78.879313

Queen City Bike Ferry
44 Prime Street, Buffalo, NY 14202
queencityferry.com

42.876903 -78.879777

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



Buffalo River, Buffalo

BUFFALO RIVER

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

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

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

E Mile 352.7 42.865760 -78.868382

 Ohio Street Kayak Launch

421 Ohio Street
Buffalo, NY 14204

FACILITIES: Car top launch. Parking for 10 cars.

E Mile 352.4 42.870526 -78.870857

 Buffalo River Fest Park

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

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

E Mile 351.8 42.878298 -78.878022

 Canalside Buffalo

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

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

E Mile 351.3 42.846002 -78.861752

Buffalo Main Light

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

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

NIAGARA RIVER

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

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

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

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



E Mile 350.2 42.879450 -78.885581

Erie Basin Marina

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

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

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

E Mile 350.8 42.887079 -78.890157

LaSalle Park Kayak Launch

AmVets Drive, south of picnic shelters
Buffalo, NY 14201
(716) 851-5553

FACILITIES: Restrooms, picnic tables, picnic shelters.

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

E Mile 349.5 42.902186 -78.901686

West Side Rowing Club

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

The club, founded in 1912, has a large building, ramps, and low docks. It is a private organization; members have priority. Parking in nearby lot. Distance from parking about 500 feet.

E Mile 349.2 42.906966 -78.905822

Peace Bridge

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

E Mile 348.6 42.914863 -78.903388

Broderick Park

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

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

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

E Mile 347.4 42.931318 -78.902273

International Railway Swing Bridge

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

E Mile 347.1 42.934550 -78.906243

Black Rock Lock

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

LIFT: 6 feet.

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

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

E Mile 346.9 42.937325 -78.906593

Rich Marine Sales

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

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

Large private marina with over 500 slips on 26 acres.

E Mile 346.3 42.945337 -78.909501

Black Rock Canal Park

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

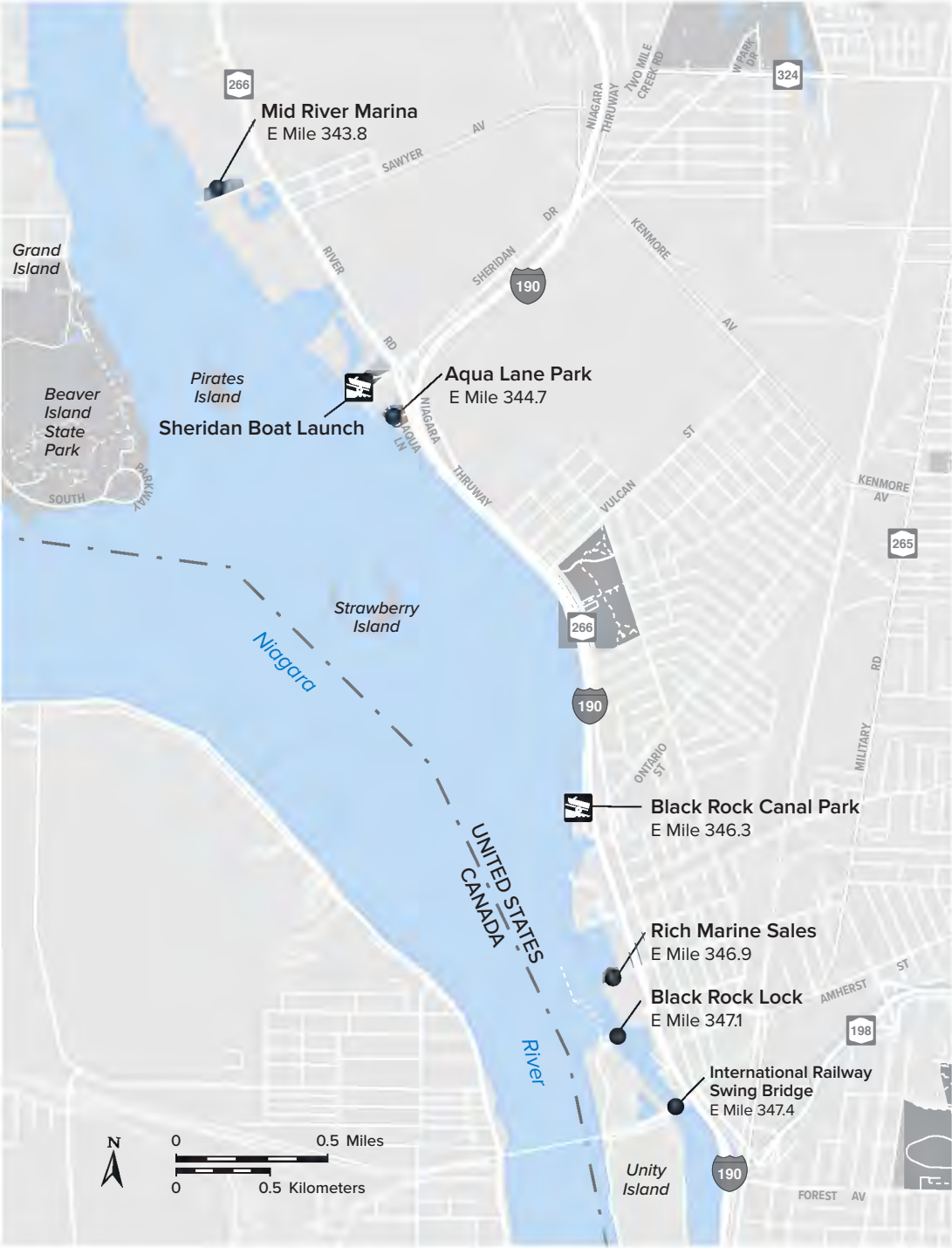
FACILITIES: Restrooms. Concrete boat launch. Ample parking.

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



Gateway Harbor, Tonawanda

The western terminus of today’s Erie Barge Canal is in the twin cities of Tonawanda and North Tonawanda. From the Niagara River, turn east and enter the Tonawanda Creek. Tonawanda Creek and the Erie Canal form the border between the cities of Tonawanda, Erie County and North Tonawanda, Niagara County. Although this section of the creek is placid, Tonawanda means “swift running water” in the Seneca language, a reference to falls and rapids upstream. At the height of

commerce on the Erie Canal, the Tonawandas were one of the busiest ports on the Great Lakes. Midwestern lumber was unloaded from lake freighters and transferred onto canal boats to be carried to building sites along the eastern seaboard. Woodworking industries, including boatbuilding and the manufacture of wooden carousel horses, once thrived in the “Lumber City” of North Tonawanda.

PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

43.021051 -78.875836

Benjamin Long Homestead

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

Site can be reached from the water.

43.029838 -78.873074

Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum

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

43.041304 -78.881312

North Tonawanda History Museum

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

43.026185 -78.873495

Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier

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

PADDLECRAFT RENTALS

43.015360 -78.834162

Paths, Peaks & Paddles, Inc.

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

43.020719 -78.876675

Waterbike and Boat Adventures

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

OUTFITTER

43.019373 -78.874351

Gander Outdoors

880 Young Street
Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 743-2300
ganderoutdoors.com

E Mile 344.7 42.964854 -78.924987

Aqua Lane Park/Sheridan Boat Launch
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 42.974051 -78.934798

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

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

Large private marina.

E Mile 342.1 42.945742 -78.934118

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

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms. Concrete ramp.

Large private marina.

E Mile 342.0 42.994245 -78.926796

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

E Mile 340.5 43.009706 -78.910178

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

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

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

E Mile 339.5 43.016537 -78.891857

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

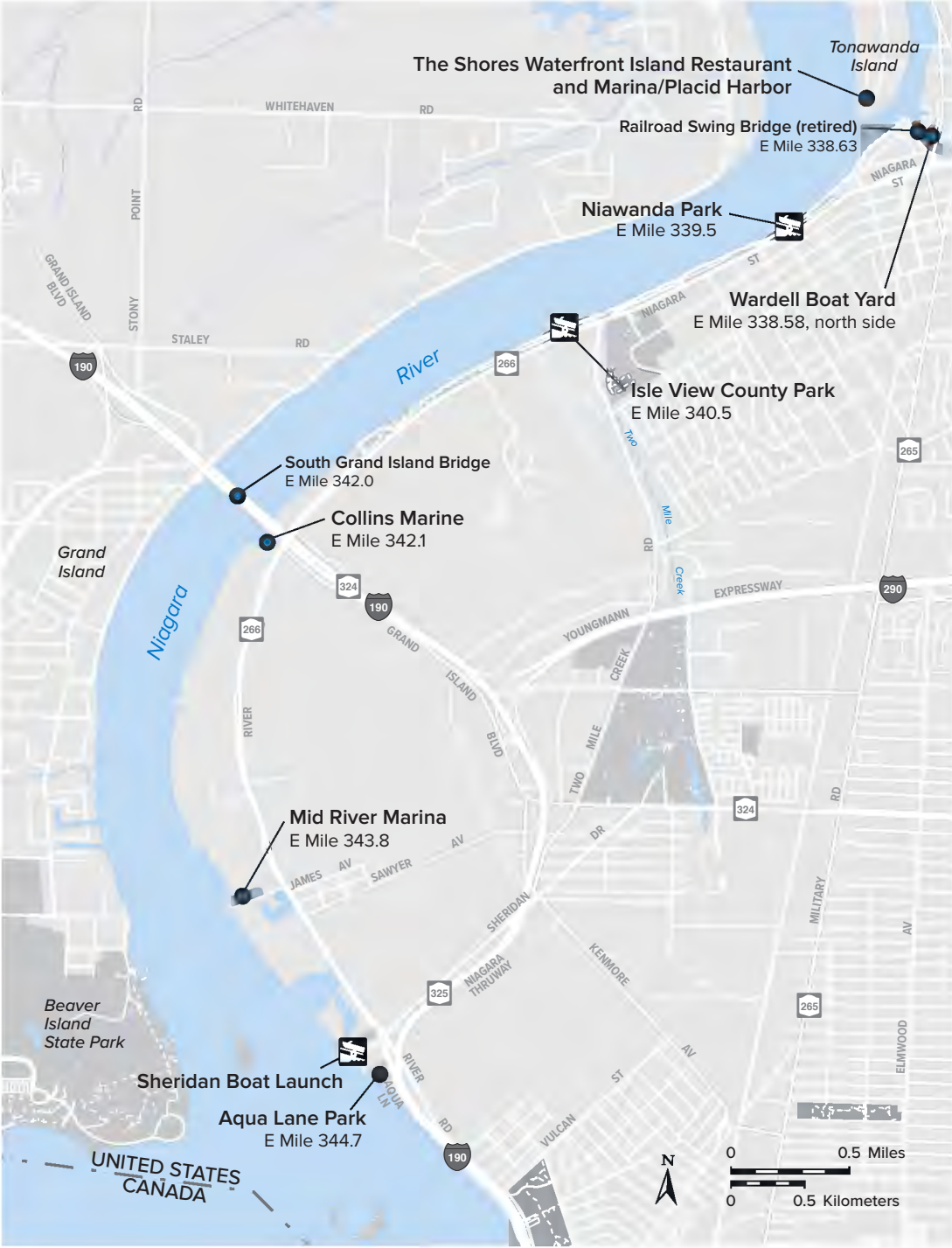
FACILITIES: Restrooms, picnic tables. Large concrete boat launch at the northern end near the Franklin Street entrance. Ample parking. Distance from parking about 100 feet.

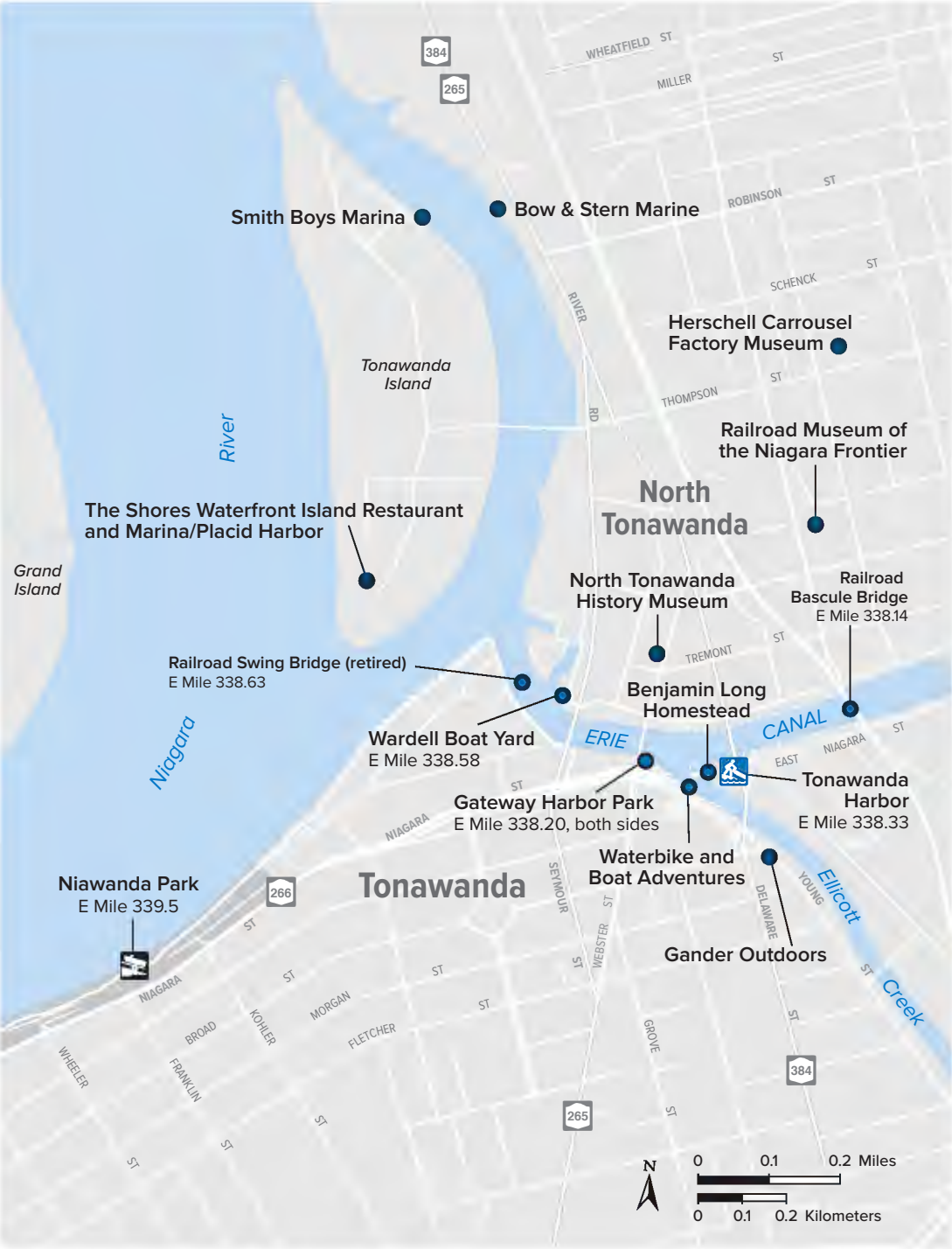
Niagara River 43.023801 -78.884680

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

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

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





Niagara River 43.029927 -78.882267

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

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

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

Niagara River 43.032287 -78.883535

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

FACILITIES: Electric, water.

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

E Mile 338.63 43.022677 -72.881435

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

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

E Mile 338.58, north side 43.022466 -78.880305

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

wardellboatyard.com

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

Private marina.

E Mile 338.54 43.021822 -72.879980

Bridge E249, Seymour Street (NY 265)

E Mile 338.44 43.021566 -78.878089

Bridge E248, Webster Street

E Mile 338.33, both sides 43.021000 -78.877733

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

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

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

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

E Mile 338.08 43.020971 -72.876843

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

43.014400 -78.867699

 **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.

43.024273 -78.823102

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

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

This is a county park located between the Erie Canal and Ellicott Creek on the east side. The Erie Canalway Trail runs through Ellicott Creek Park; a pedestrian bridge from the trail leads to the east side of Ellicott Island.

E Mile 338.31 43.021615 -78.875576

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

E Mile 338.14 43.022465 -78.872292

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

E Mile 337.67, north side 43.023390 -78.863667

 **Niagara Street Kayak Launch**
Sweeney Street and Niagara Street
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

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

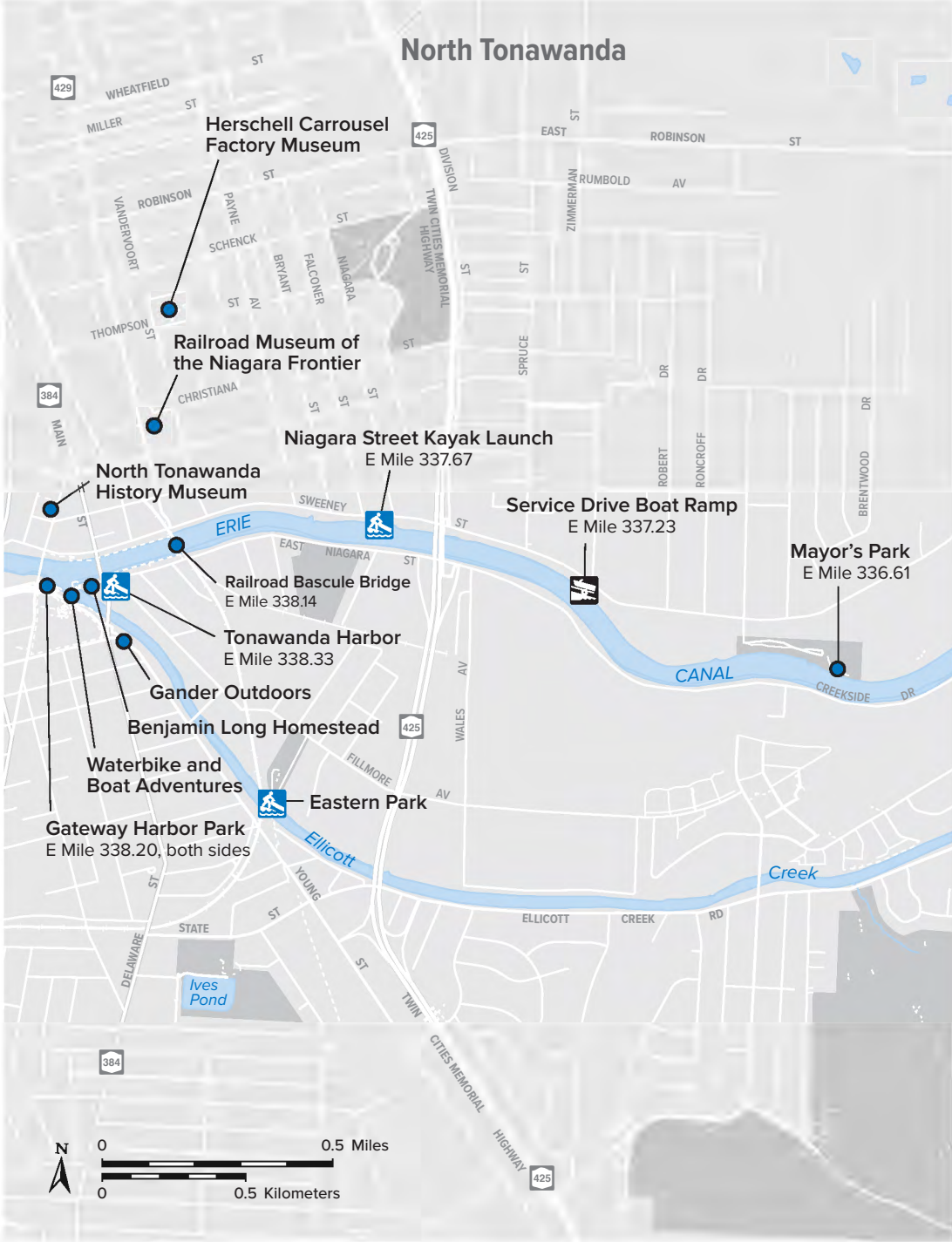
E Mile 337.57 43.022846 -78.861309

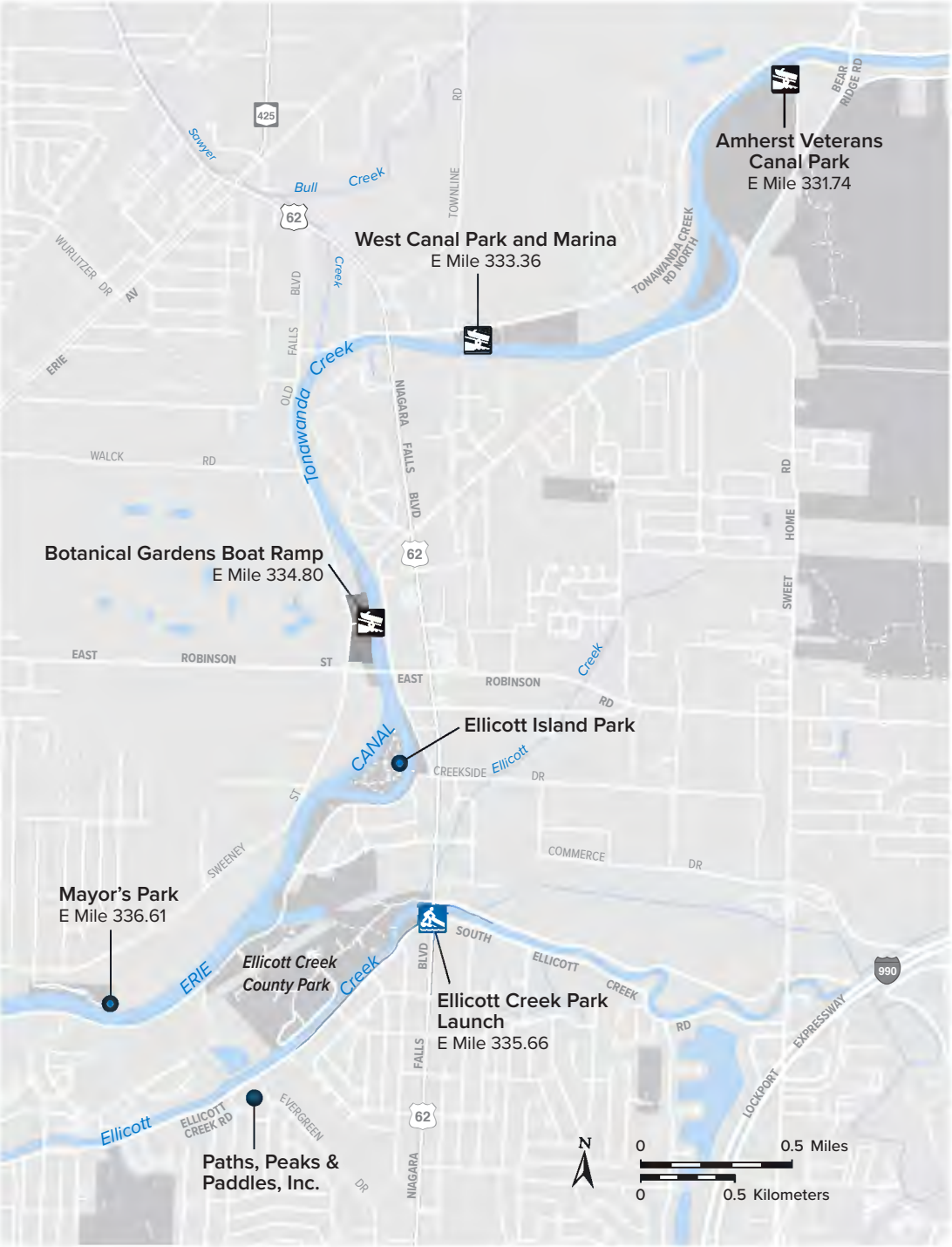
Bridges E244A and E244B, Division Street Arterial (NY 425)

E Mile 337.23, north side 43.021639 -78.854799

 **Service Drive Boat Ramp**
Sweeney Street and Service Drive
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

FACILITIES: None. Concrete ramp. No parking. Distance from parking approximately 20 feet.





E Mile 336.61, north side 43.019536 -78.843812

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 43.031632 -78.825700

Ellicott Island Park

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

PADDLING NOTE: Park is accessible from water via beach landing but not a suitable put-in/take-out. Pass Ellicott Island Park to the north to remain in the channel. The south side is navigable for 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. A pedestrian bridge on the east side of the island leads to Ellicott Creek Park.

E Mile 334.96 43.036021 -78.826149

Bridge E243A, East Robinson Street

E Mile 334.80, north side 43.038299 -78.827179

Botanical Gardens Boat Ramp

1825 Sweeney Street
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

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

E Mile 333.62 43.051784 -78.826749

Bridge E242A, Niagara Falls Boulevard (US 62)

E Mile 333.36, north side 43.051960 -78.821872

West Canal Park and 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. 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 43.057662 -78.806111

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

E Mile 331.74, south side 43.065080 -78.802620

Amherst Veterans Canal Park

1040 Tonawanda Creek Road
Amherst, NY 14228

FACILITIES: Portable toilet. Concrete ramp. Parking for 20 cars.



E Mile 331.42 43.066265 -78.797528

Bridge E242, Bear Ridge Road

E Mile 330.00, south side 43.068289 -78.771617

Amherst Marine Center

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

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

E Mile 329.96 43.069581 -78.770777

Bridge E241A, Campbell Boulevard (NY 270)

E Mile 328.88, south side 43.069263 -78.750254

Ransom Creek Kayak Launch

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

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

CAMPING

43.070851 -78.739659

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

FACILITIES: Restrooms, nature trails and camping.

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

E Mile 327.40 43.084682 -78.732915

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

E Mile 328.24 43.084806 -78.733052

Ship N' Shore Restaurant

5612 Tonawanda Creek Road
Pendleton, NY 14094
(716) 625-6106
theshipnshore.com

Open every day year-round. The restaurant has eight slips and a floating dock.

TONAWANDA CREEK

43.083960 -78.728403

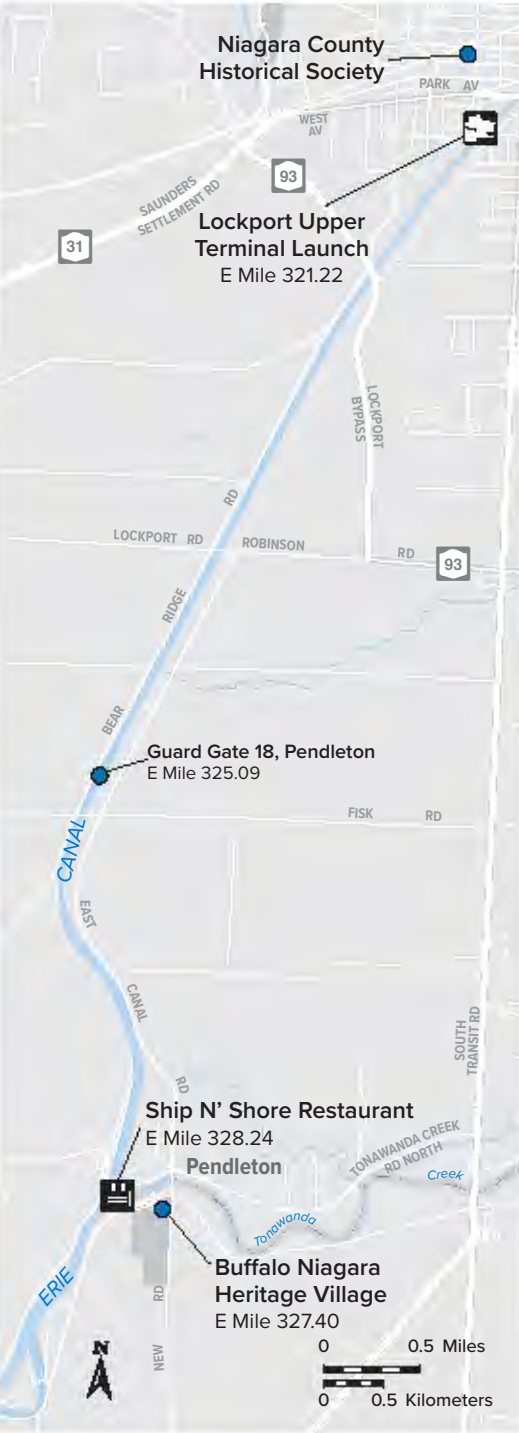
Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village

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

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

ADMISSION: Fee.

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



E Mile 327.34 43.085858 -78.733558

Bridge E240, North Tonawanda Creek Road

E Mile 325.31 43.112954 -78.738381

Bridge E238A, Fisk-Fiegle Road

E Mile 325.09 43.115907 -78.736730

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 43.132948 -78.725807

Bridge E237, Robinson Road

E Mile 322.16 43.154048 -78.711275

Bridge E236A, SW Bypass (NY 93)

LOCKPORT



Lock E35, 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 alongside the similarly remarkable and much enlarged Locks 34 and 35, which usher boats through the Erie Canal today.

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

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



Robert Dunn

RESTORED FLIGHT OF FIVE LOCKS

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

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

Lockport is the only location on the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor where historic manual locks and modern electro-mechanical locks operate side by side. Multiple bridges, one at the foot of each lock, cross over the chambers and are a great place to see the locks in action. The wooden boat *Erie Traveler* is a replica of a Durham boat, a type of flat-bottomed, double-ended vessel that 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

43.171436 -78.698642

Colonel William Bond/Jesse Hawley House
143 Ontario Street
Lockport, NY 14094
(716) 434-7433
niagarahistory.org/bond-house

43.170940 -78.694869

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

43.171530 -78.692227

Erie Canal Museum at Locks 34 and 35
At foot of the Lockport Flight
80 Canal Street
Lockport, NY 14094
visitbuffaloniagara.com

43.170871 -78.695552

First Presbyterian Church
21 Church Street
Lockport, NY 14094
(716) 433-5905
1stplockport.org

43.171908 -78.692585

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.

43.170613 -78.702643

Niagara County Historical Society
215 Niagara Street
Lockport, NY
(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 43.164228 -78.701364

Bridge E235, Stevens Street

E Mile 321.22, north side 43.165180 -78.700802

🚢 Lockport Upper Terminal Launch

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

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

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

E Mile 320.97 43.167736 -78.697025

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

E Mile 320.82 43.169268 -78.695051

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

E Mile 320.68 43.170659 -78.693100

Locks E35 and E34, Lockport

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

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

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

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

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

E Mile 320.67 43.170878 -78.692860

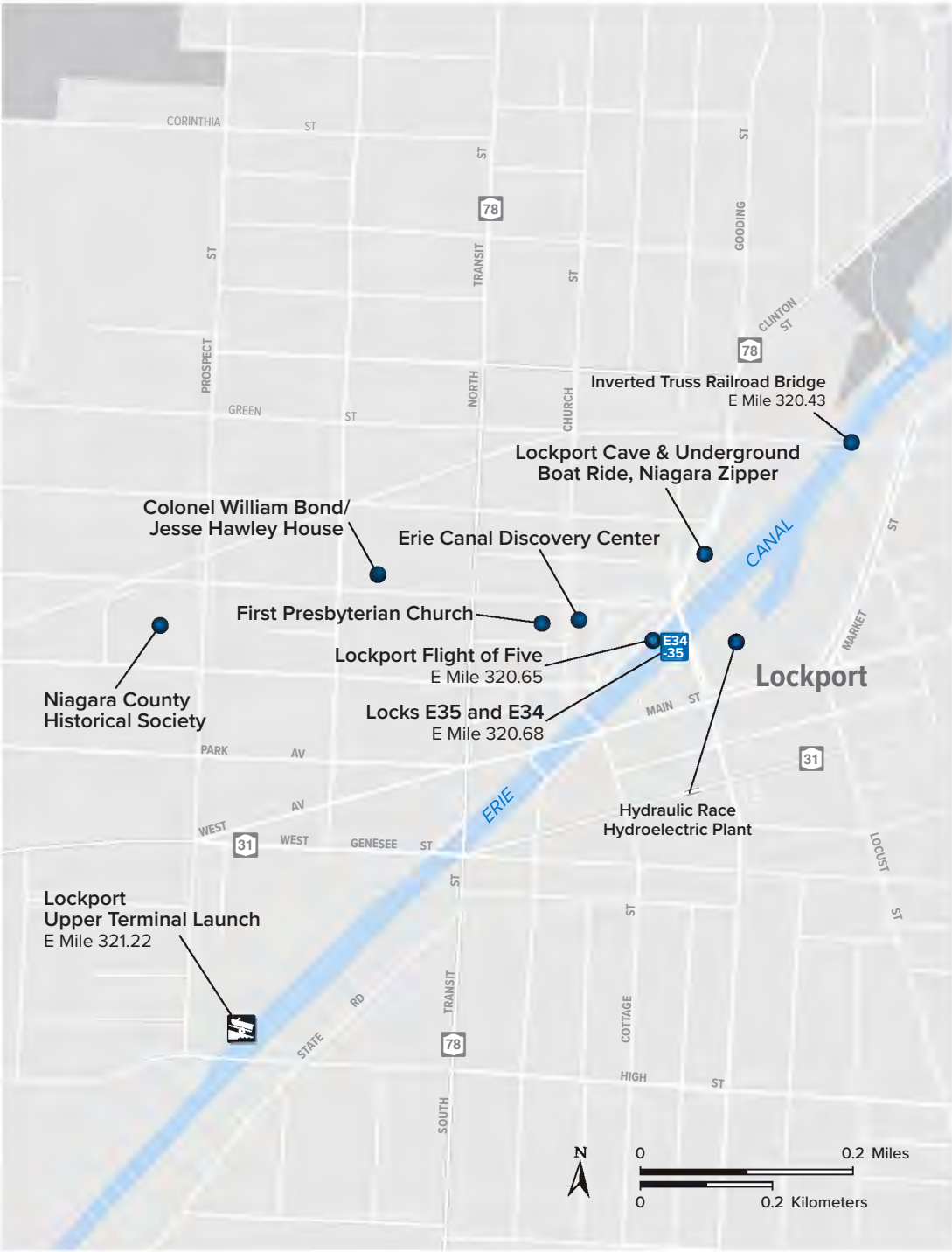
Bridge E232, Pine Street
This bridge passes directly over Locks 35 and 34 and provides a great vantage point for watching boats lock through.

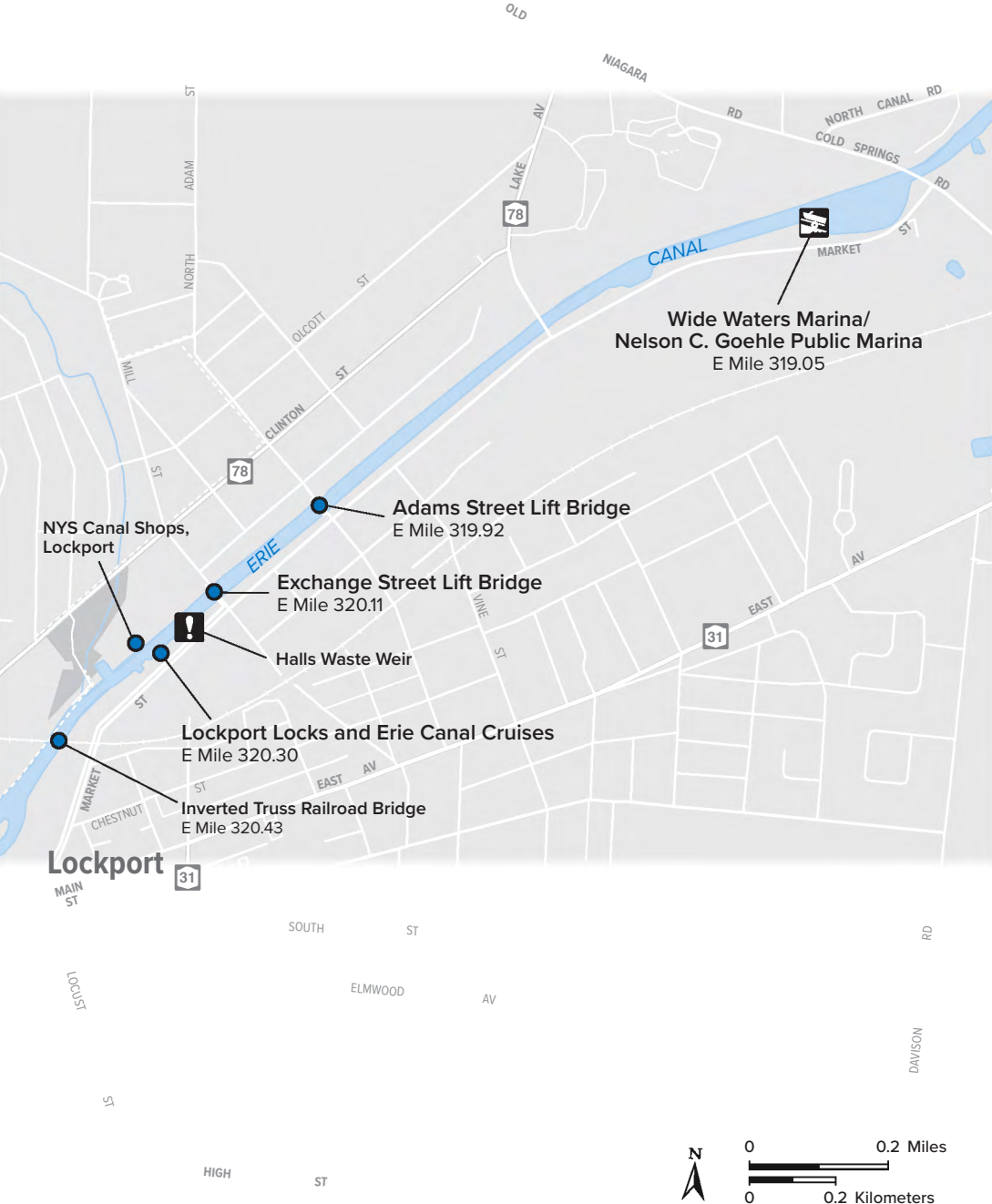
E Mile 320.43 43.173564 -78.689996

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

E Mile 320.44, north side 43.175112 -78.689863

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





E Mile 320.23 43.172081 -78.683415

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

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

TICKET FEE. Reservations suggested.

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

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

E Mile 320.11 43.176763 -78.685710

Bridge E230, Exchange Street Lift Bridge
Built in 1915. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 6 inches. Call (716) 434-7368 for service.

E Mile 319.92 43.178665 -78.682822

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 43.182665 -78.676617

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

E Mile 319.05, south side 43.185012 -78.669085

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

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

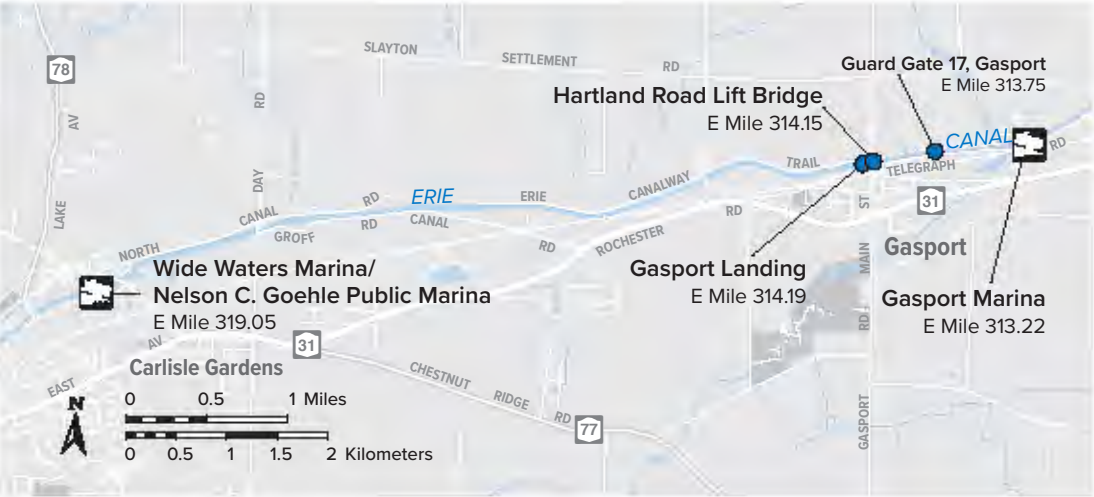
E Mile 318.92 43.186202 -78.666309

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

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

E Mile 318.02 43.191144 -78.650030

Bridge E225, Day Road



E Mile 317.15 43.193572 -78.633156
Bridge E224, North Canal Road (CR 77)

E Mile 315.21 43.197674 -78.596000
Bridge E223, Orangeport Road

E Mile 314.19, south side 43.199367 -78.576507

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

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

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

E Mile 314.15 43.199612 -78.575844

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 43.200763 -78.568109

Guard Gate 17, Gasport

E Mile 313.22, south side 43.201666 -78.557260

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.

E Mile 312.54 43.206781 -78.546021

Bridge E220, Slayton Settlement Road

E Mile 311.95 43.209731 -78.535385

Bridge E219, Wruck Road

E Mile 310.40 43.214431 -78.505559

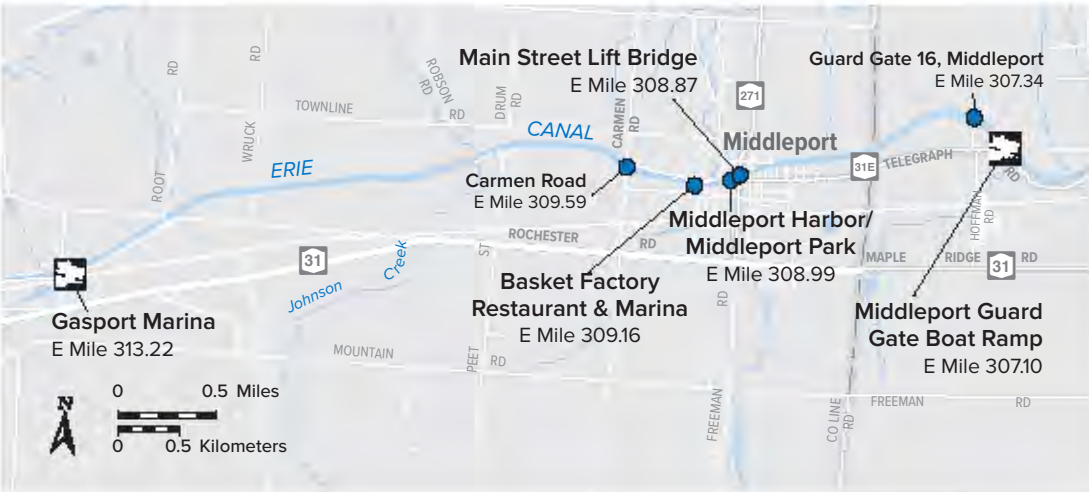
Bridge E218, Peet Street

E Mile 309.59 43.213198 -78.490261

Bridge E217, Carmen Road (CR 139)

MIDDLEPORT

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



E Mile 309.16, south side 43.211812 -78.481922

Basket Factory Restaurant & Marina

2 Watson Avenue
Middleport, NY 14106
(716) 735-7250
thebasketfactoryrestaurant.com

FACILITIES: Restrooms.

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

E Mile 308.99, south side 43.212380 -78.477541

Middleport Harbor/Middleport Park

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

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

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

E Mile 308.87 43.212890 -78.476457

Bridge E216, Main Street Lift Bridge (NY 271)

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

E Mile 307.34 43.218848 -78.448307

Guard Gate 16, Middleport

E Mile 307.10, south side 43.216239 -78.444400

Middleport Guard Gate Boat Ramp

Telegraph Road (NY 31E), Middleport

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

E Mile 305.63 43.222129 -78.420902

Bridge E212, Marshall Road

E Mile 304.13 43.225473 -78.391748

Bridge E211, Prospect Avenue Lift Bridge (NY 63)

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

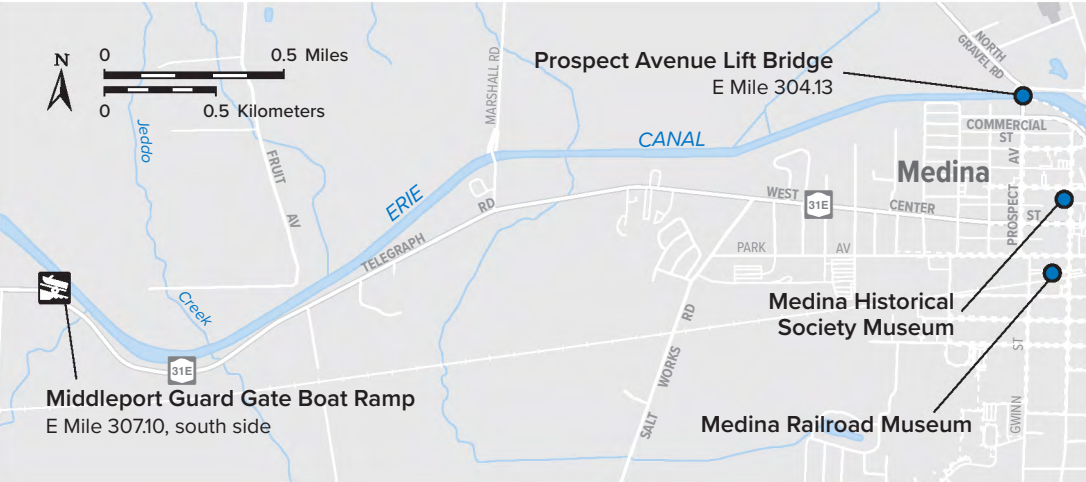
The basin in Medina, with its L shape and straight lines, was built as part of the Barge Canal enlargement of 1905 through 1918. An aqueduct carries the canal about 70 feet above the Old Orchard Creek, which flows south to north and ends at Lake Ontario. This is the only aqueduct on the Barge Canal. 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 19th-century building material. Ranging in color from light tan to dark reddish brown, it was

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

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



PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

43.221367 -78.389244	43.218372 -78.389739
Medina Historical Society Museum 406 West Avenue Medina, NY 14103 (585) 798-3006 historicmedina.org	Medina Railroad Museum 530 West Avenue Medina, NY 14103 (585) 798-6106 medinarailroad.com

LODGING

43.220288 -78.387434
Hart House Hotel 113 West Center Street Medina, NY 14103 (585) 735-6031 harthousehotel.com
Located 500 feet from Canal Port Marina dock.

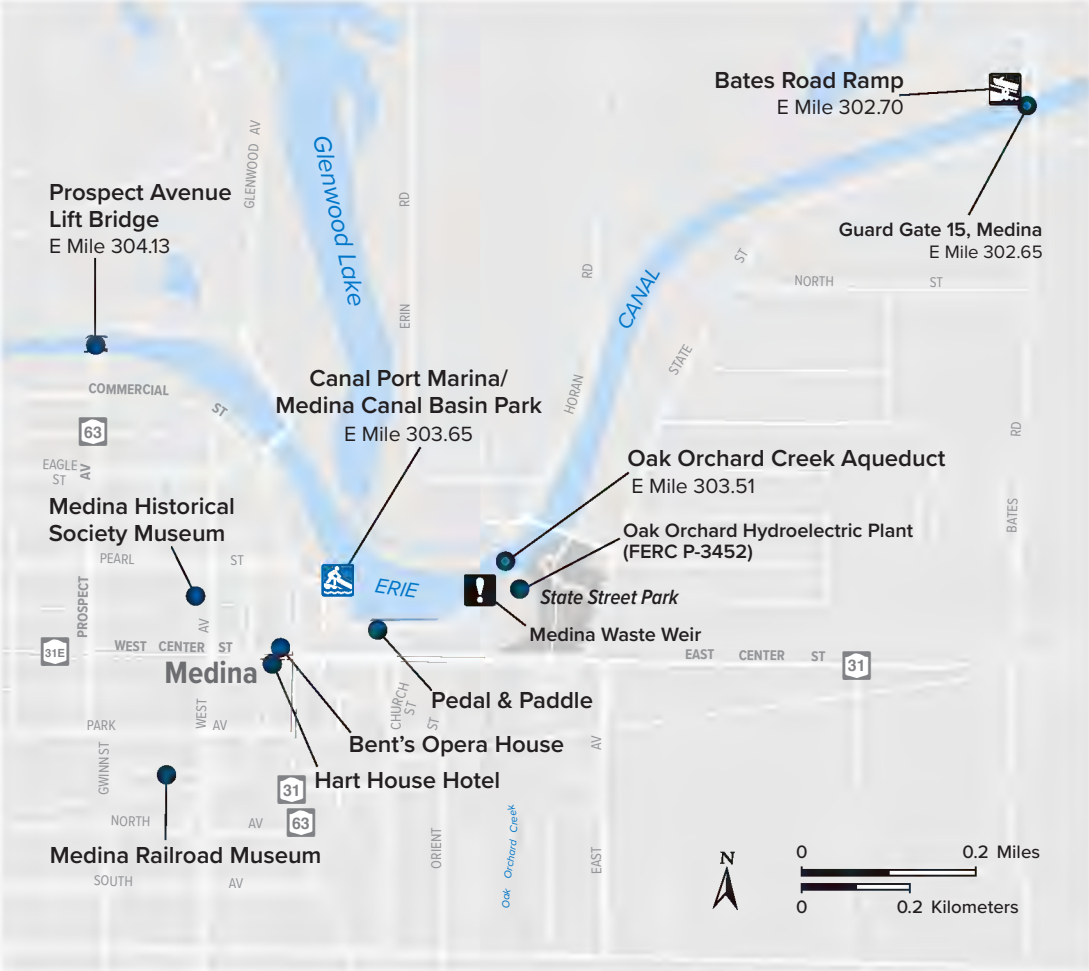
PADDLECRAFT RENTALS

43.220924 -78.385065
Pedal & Paddle Manilla Place Medina, NY 14103 (585) 866-9454 pedalmedina.com

E Mile 303.88	43.223949 -78.387613
Bridge E210, Eagle Street/Glenwood Avenue To the east of the Glenwood Avenue/Eagle Street bridge, the canal opens into the large Medina basin.	
E Mile 303.65, south side	43.221727 -78.386020
 Canal Port Marina/Medina Canal Basin Park Manilla Place Medina, NY 14103 (585) 798-1790 villagemedina.org	

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

The Medina terminal wall extends to the east and west of the Canal Basin Park on the south side. Shops, restaurants, and attractions are a short walk from the marina.



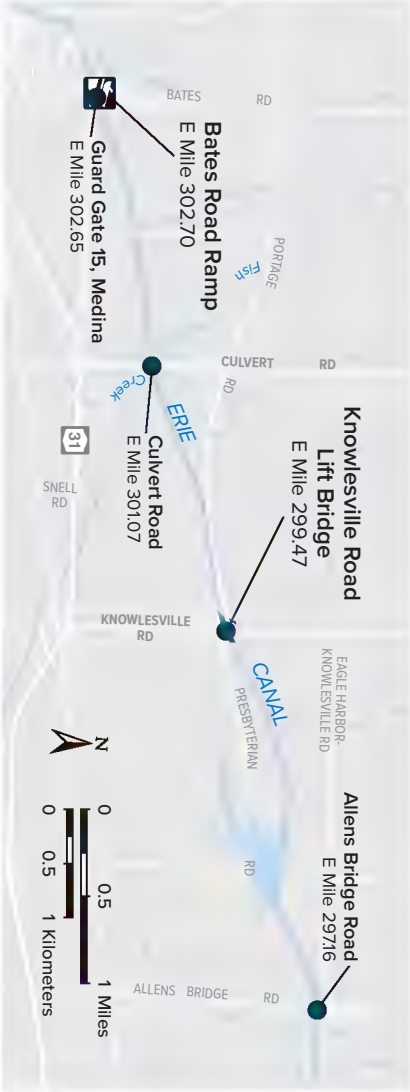
E Mile 303.50	43.222292 -78.382385
A ladder built into the western end of the north wall allows agile paddlers an opportunity to climb out and look over the rail for a view of Medina Falls.	

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

E Mile 303.45	43.222769 -78.381269
Bridge E209, Horan Road/Bank Street	
E Mile 302.70, north side	43.230339 -78.371279

 **Bates Road Ramp**

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



E Mile 302.65 43.230084 -78.370764

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 43.230133 -78.370619

Bridge E208, Bates Road

E Mile 301.84 43.233680 -78.355644

Bridge E207, Beals Road

E Mile 301.07 43.235584 -78.340453

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 43.242629 -78.310603

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 43.248605 -78.276661

Bridge E205, Presbyterian Road

E Mile 297.16 43.251459 -78.267846

Bridge E204, Allens Road

E Mile 296.41 43.251871 -78.253099

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 43.254592 -78.239616

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

E Mile 294.86 43.255369 -78.223389

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

43.245200 -78.193769

Courthouse Square Historic District

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

43.287163 -78.190999

Cobblestone Museum

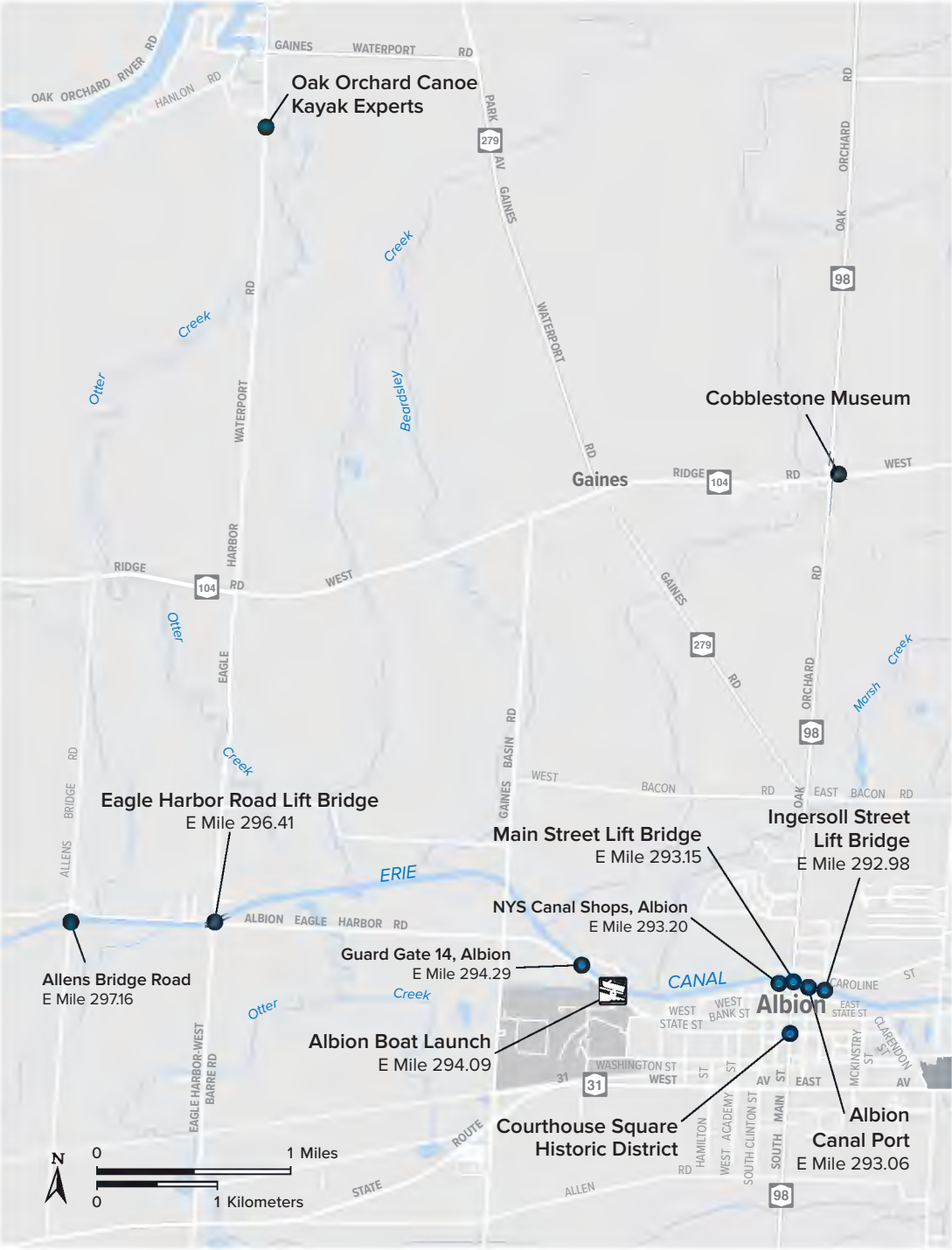
14389 Ridge Road
Albion, NY 14411
(585) 589-9013
cobblestonemuseum.org

PADDECRAFT SALES AND RENTALS

43.311460 -78.251032

Oak Orchard Canoe Kayak Experts

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



E Mile 294.29 43.249707 -78.215367

Guard Gate 14, Albion

E Mile 294.26 43.249415 -78.214834

Bridge E201, Lattins Farm Road

E Mile 294.09, south side 43.247858 -78.212087

Albion Boat Launch

Eagle Harbor Road
Albion, NY 14411

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

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

E Mile 293.15 43.249073 -78.193642

Bridge E200, Main Street Lift Bridge

Lift bridge built in 1914. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 5 inches. Call (585) 589-6255 for service.

E Mile 293.06, south side 43.248705 -78.192071

Albion Canal Port

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

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

E Mile 282.98 43.248533 -78.190387

Bridge E199, Ingersoll Street Lift Bridge

Lift bridge built in 1911. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 5 inches. Call (585) 589-4107 for service.

E Mile 292.37 43.248070 -78.178612

Bridge E198, Brown Street

E Mile 291.72 43.248735 -78.165985

Bridge E197, Butts Road

E Mile 290.88 43.249186 -78.149367

Bridge E196, Keitel Road

E Mile 290.18 43.249298 -78.135442

Bridge E195, Densmore Road (CR 11)

E Mile 289.15 43.251789 -78.115492

Bridge E194, Transit Road (CR 64)

E Mile 288.65 43.253178 -78.105819

Bridge E193, Hindsburg Road

E Mile 287.89 43.253618 -78.090899

Bridge E192, Fancher Road (NY 387)

E Mile 286.58 43.254337 -78.066186

Bridge E191, Hulberton Road Lift Bridge

Lift bridge built in 1913. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 7 inches. Call (585) 638-8183 for service.

E Mile 285.48 43.249632 -78.046194

Bridge E190, Groth Road

E Mile 285.00 43.244707 -78.039420

Bridge E189, Telegraph Road (CR 54)

HOLLEY



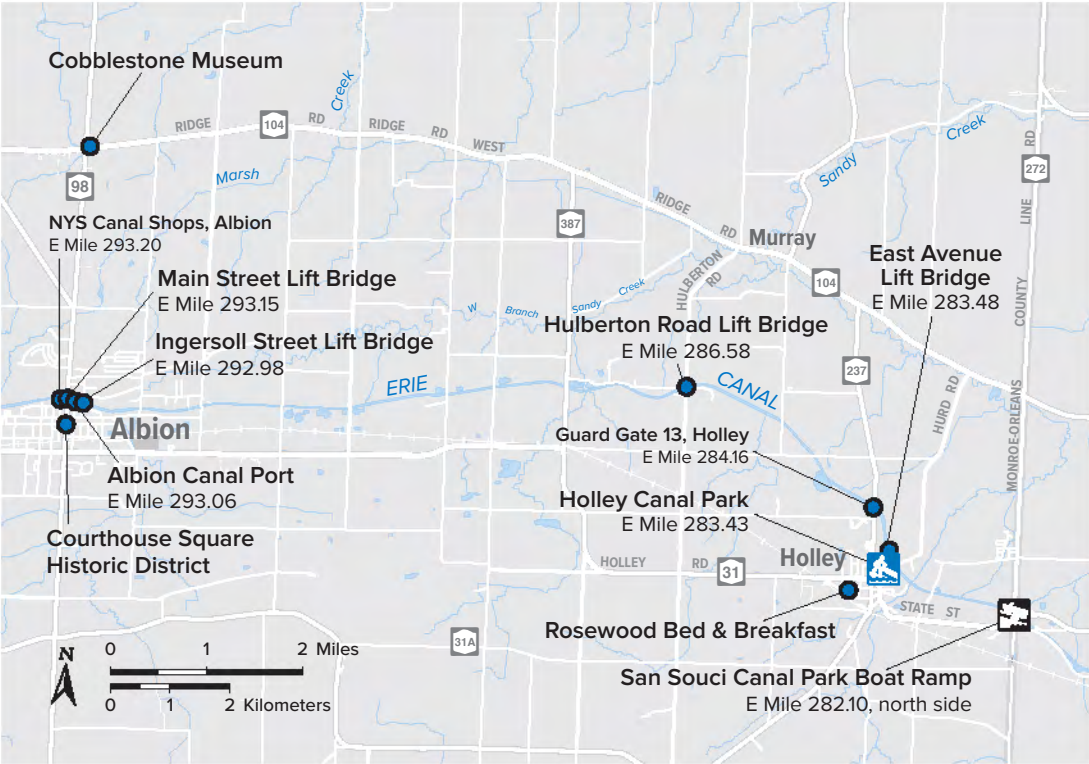
Ellen Riccobono

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

LODGING

43.224654 -78.031378

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



E Mile 284.16 43.237228 -78.026770

Guard Gate 13, Holley

E Mile 284.14 43.237154 -78.026495

Bridge E188, North Main Street (NY 237)

E Mile 283.48 43.228639 -78.021629

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 43.228046 -78.021456

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

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

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

E Mile 283.00 43.224746 -78.013889

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**

43.213491 -77.938755

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

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

43.212606 -77.938876

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

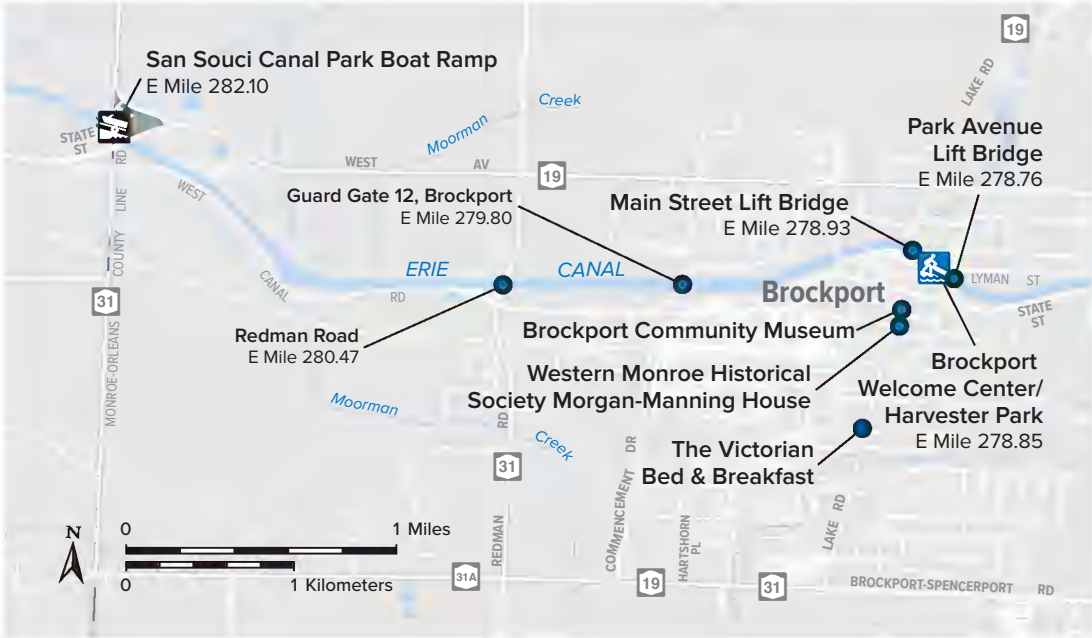
MORE INFORMATION about things to do in the Brockport area is available from **brockportny.org**.

LODGING

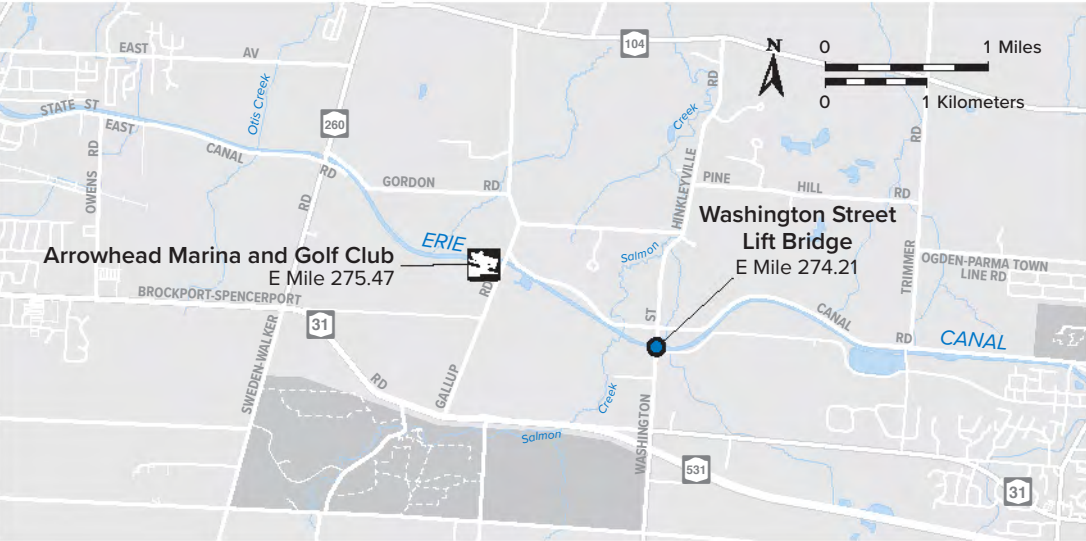
43.207060 -77.941329

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

E Mile 282.10, north side 43.221750 -77.996870	
	San Souci Canal Park Boat Ramp
4159 Monroe-Orleans County Line Road (entrance at intersection with NY 31) Brockport, NY 14420	
FACILITIES: Portable toilet, pavilion, picnic tables, grill. Concrete ramp. Parking for 17 cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet.	
E Mile 282.03	43.221054 -77.995768
Bridge E185, State Street/West Avenue (NY 31)	
E Mile 280.47	43.214062 -77.967986
Bridge E184, Redman Road (CR 236)	



E Mile 279.80	43.214420 -77.954868	E Mile 278.85, south side	43.215784 -77.936498
Guard Gate 12, Brockport Buildings on the campus of SUNY Brockport are visible to the south.		 Brockport Welcome Center/ Harvester Park 11 Water Street and Park Avenue Brockport, NY 14420 (585) 637-1000 brockportny.org	
E Mile 279.21	43.216181 -77.943504	FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, grills. Low dock and car top launch. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 50 feet.	
Bridge E183, Smith Street The Brockport terminal wall begins just to the east of the bridge.		Harvester Park is located between the two lift bridges in Brockport. The Welcome Center is open during the boating season seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. It offers free loaner bicycles and wagons to help canal boaters reach the nearby shops, restaurants, and attractions.	
E Mile 278.93	43.216678 -77.938111	A notch in the south wall between the Welcome Center and the Park Avenue Lift Bridge makes it easier for paddlers to disembark.	
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 278.76 43.215372 -77.935400

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 43.211516 -77.894901

Bridge E180, Sweden-Walker Road (NY 260)

E Mile 275.47, south side 43.202554 -77.875157

 **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 43.202812 -77.872642

Bridge E179, Gallup Road (CR 244)

E Mile 274.21 43.195720 -77.853825

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 43.195889 -77.826925

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

E Mile 272.49 43.195951 -77.823498

Bridge E176, Trimmer Road

E Mile 271.47 43.195042 -77.803359

Bridge E175, Martha Street

SPENCERPORT



Union Street Lift Bridge, Spencerport

Spencerport is named for Daniel Spencer,
whose farm became this portion of the Erie
Canal. The village quickly grew up around
the canal. By the late 1800s, Spencerport had
an economy that centered on canal transport.
The town continued to thrive into the 1920s
as the canal expanded. The downtown area
contains dozens of architecturally distin-
guished buildings.

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

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

E Mile 271.32, south side 43.193628 -77.801174

Clyde W. Carter Memorial Gazebo
South side, west of lift bridge

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

E Mile 271.29, north side 43.193660 -77.800508

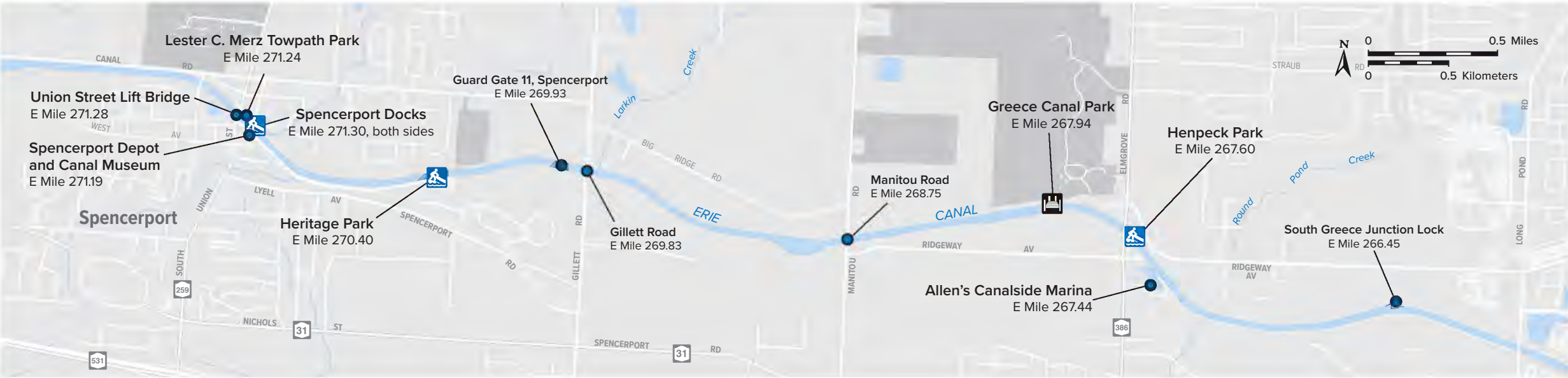
Bridge Tender's Dock
North side, west side of bridge

FACILITIES: Low dock, free parking nearby.

E Mile 271.28 43.193331 -77.800388

**Bridge E174, Union Street Lift Bridge
(NY 259)**

Built in 1915; also known as the Spencerport
lift bridge. Clearance closed: 3 feet. Clearance
opened: 17 feet. Call (585) 352-5451 for service.



E Mile 271.24, north side 43.193252 -77.799830

Lester C. Merz Towpath Park

North side, east of lift bridge

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

E Mile 271.19, both sides 43.192571 -77.799548

 Spencerport Docks

(585) 352-4771
vil.spencerport.ny.us/boating.html

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

E Mile 271.19, south side 43.192286 -77.799469

Spencerport Depot and Canal Museum

16 East Avenue
Spencerport, NY 14559
(585) 352-0942
spencerportdepot.com

FACILITIES: Small museum and visitor center with excellent services. Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, and laundry in lower level. Easy walk to restaurants, shops and attractions.

E Mile 270.40, south side 43.190206 -77.784994

 Heritage Park

Off Lyell Avenue opposite Cosgrove Middle School, Spencerport

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

E Mile 269.93 43.191130 -77.775467

Guard Gate 11, Spencerport

E Mile 269.83 43.190845 -77.773498

Bridge E173, Gillett Road (CR 210)

E Mile 268.75 43.187487 -77.753374

Bridge E172, Manitou Road (CR 208)

E Mile 267.94, north side 43.189886 -77.737757

 Greece Canal Park

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

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

E Mile 267.64 43.188518 -77.732157

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

E Mile 267.60, north side 43.188200 -77.731350

 Henpeck Park

2901 Ridgeway Avenue
Greece, NY 14612

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

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

E Mile 267.44, south side 43.185493 -77.730030

Allen’s Canalside Marina

416 Elmgrove Road
Rochester, NY 14606
(585) 426-5400

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

Large private marina with 60 slips in a large basin.

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

E Mile 266.45, north side 43.184732 -77.710787

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

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

E Mile 265.94 43.182581 -77.701598

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

E Mile 264.83 43.173802 -77.683183

Bridge E169B, I-390 southbound

E Mile 264.81 43.173677 -77.683152

Bridge E169A, I-390 northbound

E Mile 264.66 43.172304 -77.680699

Bridge E169, Lee Road (CR 154)

E Mile 264.53 43.170877 -77.678976

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

E Mile 264.51 43.170620 -77.678768

Bridge E167, CSX Railroad

E Mile 264.08 43.164709 -77.676258

Bridge E166, Lyell Avenue (NY 31)

E Mile 264.07 43.164488 -77.676170

Bridge E-165C, water pipeline

E Mile 263.58 43.157749 -77.673962

Bridge E165B, I-490 westbound

E Mile 263.54 43.157124 -77.673750

Bridge E165A, I-490 eastbound

E Mile 263.04 43.150157 -77.671415

Bridge E165D, gas and water pipelines

E Mile 263.03 43.149928 -77.671468

Bridge E165, Buffalo Road (NY 33)

E Mile 262.92 43.148466 -77.670870

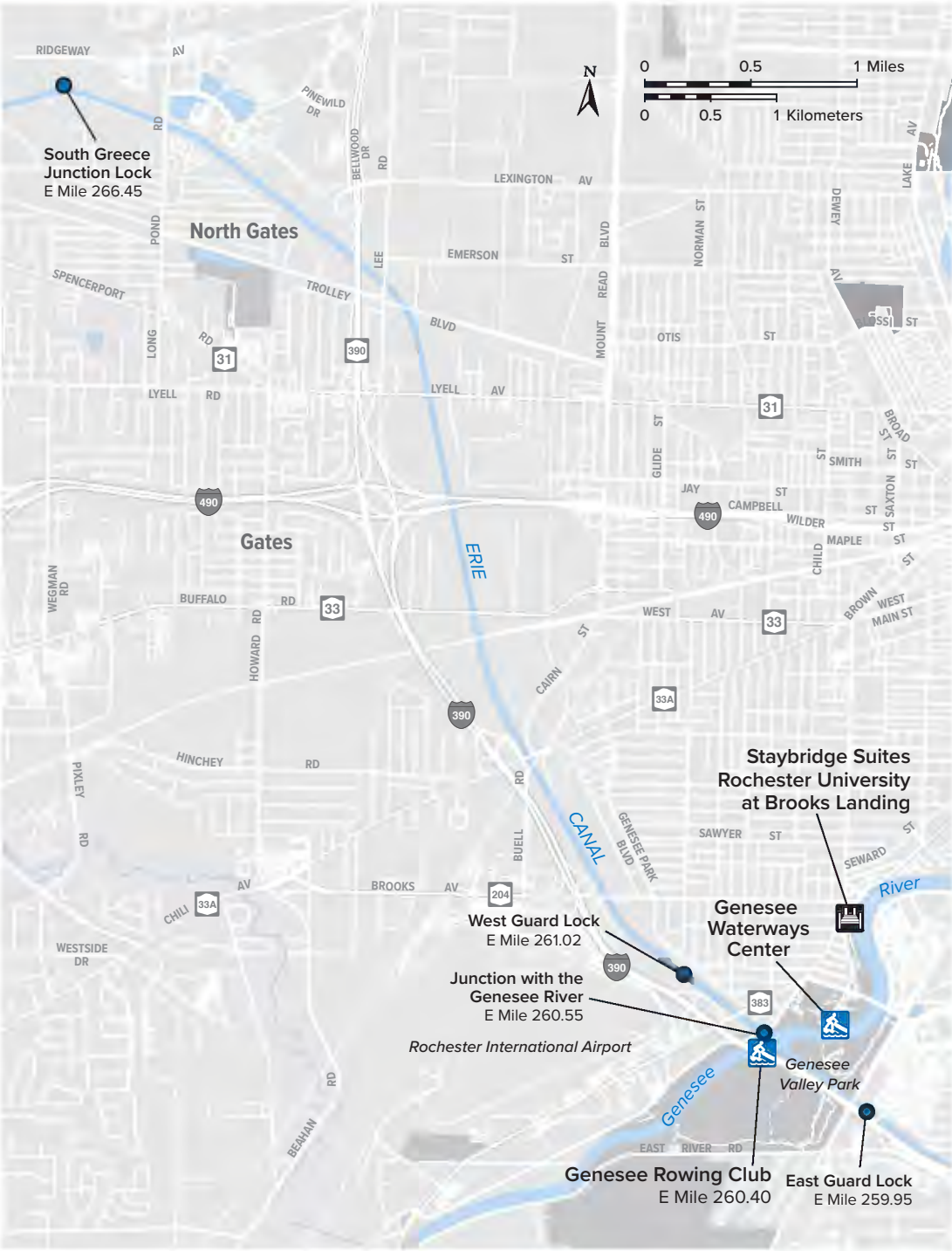
Bridge E164A, gas pipeline

E Mile 262.91 43.148250 -77.670866

Bridge E164, Amtrak Railroad

E Mile 262.90 43.148103 -77.670818

Bridge E163A, water pipeline





E Mile 262.30 43.140218 -77.665844

Bridge E163, Chili Avenue (NY 33A)

E Mile 262.27 43.139898 -77.665618

Bridge E162A, pipeline

E Mile 262.26 43.139758 -77.665480

Bridge E162, Rochester & Southern/B&O
Railroad

E Mile 262.24 43.139429 -77.665194

Bridge E161A, pipeline

E Mile 261.54 43.130825 -77.658195

Bridge E161, Brooks Avenue (NY 204)

E Mile 261.26 43.127749 -77.654558

Bridge E160, abandoned railroad bridge built
for New York Central Railroad Falls Branch.

E Mile 261.02 43.125829 -77.650762

West Guard Lock

Gates at each end of this chamber are left
open during the navigation season, except
when the river is unusually high. This guard
lock protects the canal from flooding on
the Genesee River. It marks the western
approach to the Genesee River crossing.

E Mile 260.71 43.123165 -77.645656

Bridge E159, Scottsville Road (NY 383)

E Mile 260.61 43.122320 -77.644010

Bridge E158, abandoned Pennsylvania
Railroad bridge

E Mile 260.58 43.122089 -77.643520

Bridge E157, Westernmost of three arched
pedestrian bridges leading to Genesee Valley
Park. The bridges were designed by Olmsted
Brothers, the successor firm of the famed
landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted.

GENESEE RIVER

E Mile 260.55 43.121872 -77.643108

The Genesee River flows from south to north,
rising in Pennsylvania’s Allegheny Plateau
and emptying into Lake Ontario at Rochester.
Originally, the Erie Canal crossed the
Genesee on a stone aqueduct in downtown
Rochester. In the early 20th century, the
canal was re-routed through a deep rock
cut south of the city. Canal access continues
by way of the Genesee Arm, a three-mile
long navigable channel that extends north
from here at the Genesee Crossing to
Corn Hill Landing and Court Street Dam.

PADDLING NOTE: Cross-currents at the
crossing can be strong after storms in the
Genesee headwaters. Dredges are often
at work here clearing river-borne gravel.
This area also sees a lot of use by rowing
shells and sculls based at nearby boat-
houses. They have right-of-way.

The Genesee Arm of the Erie Canal
provides a pleasant side trip through
Genesee Valley Park and the University of
Rochester campus to Corn Hill Landing at
the edge of downtown Rochester. Buoys
mark the winding channel. Just remember
that you will be paddling against the
current on your way back.

Corn Hill Landing is the downstream limit
of navigation. Court Street Dam is about
1,000 feet below that. From there the river
passes under the 1842 aqueduct before
plunging 278 feet to the level of Lake
Ontario over three large waterfalls. The
96-foot drop at High Falls is about 0.75
mile below Corn Hill Landing. Viewing
platforms and a pedestrian bridge over the
gorge offer some great views of the falls.

43.120077 -77.636435

Genesee Valley Park

1000 East River Road
Rochester, NY 14623
(585) 753-7275

Genesee Valley Park lines both sides of
the river at the confluence. Designed by
Frederick Law Olmsted, who had previously
designed Manhattan’s Central Park and
Boston’s Emerald Necklace, the 800-acre
park offers two golf courses, picnic
pavilions, a pool, and playing fields. It is
the main access point for the extensive
network of hiking and biking trails in the
Rochester area. The nonprofit Genesee
Waterways Center (see page 84) manages
the city dock and boathouse on the west
bank of the river, just north of the canal
crossing.

The Genesee Valley Greenway extends
south from here to the Village of Cuba in
Allegheny County. The 90-mile corridor
follows the route of the old Genesee
Valley Canal (operated from 1840-1878)
and the bed of the old Rochester branch
of the Pennsylvania Railroad. For more
information on paddling, hiking, and biking
along the upper Genesee River, see
Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway
at fogvg.org.

E Mile 260.40 43.120959 -77.643263

 Genesee Rowing Club

Located on the south side under the
expressway. Paddlers may use this dock.

ROCHESTER



Dave Valvo

The Erie Canal created boom towns all along its length, but none boomed more than Rochester. In 1821, the population was 2,500. Waterfalls on the Genesee River powered numerous flour mills; Rochester was known as the Flour City. In the first ten days after the Erie Canal opened in 1825, Rochester flour mills shipped 40,000 barrels of flour east to Albany and New York City. By 1834, Rochester had about 20 flour mills that shipped 500,000 barrels of flour a year, and in those nine years the population grew to 13,500.

The city developed numerous cultural and educational institutions and became a center of Abolitionism, with numerous safe houses on the Underground Railroad. It was also a center for the women’s suffrage movement. The Susan B. Anthony House, a National Historic Landmark, is on Madison Street.

A massive 800-foot aqueduct carried the canal over the Genesee. The original 1821 aqueduct leaked, and in 1842 it was replaced by a larger one slightly to the north. The second aqueduct crossed the river on seven arches, each spanning 52 feet. The aqueduct stayed in operation until the Barge Canal enlargement in 1918 moved the path of the canal south of the city center. The canal trough was covered and repurposed as the city’s subway and the aqueduct became the base of the current Broad Street Bridge. Aqueduct Park between East Main and Court streets on the west side provides a good vantage point.

A number of historic sites and cultural institutions in Rochester have Erie Canal associations and collections.

PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

Rochester is the third-largest city in New York and offers a very wide range of shops, restaurants, activities, and events.

43.152780 -77.580121

George Eastman House and Museum
900 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
(585) 271-3361
eastman.org

43.157693 -77.588180

Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester
500 University Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
(585) 276-8900
mag.rochester.edu

43.124854 -77.623143

Mount Hope Cemetery
1133 Mount Hope Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620
(585) 461-3494
fomh.org

43.152780 -77.580121

Rochester ARTWalk
900 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
(585) 473-5787
rochesterartwalk.org

43.152542 -77.587463

Rochester Museum & Science Center
657 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
(585) 271-4320
rmsc.org

43.154080 -77.608295

Rochester Public Library
115 South Avenue
Rochester, NY 14606
(585) 428-8370
roccitylibrary.org

MORE INFORMATION about things to do in the Rochester area is available from **visitrochester.com**.

E Mile 260.30 43.120632 -77.640692

Bridge E151, second of three pedestrian bridges to Genesee Valley Park.

E Mile 260.29 43.119709 -77.638931

Bridge E150, easternmost of three pedestrian bridges to Genesee Valley Park.

E Mile 260.27, south side 43.119784 -77.639446

Red Creek enters the canal here.

E Mile 260.13 43.118340 -77.636218

Bridge E149, Moore Road/Main Drive

E Mile 260.04 43.117599 -77.634784

Bridge E148, formerly a railroad bridge, now a pedestrian walkway.

PADDLECRAFT SALES

43.175953 -77.522193

Oak Orchard Canoe Kayak Experts
1350 Empire Boulevard (NY 404)
Rochester, NY 14609
(585) 288-5550
oakorchardcanoe.com

43.672600 -77.369540

REI
450 East Henrietta Road
Rochester, NY 14620
(585) 242-0787
rei.com
Located at Citygate on the Erie Canal.

PADDLECRAFT RENTALS

43.122709 -77.636538

Genesee Waterways Center
149 Elmwood Avenue
Rochester, NY 14611
(585) 328-3960
geneseewaterways.org

FACILITIES: Water, restrooms. Ramp and low dock. Ample free parking. Distance from parking about 100 feet. Canoe and kayak rentals and instruction.

DOCKS ON THE GENESEE RIVER

43.130225 -77.635095

Brooks Landing
South Plymouth Avenue
Rochester NY

FACILITIES: Electric, water, 175-foot bi-level dock suitable for tie-up, but not launch. Restaurants, shops, and attractions nearby.

43.147568 -77.611654

Corn Hill Landing
290 Exchange Boulevard
Rochester, NY 14608
(585) 325-7116
cityofrochester.gov

3 miles north of canal on the Genesee River.

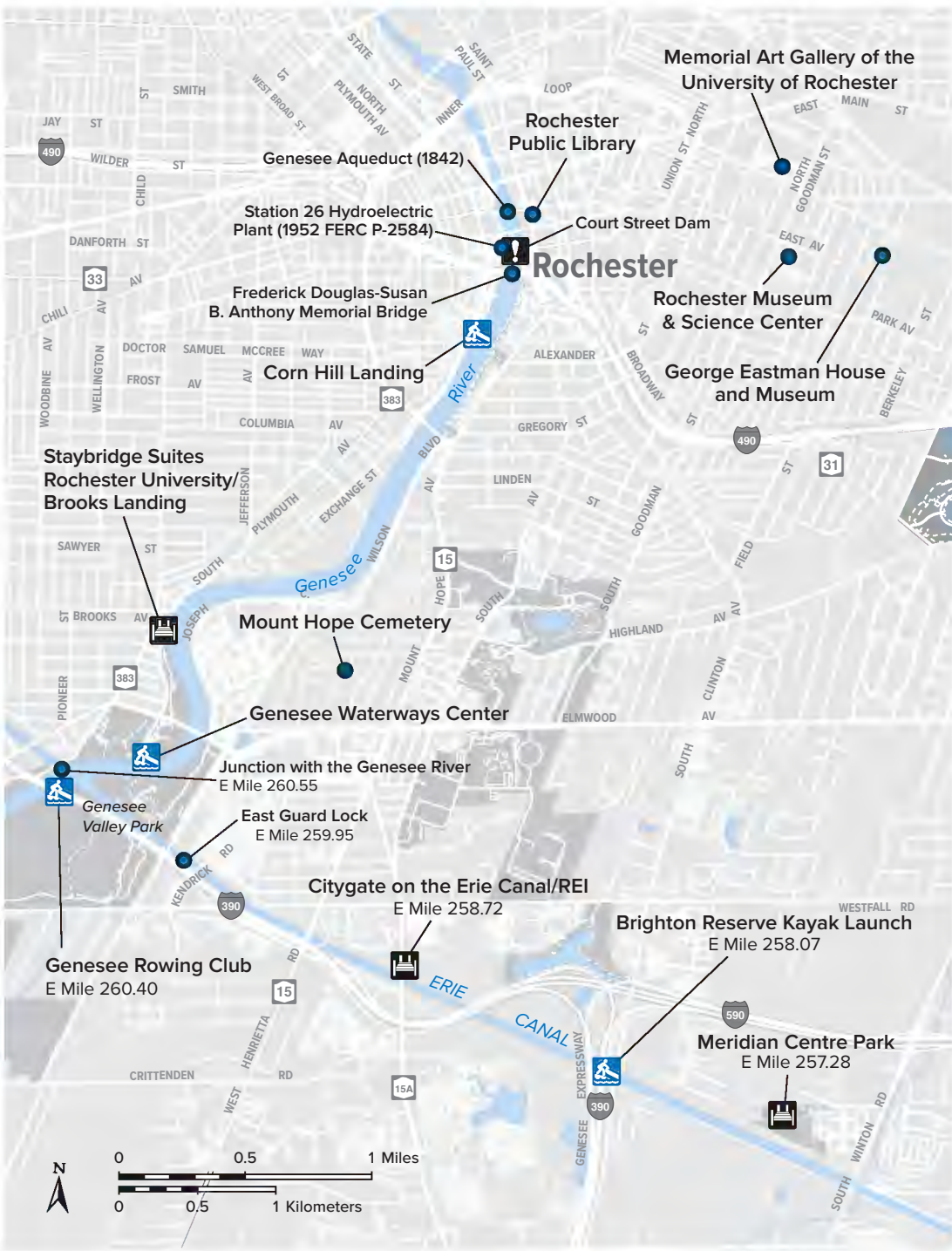
FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms. Car top launch. Restaurants, shops, and attractions nearby.

LODGING

43.130020 77.635469

Staybridge Suites Rochester University
Brooks Landing
1000 Genesee Street
Rochester, New York 14611
(585) 527-9110
staybridge.com

The Brooks Landing dock is 50 feet from the hotel.



E Mile 260.02 43.117470 -77.634533

Bridge E147, formerly a railroad bridge, now a pedestrian walkway.

E Mile 259.95 43.116876 -77.633340

East Guard Lock
The guard lock has vertical lift gates at either end. They protect the canal from flooding on the Genesee River. The gates are usually left open during the boating season.

E Mile 259.88 43.116305 -77.632308

Bridge E146A, Kendrick Road

E Mile 259.37 43.112681 -77.623487

Bridge E146, West Henrietta Road/Mount Hope Avenue (NY 15)

E Mile 259.30 43.112324 -77.622130

Bridge E145B, I-390 ramp

E Mile 258.96 43.110411 -77.616053

Bridge E145, East Henrietta Road (NY 15A)

E Mile 258.95 43.110290 -77.615781

Bridge E144E, steam pipeline

E Mile 258.92, north side 43.110746 -77.615075

 Citygate on the Erie Canal

East Henrietta Road
Rochester, NY 14620
(585) 475-1000
citygaterochester.com

FACILITIES: Park settings, woodland trails, walking paths, and public boat, kayak, and canoe access along the Erie Canal. Restaurants and shops, including REI, are located here.

E Mile 258.68 43.108842 -77.610870

Bridge E144D, I-390/I-590 westbound

E Mile 258.65 43.108684 -77.610342

Bridge E144C, I-390/I-590 eastbound

E Mile 258.14 43.105830 -77.601204

Bridge E144B, I-390 southbound

E Mile 258.09 43.105592 -77.600277

Bridge E144A, I-390 northbound

E Mile 258.07, north side 43.105614 -77.599723

 **Brighton Reserve Kayak Launch**
Off South Clinton Avenue, Rochester

FACILITIES: Car top launch and dock. Parking for 30 cars. Distance from parking about 150 feet.

E Mile 258.03 43.105235 -77.599126

Bridge E144, Clinton Avenue South (CR 100)

E Mile 257.28, north side 43.103354 -77.585866

 Meridian Centre Park

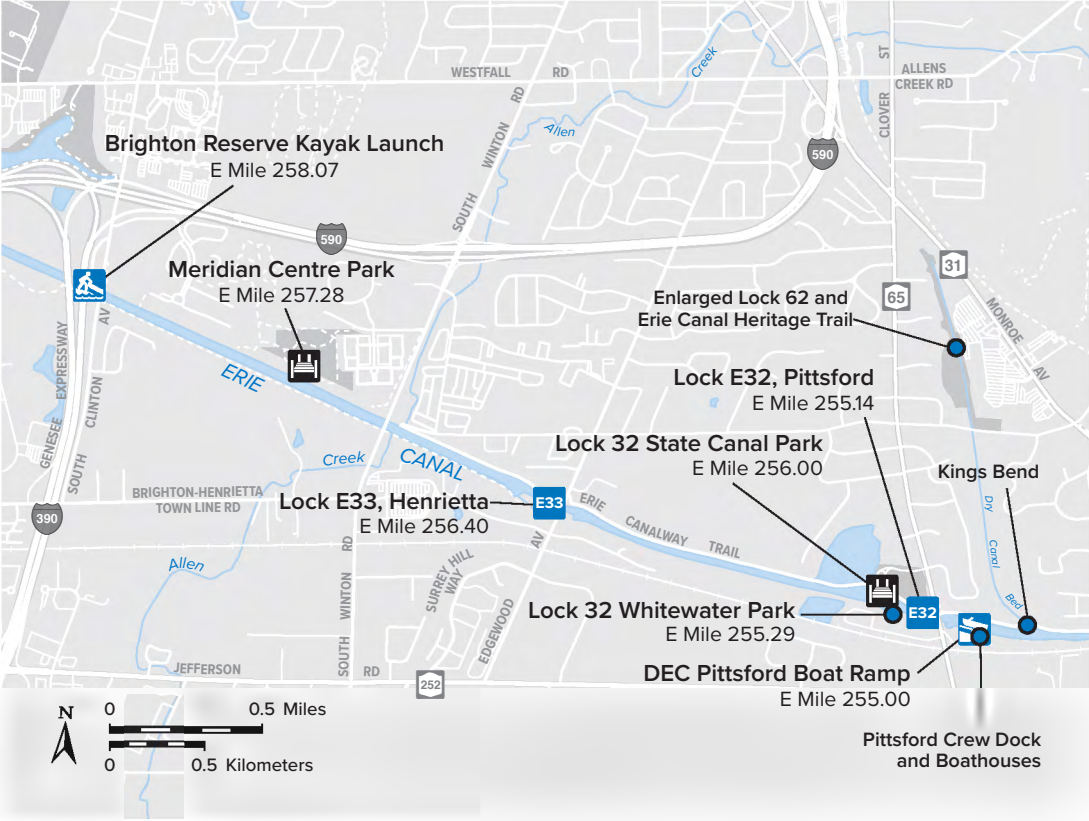
2025 Meridian Centre Boulevard
Rochester, NY 14618
(585) 784-5250
townofbrighton.org

FACILITIES: Water, restrooms. Boating and fishing dock provides access to park facilities from the water, but is too far from road to be used as a launch.

A 24-acre park with trails and sports fields.

E Mile 257.00 43.099414 -77.580235

Bridge E143, South Winton Road (CR 98)



E Mile 256.40 43.095939 -77.569419

 Lock E33, Henrietta

1205 Edgewood Avenue
Rochester, NY 14618
(585) 244-2150

LIFT: 25.1 feet.

FACILITIES: Water, portable toilet. Tie up for larger vessels at the approach wall on the south side at the western end. Hand-launch pull-out on the north bank near the upper gates.

PADDLING NOTE: Do not enter the spillway area on the south side.

E Mile 256.40 43.092582 -77.551659

A causeway carrying the Erie Canalway Trail past the Widewaters Turning Basin is on the north side. The partially submerged remains of old wooden barges can be seen in the basin.

E Mile 256.36 43.095721 -77.568565

Bridge E142, Edgewood Avenue (CR 102)

PITTSFORD



Settled in the late 1700s, Pittsford is one of a few western New York communities that pre-dates the Erie Canal. The canal improved shipping for Pittsford area farmers and caused explosive growth in nearby Rochesterville. Wealthy Rochester residents established country houses, estates and gentlemen’s farms around Pittsford during the late 19th and early 20th centuries in efforts to escape the industrial city’s summer heat and filth.

Today, Pittsford is a suburb of Rochester and a lively summer village on the Erie Canal. The original village is a walkable district of shops and restaurants. Schoen Place has restaurants and shops right on the canal. The closest place to launch or take out is the DEC Pittsford Boat Ramp.

PADDLING NOTE: Be aware of other boats near Pittsford. It’s a busy area with tour boats, cruisers, crew teams and paddlers.

LODGING

- 43.092230 -77.515074

Canal Lamp Inn B&B
27 North Main Street
Pittsford, NY 14534
(585) 381-4351
canallampinn.com
- 43.093828 -77.514921

Del Monte Lodge Renaissance Rochester Hotel & Spa
41 North Main Street
Pittsford, NY 14534
(585) 381-9900
marriott.com

E Mile 256.00, north side 43.092137 -77.547688

 **Lock 32 State Canal Park**
2759 Clover Street
Pittsford, NY 14534

FACILITIES: Dock. Ample parking. Portable toilet.

E Mile 225.14, south side 43.091150 -77.546910

Lock 32 Whitewater Park
2797 Clover Street
Pittsford, NY 14534
(585) 328-3960
lock32.com

The spillway for Lock E32 has been converted into a 600-foot whitewater kayaking course operated by the Genesee Waterways Center. The course drops 25 feet from the height of the lock and contains holes, pools, boils, slalom gates, and a lot of frothy water. It’s the only man-made whitewater park in New York State. Only GWC members can access the course; kayaking instruction is available. Parking and viewing area are near the launch platform.

NOTE: Operations are weather dependent. The park may be closed on days with heavy rain, thunderstorms, or because water needs to be held back to avoid flooding downstream.

E Mile 255.14 43.091200 -77.544899

Lock E32, Pittsford
2785 Clover Street
Pittsford, NY 14534
(585) 586-1837

LIFT: 25.1 feet.

FACILITIES: Tie up for large vessels on the south upstream approach wall. Unimproved pull-out for hand-launch boats on north side near upstream bullnose.

PADDLING NOTE: Do not enter what appears to be the spillway on the south side. There is no Lock E31.

E Mile 255.07 43.091114 -77.544040

Bridge E141, Clover Street (NY 65)

E Mile 255.00, south side 43.090558 -77.541589

 **DEC Pittsford Boat Ramp**

FACILITIES: Concrete ramp. Parking for 10 cars. Overnight parking permitted; call (585) 586-1837. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

E Mile 254.94, south side 43.090218 -77.541223

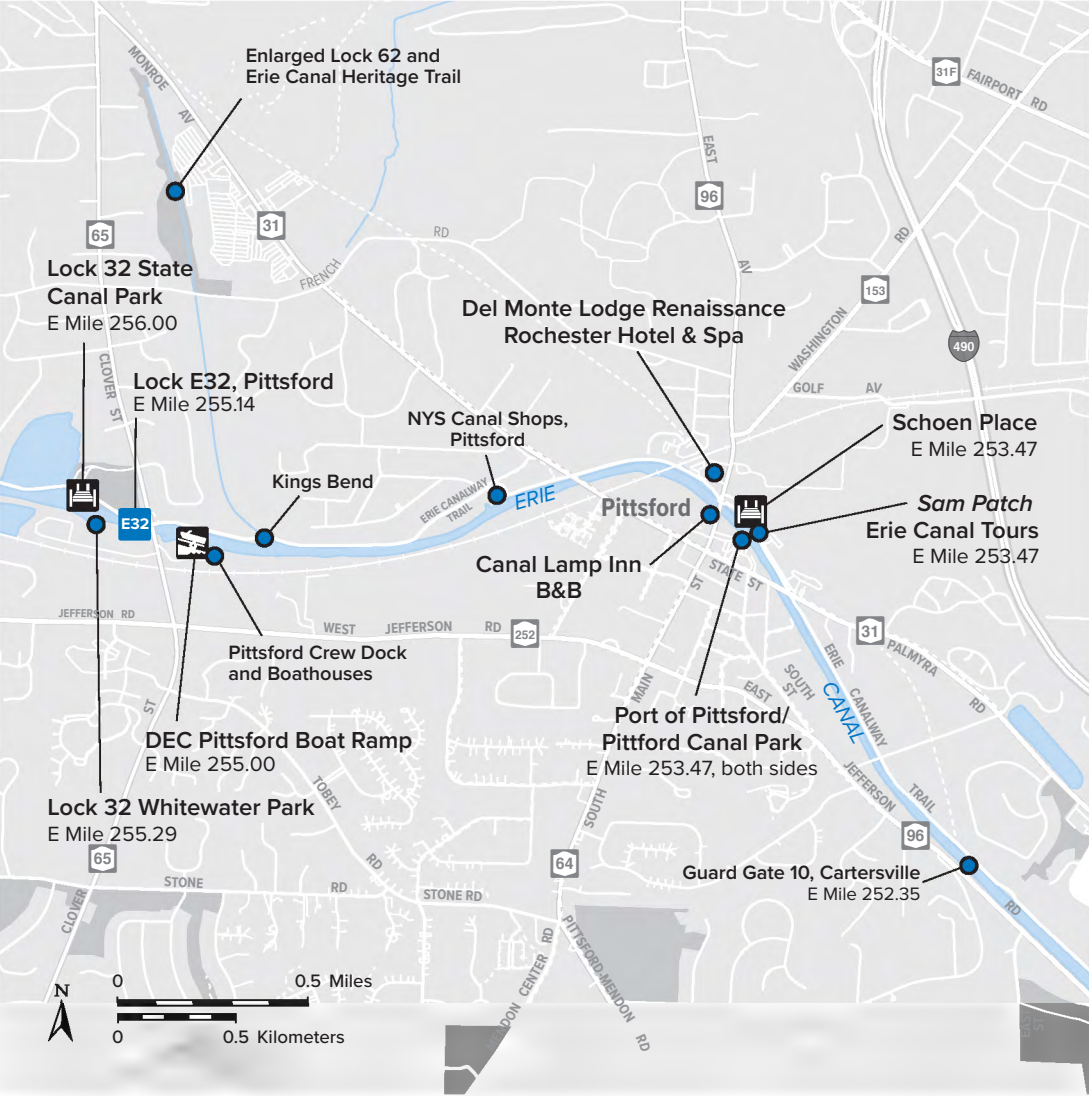
Pittsford Crew Dock and Boathouses
Call (585) 234-7463 for information.

PADDLING NOTE: Crews from the rowing club use this area for practice and have priority. Exercise caution to avoid collisions.

E Mile 254.74, north side 43.090720 -77.537787

King’s Bend
The original Erie Canal and the enlarged Erie Canal took a sharp bend northward at this point toward downtown Rochester. An 1837 painting by George Harvey in the collections of the University of Rochester’s Memorial Art Gallery, “Pittsford on the Erie Canal, A Sultry Calm,” shows a packet boat coming around this bend.

Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 62 is about a mile to the north. The remains of the double-chambered lock can still be seen in 19-acre Lock 62 Canal Park, operated by the town of Pittsford. The first chamber dates to 1856; the second was completed in 1873. The lift was nine feet. The Lock 62 Trail branches from the Erie Canal Heritage Trail about 0.30 miles east of Lock E32 and follows the path of the old Erie Canal to the park.



E Mile 254.15	43.092721 -77.526161
NYS Canal Maintenance Shops, Pittsford Watch out for workboats near the entrance.	
E Mile 253.91	43.093409 -77.522292
Bridge E140, Monroe Avenue (NY 31)	

E Mile 253.68	43.093071 -77.517626
Bridge E139, CSX railroad	
E Mile 253.50	43.092587 -77.514672
Bridge E138, Main Street (NY 96)	

E Mile 253.47, south side 43.091751 -77.513726

Port of Pittsford/Pittsford Canal Park
22 North Main Street
(585) 586-9320
townofpittsford.org

FACILITIES: Electric, picnic tables. Restrooms available at public library on State Street. Shops and restaurants in the historic village of Pittsford and Schoen Place are a short walk.

E Mile 253.47, north side 43.092030 -77.513235

Schoen Place
Pittsford, NY 14534

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms. Long concrete dock is low but not suitable for paddlers; ample parking nearby. Shops and restaurants are steps away.

The large tower with multiple windows is a flour mill dating to 1882, now converted to office space. The tall, round red structure is a restored coal tower from the early 1900s, now occupied by the Village Coal Tower Restaurant. The Lock 32 Brewing Company has a tasting room here. Numerous other restaurants and shops are in Northfield Common just to the west.

E Mile 253.47 43.092030 -77.513235

Sam Patch Erie Canal Tours
12 Schoen Place
Pittsford, NY 14534
(585) 662-5748
sampatch.org

The *Sam Patch* tour boat is operated by Corn Hill Navigation, a not-for-profit company dedicated to providing education about the Erie Canal. It's named for a historic daredevil who successfully jumped from Niagara Falls but failed to survive a 125-foot jump from the High Falls of the Genesee River in Rochester

in 1829. *Sam Patch* offers daily cruises on the Erie Canal and throughout the boating season.

TICKET FEE. Reservations suggested.

CRUISE TIMES: Cruises leave at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. daily; during the summer months an additional cruise leaves at 4 p.m.

E Mile 252.72 43.089449 -77.511221

Bridge E136, Mitchell Road

E Mile 252.35 43.099172 -77.501112

Guard Gate 10, Cartersville
To carry the Erie Canal over the valley of the Irondequoit Creek, the original engineers filled the space between three natural ridges with two man-made embankments. Completed in 1822, this section of the canal was a mile long. A new version of the Great Embankment was built for the Barge Canal, cutting straight across the valley with a culvert at its base to pass the creek. Paddlers along this section are well above ground level. Walkers and cyclists on the towpath look down into treetops and the valley below.

This gate along with the guard gate at Bushnell's Basin to the east can isolate the channel across the embankment in the event of a leak. When open the gate has a clearance of 15.25 feet.

E Mile 251.83, north side 43.074039 -77.493187

Great Embankment Park
631 Marsh Road
Pittsford, NY 14534

FACILITIES: Restrooms. Low fishing dock. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

BUSHNELL’S BASIN



Keith Boas

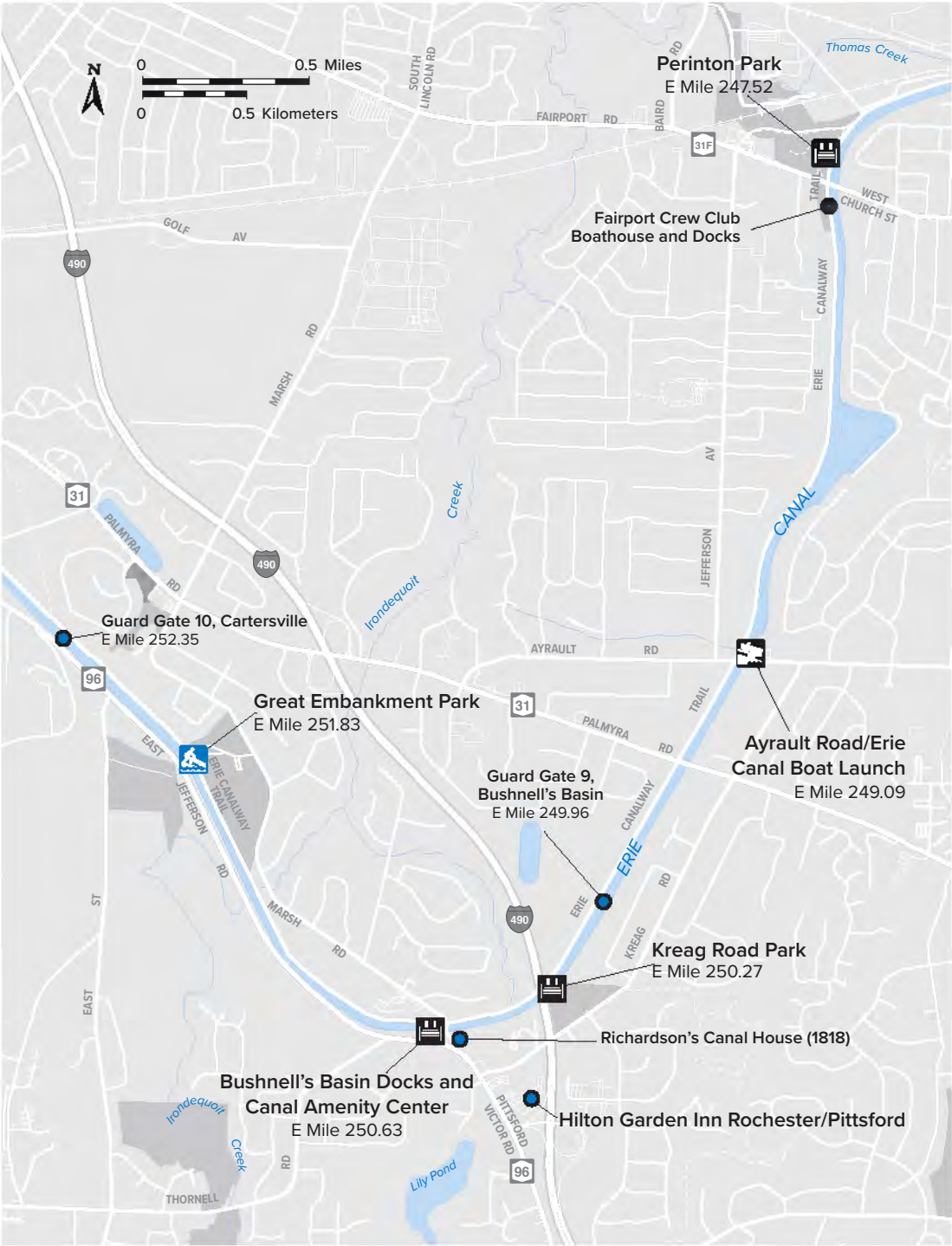
Halfway between Pittsford and Fairport, Bushnell’s Basin was once a widewater area where canal boats could turn around. John Harwell and his son Oliver purchased land abutting the basin and built a general store, warehouse, and boatyard. Harwell also served as contractor for the first embankment over the nearby Irondequoit Creek. The area became a bustling headquarters as the Great Embankment rose. Later, William Bushnell bought the Harwells’ enterprises and built a complex of more boatyards, warehouses, stables, and stores. In the 20th century, Bushnell’s Basin became a suburb of Rochester, but the canal’s early influence is still seen clearly today.

LODGING

43.059680 -77.472412

**Hilton Garden Inn
Rochester/Pittsford**
800 Pittsford-Victor Road
Pittsford, NY 14534
(585) 248-9000
hilton.com

About 0.4 of a mile from the Bushnell Basin docks.



E Mile 250.63, south side 43.062488 -77.478551

 Bushnell’s Basin Docks and Canal

Amenity Center

Pittsford-Victor Road
Pittsford, NY

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms, showers. Concrete dock and low dock. Ample parking. Distance from parking about 100 feet. Information about overnight parking is at the dockmaster’s office in the adjacent gas station. Ice cream, restaurants, a brewery, and convenience stores are within walking distance of the docks at Bushnell’s Basin.

Richardson’s Canal House, in a historic tavern building dating back to 1818, is on the water-front just to the east of the Marsh Road bridge.

PADDLING NOTE: Bushnell’s Basin is a popular stop for recreational boaters. Exercise caution to avoid collisions and wakes.

E Mile 250.60 43.062619 -77.477666

Bridge E133, Marsh Road (CR 38)

E Mile 250.29 43.064205 -77.472253

Bridge E131A, Eastern Expressway (I-490)

E Mile 250.27 43.064498 -77.471378

 Kreag Road Park

555 Kreag Road
Pittsford, NY 14534
(585) 223-5050
perinton.org

FACILITIES: Restrooms, picnic area. Low dock. Ample parking. Distance from parking about 450 feet.

E Mile 249.96 43.068382 -77.468471

Guard Gate 9, Bushnell’s Basin

E Mile 249.47 43.074414 -77.464049

Bridge E131, Palmyra Road (NY 31)

E Mile 249.32 43.076434 -77.462704

Bridge E130A, water pipeline

E Mile 249.12 43.079059 -77.460669

Bridge E130, Aryault Road (CR 21)

E Mile 249.09, south side 43.079399 -77.460110

 Ayrault Road/Erie Canal Boat Launch

426 Ayrault Road
Fairport, NY 14450

FACILITIES: Portable toilet. Concrete ramp. Parking for 12 cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet. Call (585) 223-5050 for overnight parking.

FAIRPORT

Fairport takes its name from a traveler in 1829, who said this village was a “fair port” in which to stay. Today, the village is compact and walkable and contains many well-preserved Victorian homes and buildings.

During the boating season, free evening concerts are offered on weekends at Vincent G. Kenneley Park on the south side. The very popular annual Canal Days arts and music festival takes place the beginning of June.

LODGING

43.100344 -77.448076

Twenty Woodlawn Bed & Breakfast

20 Woodlawn Avenue
Fairport, NY 14450
(585) 377-8224
twentywoodlawnbedandbreakfast.com

About 0.40 miles from the Fairport docks.

PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

43.100398 -77.444215

Perinton Historical Society

18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450
(585) 223-3989
perintonhistoricalsociety.org

The Perinton Historical Society operates the Fairport Historical Museum. Both are housed in the town’s former library, a landmark building in the Palladian/Georgian Revival or Neoclassical style built in 1937.

43.099572 -77.434832

Thomas Creek Wetlands Walk

Liftbridge Lane East
Fairport, NY 14450

A 13-acre recreation and historical site tucked away on the north side of the canal about 0.10 mile east of the Parker Street Bridge, easily accessible from the Erie Canalway Trail. Thomas Creek and Irondequoit Creek run through the park. An elevated boardwalk and observation platform make this a good spot for nature viewing. An art installation near the entrance features a large sundial made of stones salvaged from the enlarged Erie Canal Lock 58, built in 1849. The lock was one of three closely spaced locks at Newark that lifted boats 24 feet in less than 0.25 mile.

E Mile 247.62, north side 43.099040 -77.456241

Fairport Crew Club Boathouse and Docks

PADDLING NOTE: Crews from the rowing club use this area for practice and have priority. Exercise caution.

E Mile 247.61 43.099890 -77.456158

Bridge E129, West Church Street (NY 31F)

E Mile 247.52, north side 43.101334 -77.456518

Perinton Park

99 O'Connor Road
Fairport, NY 14450
(585) 223-5050
perinton.org

FACILITIES: Low dock, restrooms, parking.

PADDLECRAFT RENTALS

E Mile 246.77 43.102691 -77.443059

Erie Canal Boat Company

7 Liftbridge Lane West
Fairport, NY 14450
(585) 748-2628
eriecanalboatcompany.com

Boat rentals and guided paddling trips. The company also operates the Adaptive Paddling and Cycling Center (APACC) to enable people with disabilities to enjoy recreational paddling.

E Mile 246.67 43.101573 -77.441875

Bridge E128, Main Street/Fairport Lift Bridge (NY 250)

The Fairport lift bridge is famed for its unusual configuration. Built in 1914 as part of the Barge Canal, it carries Main Street across the canal at a 32-degree angle, and slopes southwest to northeast. The bridge is lower on the north side than the south; one side of the bridge is longer than the other. The bridge is an irregular decagon; no two angles on it are the same, and no corners are square. Pedestrian staircases are at the eastern side on each end. Clearance closed: 7 feet. Clearance opened: 16 feet 3 inches. Call (585) 223-9412 for service.

WATERWAY CRUISES

E Mile 246.58 43.100704 -77.440750

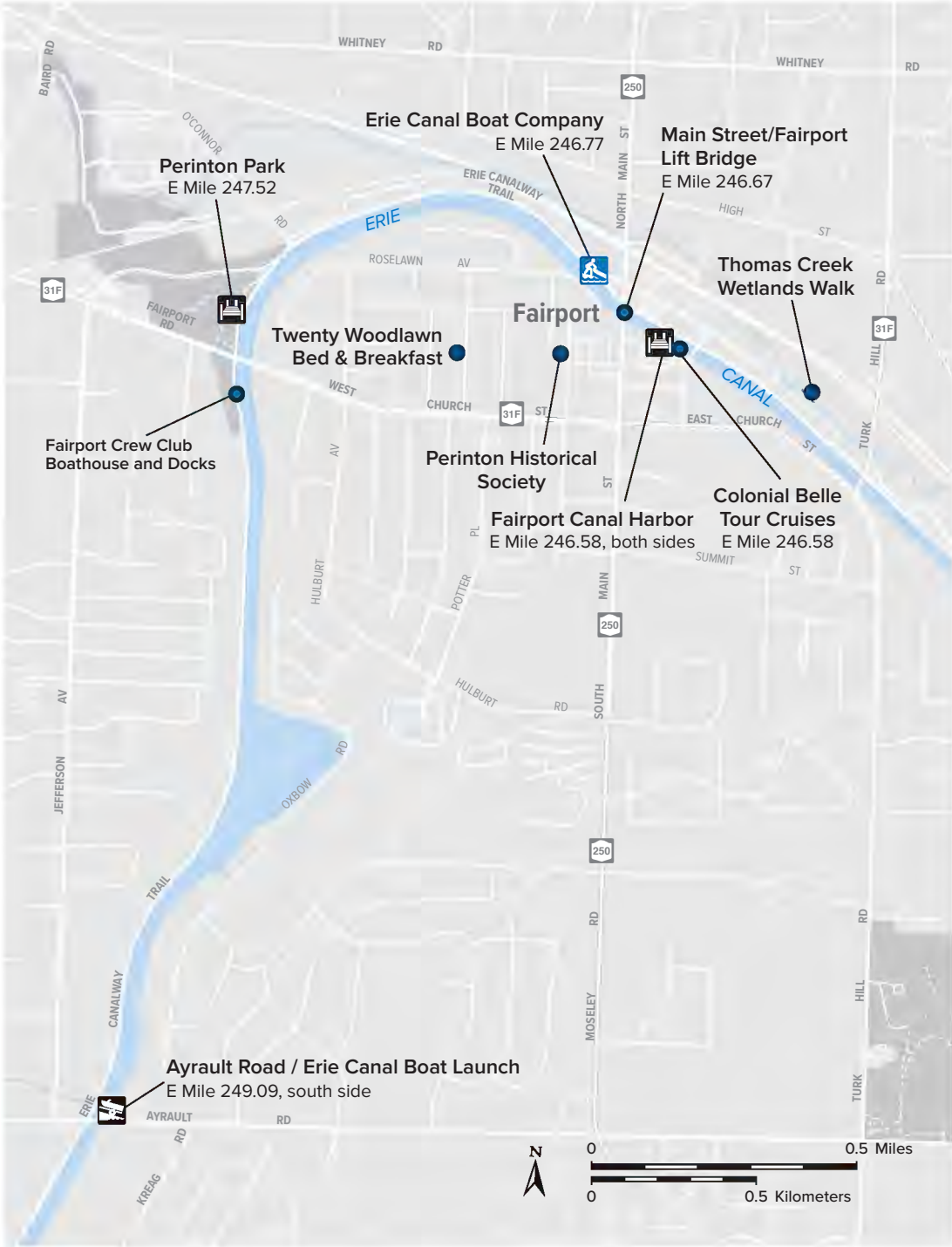
Colonial Belle Tour Cruises

400 Packetts Landing
Fairport, NY 14450
(585) 223.9470
colonialbelle.com

Sightseeing cruises on the Erie Canal aboard the *Colonial Belle*, the largest tour boat operating on the Erie Canal.

TICKET FEE. Reservations suggested.

SCHEDULE: Tuesday through Saturday, three departures daily, at 12 noon, 2:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, two departures, 12 noon and 2:30 p.m. Lunch and dinner available for additional fee.





Gary Eisenhart

E Mile 246.58, both sides 43.100720 -77.440189

Fairport Canal Harbor

Main Street
Fairport, NY 14450
(585) 223-0313
village.fairport.ny.us

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms, showers. Dock, low dock, car top launch and beach landing at Erie Canal Boat Company at western end, north side. Ample parking; small fee for overnight parking. Dockmasters are on duty daily, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Shops and restaurants are within easy walking distance of both sides of the canal.

PADDLING NOTE: Fairport is a very popular stop during the boating season. The harbor is often crowded with power boats. The canal is lined by vertical walls through town. The easiest place for paddlers to launch or take-out is at Erie Canal Boat Company, west of the lift bridge. Use caution.

E Mile 246.52 43.100604 -77.439319

Bridge E127, Parker Street

E Mile 246.11 43.097127 -77.432941

Bridge E126, Turk Hill Road (NY 31F)

E Mile 245.86 43.094793 -77.429269

Bridge E125A, pedestrian
This bridge links the Rochester, Syracuse and Eastern rail trail to the Erie Canalway Trail.

E Mile 244.33 43.087332 -77.401826

Bridge E-24, Lyndon Road (CR 44)

E Mile 243.77 43.075722 -77.371965

Numbered buoys mark the canal channel from this point east.

E Mile 242.07 43.075072 -77.361375

Bridge E-23, Wayneport Road (CR 206)

MACEDON

Like most towns along this route, the Erie Canal was an important factor in the settlement and growth of Macedon. Lock 30 Canal Park is a good place to launch a paddle trip in this area. The park allows camping and provides access for paddlers via ramp or a low dock.

CAMPING

E Mile 240.38 43.077119 -77.328040

Red's Twilight on the Erie RV Resort

1100 Marina Parkway
Macedon, NY 14502
(315) 986-REDS
twilightrv.com

E Mile 240.13, south side 43.076309 -77.323026

Mid-Lakes Marina/Mid-Lakes Navigation

1125 Marina Parkway
Macedon, NY 14502
(800) 545-4318
(315) 685-8500
macedonlanding.midlakesnav.com

FACILITIES: Full-service commercial marina. Small fee for boat ramp.

Lockmaster canalboat rentals from Mid-Lakes Navigation depart/return from the marina. Charters are available from mid-May to mid-October.

E Mile 239.98 43.076974 -77.320551

Bridge E-22, Canandaigua Road

E Mile 239.02 43.073330 -77.301880

Lock E30, Macedon

10 NY 350
Macedon, NY 14502
(315) 986-5631

LIFT: 16.4 feet.

FACILITIES: Water, portable toilet, picnic tables, camping, nature trail. Car top launch. The kayak dock is equipped with an overhead stability bar for safe and easy launching of canoes and kayaks. Parking for 25 cars. Distance from parking about 100 feet. Shops and restaurants in Macedon are an easy walk of one-quarter mile from Lock E30. Follow Railroad Avenue to Erie Street North to reach Main Street.

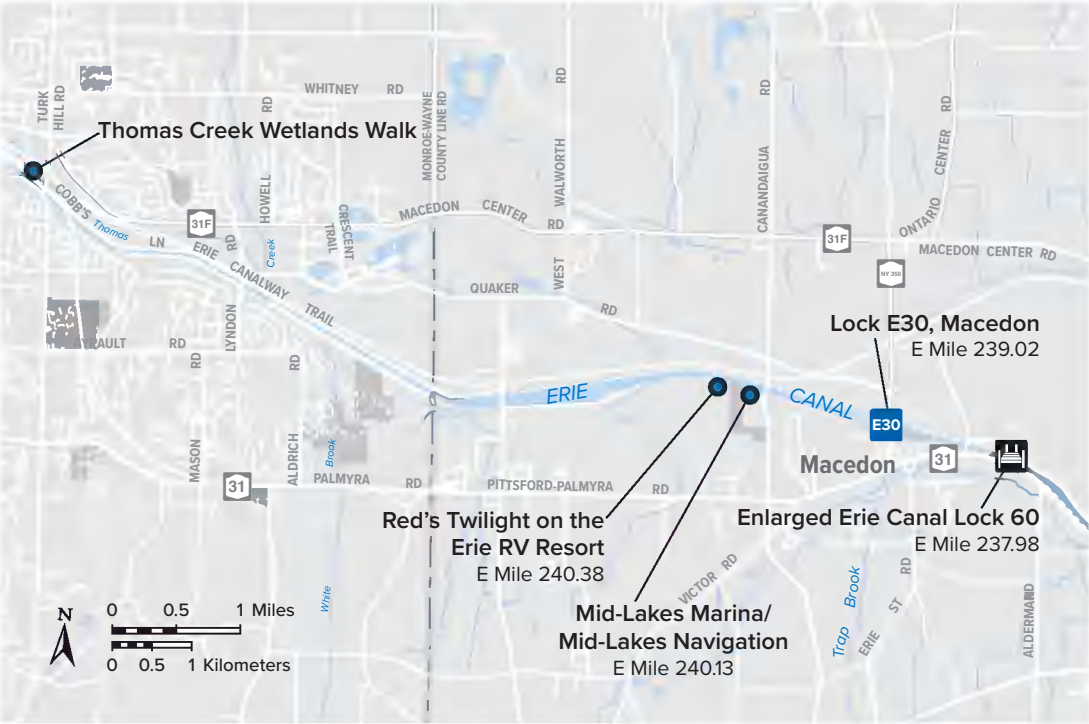
As you paddle west out of the launch area you are in an original section of the Erie Canal. Good day trip options from Lock 30 include heading east to historic Lock 60 (1.7 miles); Palmyra Macedon Aqueduct Park at Lock 29 (3.9 miles); or Port of Palmyra Marina (4.7 miles).

E Mile 238.93 43.073211 -77.300636

Bridge E121, Ontario Center Road (NY 350)
This bridge is supported by the downstream approach walls of Lock E30.

E Mile 238.59 43.072013 -77.294028

Bridge E120A, pipeline
The pipeline carries plastic pellets from railroad cars on the north bank to a factory on the south side, where they are molded into drinking cups. When the pipeline is in operation, you may hear a rattling sound.



E Mile 238.34 43.071198 -77.289540
Bridge E120, O'Neil Road/Quaker Road

E Mile 237.98, north side 43.070219 -77.282473

Enlarged Erie Lock 60
Just after you pass under the truss bridge for O'Neil Road, look to the north for the sign indicating Enlarged Erie Lock 60. You can land at the floating dock and explore this park centered on an especially well preserved example of an Enlarged Erie Canal lock. Opened in 1841 as a single lock with a 10-foot lift, it was later doubled in 1874 and

lengthened in 1888. This lock was abandoned in 1914 and replaced by Lock E30. Walk along the towpath and look for the places where tow ropes wore grooves into the limestone blocks. From here, you can backtrack west along the Erie Canalway Trail for about half a mile to reach the remains of the Enlarged Erie Canal Change Bridge No. 39.

E Mile 236.54 43.063552 -77.258235
Bridge E119, Walworth Road (CR 208)

PALMYRA

The Erie Canal transformed Palmyra from a cluster of cabins along Ganargua Creek (known at the time as Mud Creek) into a bustling village. Malt houses on the canal bank converted locally grown barley into a product that was used by breweries and distilleries across the state. Three companies manufactured packing, a flexible material used to seal joints and moving parts in steam engines and piping, which was sold throughout the world.

Known locally as the Queen of Canal Towns, the buildings and streets of downtown Palmyra retain much of the character of a

thriving 19th-century canal community. You can easily access amenities and museums from the Port of Palmyra Marina.

Palmyra is also the epicenter of Mormon history. Joseph Smith discovered the golden tablets that became the Book of Mormon in 1823 at Hill Cumorah, only a few miles outside of town. Learn about the events that occurred on and near the Hill Cumorah in the 1820s and visit a number of Mormon historic sites.

The annual Palmyra Pirate Weekend is held the second weekend of August. Palmyra Canaltown Days is an annual festival held the third weekend of September.

PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

43.006966 -77.226230

Hill Cumorah Visitor Center
653 NY 21
Palmyra, NY 14522
(315) 597-5851
hillcumorah.org

Hill Cumorah is approximately 4.4 miles south of the Port of Palmyra Marina.

43.064557 -77.229514

HISTORIC PALMYRA MUSEUM COMPLEX
132 Market Street
Palmyra NY 14522
(315) 597-6981
historicpalmyra.com

The Historic Palmyra Museum Complex contains five museums that illuminate local history and the role of the Erie Canal.

Palmyra Historical Museum
132 Market Street
Palmyra, NY 14522

Erie Canal Depot Museum
136 Market St.
Palmyra, NY 14522

William Phelps General Store and Home Museum
140 Market Street
Palmyra, NY 14522

The Print Shop Museum
140 Market Street
Palmyra, NY 14522

Ailing Coverlet Museum
122 William Street
Palmyra, NY 14522

LODGING

43.062834 -77.234219

Canaltown Bed & Breakfast

119 Canandaigua Street
Palmyra, NY 14522
(315) 597-5553
canaltownbnb.com

Located 0.50 mile from the Port of Palmyra Marina.

43.063860 -77.235447

Liberty House Bed & Breakfast

131 West Main Street
Palmyra, NY 14522
(315) 597-0011
libertyhousebb.com

Located 0.50 mile from the Port of Palmyra Marina.

E Mile 236.04 43.065260 -77.248710

Lock E29, Palmyra
2685 NY 31
Palmyra, NY 14522
(315) 597-6981

LIFT: 16.0 feet.

FACILITIES: Use Pal-Mac Park.

Lock E29 and the adjacent Palmyra Aqueduct Park (also known as Pal-Mac Park because it straddles the town line between Palmyra and Macedon) pack a lot of canal history into just about three acres.

Look for Mud Creek entering the canal just downstream of the lock on the south side—it's the paddling entry to the Pal-Mac Aqueduct

County Park. This park contains three fascinating pieces of canal history: the Aldrich Change Bridge, the remains of the Mud Creek aqueduct, and a short section of the Enlarged Erie Canal. All can be seen within an easy one-half mile walk along the section of the Erie Canal Heritage Trail that runs through the park.

E Mile 235.81, south side 43.065150 -77.244070

 **Pal-Mac Aqueduct County Park**
555 West Main Street
Ganargua Creek at western end
Palmyra, NY 14522
(315) 946-5836

FACILITIES: Restrooms, picnic tables, grills. Ramp. Parking for 20 cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

Although it has been moved several times, the Aldrich Towpath Change Bridge is one of the oldest metal bridges in the country. It is also one of the earliest examples of a truss bridge based on designs by the pioneering civil engineer Squire Whipple. It was originally erected over the Erie Canal in Rochester with ingenious approach ramps that allowed mules to change from one side to the other without having to disconnect their tow ropes.

Paddle up to Ganargua Creek (south side just downstream of the lock) about 0.25 mile to see the remains of the 1857 aqueduct. Stone arches that once carried the towpath are now part of the Erie Canalway Trail; stone piers to the north originally supported the aqueduct's wooden trunk. The trunk was removed around 1916 as part of Barge Canal construction and replaced with a concrete spillway on the upstream end of the aqueduct. The spillway makes an impressive waterfall.

A detailed map of the Palmyra area along the Erie Canal. The map shows the canal running horizontally across the middle. Key landmarks are labeled with icons and text: Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 60 (E Mile 237.98), Ganargua Creek Aqueduct (1857), Lock E29, Palmyra (E Mile 236.04), Palmyra Boat Launch (E Mile 234.61, south side), Harrison Spillway, Palmyra Boat Launch (E Mile 234.61, south side), Port of Palmyra Marina (E Mile 235.03), Historic Palmyra Museum Complex, Liberty House Bed & Breakfast, Canaltown Bed & Breakfast, and Pal-Mac Aqueduct County Park (E Mile 235.81). The map also shows several roads including Alderman Rd, Quaker Rd, Maple Ave, Main St, Palmyra-Newark Rd, and Hammond Rd. A scale bar indicates distances in miles (0 to 1) and kilometers (0 to 1). A north arrow is located in the top right corner.

E Mile 236.04 to Mile 226.25

PADDLING NOTE: From Lock 29 in Palmyra to Lock 28B in Newark is almost exactly 10 miles. As you paddle, look for drumlins, a common landform in central New York. These rounded, low hills made of glacial debris were left behind by the last Ice Age. Drumlins reflect the direction of glacial flow: they have an oval shape blunter at their northern end and more elongated at their southern end.

E Mile 235.28 43.067104 -77.233987

Bridge E118, Maple Avenue (CR 210)

E Mile 235.06 43.067354 -77.229560

Bridge E117, Division Street

E Mile 235.03, south side 43.066510 -77.228787

 **Port of Palmyra Marina**
2667 NY 31
(just east of Division Street Bridge)
Palmyra, NY 14522
(315) 597-4807
palmyrany.com

FACILITIES: Wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Car top launch, terraced steps. Parking for 30 cars. Muddy Waters Café is right on the canal at Division Street. From the marina, it's an easy walk to the shops, restaurants, and history museums of Palmyra.

E Mile 234.61, south side 43.064953 -77.221340

 **Palmyra Boat Launch**
End of Park Drive
Palmyra, NY 14522

FACILITIES: None. Ramp. Parking on road for six cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

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eriecanalway.org | NEW YORK STATE CANALWAY WATER TRAIL GUIDEBOOK 103



E Mile 234.56 43.064822 -77.220427

Bridge E116, Palmyra-Marion Road (NY 21)

E Mile 233.00, north side 43.068125 -77.185628

Ganargua Creek, which entered the canal just below Lock E29, returns to its natural course here, dropping over twin spillways on the north bank. You'll see it again when it rejoins the canal in Lyons. Metal pony truss bridges carry the Erie Canalway Trail across the spillways.

PADDLING NOTE: Use caution here and stay away from the spillway.

E Mile 232.54 43.066180 -77.181474

Bridge E115, Galloway Road

E Mile 230.00

As you approach the hamlet of Port Gibson, the white spire of the United Methodist Church comes into view on the south side. You are near the Widewaters, an area over 900 feet wide and about a mile and a half long. This was created as part of the Barge Canal expansion in the early 1900s. The new channel was about one-quarter mile to the north of the Enlarged Erie southern embankment. To avoid leaving Port Gibson literally high and dry, the area in between was flooded to create an artificial lake.

PADDLING NOTE: Stay to the north side of the canal in this area. The south shore has many summer cabins and there's a lot of small craft activity, fishing, and swimming.

E Mile 230.13 43.039914 -77.154225

Bridge E114, Port Gibson Road

E Mile 228.78, south side 43.0450851 -77.130725

Widewaters Canal Park

5271 NY 31

Newark, NY 14513

(315) 946-5836

co.wayne.ny.us

FACILITIES: Restrooms, picnic tables, grills. Two concrete boat ramps. Parking for 15 cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet. Camping is allowed with a free permit (call or email in advance). Swimming, wading, and alcohol are not allowed.

E Mile 227.00

The Widewaters narrow back down to the normal canal width in about two-tenths of a mile, just before the Whitbeck Road (CR 224) bridge. After the bridge, the canal curves southward.

E Mile 228.52 43.052429 -77.127535

Bridge E113, Whitbeck Road (CR 224)



Port of Palmyra

Keith Boas

NEWARK

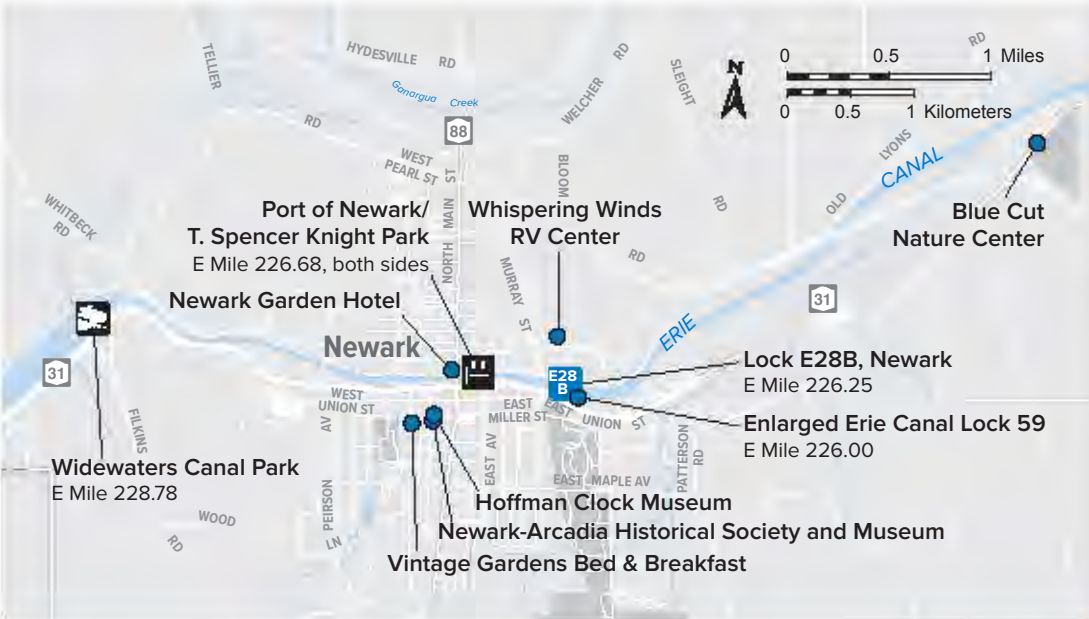


Keith Boas

Canal Murals, East Avenue Bridge, Newark

Newark grew from settlements initially formed by workers and their families who came to dig the Erie Canal. The opening of the canal and the New York Central Railroad nearby brought shipping, manufacturing, and prosperity to Newark.

The Port of Newark Marina/T. Spencer Knight Park and Visitor Center is an excellent place to launch a paddle trip or find information and services. In the summer, the Music on the Erie program brings bands to the park every Friday night from July to September.



LODGING

43.047838 -77.095759

Newark Garden Hotel

125 Main Street
Newark, NY 14513
(315) 331-9500
newarkgardenhotel.com

Located 400 feet from Port of Newark on the north side.

43.043993 -77.099507

Vintage Gardens Bed & Breakfast

310 High Street
Newark, NY 14513
(315) 331-6045
vintagegardensbandb.com

Located 0.4 miles from Port of Newark on the north side.

CAMPING

43.057806 -77.088125

Whispering Winds RV Center

2 Country Club Drive
Newark, NY 14513
(315) 331-0786
whisperingwindsrv.com

E Mile 227.46 43.048035 -77.108277

Bridge E112, Edgett Street

E Mile 226.79 43.047239 -77.095372

Bridge E111, Main Street (NY 88)
Look underneath the bridge for the two murals depicting rose gardens. Newark was once called the Rose Capital of the World because the famed rose growers Jackson & Perkins had nurseries here.

PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

43.044196 -77.097464

Newark-Arcadia Historical Society and Museum

120 High Street
Newark, NY 14513
(315) 331-6409
newarkarcadiamuseum.org

43.044613 -77.097399

Hoffman Clock Museum

121 High Street
Newark, NY 14513
(585) 586-2942
hoffmanclockmuseum.org

E Mile 226.68, both sides 43.047668 -77.093181

Port of Newark/T. Spencer Knight Park
199 Van Buren Street
Newark, NY 14513
(315) 331-2705
newarknychamber.org

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, laundry. Located between the Veteran’s Memorial Bridge (East Avenue) and the North Main Street Bridge on both sides of the water, this free marina has 1,200 feet of bulkhead and a floating dock. Free parking. Village restaurants and shops are within easy walking distance.

E Mile 226.66 43.047480 -77.092644

Bridge E110, East Avenue/Veteran’s Memorial Bridge
Don’t miss the extensive murals painted on the north abutment of the Veteran’s Memorial Bridge.

E Mile 226.38 43.047215 -77.087330

Bridge E109, abandoned Pennsylvania Rail Road bridge

E Mile 226.25 43.046959 -77.084670

Lock E28B, Newark
116 North Clinton Street
Newark, NY 14513
(315) 331-3296

LIFT: 12.0 feet.

FACILITIES: Portable toilet, picnic tables. Tie up at the lock walls.

Why is this lock designated Lock 28B? Barge Canal engineers originally planned a single lock at Lyons with a lift of 31.5 feet, but the route changed slightly by the time construction contracts for this section were awarded in 1910.

Splitting the single high lift in two avoided the expense of modifying existing railroad bridges along the new route. The numbering system for the rest of the Erie had been established since 1903. In this instance, it was easier to call the locks 28A and 28B than to renumber all the others.

The well-preserved stone chambers of Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 59, complete with a rare surviving locktenders’ shanty, are in a pocket park across the street from Lock E28B. Lock 59 was the uppermost of three closely spaced locks in a neighborhood called Lockville.

E Mile 226.21 43.046853 -77.083817

Bridge E108, North Clinton Street

E Mile 224.65 43.058100 -77.059021

Bridge E106, CSX railroad

E Mile 223.70 43.065872 -77.043870

Bridge E105, County House Road

E Mile 222.46, south side 43.066037 -77.026928

Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 56
The remains of Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 56 are on the south side, about half a mile before Lock E28A. Also known as the Poor House Lock because it was near the county home (now the site of the county jail), this lock was built in 1849, extended in 1888, and superseded by the Barge Canal in 1915. The stone lock chambers and associated structures are in fairly good shape and the site still holds some water. An old brick house nearby was once a grocery but is now a private residence.

E Mile 222.30

The silver dome of the 1854 Wayne County Courthouse in the village of Lyons comes into view.

LYONS



NYS Tug Seneca, Lyons

Alan Fontaine

The fields and rolling hills around Lyons were once covered with peppermint plants. They stretched as far as the eye could see, releasing a scent that canal travelers could smell for miles. Lyons was the peppermint capital of the world. From 1841 to 1900, H.G. Hotchkiss Essential Oil Company crushed the leaves and refined pure peppermint oil. The oil was shipped around the globe and used to make food, candies, medicines, and perfumes.

Today, Lyons is the seat of Wayne County. The centerpiece of the town is the Broad

Street-Water Street Historic District. Most of the buildings date from the 1830s to the 1890s. You’ll find amenities and restaurants, as well as many wonderful murals throughout the town. Lyons holds a Peppermint Days festival every July.

PADDLING NOTE: Although Lock 27 is closest to downtown shops, it is not the best place to put in or take out due to steep access from the canal. A better place to launch or take out is Abbey Park, one-half mile walk on the Erie Canalway Trail from the center of town.



LODGING

43.0242331 -77.032713

Peppermint Cottage B&B
336 Pleasant Valley Road
Lyons, NY 14489
(315) 946-4811

E Mile 222.27 43.062489 -77.019829

Lock E28A, Lyons
7665 Dry Dock Road
Lyons, NY 14489
(315) 946-4410

LIFT: 19.5 feet.

FACILITIES: Tie up at the lock walls or find the protected inlet on the south side of the canal just east of the lock walls. This area has ample roadside parking along NY 31.

A retired buoy boat is on display in the park area adjacent to the lock. This 1927 vessel was once used to service and refuel the lighted buoys in the days of oil lamps.

Lyons Dry Dock

Located on the north side alongside Lock E28A, the Lyons Dry Dock is one of three NYS Canal Corporation dry docks. The dry dock has gates like those of a lock. Boats needing hull repairs, maintenance, or winter storage float in and the water is drained out, leaving the boat resting on blocks. This is a very busy area during the canal season. At any given time, you can see work being done on tugboats, dredges, derrick boats, and many other vessels. Several historic boats are based here, including the 1911 steam-powered *Dipper Dredge No. 3*.

E Mile 222.76, south side 43.060303 -77.016219

Trout Brook enters the canal on the south side just after the lock.

E Mile 221.36, north side 43.063198 -77.003660

Miller's Marina
185 Water Street
Lyons, NY 14489
(315) 946-9363

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

Private marina; paddlers welcome.

E Mile 221.33, north side 43.063290 -77.002660

Abbey Park
117 West Water Street
Lyons, NY 14489
(315) 946-5830

FACILITIES: Water, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, pavilion. Boat ramp. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet. No swimming.

This little park at the confluence of the canal and Ganargua Creek (Mud Creek) is the best place to launch a paddling trip near Lyons. It is also the best place for paddlers to pull-out to access amenities in Lyons, which is a half mile walk on the Erie Canalway Trail from the park. The abutments of Ganargua Creek Aqueduct are visible at the north end of the park.

E Mile 221.01 43.062303 -77.996364

Bridge E101, Leach Road
(crosses directly above Lock 27)

PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

43.062848 -77.996205

H.G. Hotchkiss Peppermint Museum
95 Water Street
Lyons, NY 14489
(315) 946-4596
lyonsheritagesociety.org

43.064986 -77.039490

Blue Cut Nature Center
7210 NY 31
Lyons, NY 14489
(315) 946-5830

The preserve covers 40 acres of mixed wetlands, woods, and fields. Outhouses and picnic tables; no water. No biking allowed.

E Mile 220.99 43.062229 -76.996120

Lock E27, Lyons

1 Leach Road
Lyons, NY 14489
(315) 946-4062

LIFT: 12.5 feet.

FACILITIES: Power boats tie up at the lock walls or at the Lyons terminal wall just east of the lock on the north side.

PADDLING NOTE: Exercise caution when approaching the lock from the west. The spillway on river right has a strong draw and can be hard to see from upstream. Below the lock, the combined flow of the Canandaigua Lake Outlet and water over the spillway can generate a lot of turbulence.

E Mile 220.82, south side 43.061163 -76.994060

Lyons Southside Canal Park

NY 14/31 (intersection behind McDonald’s)
Lyons, NY 14489
lyonstown.com

FACILITIES: Electric, picnic tables. Boat dock.

The Town of Lyons operates this small park on the site of the Lyons canal terminal.

E Mile 220.80, north side 43.061500 -76.992870

Lyons Dock

Water Street
Lyons, NY 14489
(315) 946-6206
lyonsny.com

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, picnic tables, restrooms, showers. Large floating dock.

The Village of Lyons operates this dock just east of Lock E27. The dock is 500 feet long, with an 80-foot low floating dock, but it requires a 2-foot step up for paddlers to access the

dock. Free restrooms and showers are available from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the fire station up a steep hill from the dock. It’s a short walk to shops and restaurants.

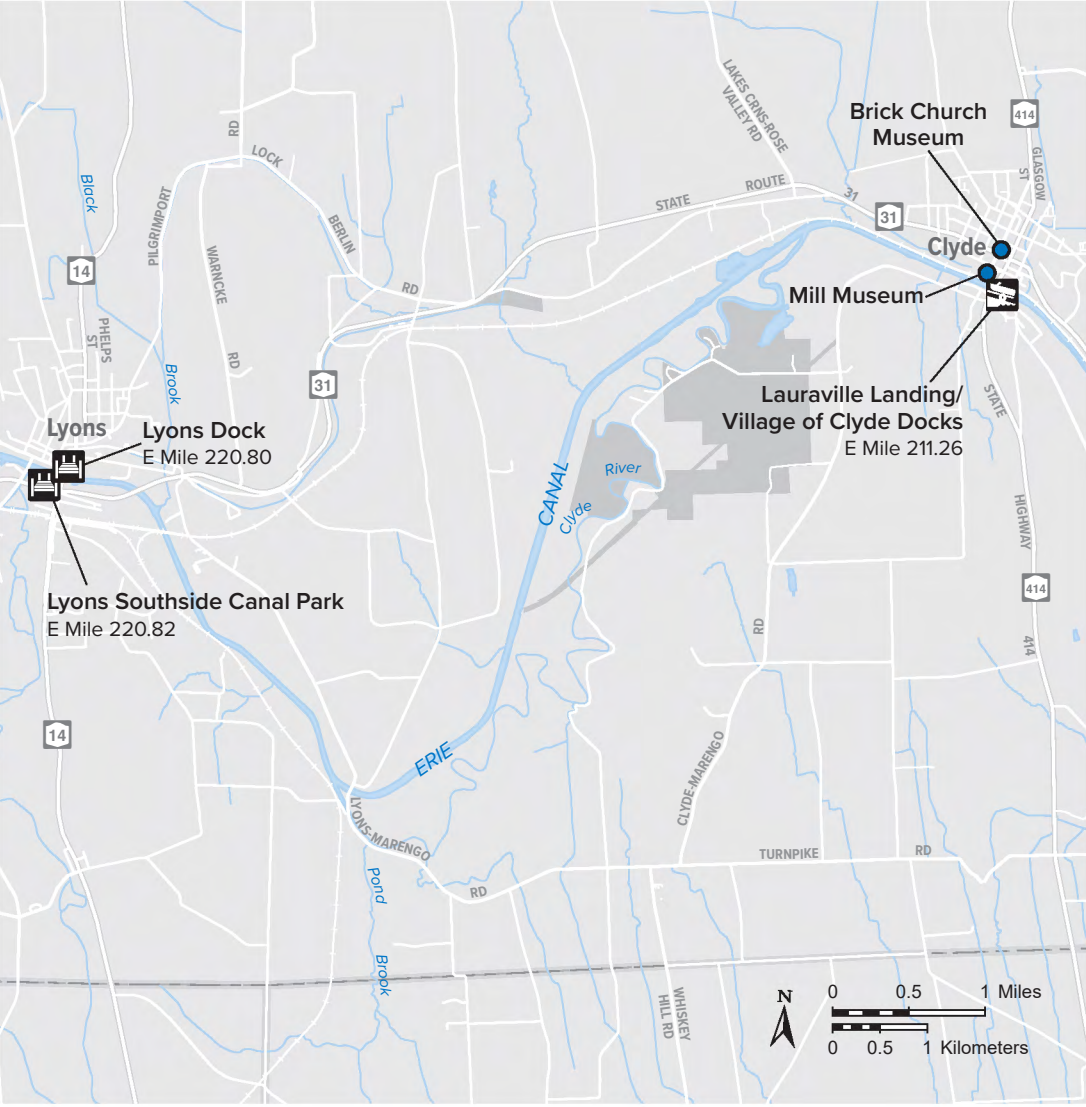
E Mile 220.77 43.060940 -77.992068

Bridge E100, Geneva Street (NY 14)

PADDLING THE CLYDE

When the canal was enlarged in 1918, it took advantage of existing rivers when possible. In this next stretch, you will be paddling on the canalized Clyde River. The Clyde River flows east for about 27 miles to become a major tributary of the Seneca River in the Cayuga marshes. The Clyde was heavily altered by Barge Canal construction, with a comparatively straight channel dredged through winding bends. Remnants of the river survive, winding through wetlands along the south side of the canal. It joins and diverges from the navigation channel at several points along the way, providing opportunities for paddlers to explore loops and oxbows.

To stay in the Erie Canal channel, follow the green and red buoys; the meandering river sections have no markers. Be aware that large portions get clogged with vegetation and debris during summer months. The section between Lyons and the Village of Clyde can be paddled alone or as a loop with the canal. Be cautious near Lock 25; the Clyde channel ends in a movable dam about 200 yards south of the lock.



E Mile 220.27 43.059856 -76.982516

Bridge E99A, Forgham Street (NY 31)

E Mile 219.94 43.056146 -76.978729

Bridge E99, CSX railroad

E Mile 218.67 43.042199 -76.963705

Bridge E97, abandoned railroad

E Mile 217.76 43.032082 -76.953761

Bridge E96, Lyons-Marengo Road (CR 344)

CLYDE

Called Lauraville when it was founded as a single blockhouse in 1722, this little village became Clyde in 1835, named by a nostalgic Scottish engineer for its similarity to his hometown on the River Clyde. (A replica of the blockhouse is east of the village on NY 31.) Clyde was once noted for glass manufacturing. Today, it’s a quiet residential town. Shops and restaurants are in the business district on the north side of the canal. The village is locally known for its annual carnival and fireworks display every August 15, sponsored by the Clyde Fire Department. The best place to launch a paddling trip here is from Lauraville Landing/Village of Clyde docks on the south side of the canal.

PADDLING NOTE: Do not attempt to access the business district by paddling to the north side of the canal. Active and busy railroad tracks run between the canal and village center here. Dock on the south side and carefully cross the Glassgow Street (NY 414) bridge on foot instead.

E Mile 211.32 43.081074 -76.871701
Bridge E94, Glassgow Street (NY 414)

E Mile 211.26, south side 43.080489 -76.870570

 Lauraville Landing/Village of Clyde Docks

Meadow Street
Clyde, NY 14433
(315) 923-3121

FACILITIES: Portable toilets, picnic tables, pavilion. Low dock and boat ramp. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 50 yards. Camping allowed with free permit; call the village office at (315) 923-3971 during business hours.

**PLACES OF INTEREST
OFF THE WATER**

The Galen Historical Society operates two museums in Clyde. Check in advance for admission fees and hours by visiting galenhistoricalsociety.org.

43.084791 -76.870812

Brick Church Museum

31 North Park Street
Clyde, NY 14433
(315) 923-7150

43.082558 -76.872590

Mill Museum

14 Sodus Street
Clyde, NY 14433
(315) 923-7150

E Mile 209.36 43.064726 -76.841460
Bridge E93, abandoned railroad

E Mile 209.12, south side 43.061480 -76.839687

 Lock E26 Car Top Launch

Lock Road, about 750 feet upstream of the lock
Clyde, NY 14433

FACILITIES: Hand launch. Parking for five cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

E Mile 208.94 43.059050 -76.838179

Lock E26, Clyde

11500 Lock Road
Clyde, NY 14433
(315) 923-9720

LIFT: 6 feet.

FACILITIES: Tie up at walls on south side above and below the lock.

PADDLING NOTE: Warning buoys support a cable that marks off the area around the movable dam. Do not enter this area.

E Mile 209.44 to 203.11

The Clyde River will meet and leave the canal several times between here and Lock E25. (See page 112.) Through this stretch, remnants of both the original Erie Canal and the Enlarged Erie Canal can sometimes be glimpsed on the north side of the canal channel.

E Mile 205.59 43.020942 -76.798506

Bridge E92, Armitage Road (CR 105)
Armitage Road marks the northern edge of the Montezuma National Wildlife Reserve.

E Mile 203.67, north side 43.002577 -76.769994

Oak Orchard Marina and Campground

NY 89 at May’s Point
Savannah, NY 13146
(315) 365-3000
oakorchard.com

FACILITIES: Water, portable restrooms, showers. Dedicated dock and concrete ramp. Distance from parking about 100 feet.

Private marina and campground.

E Mile 203.23 43.999079 -76.764209

Bridge E91, Mays Point (NY 89)

E Mile 203.11 42.998779 -76.761780

Lock E25, Mays Point

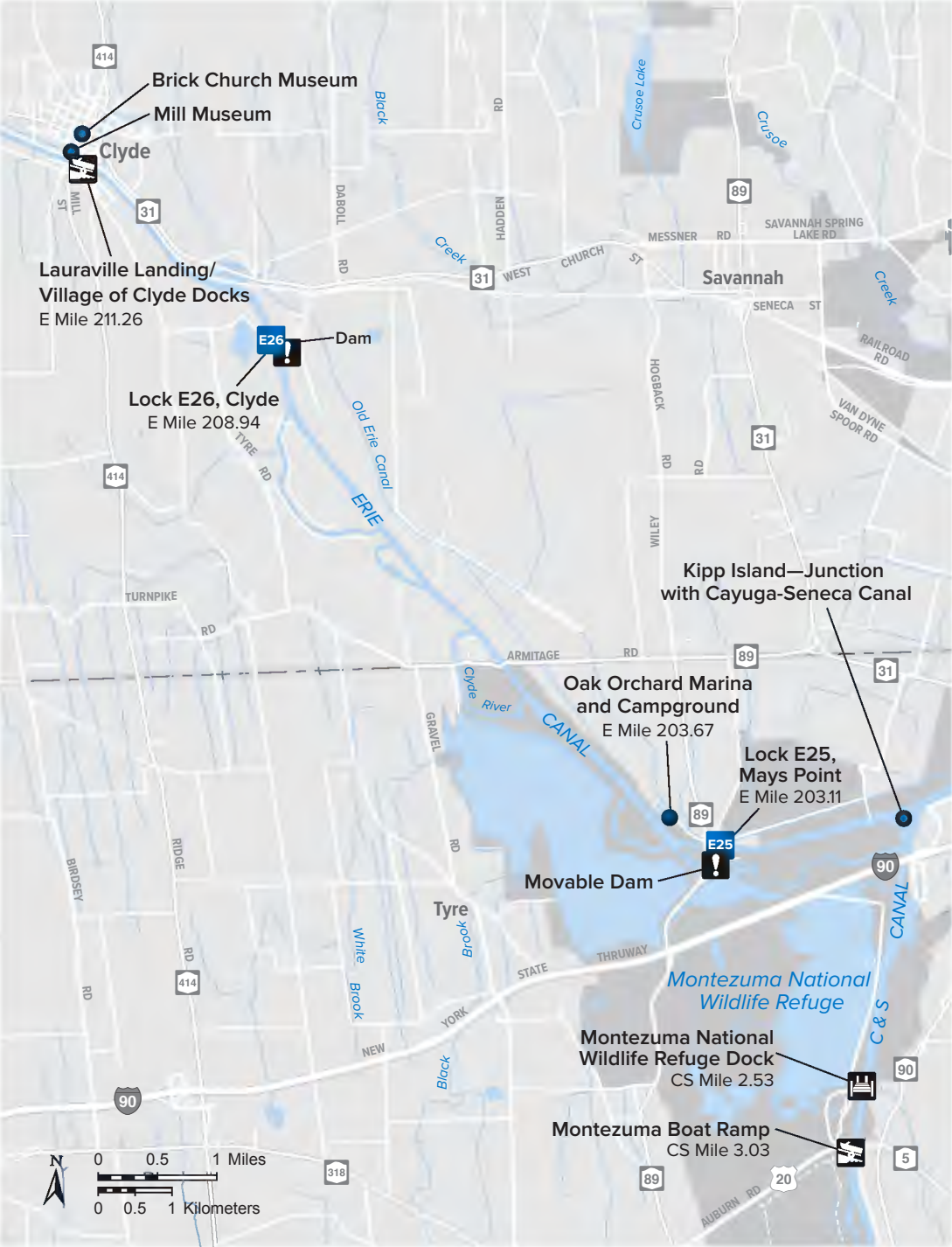
546 South Mays Point Road
Savannah, NY 13146
(315) 365-3241

LIFT: 6 feet.

FACILITIES: Tie up at the approach wall at the western end, south side. Portable restrooms.

A vast marshland used to extend from Mays Point and Cayuga Lake outlet to Cross Lake. These wetlands along the Clyde and Seneca rivers posed major challenges to canal builders. Channels cut through the thick, waist-deep mud would fill back in overnight. When work began in the summer of 1818, many of the workers recruited to do the digging were infected by the malaria-carrying mosquitoes that swarmed in the marshes; others were felled by typhus and other illnesses. When cold weather killed off the mosquitoes for the season and froze the mud, the pace quickened and this section of the canal was completed in the spring of 1819. About 1,000 workers died constructing this section of the canal.

Soon after the canal opened, new settlers pressed the state to drain the marshes so the rich underlying soil could be farmed. Barge Canal construction in the bed of the Seneca River during the early 1900s lowered the water table to a point where the marshes almost disappeared. In 1937, the federal government purchased 6,432 acres of former marshland to establish what would become Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Civilian Conservation Corps workers built dikes to hold the water at its former level and restore the wetlands. Today the refuge encompasses over 10,000 acres of swamps and pools and is an important stopping place for migratory birds. In 1973 it was designated a National Natural Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior.



E Mile 201.38 43.002883 -76.731922

Kipp Island

Kipp Island marks the entrance to the Cayuga-Seneca Canal. To stay in the Erie Canal, paddle to the north of the island, looking for channel buoys R548 and R546 and G545, G543, and G541.

The western end of the Seneca River Crossing Canals Historic District begins here; the eastern end is in the Town of Montezuma. The district includes the Enlarged Erie Canal prism (dating 1849-1857) and remnants of the original Erie Canal. The district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.

CAYUGA-SENECA CANAL

The Cayuga-Seneca Canal is the gateway to the Finger Lakes, connecting the Erie Canal at Montezuma to 92 miles of canalized rivers and lakes, including the Seneca River and Cayuga and Seneca Lakes. The region includes Seneca Falls, celebrated as the birthplace of the women’s rights movement, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, and the Finger Lakes Region, renowned for its natural beauty, elegant architecture, vineyards, and world-class cultural and recreational attractions.

Water Trail sites along the Cayuga-Seneca Canal can be found starting on page 206.

MONTEZUMA

Watch for Wildlife

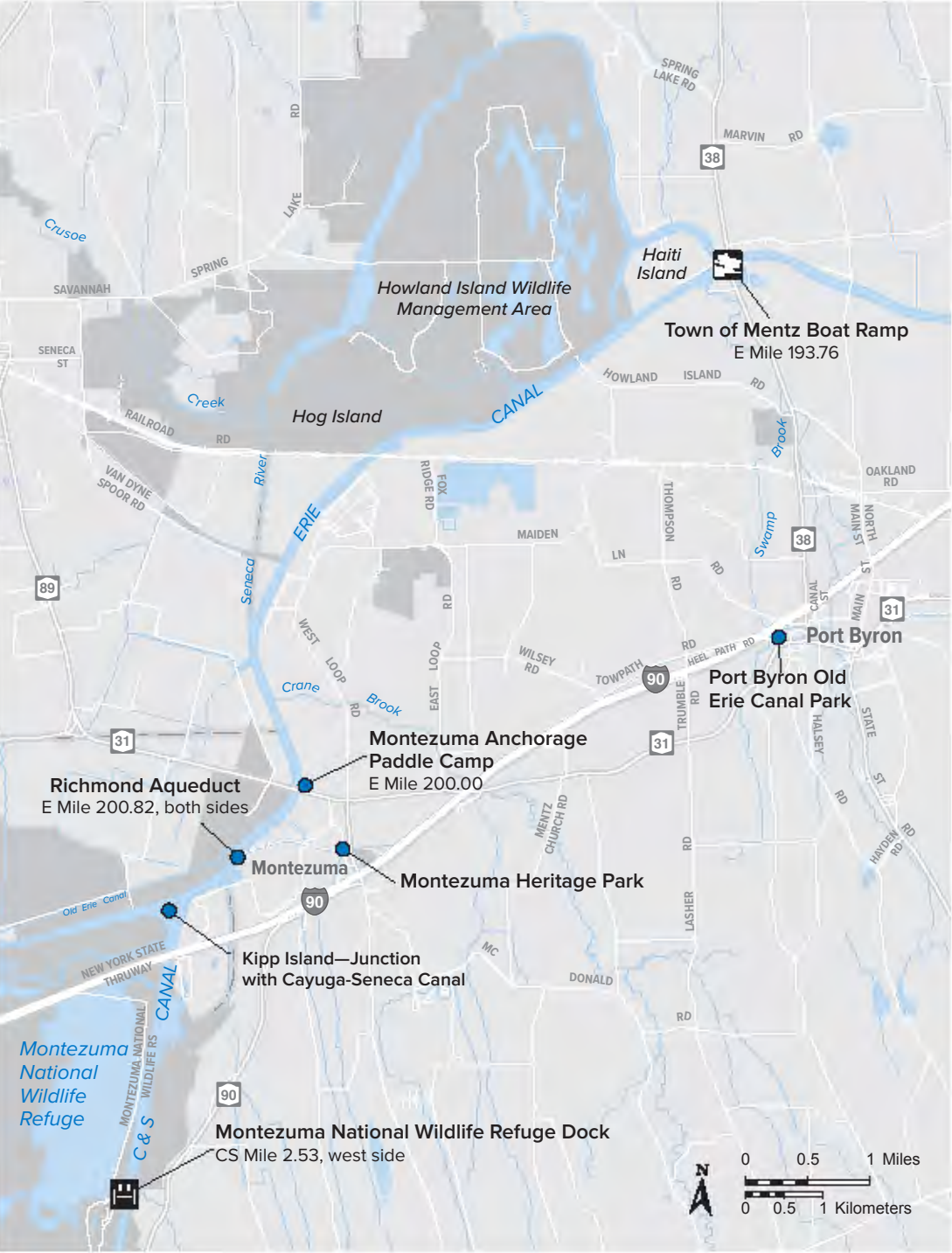
This next stretch of the canal passes through the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. The 9,800-acre wetland complex is a premier waterfowl watching site and provides prime nesting, feeding, and resting habitat for migratory birds. Warbler and songbird migration peaks in mid-May. Mid-September to mid-November is peak viewing of up to 50,000 Canada geese and 150,000 ducks. Watch for great blue herons, ospreys, eagles, and swallows all summer long.

You can also access the refuge from the Cayuga-Seneca Canal. Dock at the seasonal floating dock and go ashore to walk the one-mile Seneca Trail loop and stop in the visitor center and store.

E Mile 200.82, both sides 43.009417 -76.720372

Richmond Aqueduct

The remains of the Richmond Aqueduct are on both sides of the canal here. The original Erie Canal crossed the Seneca River on a slackwater just downstream, with towing animals walking on a wooden trestle. When the canal was enlarged during the 1840s and 1850s, engineers decided to move the channel to higher ground and build an aqueduct to carry the canal across the flood-prone river. Named for Van Rensselaer Richmond, the engineer who designed it, the aqueduct was the second largest on the Enlarged Erie Canal (the Lower Mohawk Aqueduct at Crescent was the longest). It spanned the river with 31 stone arches that were 11 feet high and 22 feet wide. The completed aqueduct was 86 feet wide and almost 900 feet long. The Barge Canal enlargement dredged the river to 12 feet deep and made the aqueduct obsolete. During the winter of 1917, the central part of



Richmond Aqueduct, Montezuma

the aqueduct was removed to allow boats to pass on the newly canalized river. On the Cayuga County side (east), seven arches remain. On the Seneca County (west) side, three arches can still be seen.

PADDLING NOTE: Woody debris accumulates between the old arches. Exercise caution when paddling up to view the aqueduct remains.

43.010617 -76.703828

Montezuma Heritage Park

8115 High Street
Montezuma, NY 13117
(315) 776-8844
montezumahistoricalsociety.org

A pullout near the Richmond Aqueduct will enable you to access the park. Plans are underway for an improved landing at this site.

The Richmond Aqueduct and other remnants of canal history are preserved in this park. Trails within the 140-acre park lead to the remains of Lock 62 from the original Erie Canal, to an old drydock, and to some sections of the old towpath.

E Mile 200.11 43.017348 -76.711531

Bridge E90, NY 31

E Mile 200.00, south side 43.017628 -76.709585

Montezuma Anchorage Paddle Camp

447 Bridge Street
Montezuma, NY 13117
(315) 766-9999
montezumacamp.com

FACILITIES: Electric, water, portable restrooms, camping. Floating docks, ramp. Ample parking.

Private marina.

E Mile 199.45, south side 43.027888 -76.715090

Crane Brook enters from the south.

E Mile 199.17, north side 43.031897 -76.719017

A stream enters from the north.

E Mile 198.93 43.036882 -76.718467

The Seneca River and Erie Canal diverge at Hog Island. To remain in the Erie Canal, stay to the south side and look for buoys R524 and R522 and G521.

E Mile 197.06 43.056008 -76.700561

Bridge E87, railroad

E Mile 196.31, north side 43.059488 -76.685614

A straight channel joins the canal at marker R508.

E Mile 195.18 43.067504 -76.668002

Bridge E86, Howland Island Road (CR 139)
This bridge is closed to traffic but can be crossed by foot. Park in the lot on Carncross Road in Savannah.

E Mile 195.16, north side 43.068160 -76.668149

Howland Island Wildlife Management Area

FACILITIES: Beach landing.

DEC fishing access site.

PADDLING NOTE: The closure of the Howland Island Bridge makes this launch very hard to reach by car.

E Mile 194.78, north side 43.071320 -76.661893

Seneca River diverges from the Erie Canal at Haiti Island. To remain in the canal, stay to the south and look for buoys R500 and G499.

E Mile 193.77, south side 43.076807 -76.648253

The Owasco Lake outlet joins the canal here.

E Mile 193.76, south side 43.078861 -76.644932

Town of Mentz Boat Ramp

Conquest Road (NY 38) at bridge

FACILITIES: Car top launch, ramp. Parking for 30 cars; overnight parking with 24-hour limit. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

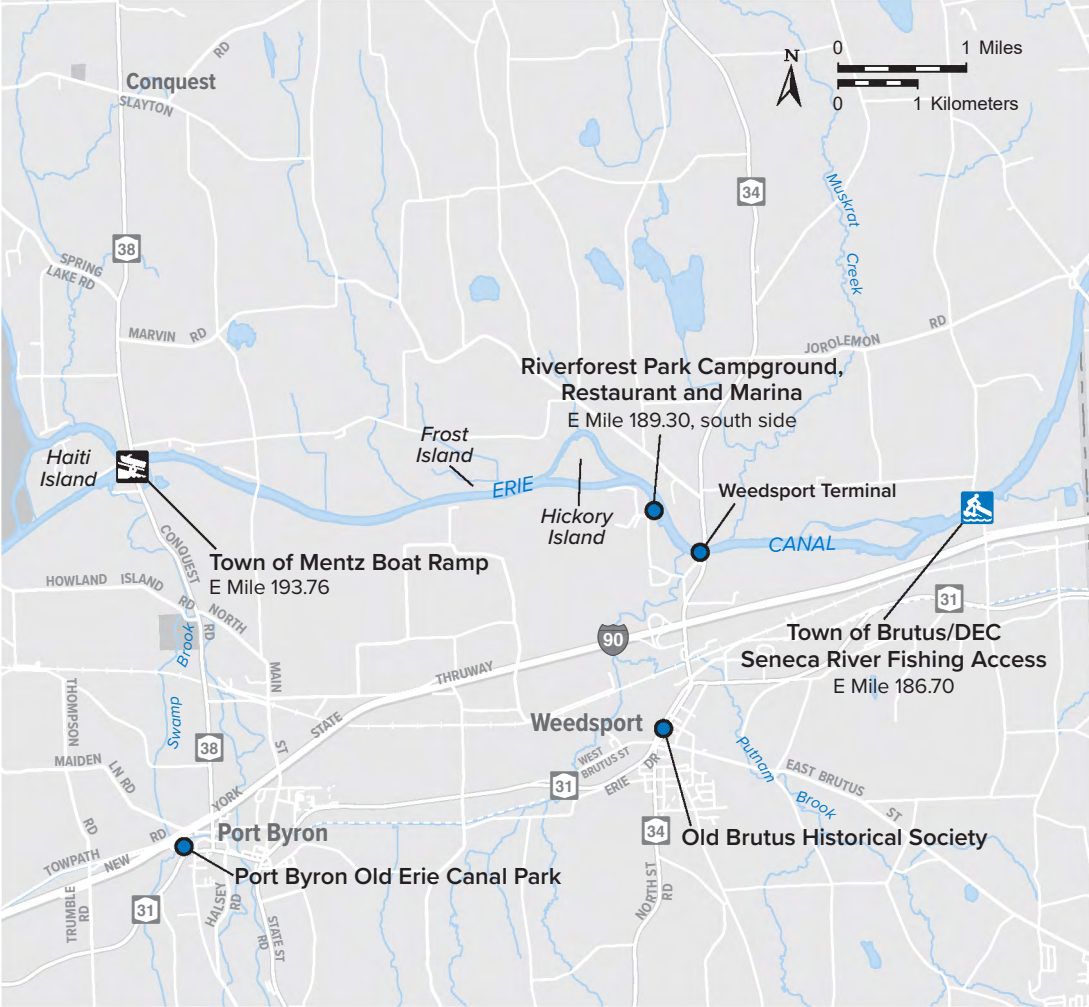
E Mile 193.76, north side 43.07886 -76.64493

A branch of the Seneca River joins the canal here.

PORT BYRON OLD ERIE CANAL HERITAGE PARK

The Erie Canal Lock 52 complex is located in the Village of Port Byron, about 3.3 miles south of the NY 38 bridge. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. The Canal Society of New York State operates the 18-acre Port Byron Old Erie Canal Heritage Park. The park includes old Erie Canal Lock 52, built in 1853 as part of the canal enlargement. When the canal was enlarged again in 1917 to become the Barge Canal, the path was moved to the Seneca River to the north, bypassing the lock and the Village of Port Byron. The park, the Erie House tavern (a rare surviving example of a once typical lock-side business), a blacksmith shop, and a mule barn, are all original to the site. There is a modern visitor center with restrooms. While it is not directly accessible from the water, it can be reached directly from New York State Thruway (I-90) east and from NY 31.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit newyorkcanals.org



E Mile 193.75 43.079283 -76.644718

Bridge E85, Conquest Road (NY 38)

E Mile 192.72 43.076505 -76.625577

Bridge E84, O'Neil Road (CR 19B)

E Mile 191.82, north side 43.077200 -76.586602

A branch of the Seneca River diverges from the canal here to form Frost Island.

E Mile 191.25, north side 43.078515 -76.581519

A branch of the Seneca River diverges from the canal here to form Hickory Island.

WEEDSPORT

The Erie Canal once passed through the center of Weedsport, but the Barge Canal bypassed the village. The old Erie Canal is now Erie Drive (NY 31). Today the village is about 1.25 miles south of the canalized Seneca River. The name comes from the Weed brothers, who built a basin on the Erie Canal in 1818. The surrounding town of Brutus was established in 1827; the Village of Weedsport was incorporated in 1831.

CAMPING

E Mile 189.30, south side
43.074632 -76.564865

Riverforest Park Campground, Restaurant and Marina
9439 Riverforest Road
Weedsport, NY 13166
(315) 834-9458
riverforestpark.org

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms, showers, camping. Low dock, concrete ramp. Ample parking. Distance from parking about 500 feet.

Private marina and campground.
Restaurant on site.

E Mile 188.90, south side 43.070508 -76.557181
Weedsport Terminal Wall

FACILITIES: None. Devaney’s Riverside Grill at the terminal wall has a small dock for guests and is open 7 days a week. Shops, restaurants, and motels are in Weedsport about 1.25 miles south of the canal on NY 34.

PLACE OF INTEREST
OFF THE WATER

43.050423 -76.562283
Old Brutus Historical Society
8943 North Seneca Street
Weedsport, NY 13166
(315) 834-9342
oldbrutushistorical.org

E Mile 188.87 43.070693 -76.556631
Bridge E83, NY 34

E Mile 186.70, south side 43.076059 -76.514520
 **Town of Brutus/DEC Seneca River Fishing Access**
At Bonta Road Bridge
Jordan, NY 130

FACILITIES: Car top launch and beach landing. Parking for 15 cars. Distance from parking about 350 feet. No camping.

DEC fishing access point.

PADDLING NOTE: The site can be very muddy.

E Mile 186.60 43.076718 -76.514414
Bridge E81, Bonta Bridge Road

E Mile 184.70 43.100657 -76.499089
Bridge E80, River Road (CR 61)

CROSS LAKE

E Mile 183 43.105960 -76.482965

Straddling Cayuga and Onondaga counties, Cross Lake is about 4.5 miles long and covers 1,947 acres. The Erie Canal runs through the south end of the lake for about 1.35 miles. Follow buoys to stay in the channel. Little Island is to the south of the channel; Big Island is to the north. These islands and the water around them are the Cross Lake Islands Wildlife Management Area. No camping or swimming is allowed in the WMA.

PADDLING NOTE: Waterfowl hunting is permitted on Cross Lake. Exercise caution during hunting season from mid-September to the end of October.

E Mile 182.65 43.111195 -76.458245

Big Island
The canal takes a sharp turn south at the eastern tip of Big Island.

E Mile 181.85 43.103599 -76.443567

State Ditch Cut
Follow buoys into the State Ditch Cut, a shortcut that carries the canal across a long oxbow on the Seneca River bypassing the old river hamlet of Jack’s Reef. The Cut is about 0.90 miles long. The Seneca River joins it at mile 180.95.

E Mile 180.82 43.112989 -76.438824
Bridge E79, Plainville Road (CR 32)
The distance between Bridge E79 and Lock E24 in Baldwinsville is about 8 miles.

CAMPING

43.150221 -76.502533
Cross Lake Inn & Marina
81 Fire Lane 18
Cato, NY 13033
(315) 626-6718
crosslakeinnandmarina.com

3.4 miles north of the canal, on the west side of the lake.

FACILITIES: Electric, restrooms, showers, snack bar, camping. Concrete ramp, low docks, and boat slips. Distance from parking about 400 feet.

43.134101 -76.474339
Sunset Park Campground
456 Sprague Road
Memphis, NY 13112
(315) 635-6450
sunsetparkcampground.com

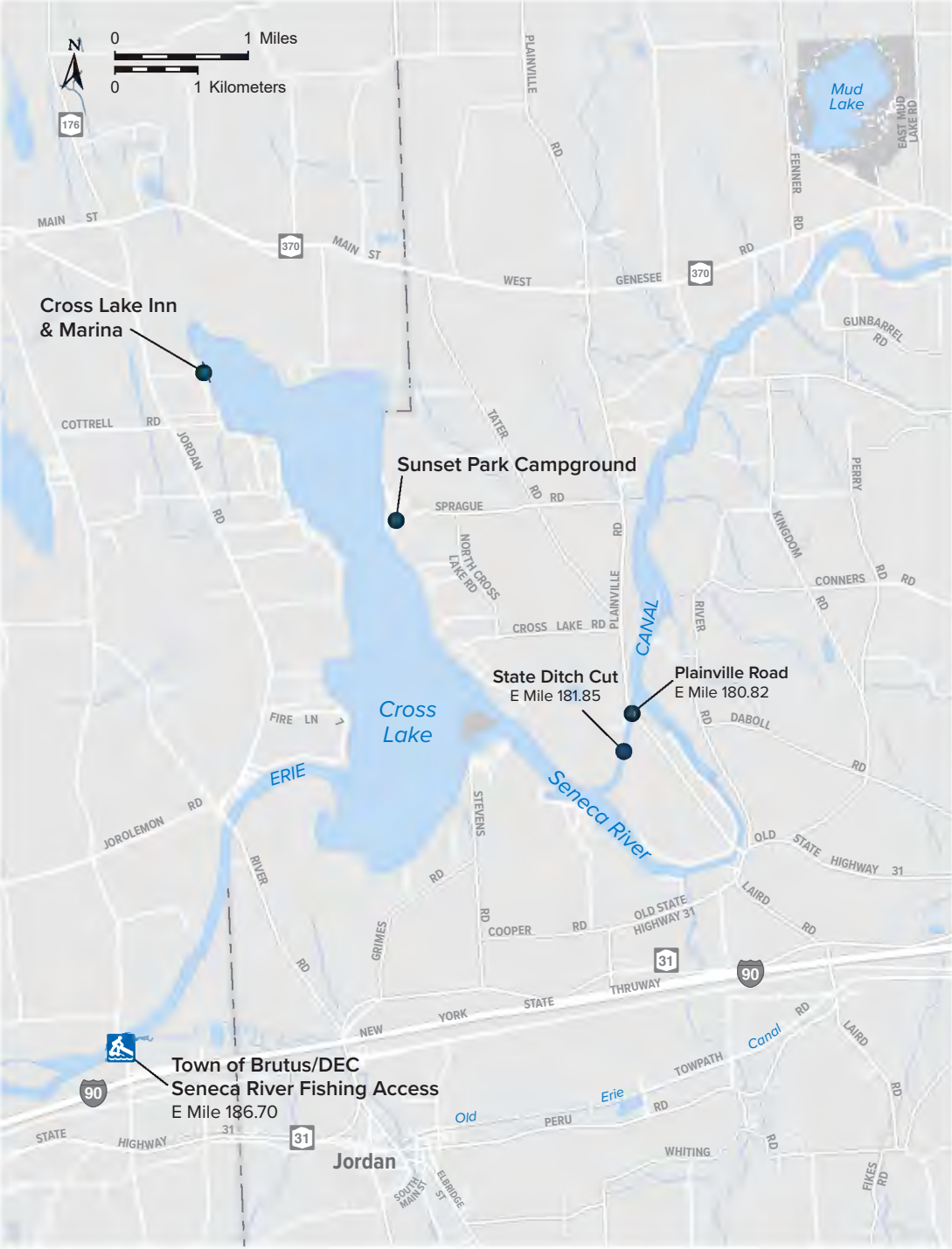
Two miles north of the canal, on the east side of the lake.

FACILITIES: Dedicated dock. Camping. Distance from parking about 0.15 miles.

E Mile 174.81 43.158011 -76.360322

Stay to the north side to pass Maloney Island within the canal channel.

E Mile 174.06 43.161447 -76.363083
Bridge E78A, NY 31 and NY 690



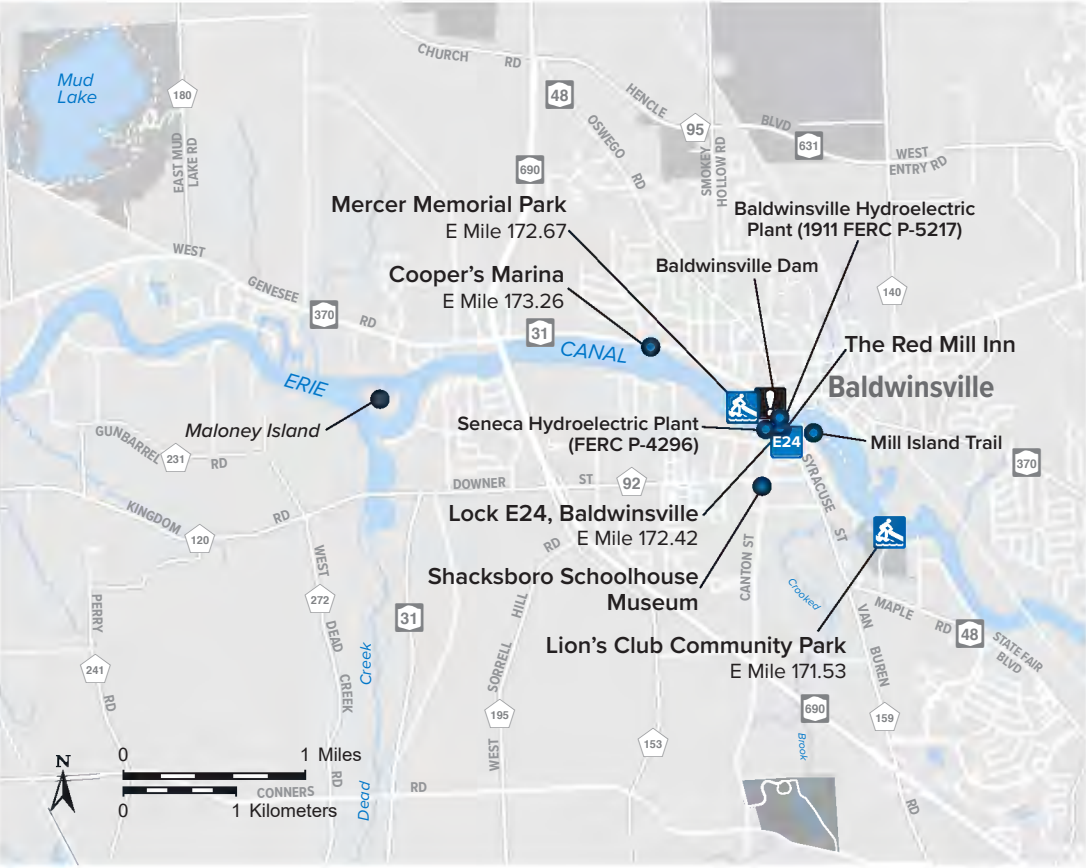
BALDWINSVILLE

There’s a lot going on in Baldwinsville and at Lock E24. It’s got a historic dam, a guard gate, its own island, a two-lane traffic bridge, and a long breakwater. The lively waterfront includes shops and restaurants on Paper Mill Island a short walk away on both sides of the canal. Additional amenities are nearby.

Lock E24 is separated from the Seneca River on the north by Paper Mill Island. A paper mill once stood here, but it has been replaced by an outdoor amphitheater at the

western end of the island. The amphitheater hosts a full summer schedule of free concerts and other events. Also on the island parallel to the lock is the restored Red Mill Inn, originally built as a flour mill in 1828 but converted to a hotel around 2005.

The Baldwinsville Rotary Club sponsors the annual Seneca River Days festival every June. A highlight of the event is the “anything that floats” boat race. The Baldwinsville Oktoberfest is held every September.





Joe Carey

PLACE OF INTEREST
OFF THE WATER

43.151733 -76.334535

Shacksboro Schoolhouse Museum
46 Canton Street (at McHarrie Park)
Baldwinsville, NY 13017
(315) 638-2452
shacksboromuseum.com

LODGING

43.156241 -76.332929

The Red Mill Inn
4 Syracuse Street (Paper Mill Island)
Baldwinsville, NY 13027
(315) 635-4871
theredmillinn.com

E Mile 173.26, north side 43.162467 -76.347082

Cooper’s Marina
2302 West Genesee Road (CR 370)
Baldwinsville, NY 13027
(315) 635-7371
coopersmarina.com

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Low dock. Restaurants and convenience stores within walking distance.

Large private marina.

E Mile 172.67, north side 43.157978 -76.336800

 **Mercer Memorial Park**
1 North Street
Baldwinsville, NY 13027
(315) 635-9665

FACILITIES: Water, restrooms, picnic tables, grills. Car top launch and beach landing. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

Free summer concerts in the gazebo.

E Mile 172.42 43.155830 -76.332800

Lock E24, Baldwinsville
8 Syracuse Street
Baldwinsville, NY 13027
(315) 635-3101

LIFT: 11.0 feet.

FACILITIES: Floating docks along the upstream approach wall on the south side and at Papermill Island near the amphitheater.

PADDLING NOTE: When approaching Lock E24 from the west, look for a line of buoys that marks off the dam and holds up a safety cable to keep boats from going over. Do not enter this area. To avoid the dam area and cross-currents from the hydroelectric plants on each end of the dam at the western end of the lock, stay to the south, starting at the tip of Paper Mill Island.

Lock E24 was the first lock to be opened on the Barge Canal. Workboats for the construction passed through in 1910. At that point, the electric operating machinery hadn’t been delivered. The valves and gates had to be moved by hand-powered chain hoists, blocks and tackle, and horses.

E Mile 172.36 43.155831 -76.331921

Bridge E78, Syracuse Street (NY 48)

E Mile 171.96 43.153428 -76.325373

Mill Island Trail
Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Downstream end of the island that separates the canal channel from the Seneca River, the Mill Island Trail leads to the tip of the breakwater.

E Mile 171.71 43.150186 -76.323214

Inlet to Fobes Island is on the north side.

E Mile 171.53, south side 43.148206 -76.320554

 **Lions Club Community Park**
Lion’s Parkway, off Maple Road (NY 48)
Baldwinsville, NY 13027

FACILITIES: Portable toilets, pavilion, picnic tables, grills. Car top launch with roller dock for wheelchair access. Parking for ten cars.

The kayak launch provides easy access to the Seneca River. This portion of the river provides great flat water paddling with the opportunity to view many species of wildlife.

E Mile 170.51 43.141636 -76.305372

Bridge E77, railroad

E Mile 167.88, north side 43.125058 -76.265285

J&S Marine
3558 Hayes Road
Baldwinsville, NY 13027
(315) 622-1095
jsmarinejim.com

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Floating docks, ramp.

Large private marina.

E Mile 167.18, south side 43.123678 -76.255762

Klein Island and Onondaga Lake Outlet
The Erie Canal connects to the Syracuse Inner Harbor via a dredged channel at the northern outlet of Onondaga Lake. Watch out for power boats and rowing teams practicing in the outlet canal. New York State owns most of the north shore of Klein Island; the rest is privately owned. The south side of the canal on both sides of Klein Island is Onondaga Lake Park. Stone breakwaters extend into the lake on either side of the outlet.

ONONDAGA LAKE AND THE SYRACUSE REGION

Follow the path where mules once trod and where the mighty Erie Canal gave rise to cities, towns, and industries in the 1800s. When the canal was enlarged in 1918, the route changed, leaving Syracuse connected to the canal via Onondaga Lake. You'll find the influence of the canal's heyday in the Syracuse region in the city's architecture and at local historic sites, museums, and at the Old Erie Canal State Historic Park.

In the early 1900s, factory workers from Syracuse used to flock to beaches, parks, and dance halls along the shores of Onondaga Lake. But by 1940, swimming had been banned due to a combination of industrial discharge and untreated sewage. Onondaga Lake became notorious as the most polluted lake in America. Today, massive cleanup efforts have improved water quality dramatically. Swimming is now permitted in the northern portion.

PADDELCRAFT RENTALS

43.116589 -76.240310

Willow Bay Rentals

3853 Long Branch Road
Liverpool, NY 13090
(315) 672-8439
longbranchparkkayakpaddleboardrentals
willowbay.com

A seasonal paddlecraft rental concession operated by Camillus Kayak Shop at the Willow Bay section of the park (north end just east of the breakwater). Ample parking.

Onondaga Lake Park

106 Lake Drive (off Onondaga Lake Parkway, NY 370)
Liverpool, NY 13088
(315) 453-6712
onondagacountyparks.com

Often called the "Central Park of Central New York," this county park is a 7.5 mile linear greenway with many trails and recreational facilities. It is located on both sides of the north end of Onondaga Lake.

There are several parking areas and informal hand-launch sites at gravel beaches along the east side of the lake at the north end. The Willow Bay section of the park has parking, restrooms, picnic shelters, and seasonal paddlecraft rentals. There is also an informal beach launch at the west end of the Long Branch Road bridge over Onondaga Lake Outlet with parking nearby. The Onondaga Lake Park marina in Liverpool has the only paved boat ramp on the lake (\$10 fee per launch).

PADDLING NOTE: There can be a lot of traffic on the narrow Onondaga Lake Outlet, including powerboats, jet skis, and rowing shells. The floating docks and boathouses of Syracuse University and the Syracuse Chargers on the east side of the outlet are off limits.

LODGING

43.060639 -76.162576

Aloft Syracuse Inner Harbor

310 West Kirkpatrick Street
Syracuse, NY 13204
(315) 422-1700
marriott.com

PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

43.052583 -76.302988

Camillus Erie Canal Park

5750 Devoe Road
Camillus, NY 13031
(315) 488-3409
eriecanalcamillus.com

Located along the Old Erie Canal, the park features Sims Store Museum and the award-winning 1842 Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct, which was restored and rewatered in 2009. Narrated boat tours are conducted May through October.

43.060639 -76.162576

Erie Canal Museum

318 Erie Boulevard East
Syracuse, NY 13202
(315) 471-0593
eriecanalmuseum.org

Extensive collection and exhibits on all facets of the Erie Canal. Housed in the only remaining Weighlock Building (1850) where canal boats were weighed during the days when they traveled through the center of Syracuse on the Erie Canal.

Old Erie Canal State Historic Park

parks.ny.gov
Thirty-six miles of the original Erie Canal, five stone arch aqueducts, and a number of other historic structures remain in service here, delivering water from upland reservoirs to today's canal. Stretching from DeWitt, just east of Syracuse, to New London and the outskirts of Rome, Old Erie Canal State Park offers a view of the scale and character of the ditch that opened a continent. The park includes the Erie Canalway Trail,

which follows the old towpath and is suitable for bicycling, walking, and jogging. Paddling is an option in certain sections of the park. (See pages 136-137.)

PADDLING NOTE: Launch sites are being developed at the Cedar Bay Picnic Area, Poolsbrook Widewater, Manlius Center, and Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum. A paddling guide is available at tourthetowpath.com.

43.060031 -75.871458

Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum

717 Lakeport Road
Chittenango, NY 13037
(315) 687-3801
clcbm.org

Restored dry docks, replica canal boat, blacksmith shop, and exhibits related to life on the Erie Canal in the 1800s make this a highly engaging site. The museum offers bike and kayak rentals for exploring the Old Erie Canal State Park.

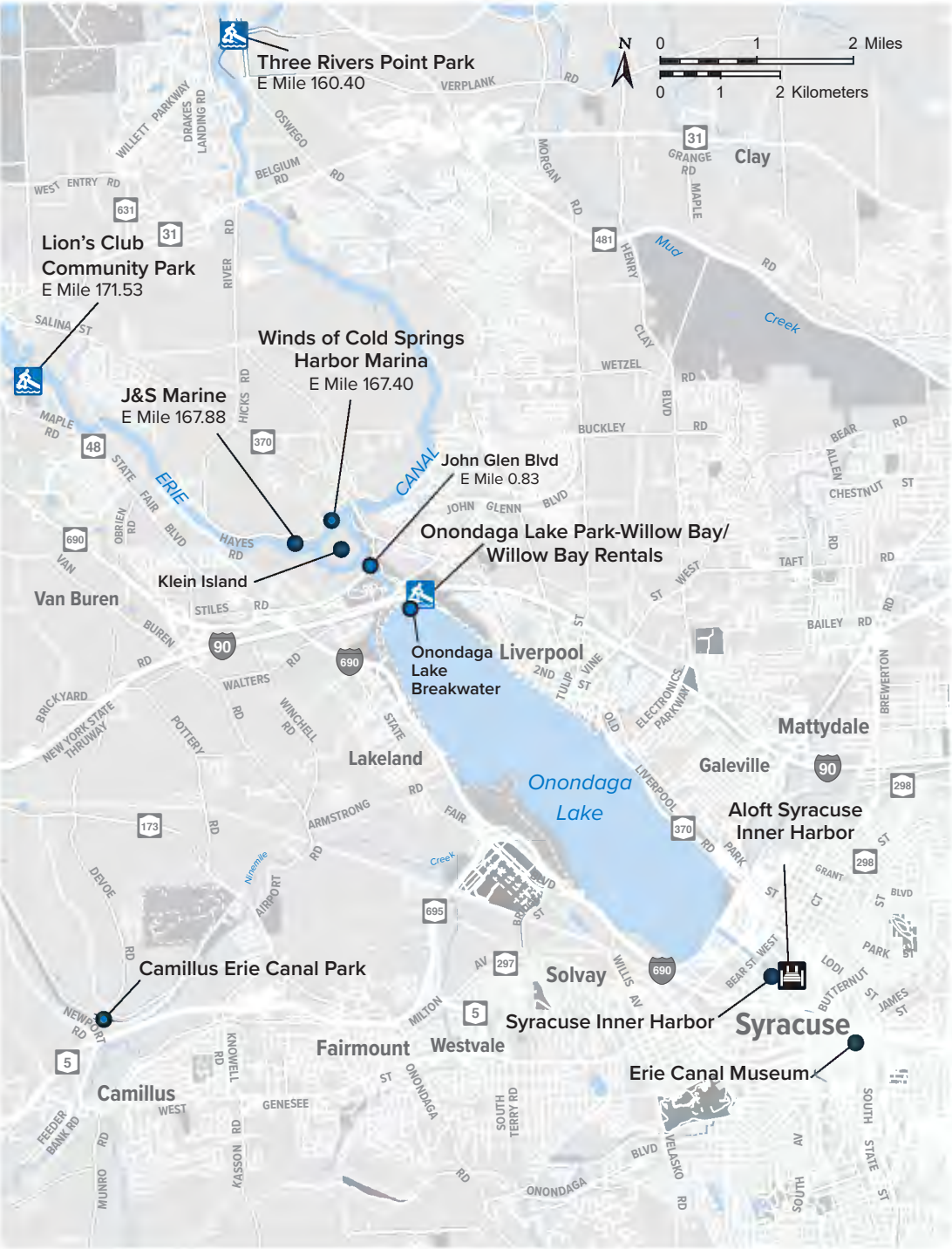
43.060639 -76.162576

Canastota Canal Town Museum

122 Canal Street
Canastota, NY 13032
(315) 697-5002
canastota.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

More information about things to do in the Syracuse area, including dining and lodging, is available at madisontourism.com and visitsyracuse.com.



E Mile 167.40, north side 43.127409 -76.257574

Winds of Cold Springs Harbor Marina

3642 Hayes Road
Baldwinsville, NY 13027
(315) 622-2211
thewindsofcoldspringsharbor.webs.com

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, camping. Bar/restaurant. Floating dock, ramp.

Large private marina.

E Mile 167.10 43.129981 -76.253430

Bridge E73, Cold Springs Road (NY 370)

E Mile 162.39 43.175653 -76.276413

Bridge E72, Belgium Road (NY 31)

E Mile 160.45 43.201310 -76.280372

Three Rivers Junction with Oswego Canal

The Oneida River and the Seneca River merge here to become the Oswego River. The southern end of the Oswego Canal meets the Erie Canal here. The Oswego Canal and river flow north for some 23 miles, ending at the port of Oswego on Lake Ontario.

Paddlers who stay on the Erie Canal will be heading upstream for the first time since leaving Buffalo. The Oneida River drops about 11 feet between the outlet of Oneida Lake at Brewerton and its confluence with the Seneca and Oswego rivers at Three Rivers. The “Rome Summit” between locks E21 and E20, east of Oneida Lake, crosses the drainage divide between the St. Lawrence and Hudson basins.

OSWEGO CANAL

The Oswego Canal connects the Erie Canal at Three Rivers to Oswego Harbor at Lake Ontario. Though the Oswego is the canal system’s shortest segment, it has long provided a critical connection to Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The Oswego River’s bays and back channels are well suited for canoeing and kayaking, as well as fishing and birdwatching. Visitors from around the world are drawn to Oswego’s active port, renowned for its festivals and exceptional sport fishing.

Water Trail sites along the Oswego Canal can be found starting on page 223.

E Mile 160.40, south side 43.200606 -76.279407

Three Rivers Point Park

8892-8898 Gaskin Road
Clay, NY 13041

FACILITIES: Informal hand launch. Ample parking.

The former Three Rivers Terminal is now a small waterfront park. The Town of Clay plans to develop the site of the Three Rivers Inn, a once famous dance hall.

E Mile 160.34 43.201505 -76.277927

Bridge E71, Oswego Road (CR 57)

E Mile 160.32 43.201576 -76.277600

Bridge E70, CSX railroad

E Mile 159.42, south side 43.210441 -76.266221

 Clay Boat Ramp
(Bonstead Road Launch)

Beneath NY 481 Bridge, off Bonstead Road
Clay, NY 13041

FACILITIES: Ramp. Parking for 10 cars; 24-hour overnight parking permitted. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

DEC fishing access point.

E Mile 159.40 43.210965 -76.266613

Bridge E69A, NY 481

E Mile 159.30, north side 43.213769 -76.263447

At buoy R206, the Oneida River branches off to the north into a long loop that reenters the canal in about 0.75 miles. During the Barge Canal construction, the loop was cut off by the Big Bend Cut; the land along the loop became known as Horseshoe Island.

E Mile 158.31 43.216527 -76.247350

Bridge E69, Horseshoe Island Road

E Mile 158.21, north side 43.216802 -76.245839

The Oneida River meets the canal again after looping around Horseshoe Island.

E Mile 158.18, south side 43.214308 -76.245700

Pirates Cove Marina

9170 Horseshoe Island Road
Clay, NY 13041
(315) 695-3901
piratescovemarina.com

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, RV camping. Ramp. Parking. Restaurant.

Large private marina.

E Mile 156.54, north side 43.205748 -76.218243

 River Edge Mansion Bed and Breakfast

1 CR 10
Pennellville, NY 13132
(315) 695-3021
riveredgemansion.com

The restored Greek Revival mansion built in 1818 by George Casper von Schroepfel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Dedicated dock.

E Mile 156.50 43.204891 -76.217742

Bridge E68, Morgan Road (CR 10)

E Mile 156.33, south side 43.205165 -76.214013

Mud Creek enters the canal.

E Mile 156.29, south side 43.205176 -76.213948

The south wall of the Oak Orchard Lock of the 1840 Oneida River Improvement is visible on the south bank.

E Mile 155.40, south side 43.207505 -76.212230

A loop in the Oneida River, cut off by the canal, forms Schroepfel Island. Stay to the north of the island to remain in the canal channel.

E Mile 155.15, south side 43.209925 -76.210345

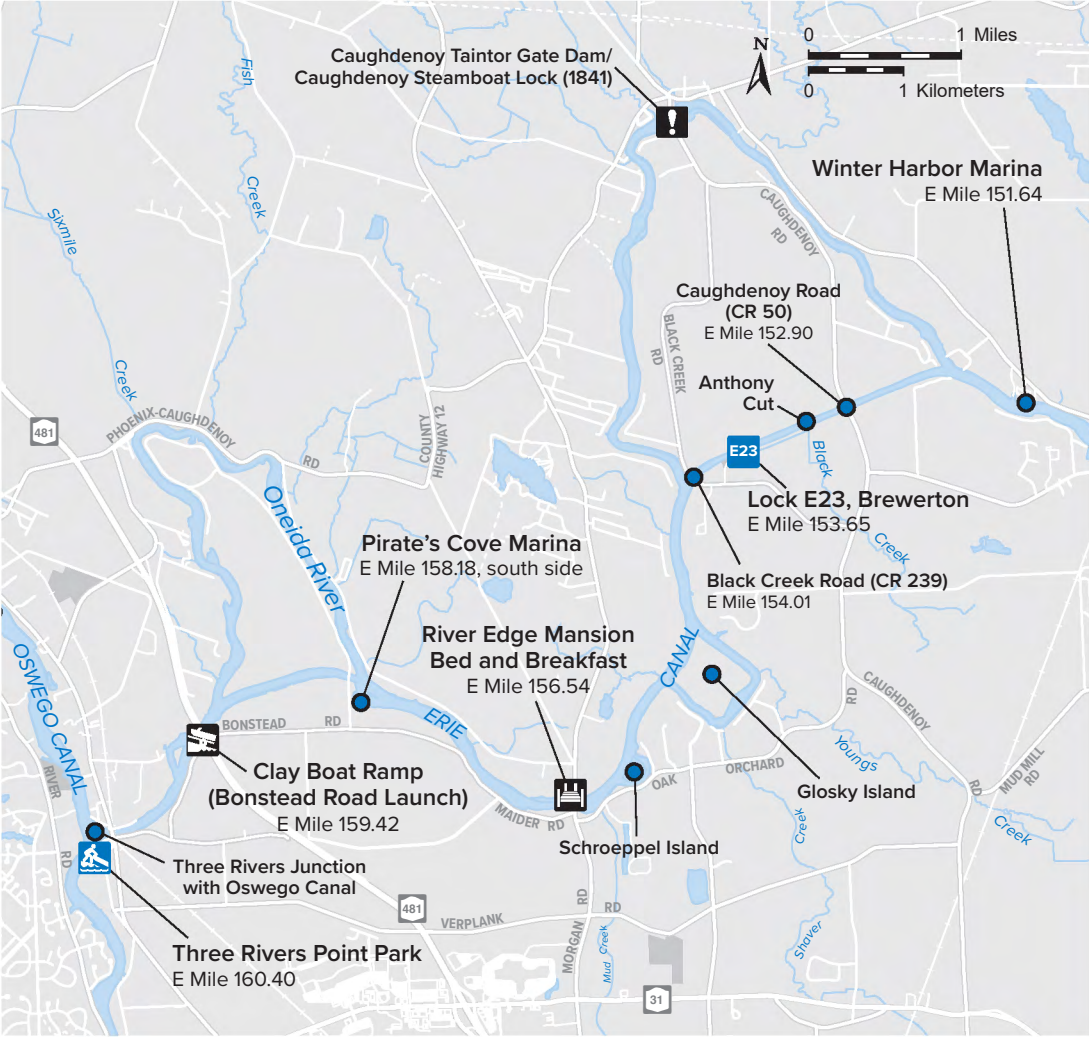
The Oneida River rejoins the canal.

E Mile 154.75, south side 43.216558 -76.206180

The Morgan Cut on a loop of the Oneida River forms Glosky Island. To remain in the canal channel, stay to the north.

E Mile 154.45, south side 43.222165 -76.202348

The Oneida River rejoins the canal.



E Mile 154.10, north side 43.235350 -76.204183

The Oneida River leaves the canal to form a large loop. To stay in the canal channel, paddle straight ahead (east) under the Black Creek Road bridge into the Anthony Cut. Caughdenoy Dam, at the north end of this artificial island, maintains the level of Oneida Lake.

E Mile 154.01 43.236189 -76.202783

Bridge E67, Black Creek Road (CR 239)

E Mile 153.65 43.238790 -76.196340

Lock E23, Brewerton

6908 Black Creek Road
Brewerton, NY 13029
(315) 676-4171

LIFT: 6 feet 9 inches.

FACILITIES: Portable toilet, picnic tables, grills. Tie up at the wooden piers on both sides at the eastern end of the lock.

Lock E23 is the busiest lock on the entire NYS Canal System. Its location between Oneida Lake and the Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca canals and the Finger Lakes means it gets a lot of pleasure boat and commercial traffic. The lock has a guard gate integrated into its eastern end. The original powerhouse still generates electricity for lock machinery.

E Mile 152.90	43.243059 -76.183026
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Bridge E66, Caughdenoy Road (CR 50)

E Mile 152.17, north side	43.246963 -76.169524
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The Oneida River rejoins the canal.

E Mile 151.64, north side	43.243713 -76.159651
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Winter Harbor Marina
604 CR 37
Central Square, NY 13036
(315) 676-9276
winterharborllc.com

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Fixed docks; no ramp.

Private marina.

E Mile 151.10, south side	43.239626 -76.150093
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Ess-Kay Yards
5307 Guy Young Road
Brewerton, NY 13029
(315) 676-2711
ess-kayyards.com

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Fixed docks, ramp.

Private marina.

E Mile 150.83, south side	43.239635 -76.144424
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Brewerton Boatyard
5405 Bennett Street
Brewerton, NY 13029
(315) 676-3762
brewertonboatyard.com

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Concrete ramp.

Private marina.

E Mile 150.78, north side	43.240670 -76.144422
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 **Brewerton Lighthouse Car Top Launch**
CR 37 off US Route 11
Brewerton, NY 13029

The Brewerton Lighthouse is one of the Three Sisters—three candlestick lighthouses constructed during the Barge Canal expansion to guide navigation on Oneida Lake. The lighthouse is 85 feet tall and was first lit in the summer of 1917; it is still in use. Brewerton has turned the area around the lighthouse into a small park with two low docks. The lighthouse is not open to the public.

E Mile 150.72	43.240347 -76.143301
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Bridge E65, CSX railroad

E Mile 150.71, south side	43.239919 -76.142034
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Riverfront Park
5449 Bennett Street
Brewerton, NY 13029
(315) 699-5233

FACILITIES: Portable toilet, picnic tables. High walls make this park difficult for paddlers to access. Ample parking. Shops and restaurants in Brewerton are a short walk away.



43.241777 -76.141157

Fort Brewerton/Oliver Stevens Blockhouse Museum
9 US 11
Brewerton, NY 13029
(315) 668-8801
fortbrewerton.net

Fortified house built in 1794 near Old Fort Brewerton. The historic park next to the museum is where Fort Brewerton was located. The fort is gone but the original earthworks around it are still visible.

ADMISSION: Free

HOURS: June, July, and August:
Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

E Mile 150.58	43.240437 -76.140630
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Bridge E64, Brewerton Road (US 11)

E Mile 150.55, north side	43.240948 -76.139144
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 **Brewerton Dockwall**
East River Road
Brewerton, NY 13029

FACILITIES: Electric, water. Low dock. Parking for 10 cars.

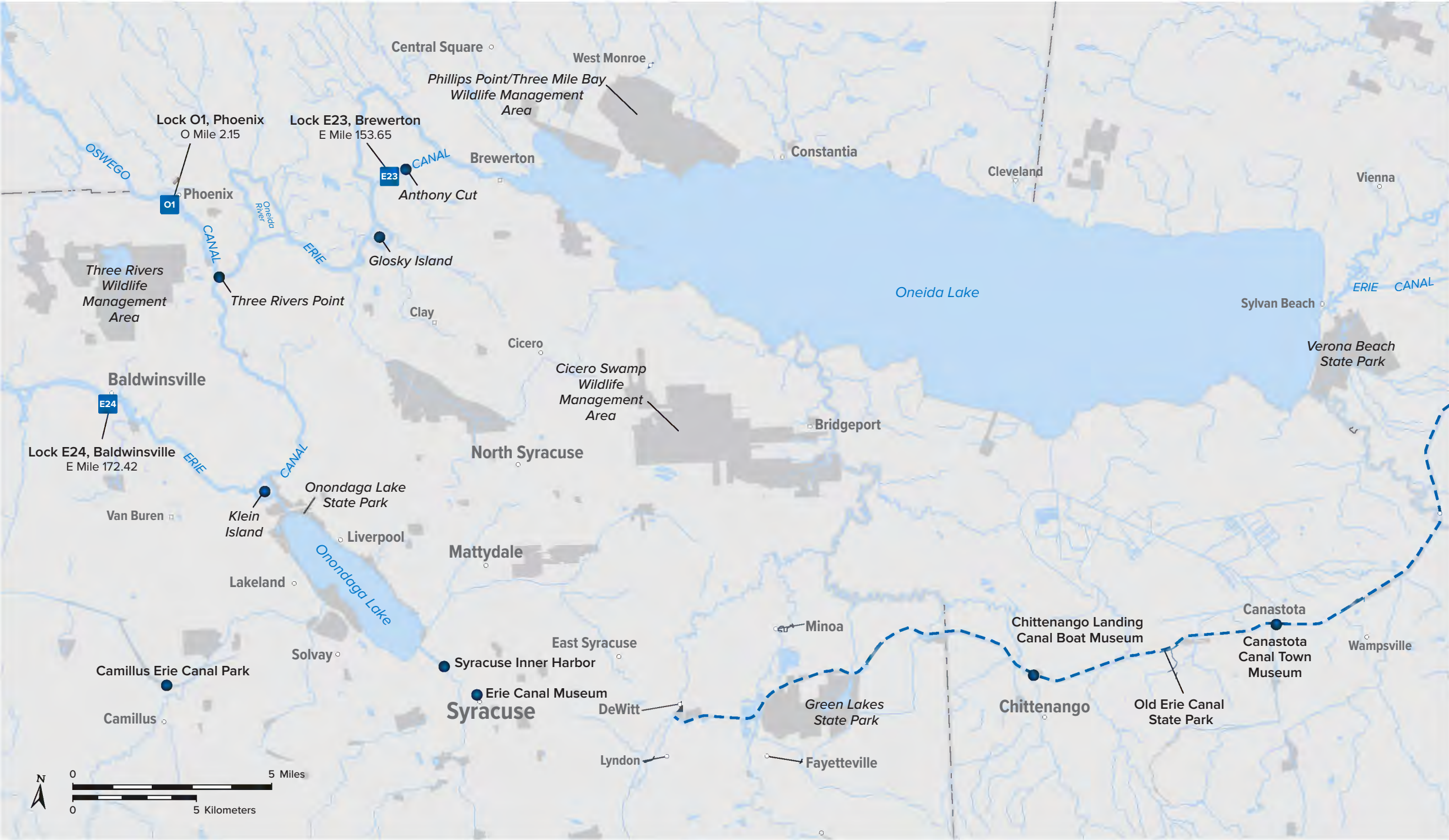
The Brewerton Pier wall replaces a collapsed pier that dated back to 1911.

E Mile 150.55, south shore	43.239066 -76.139970
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Denman’s Island; private residences.

E Mile 150.06	43.237619 -76.130564
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Bridge E63A, I-81
Oneida Lake begins to the east of this bridge. Parts of six counties and 69 communities are in the watershed. The lake takes its name from the Oneida Nation that historically occupied the region around the lake.



Oneida Lake



Erie Canal at Oneida Lake/Sylvan Beach

The largest lake entirely within New York State, Oneida Lake is about 21 miles long, five miles wide, and covers about 80 square miles. Oneida Lake is a popular vacation spot. During the summer months, it is full of people and boats, swimming, fishing, sailing, cruising, water skiing and wake boarding. Be alert to other boats and wakes; look out for swimmers and water toys, fishing lines, and tow ropes.

PADDLING NOTE: Take extra precautions when crossing Oneida Lake. Plot your travel route in advance and share it with someone. Always wear a life jacket.

The Erie Canal channel goes straight across the lake and is marked by spar buoys. Following it from one end of the lake to the other will take between five and six hours—

longer if the wind is against you—with no place to land. For all but the most experienced paddlers, following the channel is neither the safest nor most enjoyable option. Bad weather with lightning, dangerous winds, waves, and fog can come up suddenly on the lake. The prevailing wind comes out of the west and can build big waves on a fairly shallow lake by the time it reaches Sylvan Beach at the eastern end. It is safest for paddlers crossing the lake to leave Brewerton in the early morning, before winds build during the day.

Most paddlers opt to follow the shoreline to the north or south, putting in and taking out from the many marinas, launches, and beaches on both shores. Both routes have their charms—use the descriptions here to decide which route to take.

NORTH SHORE

E Mile 150.00 43.239927 -76.128510

Trade-A-Yacht East Marina

CR 37
Brewerton, NY 13029
(315) 676-3531
tradeayacht.com

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms, showers. Car top launch, concrete ramp. Secure parking.

Private marina.

E Mile 149.73, buoy 136 43.244008 -76.125990

Bradbury’s Boatel

57 Bradbury Road (CR 37)
Brewerton, NY 13029
(315) 676-7060

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

Large private marina.

E Mile 149.50 43.242300 -76.118019

Big Bay Marina

155 Camic Road
Central Square, NY 13036
(315) 676-2223
bigbaymarina.com

FACILITIES: Electric, water, portable restrooms. Concrete ramp. Restaurant. Camping.

Large private marina. Day launch fee.

E Mile 147.98 43.241590 -76.087230

 Toad Harbor Fishing Access Site*

FACILITIES: Car top launch, beach landing. Parking for 15 cars. Distance from parking about 35 feet.

DEC fishing access site.

E Mile 148.84 43.246046 -76.068454

Charley’s Boat Livery

82 McCloud Road
West Monroe, NY 13167
(315) 668-6341
oneidalakefishin.com

Campsite with dedicated dock. Distance from parking 300 feet.

E Mile 146.62 43.243858 -76.064847

Johnson Bay Marina

136 McCloud Road
West Monroe, NY 13167
(315) 561-3909

FACILITIES: Portable restrooms. Concrete ramp.

Private marina.

43.256247 -76.060790

Phillips Point/Three Mile Bay Wildlife Management Area
McCloud Drive
Central Square, NY

Once known as Toad Harbor Swamp, this WMA covers 3,966 acres, much of which is a lowland swamp. Few areas are more than 30 feet above the level of Oneida Lake. It is an excellent spot for birdwatching. It can be accessed from the Toad Harbor Fishing Access Site and the Constantia Car Top Launch.

E Mile 146.01 43.239404 -76.050152

 Constantia Car Top Launch*

Constantia, NY 13044

FACILITIES: Car top launch, beach landing. Parking for 15 cars. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

DEC fishing access site.

* Public boat launches on Oneida Lake are indicated with an asterisk.

NORTH SHORE

E Mile 144.14 43.228124 -76.000102

Wantry Island
This island, along with nearby Little Island and Long Island, are designated as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. Common terns nest on the islands. To avoid disturbing nest sites, do not land on these islands. Wantry Island is privately owned.

E Mile 137.30 43.231229 -75.881299

 Cleveland Terminal Car Top Launch*

FACILITIES: Car top launch, beach landing. Parking for 20 cars. Distance from parking about 50 feet.

DEC fishing access site.

Cleveland Terminal was built as a harbor of refuge for canal boats crossing the stormy lake. For many years it was home port to *National*, a powerful state tugboat that patrolled Oneida Lake to help other vessels in distress.

E Mile 135.85 43.223799 -75.849950

 Godfrey Point Boat Ramp*

FACILITIES: Portable toilet. Concrete ramp. Parking for 40 cars. Overnight parking permitted; 24-hour limit. Distance from parking about 100 feet.

DEC fishing access site.

E Mile 134.73 43.225255 -75.833365

Angler’s Bay Cottages

103 Drive 17
Cleveland, NY 13042
(315) 675-3662
fishoneida.com/cottages

Vacation cottages with dedicated dock. Kayak and stand-up paddleboard rentals. Distance from parking about 200 feet.

SOUTH SHORE

E Mile 148.78 43.228040 -76.108800

 Oneida Shores County Park Boat Ramp*

9400 Bartell Road
Brewerton, NY 13029
(315) 676-7366
Camping: (315) 676-4943
onondagacountyparks.com/parks/oneida-shores-park

FACILITIES: Water, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, grills, swimming beach. Kayak rentals. Park camping nearby. Ramp with small launch fee. Parking for 40 cars; small fee for over-night parking. Distance from parking 20 feet.

PADDLECRAFT RENTALS

43.116589 -76.240310

Oneida Shores County Park Rentals

9400 Bartell Road
Brewerton, NY 13029
(315) 676-7366
Camping: (315) 676-4943
onondagacountyparks.com/parks/oneida-shores-park

Seasonal paddlecraft rentals

E Mile 146.95 43.208238 -76.078309

Aero Marina Conway Inc.

9080 Beach Road, Short Point Bay
Brewerton, NY 13029
(315) 699-7736
aeromarina.com

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms, showers. Ramp; low dock. Small launch fee. Ample parking. Distance from parking about 50 feet.

Large private marina.

E Mile 145.90 43.219618 -76.051182

Frenchman’s Island Lighthouse

The island, roughly 0.50 mile long, is part of the Three Mile Bay WMA. The lighthouse is 85 feet tall, is one of three built in 1917, and is still in use. Access the island from the long pier on the south shore. A loop trail runs from the pier to the lighthouse and back. No access to the lighthouse. The island has a lot of poison ivy; stay on the trail. No camping; no fires.

E Mile 145.50 43.202892 -76.018229

Dunham Island

E Mile 143.33 43.178133 -76.005262

A&P Marina

7512 West Murray Drive
Cicero, NY 13039
(315) 699-7732

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Concrete ramps.

Large private marina.

E Mile 142.80

Chittenango Creek empties into Oneida Lake.

E Mile 138.76 43.162571 -75.926835

 Briggs Bay Boat Ramp*

End of Bush Road
Bridgeport, NY

FACILITIES: Portable toilet. Ramp. Parking for 40 cars. Overnight parking permitted; 24-hour limit. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

DEC fishing access site.

* Public boat launches on Oneida Lake are indicated with an asterisk.

E Mile 130.99 43.162568 -75.761064

Callahan’s Marina

9089 Callahan Drive
Canastota, NY 13032
(315) 697-7470
callahansmarina.com

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, picnic area. Concrete ramp.

Large private marina.

E Mile 130.55 43.158813 -75.750767

Oneida Lake Marina

713 NY 31
Canastota, NY 13032
(315) 697-4867
oneidalakemarina.com

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, picnic area. Concrete ramp.

Large private marina.

E Mile 130.39 43.158439 -75.745620

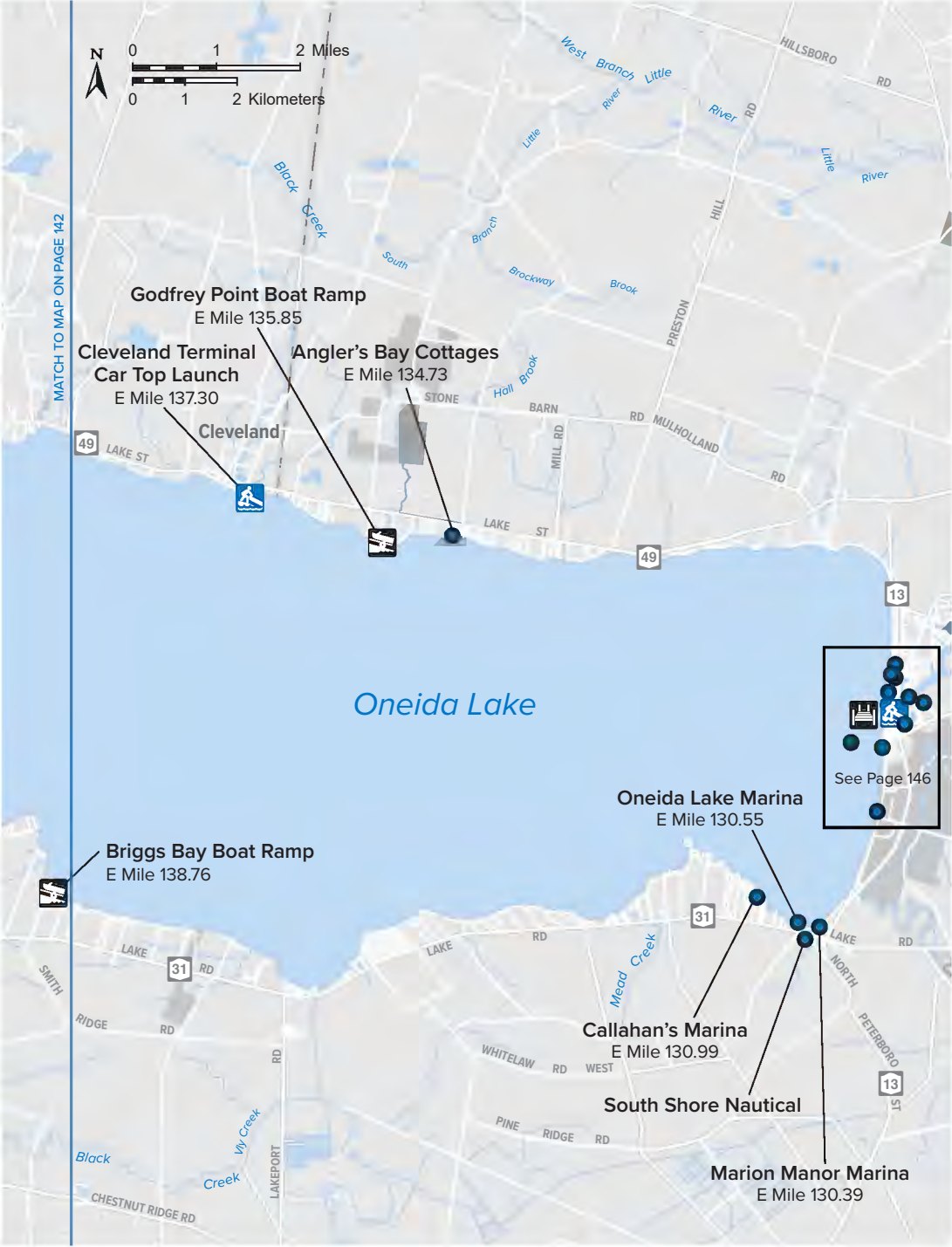
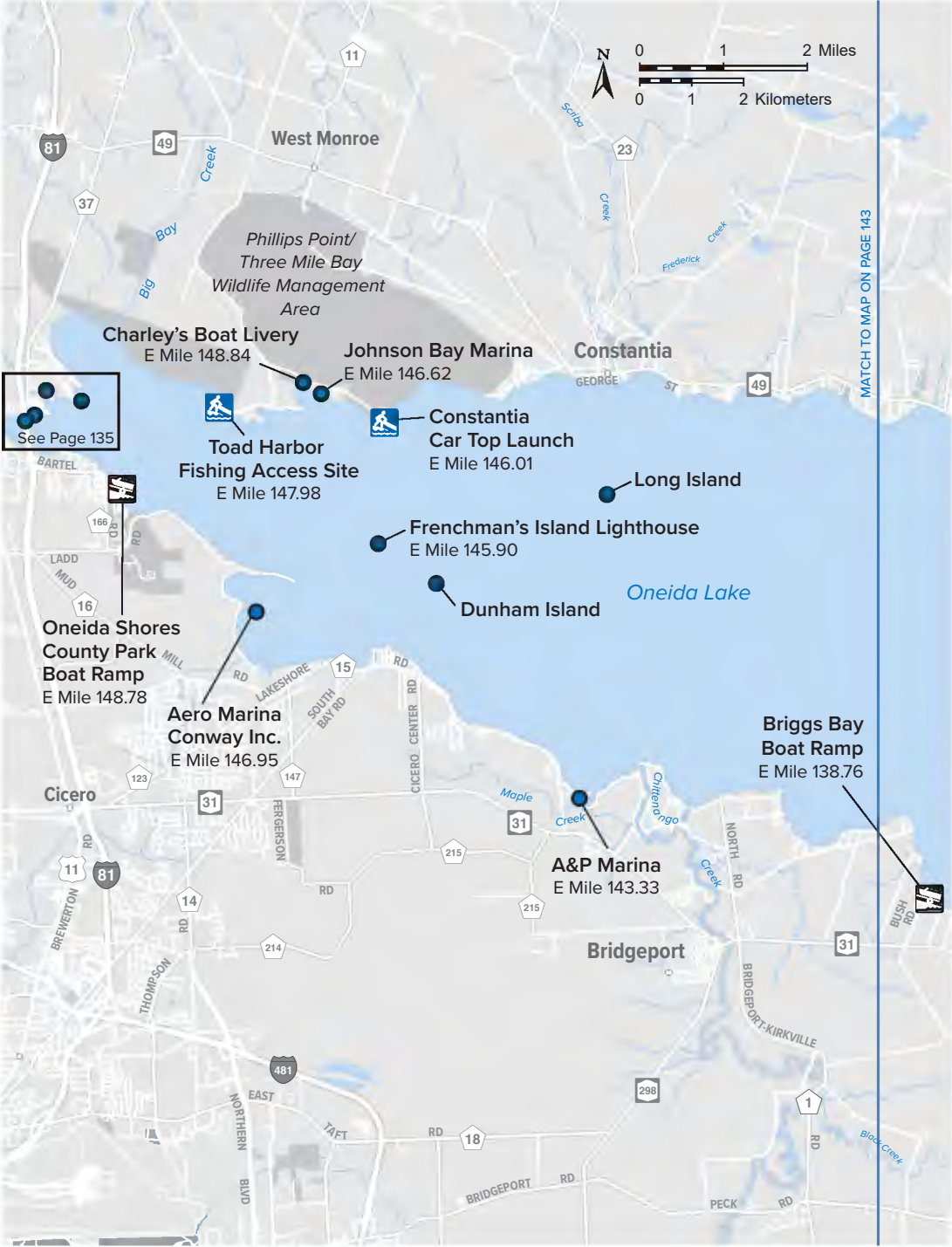
Marion Manor Marina

Corner NY 13 and NY 31
Canastota, NY 13032
(315) 762-4810
marionmanor.com

FACILITIES: Restrooms. Concrete ramp. Private marina.

E MILE 129.92 43.164512 -75.737574

Oneida Creek enters the lake.



SYLVAN BEACH



Greg Cuda

Sylvan Beach is a lively summer resort area with many restaurants, nightlife spots, and shops in easy walking distance of the pier. Beaches and fishing areas are nearby. Sylvan Beach holds an annual Canal Fest in early August.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Contact Sylvan Beach Tourism at (866) 795-2322 or sylvanbeachny.com.

PLACE OF INTEREST
OFF THE WATER

43.196549 -75.729943

Sylvan Beach Amusement Park
112 Bridge Street
Sylvan Beach, NY 13157
sylvanbeachamusementpark.com

LODGING

43.198782 -75.729891

Sunset Cottages
801 Park Avenue
Sylvan Beach, NY 13157
(518) 762-4093
sylvanbeach.com/sunset

0.3 miles from Sylvan Beach Dock Wall.
Vacation cottages.

43.201302 -75.728340

Cinderella’s Restaurant, Bar, and Suites
1208 Main Street
Sylvan Beach, NY 13157
(315) 762-4280
cinderellasrestaurant.com/suites

0.4 miles from Sylvan Beach Dock Wall. Motel with ice cream stand.

43.201866 -75.729261

Kathy’s Guest Houses
Sylvan Beach NY 13157
(518) 423-9381
sylvanbeachlodging.biz

0.5 miles from Sylvan Beach Dock Wall.
Guest houses at several locations on Park Avenue in Sylvan Beach.

43.203570 -75.728312

Oneida Lake Inn
1509 Main Street (NY 13)
Sylvan Beach, NY 13157
(315) 761-0000
oneidalakeinn.com

0.5 miles from Sylvan Beach Dock Wall.
Motel.

43.196886 -75.730948

Sylvan Beach
Sunset Avenue
Sylvan Beach, NY 13157

FACILITIES: Bathhouse has free public rest-rooms and showers. Swimming beach. Walking distance to amusement park and other attractions and amenities in Sylvan Beach.

PADDLECRAFT RENTALS

43.156506 -75.749525

 **South Shore Nautical**
3728 NY 31
Canastota, NY 13032
(315) 391 9213
southshorenautical.com

Kayak and stand-up paddleboard sales and rentals. Marine store with extensive range of supplies and products. A very popular Coneheads Caribbean ice cream stand and barbecue truck are open here in the boating season.



43.189192 -75.731128

Verona Beach Lighthouse

Located at the foot of Fourth Avenue, this 85-foot lighthouse is one of three built during the Barge Canal expansion. It was first lit in 1917 to mark the entrance to the Wood Creek Canal from the eastern end of Oneida Lake. The lighthouse is still in use as an automated beacon. A small park around the lighthouse is open to the public. To visit, land on the sandy beach. For more information, visit Verona Beach Light-house Association at lighthousefriends.com.

43.194820 -75.728570

Verona Beach State Park*

6541 Lakeshore Road South
Verona Beach, NY 13162
(315) 762-4463
parks.ny.gov

Verona Beach State Park covers 1,735 acres on the eastern shore of Oneida Lake. The kayak launch has a car top launch and beach landing. Parking for five cars. Distance from parking is about 20 feet. No facilities at the launch area, but restrooms, water, picnic tables, grills, and a restaurant are at the beachfront area. The park has 46 campsites. Registration is required for camping in New York State parks. Although walk-ins are accepted on a first-come basis, camping reservations are strongly suggested (newyorkstateparks.reserveamerica.com).

E Mile 129.50 43.194673 -75.729845

Sylvan Beach Breakwater

The Sylvan Beach breakwater is a jetty built of rocks, timber, and concrete in 1907.

PADDLING NOTE: The breakwater angles from northeast to southwest along the north bank of the canal as it enters the lake. It can

be deceptive when approaching from the lake. Stay well south of marker R106 at the tip of the breakwater.

E Mile 129.18 43.195143 -75.728467

Bridge E63, Main Street (NY 13)

E Mile 129.15, south side 43.193269 -75.725992

Snug Harbour Marina

RR 13
Verona Beach, NY 13162
(315) 762-0112
snug-harbour.com

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

Private marina.

E Mile 128.93, north side 43.197991 -75.725031

Mariner's Landing

705 Pioneer Avenue
Sylvan Beach, NY 13157
(315) 762-0112
marinerslandingmarina.com

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Concrete ramp.

Private marina.

E Mile 128.92, south side 43.197032 -75.721547

Holmes Marina

2523 Oneida Street
Verona Beach, NY 13162
(315) 762-4232
holmesmarina.com

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

Private marina.

CAMPING ON FISH CREEK

43.209893 -75.713580

Hidden Point Campground

1010 Waterview Drive
Sylvan Beach, NY 13308
(315) 762-0547
hiddenpointcampground.com

Located 0.6 miles north on Fish Creek.
RV park and campground with dedicated dock.

43.208199 -75.708295

Paradise Cove Campground

7201 Cove Road
Durhamville, NY 13054
(315) 762-0210
paradisecovecampground.net

Located 0.8 miles north on Fish Creek.
RV park and camping with dedicated dock.

43.220126 -75.702754

 The Landing Campground

2796 Kellogg Road
Blossvale, NY 13308
(315) 245-9951
thelandingcampground.com

Located 2 miles north on Fish Creek.
RV park and camping with dedicated dock.
Kayak rentals.

43.223127 -75.698663

Ta-Ga-Soke Campgrounds

7820 Higginsville Road
Blossvale, NY 13308
(800) 831-1744
ta-ga-soke.com

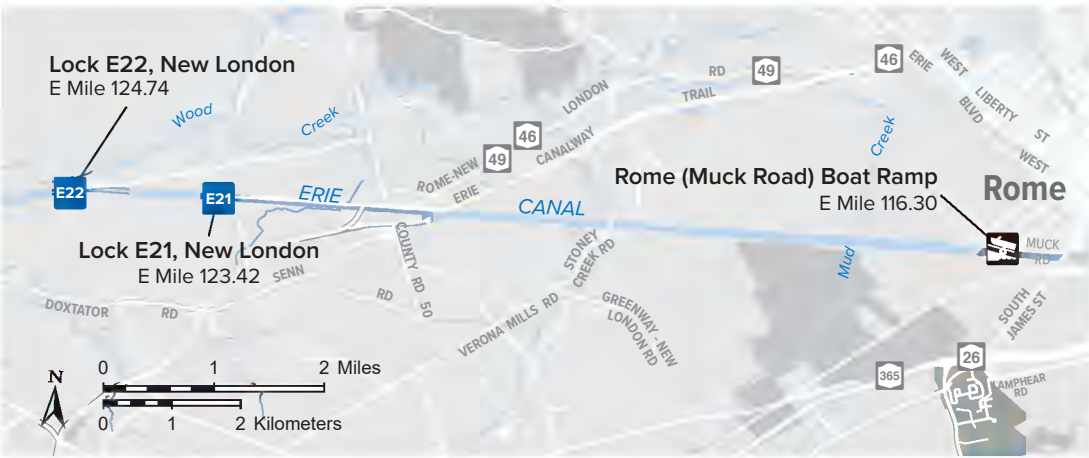
Located 2.4 miles north on Fish Creek.
RV park and camping with dedicated dock.

43.227982 -75.678162

Treasure Isle RV Park

3132 Haskins Road
Blossvale, NY 13308
(315) 245-5228
treasureislervpark.com

Located 4 miles north on Fish Creek.
RV park and camping with dedicated dock.



E Mile 128.44, north side

Fish Creek leads to the campgrounds listed on the opposite page.

E Mile 128.19

Bridge E61, Cove Road

E Mile 126.04

Bridge E60, Higginsville Road (CR 50A)

E Mile 125.28, north side 43.209434 -75.652608

The remains of a dam on Wood Creek are visible. The mouth of the creek is partially obstructed by debris.

For centuries, before the Erie Canal opened in 1825, tiny Wood Creek was one of North America’s principal routes for commerce, trade, and warfare. Travelers crossed Oneida Lake, pushed their boats up Wood Creek as far as water levels would allow, carried their cargo over land for about eight miles, and reloaded on the Mohawk River in what is now the city of Rome.

E Mile 124.74

43.209499 -75.644919

Lock E22, New London

3692 Wood Creek Road
Rome, NY 13440
(315) 336-4329

LIFT: 25.1 feet.

FACILITIES: Tie up at the walls on either end of the lock.

E Mile 123.45

Bridge E59, Lock Road
This bridge is closed to traffic.

E Mile 123.42

43.208770 -75.618560

Lock E21, New London

7176 Lock Road
Rome, NY 13440
(315) 336-8229

LIFT: 25.0 feet.

FACILITIES: Portable toilets. Tie up at the walls on either end of the lock. Facilities are difficult for paddlers to access at this location due to steep canal walls.

Lock E21 is at the western end of the Rome Summit Level, the high point where the Erie Canal crosses from the Mohawk River into the Lake Ontario drainage basin. The upstream elevation is 420.4 feet; the downstream elevation is 395.4 feet.

The footbridge over the lock carries the Erie Canalway Trail and the Old Erie Canal Towpath Trail from one side of the canal to the other. The lock is within the Old Erie Canal State Historic Park, which preserves a 36-mile stretch of the enlarged Erie Canal more or less as it appeared in 1862, when the enlargement was completed.

E Mile 122.10 43.207758 -75.592651

Bridge E58A, New London Road (NY 46)

E Mile 123.48, south 43.206959 -75.578709

New London Junction Lock Dry Dock
Rome NY 13440

The remains of the old New London Junction Lock are visible on the south bank. The original Erie Canal traced a route at the base of the hills south of here. It was rerouted in the early 1900s to cut straight across Oneida Lake. To connect the towns along a section of the old route to the new, a junction lock was built here around 1918. After traffic on the old Erie Canal ceased, the lock was converted to a dry dock and is still occasionally used by the New York State Canal Corporation. The entrance wall is still intact and paddlers can tie up at it. Do not enter the fenced-off areas.

E Mile 119.85 43.205649 -75.548328

Bridge E57, Stoney Creek Road (CR 60A)

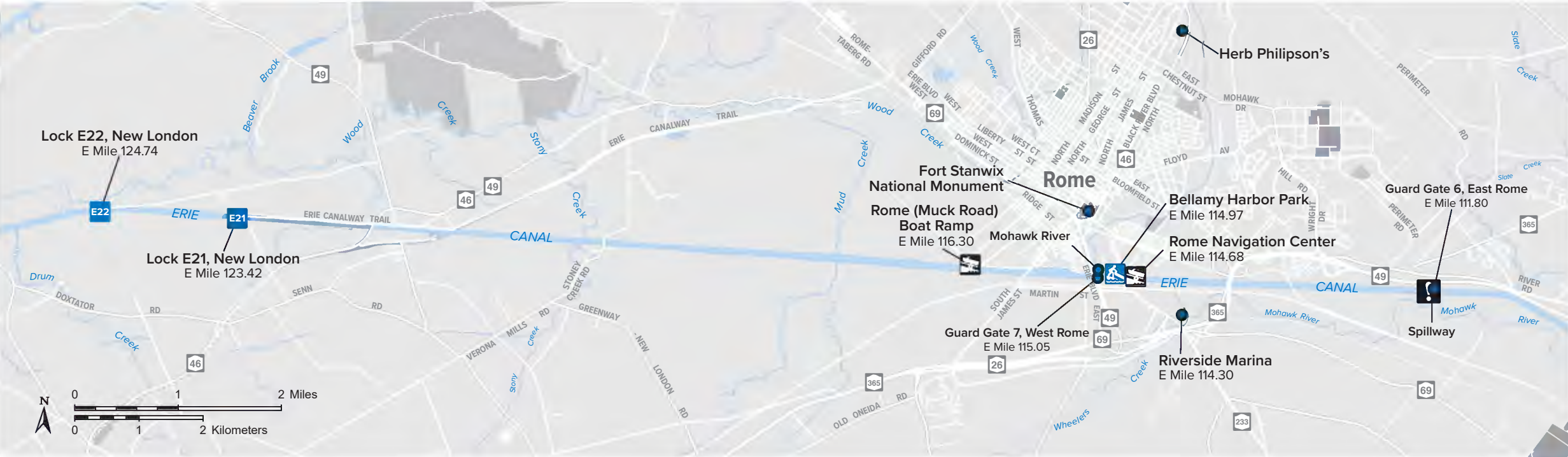
ROME

Discover why all roads lead to Rome when it comes to water, transportation, and settlement in this part of New York State.

For millennia, a six-mile portage path between the Mohawk River and the Hudson River to the east and Wood Creek and Lake Ontario to the west was known by the Native Americans as the Great Carrying Place or the Oneida Carrying Place. The European settlement that would later become the city of Rome grew up around this ancient trade route. One of the earliest canals in the country was built along this route by Western Inland Lock Navigation Company, chartered in 1792. The first shovelful of dirt for the Erie

Canal was turned in Rome on July 4, 1817. By 1820, 66 miles of the Erie Canal between Utica and Syracuse had been completed. This section, called the Long Level because it was relatively flat and needed no locks, was immediately put into operation. The Enlarged Erie Canal followed a more northerly route through Rome during the 1840s. (Its path is covered by Erie Boulevard today.) The Barge Canal, built during the early 20th century, followed yet another path across the southern outskirts of Rome.

The best place to launch a kayak or canoe trip in this area is Bellamy Harbor Park.



OUTFITTER

43.235976 -75.437521

Herb Philipson’s

1899 Black River Boulevard
Rome, NY 13440
(315) 336-1300
herbphilipsons.com

Kayaks and equipment, sporting goods.

E Mile 116.30, north side 43.202889 -75.477959

Rome (Muck Road) Boat Ramp

Rome, NY 13440

FACILITIES: Ramp, floating dock. Parking for 20 cars; overnight parking with 24-hour limit. Distance from parking about 20 feet.

DEC fishing access site.

E Mile 115.74 43.201848 -75.467002

Bridge E55, South James Street

E Mile 115.08 43.201244 -75.454014

Bridge E52A, Erie Boulevard (NY 46/49/69)
Erie Boulevard was built over the remains of the Enlarged Erie Canal.

E Mile 115.05 43.201263 -75.453484

Guard Gate 7, West Rome
Gates normally left open during the navigation season.

The Mohawk River spills over a retention dam and enters the canal from the north, just east of the guard gate. The footbridge that crosses the Mohawk can be reached from Bellamy Harbor Park.

PLACE OF INTEREST
OFF THE WATER



Glenn Charles

43.210587 -75.455292

Fort Stanwix National Monument

100 North James Street
Rome, NY 13440
(315) 338-7730
nps.gov/fost

The British built a fort here in 1758 to control the eastern end of the Oneida Carry. Captured by American forces during the Revolution, it was besieged in 1777 by British troops who were trying to move from Canada to the Hudson River by way of the Oswego River, Oneida Lake, and the Mohawk River. Today’s fort is a replica, built on the original site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

More information about things to do in the Rome area, including dining and lodging, is available at oneidacountytourism.com.

E Mile 114.97, north side 43.201819 -75.450148

Bellamy Harbor Park

Mill Street at the Canal
Rome, NY 13440
(315) 339-7656
romenewyork.com

FACILITIES: Picnic tables. A wheelchair-accessible kayak launch and a gravel beach are at the confluence of the Mohawk River and the canal at the west end of the park. Kayak rentals are based in the canal terminal freight house. Parking for 10 cars. Distance from parking about 50 feet. Most shops and restaurants in Rome are on the north side of the canal within walking distance. A bike share station is also located at the park, making it easy to access services in town.

E Mile 114.79 43.201059 -75.448265

Bridge E51, Mill Street

E Mile 114.68, north side 43.201421 -75.446183

Rome Navigation Center

Mill Street, east of bridge
Rome, NY 13440

FACILITIES: Water, restrooms, showers, laundry, and picnic area. Parking. Dining nearby.

E Mile 114.3, south side 43.195990 -75.437331

Riverside Marina

6806 Martin Street
Rome, NY 13440
(315) 337-5199
riversidemarina.slantpower.com

0.3 miles south of canal

FACILITIES: Electric, water, restrooms, showers.

Private marina.

E Mile 113.80 43.200506 -75.428615

Bridge E50B, NY 49 and NY 365 westbound

E Mile 113.77 43.200506 -75.428615

Bridge E50A, NY 49 and NY 365, eastbound

E Mile 113.18 43.200143 -75.416365

Bridge E50, Mohawk, Adirondack and Northern Railroad (MHWA)

E Mile 111.80 43.199458 -75.389036

Guard Gate 6, East Rome
Gates generally left open throughout the navigation season.

Guard Gate 6 can be lowered to isolate the land-cut canal section from here to Lock E20 at Marcy. The spillway on the south bank, just upstream of the guard gate, dumps water from the canal into the natural bed of the Mohawk River. From here to Frankfort the canal runs in a comparatively straight channel along the north side of the valley, passing through locks E20 and E19, while the river meanders to the south.

E Mile 108.92, south side 43.179339 -75.338278

Nine Mile Creek Spillway
Located within the Oriskany Flats State Wildlife Management Area, the spillway is 965 feet long and was constructed in 1913 to release excess water from the canal into the Mohawk River. The Nine Mile Creek enters the canal on the north side. Water from the West Canada Creek is stored in Hinckley Reservoir and sent into the canal as needed by a feeder that crosses the divide between West Canada and Nine Mile creeks.

PADDLING NOTE: Watch out for strong currents near the spillway. Stay to the north side of the canal. Do not attempt to enter Oriskany Flats WMA from this point.