

LITTLE FALLS

The City of Little Falls is a fun place to explore before, during, or after your paddle trip. Here you'll find a historic downtown with lots of shops and places to eat, the largest lock on the Erie Canal, and an island with unique geologic features that you can see from the water or explore on land.

The best place to launch or take out is from Little Falls Canal Harbor and Rotary Park. You can also rent a canoe or kayak there. From the park, walk across the bridge into town. The annual canal celebration takes place in early August.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

PADDLECRAFT RENTALS

E Mile 80.10, south side
43.03470 -74.86548

 Little Falls Canal Harbor and Rotary Park

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

LODGING

43.04045 -74.85924

The Inn at Stone Mill

410 Canal Place
Little Falls, NY 13365
(315) 823-0208
theinnatstonemill.com

Inn and restaurant. Located 400 feet from Benton's Landing.

43.04063 -74.85865

Canal Side Inn

395 Canal Place
Little Falls, NY 13365
(315) 823-1170
canalsideinn.com

Inn and restaurant. Located 400 feet from Benton's Landing.

43.04221 -74.85946

Travelodge by Wyndham Little Falls

20 Albany Street
Little Falls, NY 13365
(315) 823-4954
travelodge.com

Located 0.2 miles from Benton's Landing.

Little Falls Canal Harbor and Rotary Park

E Mile 81.22, north side 43.02564 -74.88209

Little Falls Launch

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

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

DEC fishing access site. Accessible fishing dock.

E Mile 80.10, south side 43.03470 -74.86548

Little Falls Canal Harbor and Rotary Park

125 Southern Avenue at the Erie Canal
Little Falls, NY 13365
(315) 823-1453
cityoflittelfalls.net

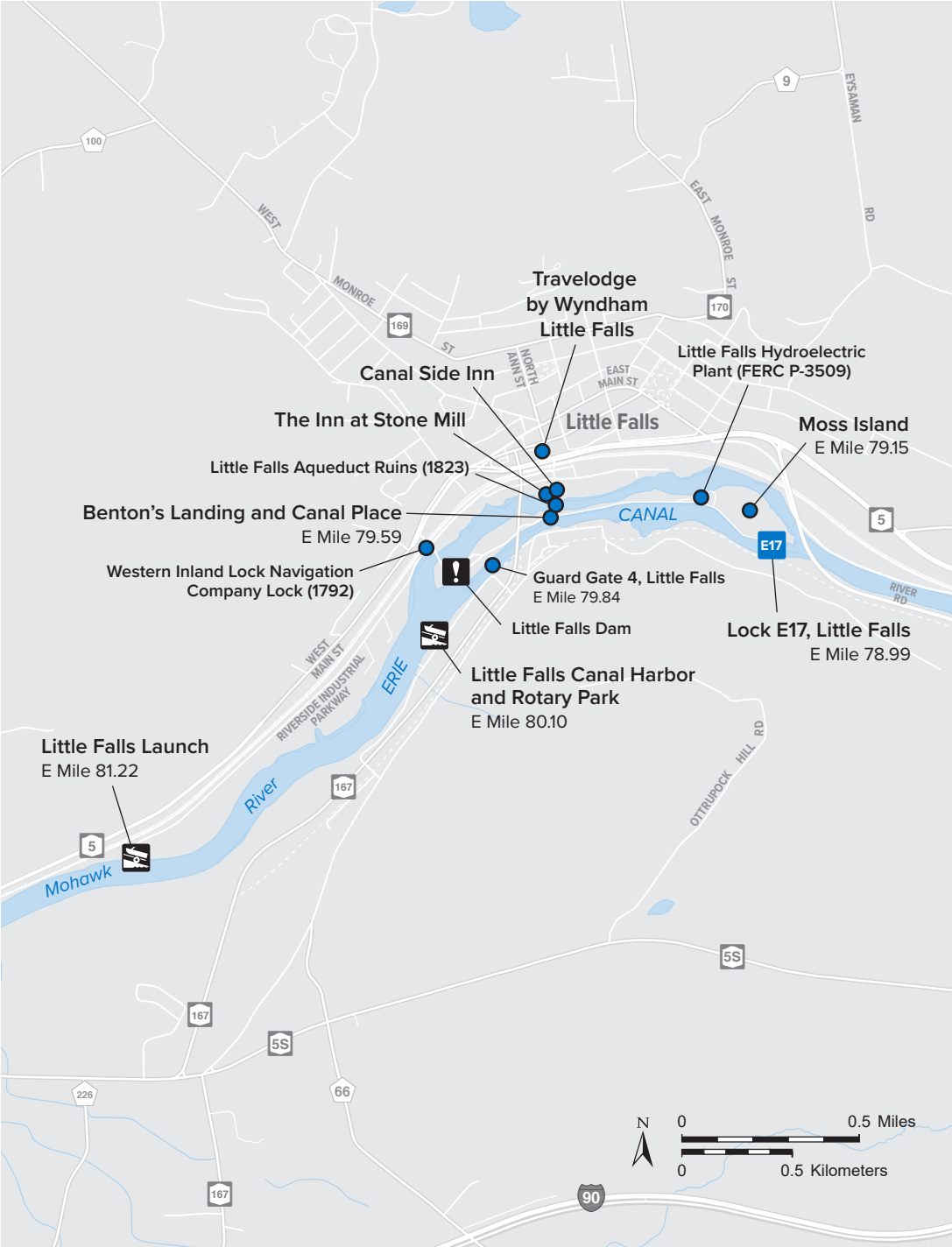
FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers, laundry, picnic tables and grills, camping. Kayak and canoe rentals. Concrete ramp and floating dock at western end; long floating dock at eastern end. Ample parking. The facilities are housed in a repurposed 1921 Barge Canal freighthouse.

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

E Mile 79.84, north side 43.03592 -74.86560

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

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



E Mile 79.84	43.03756 -74.86224
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Guard Gate 4, Little Falls

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

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

E Mile 79.74	43.03860 -74.86069
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Bridge E32A, NY 167

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

E Mile 79.59, north side	43.03950 -74.85900
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Benton's Landing and Canal Place

Mohawk Street and Mill Street
Little Falls, NY 13365
(315) 823-4309
littlefallsantiquecenter.com

FACILITIES: Use Rotary Park to access Canal Place.

Canal Place

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

Benton's Landing

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

E Mile 79.2, north side	43.03999 -74.85079
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Stay clear of the hydroelectric plant intake, marked by vertical bar racks and rack raking machine on north bank.

E Mile 79.15, north side	43.03978 -74.84791
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Moss Island

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

E Mile 78.99	43.03835 -74.84669
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Lock E17, Little Falls

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

LIFT: 40.5 feet.

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

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

Constructed in 1915, Lock E17 lifts and lowers boats 40.5 feet. It was once the highest



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

E Mile 78.87 43.03818 -74.84471

Bridge E30A, NY 169

E Mile 77.24, south side 43.02787 -74.81590

Herkimer Home State Historic Site

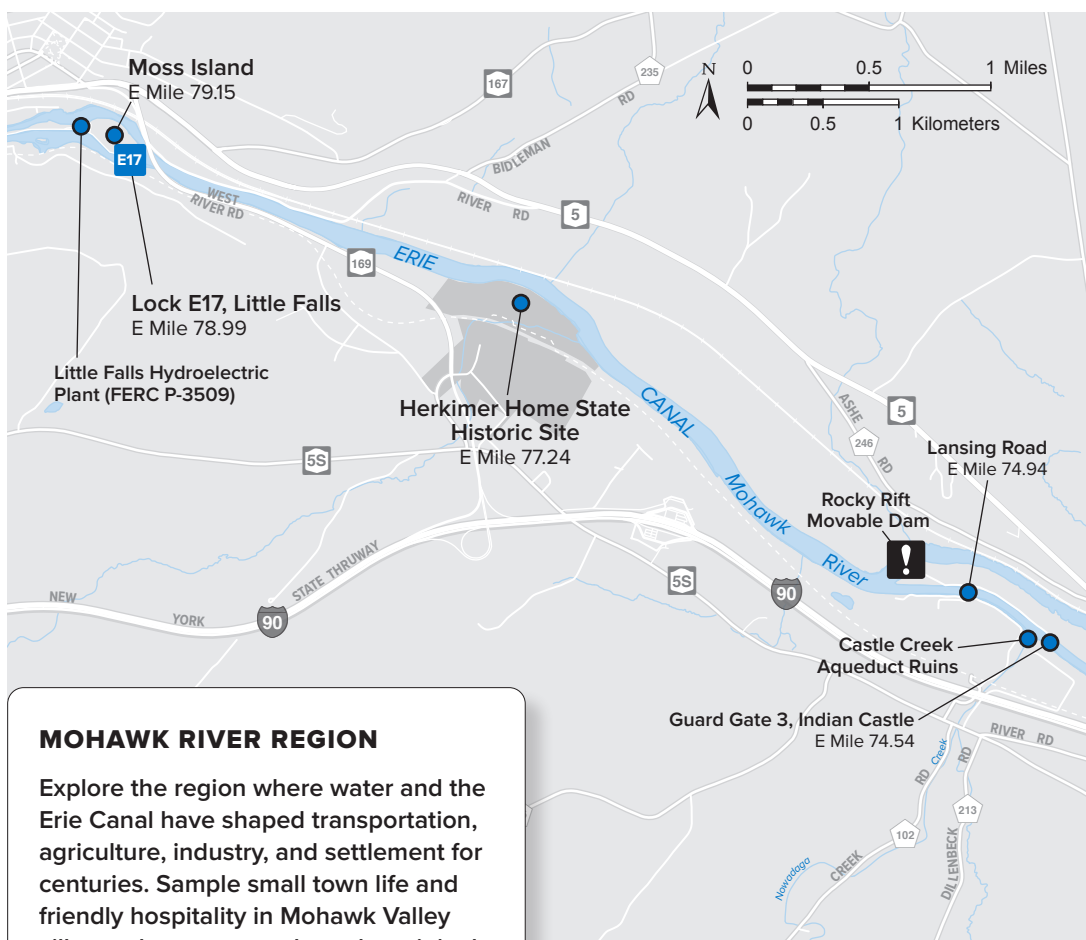
200 NY 169
Little Falls, NY 13365
(315) 823-0398
parks.ny.gov

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

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

ADMISSION: Fee.

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



MOHAWK RIVER REGION

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

E Mile 75.33, north side	43.01439 -74.78375
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Rocky Rift Movable Dam

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

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

E Mile 74.94	43.01243 -74.77868
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Bridge E29, access road to Lansing Road

E Mile 74.54 43.00943 -74.77206

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

E Mile 72.53 42.99583 -74.73735

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

E Mile 71.45 42.99230 -74.71742

Bridge E27, River Road (CR 65)

E Mile 71.36, south side 42.99217 -74.71548

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

E Mile 71.02 42.99226 -74.70858

Lock E16, St. Johnsville

171 Mindenville Drive
Fort Plain, NY 13339
(518) 568-2636

LIFT: 20.5 feet.

FACILITIES: Picnic tables, parking.

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

Designated Biker-Hiker-Boater site.

E Mile 69.57 42.99360 -74.68058

Bridge E26A, Bridge Street (CR 61)

E Mile 69.48, north side 42.99479 -74.67866

St. Johnsville Municipal Marina and Campground

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

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

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

E Mile 68.74, south side 42.99091 -74.66588

Enlarged Erie Canal Lock 33

St. Johnsville, NY 13452

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

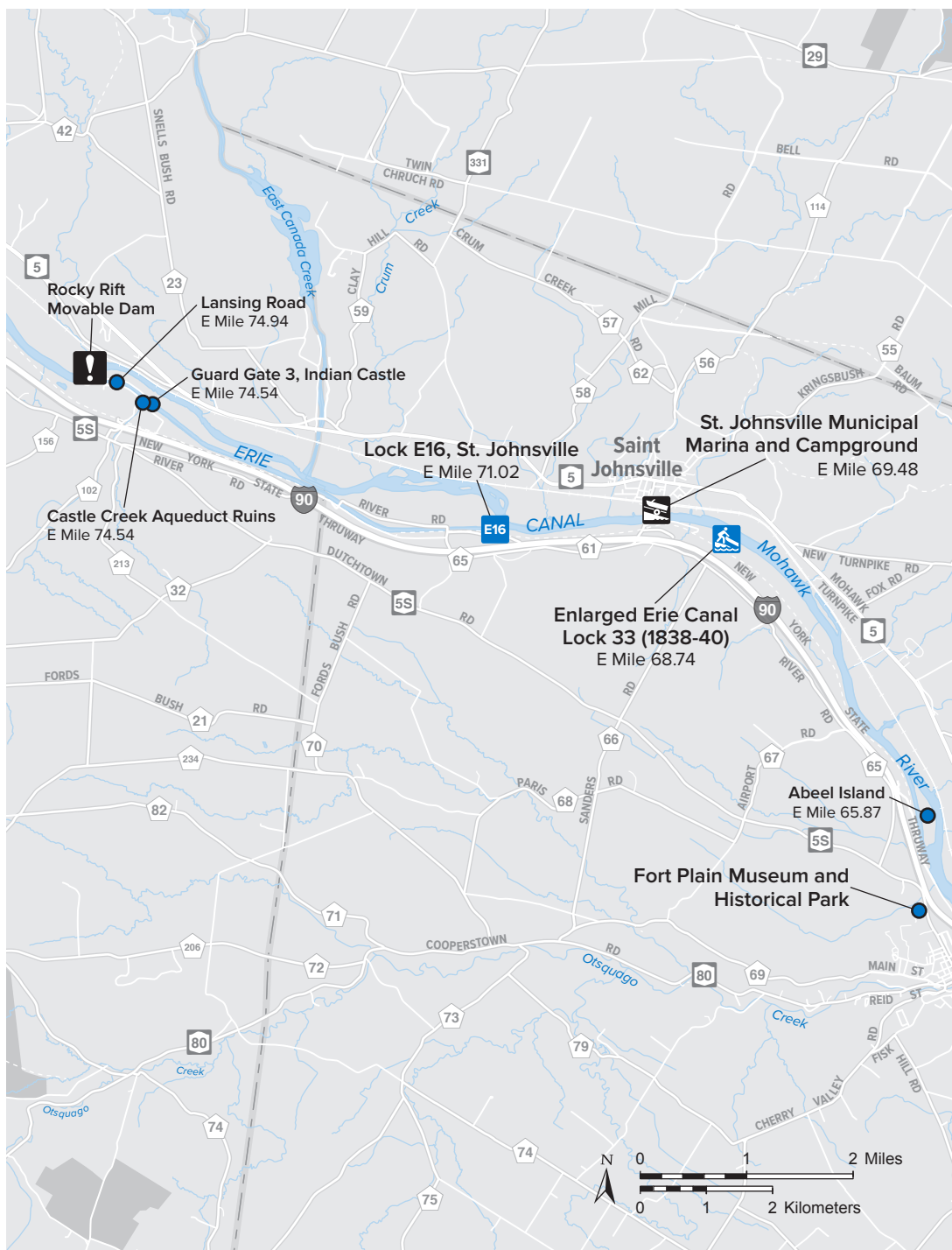
The remains of the old Lock 33 of the Erie Enlarged Canal at St. Johnsville can be seen here about 150 feet from the landing. The lock, with a six-foot lift, was built in the late 1830s; the south chamber was lengthened in 1888. The lock was abandoned around 1917 when the Barge Canal was completed in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

E Mile 66.36, north side 42.96435 -74.63746

Caroga Creek enters the canal.

E Mile 65.79 42.95368 -74.62893

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



FORT PLAIN

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

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

E Mile 64.30, south side 42.93864 -74.62205

 Lock E15, Fort Plain

84 Otsquago Club Road
Fort Plain, NY 13339
(518) 993-4161

LIFT: 8 feet.

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

Designated Biker-Hiker-Boater site.

E Mile 63.87 42.93354 -74.61779

Bridge E25, River Street (NY 80)

PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

42.94013 -74.63027

**Fort Plain Museum and
Historical Park**

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

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

42.93220 -74.62256

Fort Plain Free Library

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

The library also serves as a welcome center for visitors.

E Mile 63.78, north side 42.92513 -74.61127

 Nelliston Fishing Access Site

Old Station Road
Nelliston, NY 13428

FACILITIES: Concrete ramp and floating dock. Parking for 10 cars. Overnight parking permitted; 24-hour limit. Distance from parking about 20 feet. Open daylight hours only.

DEC fishing access site.



CANAJOHARIE

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

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

PLACE OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

42.90745 -74.57178

The Arkell Museum

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

The Arkell is within easy walking distance of Riverfront Park.

The art collection is notable for seven Winslow Homer paintings, as well as works by Thomas Benton, Childe Hassam, John Singer Sargent, and many other important American artists.



Phil Scalia

E Mile 60.95, north side 42.90940 -74.57771

Lock E14, Canajoharie

28 Spring Street
Palatine Bridge, NY 13428
(518) 673-3314

LIFT: 8 feet.

PADDLING NOTE: There can be a strong current toward the movable dam. Stay along the north bank when approaching Lock E14. If you land on the artificial island between the lock and dam, use the inside shore of the lock.

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

E Mile 60.69, south side 42.90899 -74.57249

 Canajoharie Fishing Access Site

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

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

DEC fishing access site.

E Mile 60.61 42.90960 -74.57086

Bridge E24, Church Street (NY 10)

E Mile 60.55, south side 42.90926 -74.57048

 Canajoharie Riverfront Park

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

FACILITIES: Picnic tables, pavilion. Floating dock, 300-foot concrete wall. Located at the

LODGING

42.90642 -74.57432

Erie Canal House

121 West Main Street
Canajoharie, NY 13317
(518) 381-0325

Deluxe guest house located 0.4 miles from Riverfront Park.

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

42.90302 -74.57524

The Pineapple House

63 Otsego Street
Canajoharie, NY 13317
(518) 673-3923

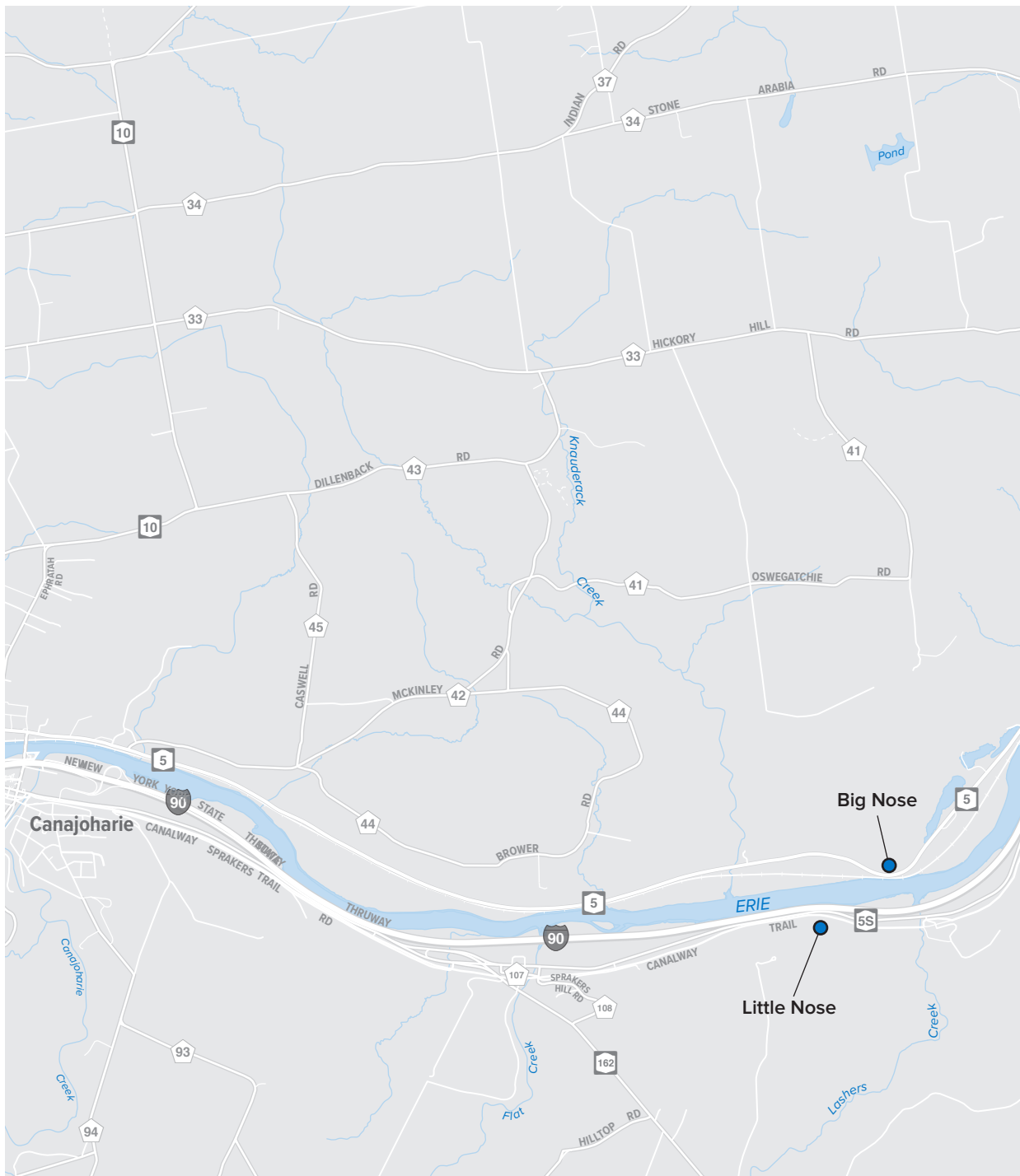
Bed and breakfast located 0.5 miles from Riverfront Park.

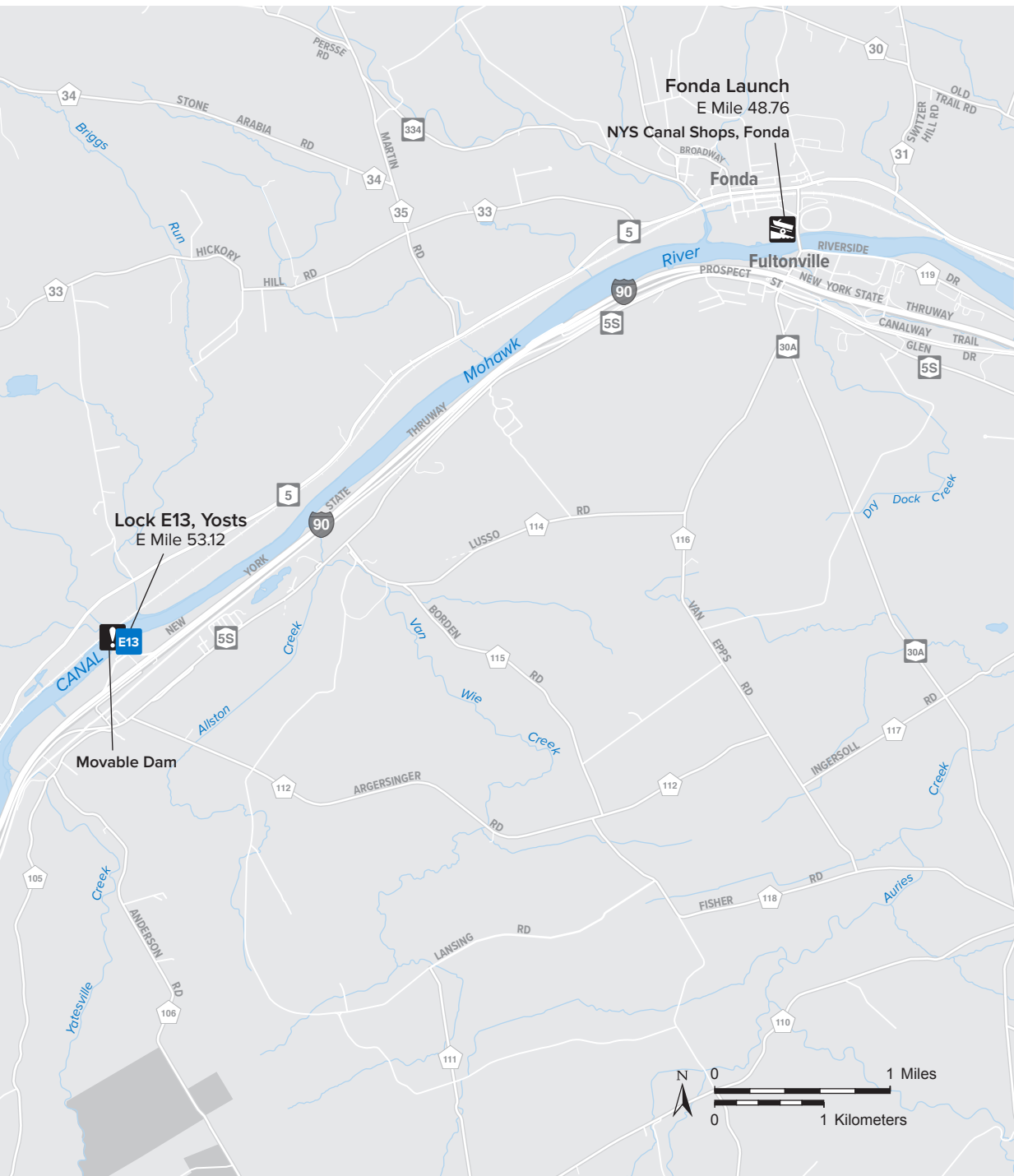
junction of the Erie Canal and Canajoharie Creek, a trail leads to the Canajoharie boat ramp on the western side of the NY 10 bridge. Shops, restaurants, and attractions are a short walk away.

E Mile 55.50 42.89557 -74.48175

Little Nose and Big Nose

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





E Mile 53.12, south side 42.91772 -74.44556

Lock E13, Yosts

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

LIFT: 8 feet.

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

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

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

E Mile 48.76, north side 42.95130 -74.37077

NYS Canal Maintenance Shops
30 South Bridge Street
Fonda, NY 12068
(518) 853-3823

FACILITIES: Camping is allowed in the village park.

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

E Mile 48.76, north side 42.95087 -74.36976

 Fonda Launch

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

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

E Mile 48.52 42.95028 -74.36936

Bridge E23, South Bridge Street (NY 30A)

E Mile 43.90, south side 42.93960 -74.29000

 Schoharie Crossing Boat Ramp

Dufel Road
Fort Hunter, NY 12069

0.13 miles up Schoharie Creek, south bank

FACILITIES: Portable toilet, picnic tables. Dual concrete ramp, floating dock, beach landing. Parking for 20 cars; \$5 fee (honor box). Distance from parking about 20 feet.

DEC fishing access site.

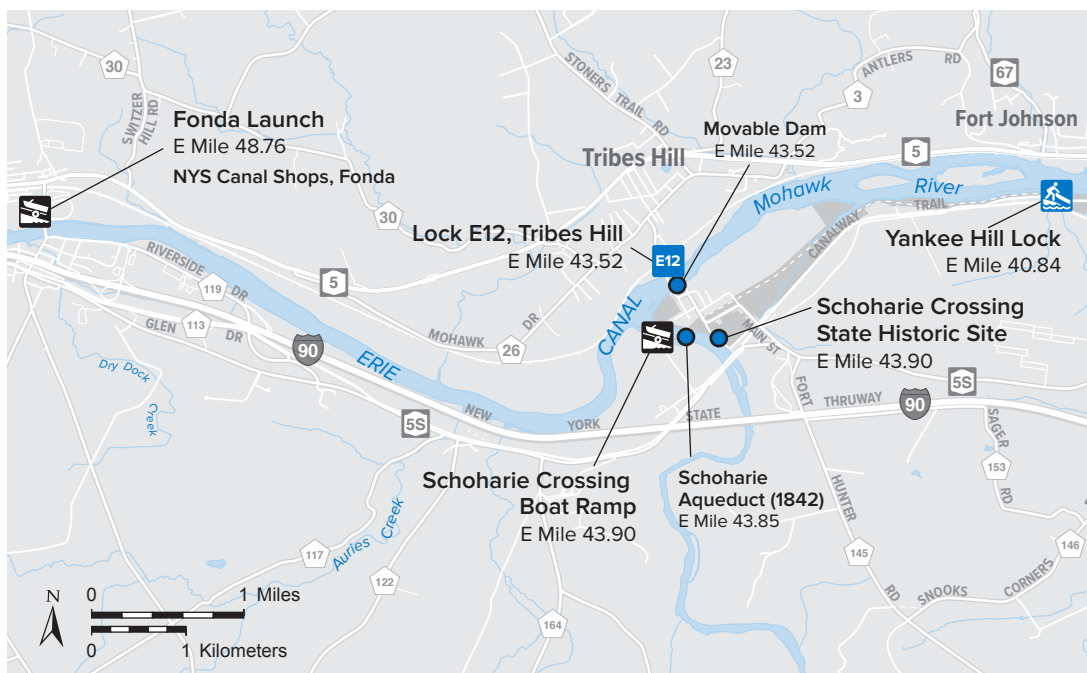
E Mile 43.90, south side 42.93948 -74.28202

Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site

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

0.56 miles up Schoharie Creek, north bank

PADDLING NOTE: The ruins of Schoharie Aqueduct can be approached while paddling on the Schoharie Creek. The aqueduct is close to the mouth of the creek so you will be paddling upstream for just a short distance.



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

ADMISSION: Free.

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

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

To cross the powerful and flood-prone Schoharie Creek, engineers of the original Erie Canal used a dam to create a pool of slack water. The boats were towed across; the mules and horses were ferried to the other side. A later towpath bridge made

the troublesome crossing somewhat less dangerous. When the canal was expanded in the 1830s, the route across Schoharie Creek was moved and an aqueduct with 14 stone masonry arches spanning 624 feet was built to carry boats across the creek. Completed in 1841, the aqueduct on the Enlarged Erie stayed in operation until 1916. It was abandoned after the Barge Canal opened. In the 1940s, the Army Corps of Engineers demolished the easternmost six arches to alleviate ice jams. Flooding and storms caused additional arches to collapse; only six of the 14 remain standing.

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

(Enlarged Erie Lock 28), built in 1841, and the restored Putman Canal Store.

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

E Mile 43.52, north side	42.94559 -74.28850
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 Lock E12, Tribes Hill

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

LIFT: 11 feet.

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

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

E Mile 43.53	42.94487 -74.28849
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Bridge E22, Main Street (CR 27)
This bridge goes over the top of the dam at Lock E12, one of only two movable dams on the Mohawk River to carry highway traffic (the other is in Rotterdam at Lock E9).

An informal gravel launch is downstream of the bridge on the south bank at the end of Brown Place.

E Mile 44.10	42.95390 -74.26335
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Upper Pepper Island. Paddle the south channel.

E Mile 43.48	42.95448 -74.25367
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Pepper Island, also known as Leppe Island or Island Number Ten. Stay to the south.

E Mile 40.84, south side	42.95315 -74.23945
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 Yankee Hill Lock

Queen Anne Street
Amsterdam, NY 12010
(518) 829-7516

FACILITIES: Portable toilets, picnic tables, grills. Car top launch and floating dock with launching slide. Unloading area 180 feet from dock, parking nearby. Parking for 20 cars. Distance from parking about 350 feet. Upstate Kayak Rentals has a kiosk here.

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

E Mile 40.29	42.95429 -74.22689
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Robb Island. Stay to the south.

AMSTERDAM



Frank Forte

Mohawk Valley Gateway Overlook Pedestrian Bridge, Amsterdam

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

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

E Mile 39.29, north side	42.94662 -74.21010
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Lock E11, Amsterdam

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

LIFT: 12 feet.

PADDLING NOTE: Beach landing at the very eastern end of the north side. The current from the movable dam can be strong. Stay to the north side when leaving or approaching the lock.

Guy Park, a stone 1774 Georgian-style mansion adjacent to the lock, was built for Guy Johnson, the nephew of Sir William Johnson, the British superintendent for Indian affairs in colonial New York. The mansion later became a tavern and stagecoach stop. It was

Erie Canal—Amsterdam

used as a field headquarters during Barge Canal construction and later became the Guy Park State Historic Site. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The property was damaged by flooding in 2011 and is currently closed.

E Mile 39.13 42.94326 -74.20706

Bronson Island. The canal channel is to the north.

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

E Mile 38.50, south side 42.93867 -74.19991

 Port Jackson/South Side Launch

Erie Terrace off Gilliland Avenue
Amsterdam, NY 12010

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

E Mile 38.15 42.93570 -74.19498

Bridge E19B, Mohawk Valley Gateway
Overlook Pedestrian Bridge

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

E Mile 38.06 42.93455 -74.19368

Bridge E19A, NY 30

E Mile 37.95, north side 42.93393 -74.19172

 Amsterdam Riverlink Park

2 Front Street
Amsterdam, NY 12010
(518) 841-4300
amsterdamny.gov/our-city/things-to-do/city-parks

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

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

E Mile 37.76 42.93119 -74.18932

Davey Island. The canal channel is to the north.

E Mile 37.27 42.92607 -74.18144

Giording Island. The canal channel is to the north.

E Mile 36.68, north side 42.92384 -74.17101

 Mohawk River Fishing Access Site

Quist Road off NY 5N
Amsterdam, NY 12010

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

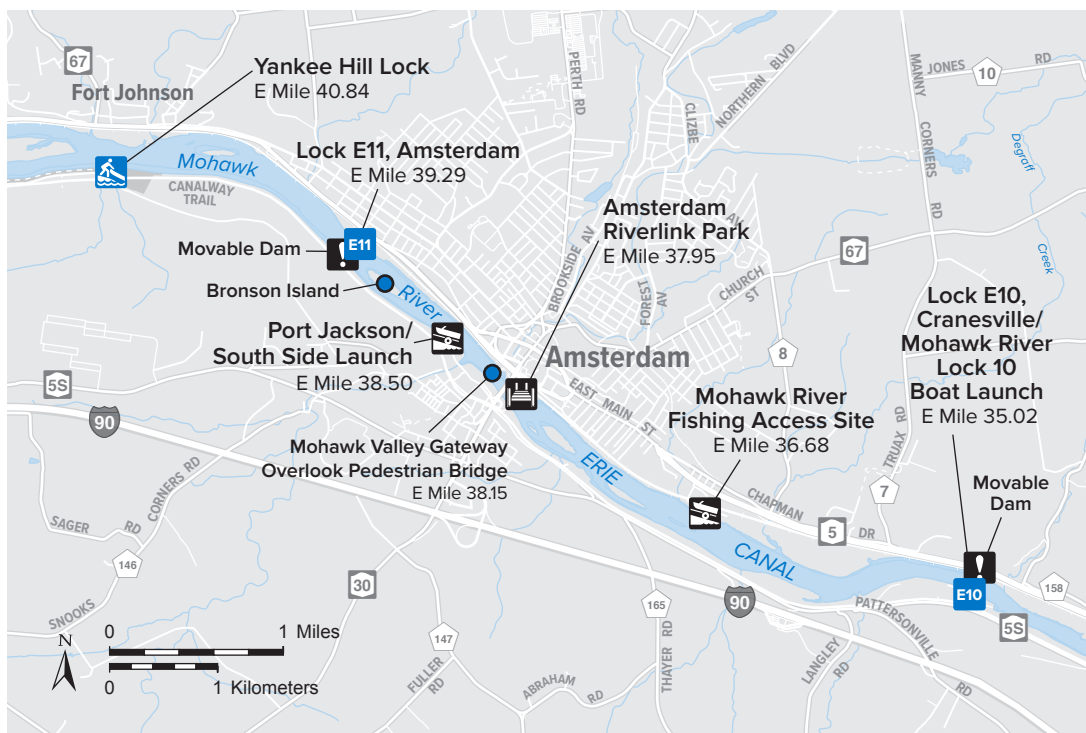
DEC fishing access site.

E Mile 35.02, south side 42.91709 -74.14078

 Lock E10, Cranesville

712 NY 5S
Amsterdam, NY 12010
(518) 887-5450

LIFT: 15 feet.



The Lock 10 boat launch is at the far end of the lock downstream on the eastern side.

PADDLING NOTE: The current from the movable dam can be strong. Stay to the south side when leaving or approaching the lock. A large stone quarry surrounds the site. No services are nearby.

E Mile 34.83, south side 42.91509 -74.13828

Mohawk River Lock 10 Boat Launch

Eastern end of Lock E10
Amsterdam, NY 12010
(518) 887-5450

FACILITIES: Concrete ramp and high floating dock. Overnight parking permitted. Distance from parking about 50 feet.

DEC fishing access site.

E Mile 33.02 42.90648 -74.10446

Swart Island. The canal channel is to the south.

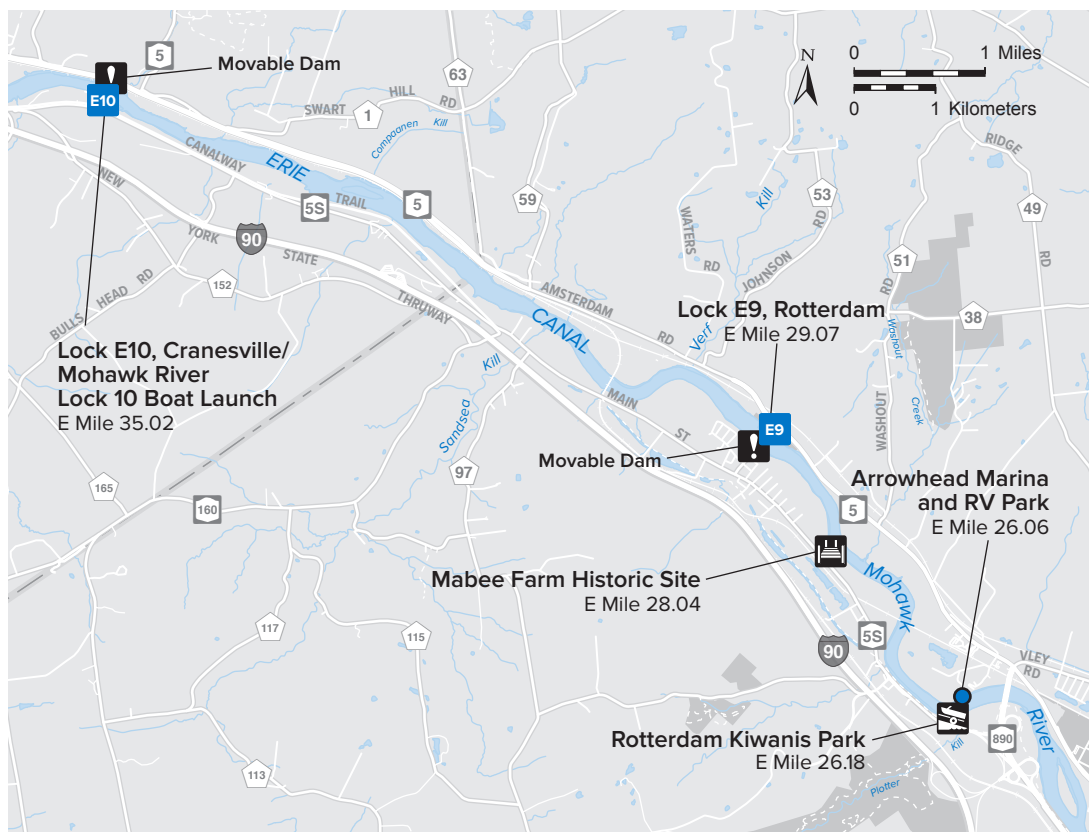
E Mile 30.43 42.88474 -74.06489

Bridge E17, CSX railroad

E Mile 29.08 42.87809 -74.04210

Bridge E16, Bridge Street (NY 103)

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



E Mile 29.08, north side 42.87973 -74.04247

Lock E9, Rotterdam (Upper)

Route 103/Bridge Street
Rotterdam Junction, NY 12150

FACILITIES: Gravel beach, portable toilet.
Parking for 20 cars.

E Mile 29.07, north side 42.87869 -74.04122

Lock E9, Rotterdam (Lower)

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

LIFT: 15 feet.

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

PADDLING NOTE: The current from the movable dam can be strong. Driftwood accumulates in this area. Stay to the north side when leaving or approaching the lock. Sunken concrete barges built during World War I are at either end of the lock approach walls.



Mabee Farm, Rotterdam Junction

E Mile 28.04, south side 42.86627 -74.03182

Mabee Farm Historic Site

1100 Main Street
 Rotterdam Junction, NY 12150
 (518) 374-0263
schenectadyhistorical.org

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

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

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

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

E Mile 27.11 42.85788 -74.02101

Bridge E15, Boston and Maine Railroad

E Mile 26.18, south side 42.84715 -74.01379

Rotterdam Kiwanis Park and Boat Ramp

1100 Sunrise Boulevard (NY 5S)
 Rotterdam, NY 12306
 (518) 355-7575
rotterdamny.org

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

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

E Mile 26.06, north side 42.84924 -74.01307

Arrowhead Marina and RV Park

2 Van Buren Lane
Glenville, NY 12302
(518) 382-8966
arrowheadmrpv.com

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

Private marina.

E Mile 25.73 42.84995 -74.00577

Bridge E14A, I-890

E Mile 25.03 42.84104 -73.99782

Dalys Island, also known as Daleys Island.
The canal channel is to the north.

E Mile 24.10, north side 42.83070 -73.98940

 Maalwyck Park

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

Just to the west of the movable dam at Lock E8

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

E Mile 24.04, south side 42.82934 -73.99139

 Lock E8, Scotia (Rotterdam)

115 Rice Road
Rotterdam, NY 12306
(518) 346-4631

LIFT: 14 feet.

FACILITIES: Portable toilet, picnic tables. Tie up at the eastern or western walls. Informal beach launch at lower end of downstream approach wall. Parking for 12 cars. Distance

from parking about 800 feet. No services are within walking distance.

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

E Mile 23.42, south side 42.82133 -73.98709

Old Erie Canal Lock 23 (Alexander's Lock) is 0.5 inland here, accessible from the Erie Canalway Trail near the intersection of Rice and Schermerhorn Roads. Exit the water trail below Lock E8 to access this historic site.

The lock dates from 1842 in the Enlarged era. It was bypassed by the Barge Canal and closed in 1918. Today, the site contains two side-by-side lock chambers and a rebuilt lockmaster's shed. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.

E Mile 23.75 42.82635 -73.98674

Isle of the Oneidas. The canal channel is to the south.

E Mile 22.91, north side 42.81601 - 73.97187

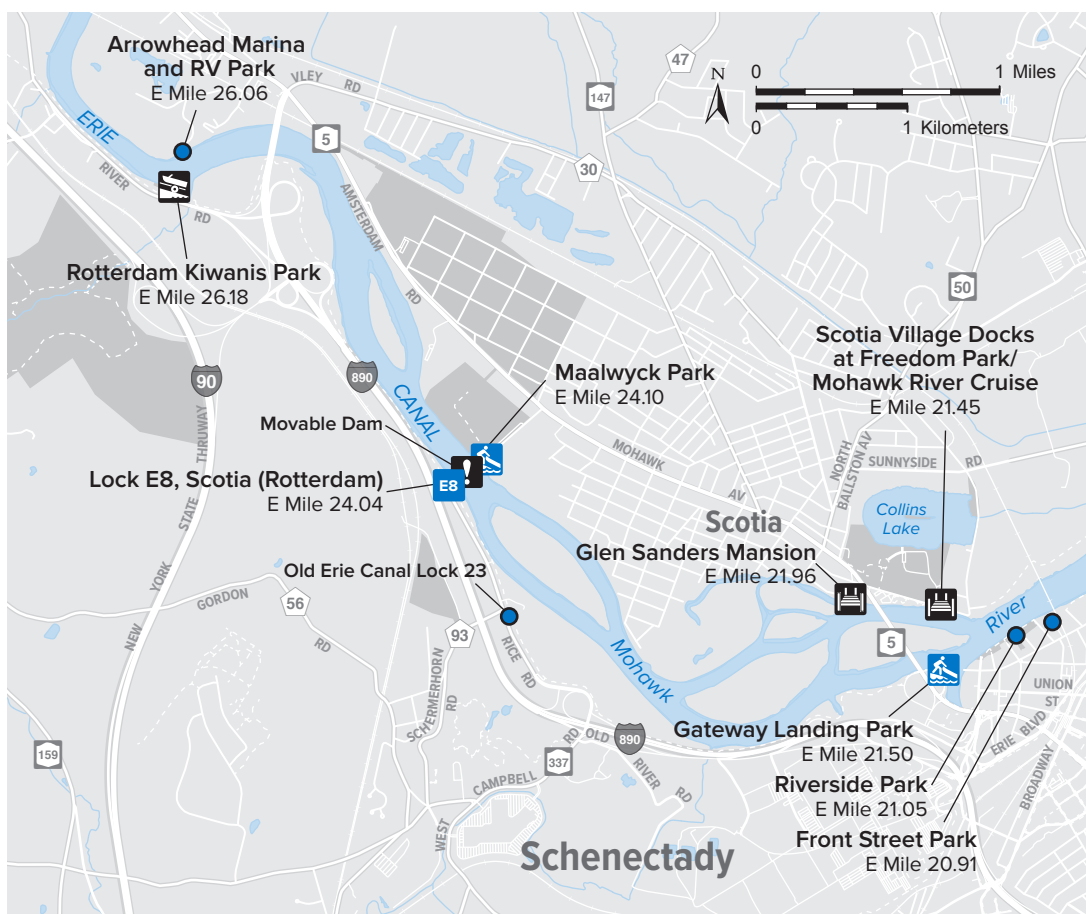
Isle of the Onondagas. The canal channel is to the south. The Mohawk River splits off from the canal at the Isle of the Onondagas and flows northward past the Isle of the Senecas and the Isle of the Mohawks.

E Mile 21.96, north side 42.82211 -73.95946

 Glen Sanders Mansion

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

Restaurant and inn with dedicated dock.
Distance from dock about 150 feet.



E Mile 21.94 42.81868 -73.95973

Isle of the Cayugas. The canal channel is to the south. Turn north to enter the Mohawk River channel that leads to the docks in Freedom Park.

E Mile 21.79, north side 42.82160 -73.95381

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

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

PADDLING NOTE: To reach the docks, leave the Erie Canal and paddle north into the channel between Isle of the Onondagas and Isle of the Cayugas for about 0.50 mile if eastbound and between Isle of the Cayugas and the mainland for about 0.40 miles if westbound. Be cautious of the water ski shows over the summer in the evenings.

SCHENECTADY

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

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

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

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

LODGING

42.82639 -73.93144

Courtyard Marriott at Mohawk Harbor
240 Harborside Drive
Schenectady, NY 12305
(518) 579-6620
marriott.com

Distance to dock about 200 feet.

42.82568 -73.93222

The Landing Hotel at Rivers Casino & Resort
21 Rush Street
Schenectady, NY 12308
(518) 579-8840
thelandinghotelny.com

PADDLECRAFT RENTALS

42.82520 -73.93353

Upstate Kayak Rentals

Harborside Drive
Schenectady, NY 12305
(518) 209-1063
upstatekayakrentals.com

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

WATERWAY CRUISES

42.82161 -73.95366

Mohawk River Cruise

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

One- and two-hour canal cruises in a glass-bottomed boat through Lock E7. Boats leave from Scotia Landing at Freedom Park and Mohawk Harbor.

E Mile 21.61 42.81834 -73.95434

Bridge E13, Western Gateway Bridge (NY 5)

E Mile 21.50, south side 42.81783 -73.95200

 Gateway Landing/Rotary Park

East of Western Gateway Bridge
Schenectady, NY 12303
(518) 386-2225

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

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

E Mile 21.05, south side 42.81983 -73.94609

Riverside Park

Between Washington and Ingersoll Streets
Schenectady, NY 12305

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

E Mile 20.91, south side 42.82060 -73.94315

Front Street Park

157 Front Street
Schenectady, NY 12305

FACILITIES: Restrooms.

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

E Mile 20.99 42.82213 -73.94349

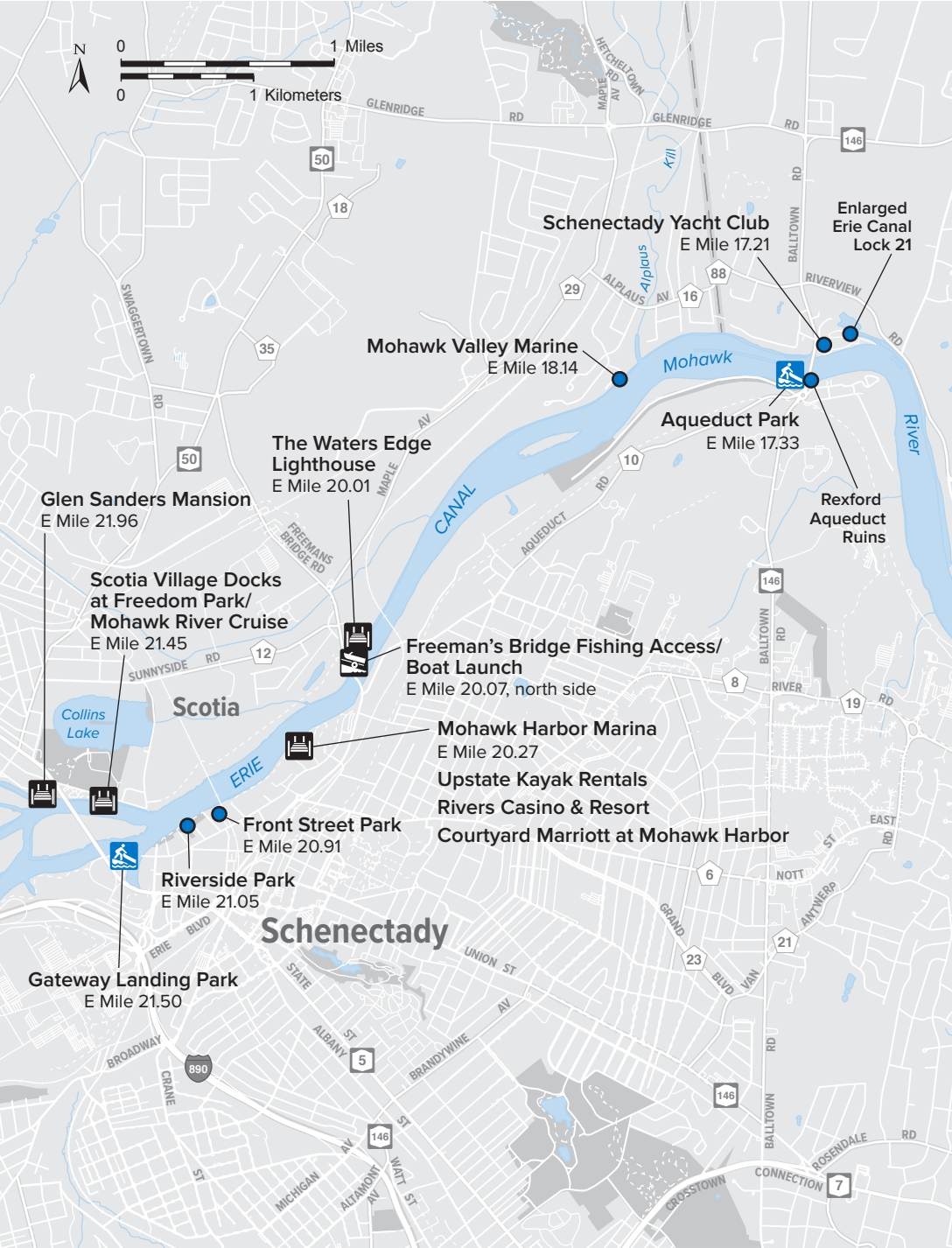
Bridge E12, CSX railroad

E Mile 20.27, south side 42.82525 -73.93343

Mohawk Harbor

Schenectady, NY 12308

Mohawk Harbor, a 60-acre mixed-use development, stretches along the south side of the river for a mile. The community



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

E Mile 20.27, south side 42.82520 -73.93353

Mohawk Harbor Marina

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

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

E Mile 20.12 42.82971 -73.93039

Bridge E11, Freemans Bridge Road

E Mile 20.07, north side 42.83100 -73.93050

Freeman's Bridge Fishing Access/Boat Launch

Freemans Bridge Road
Glenville, NY 12301

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

DEC fishing access site with accessible dock.

E Mile 20.01, north side 42.83178 -73.93029

The Waters Edge Lighthouse

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

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

E Mile 19.80 42.83363 -73.92737

Bridge E10, CP railroad

E Mile 19.57 42.84060 -73.91840

The canal channel is to the north of the island.

E Mile 18.14, north side 42.84985 -73.90559

Mohawk Valley Marine

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

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

Private marina.

E Mile 18.13, north side 42.85096 -73.90368

Alplaus Kill enters the Mohawk River.

E Mile 17.93 42.85151 -73.89949

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

E Mile 17.33, south side 42.84935 -73.88983

 Aqueduct Park

2757 Aqueduct Road
Schenectady, NY 12309
(518) 386-4504

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

Upstate Kayak Rental kiosk is located here.

Aqueduct Rowing Club and high school rowing clubs operate here.

E Mile 17.25 42.85028 -73.88793

Bridge E8, Balltown Road (NY 146)

E Mile 17.20 42.85100 -73.88743

Rexford Aqueduct Ruins

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

E Mile 17.21, north side 42.85200 -73.88665

Schenectady Yacht Club

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

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

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

E Mile 16.91, north side 42.85272 -73.88420

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

E Mile 16.02, north side 42.84957 -73.87856

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

E Mile 14.75, north side 42.82649 -73.85987

Riverview Orchards

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

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

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

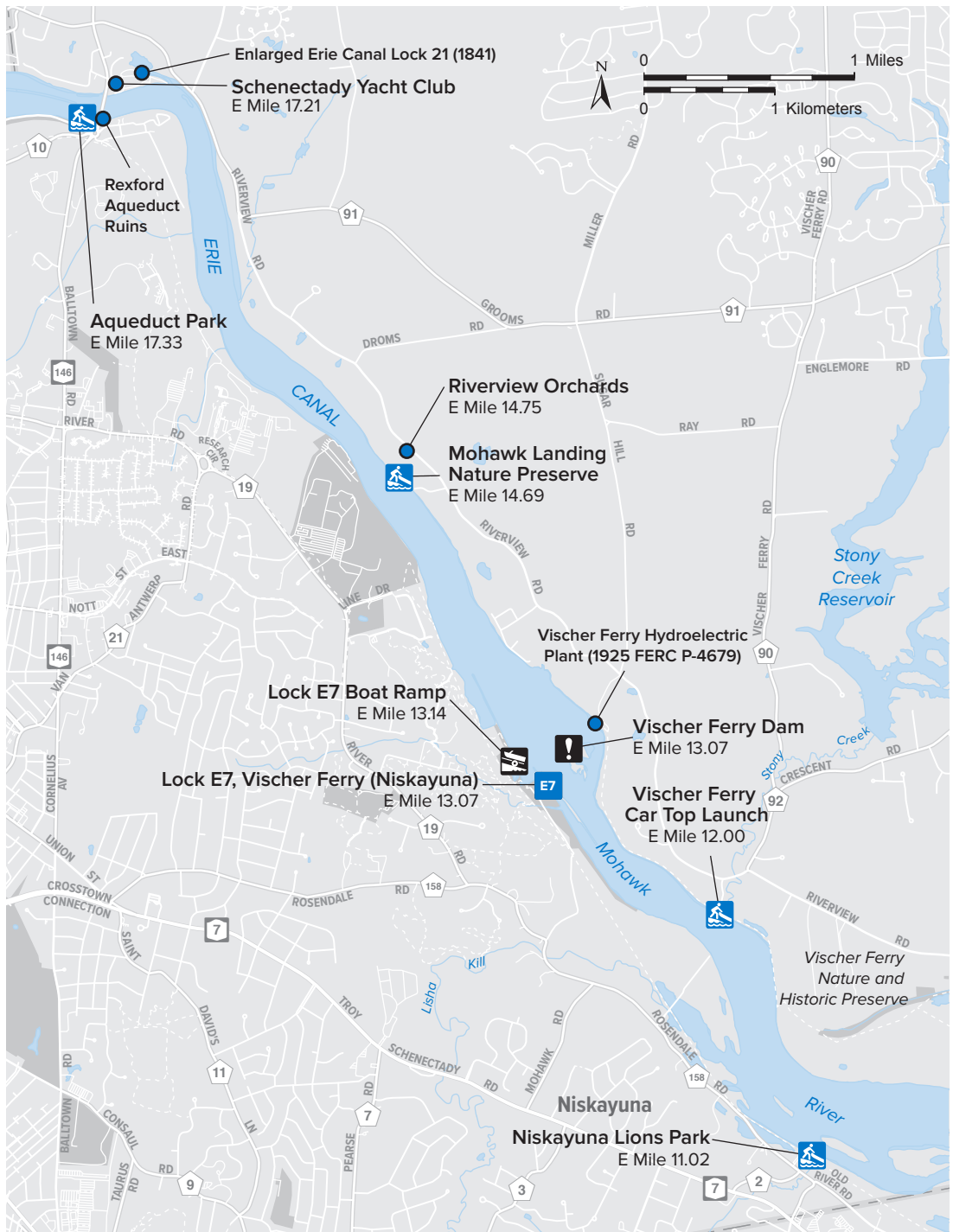
HOURS: Open every day 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. year-round.

E Mile 14.69, north side 42.82459 -73.86063

 Mohawk Landing Nature Preserve

640 Riverview Road
Clifton Park, NY 12065
(518) 371-6651
cliftonpark.org

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



E Mile 13.14, south side 42.80335 -73.84904

 Lock E7 Boat Ramp

Lock 7 Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309

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

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

E Mile 13.07, south side 42.80323 -73.84706

Lock E7, Vischer Ferry (Niskayuna)

1280 Lock 7 Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309
(518) 374-7912

LIFT: 27 feet.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

E Mile 12.00, north side 42.79419 -73.83120

 Vischer Ferry Car Top Launch

End of Ferry Drive
Rexford, NY 12148

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

E Mile 12.14, north side

Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve

Riverview Road
Rexford, NY 12148
(518) 371-6667
cliftonparkopenspaces.org

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

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

Clute’s Dry Dock, dating from 1852 and abandoned in 1907, is about one mile east of the Whipple Bridge entrance to the preserve,



on the south side of Riverview Road. Canal boats were built and repaired here, but all the workshops and other structures are long gone. The dry dock area is now a large pond.

A kayak and canoe launch are in the dry dock area, however the site is only accessible from the water trail during periods of high to moderate water levels.

E Mile 11.02, south side 42.77751 -73.82289

 Niskayuna Lions Park

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

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

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

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

E Mile 7.22 42.79159 -73.76138

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

E Mile 7.10, north side 42.79428 -73.76088

Diamond Reef Yacht Club

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

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

Private yacht club.

E Mile 6.88, south side 42.79413 -73.75576

Blain's Bay Marina

221 Dunsbach Ferry Road
Cohoes, NY 12047
(518) 785-6785

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

Private marina.

E Mile 6.87, north side 42.79672 -73.75999

 Vandenburg Dunsbach Ferry Launch

Towpath Road
Halfmoon, NY 12065

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

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

E Mile 6.86, north side 42.79676 -73.76002

 The Klam'r Tavern & Marina

32 Clamsteam Road
Halfmoon, NY 12065
(518) 930-0577
theklamr.com

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

E Mile 6.35, south side 42.79948 -73.74787

 Mohawk Riverside Landing Park

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

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

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



E Mile 5.96, north side 42.80692 -73.74849

Crescent Boat Club

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

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

Private yacht club.

E Mile 4.72, north side 42.82245 -73.73593

Halfmoon-Crescent Park

1 Old Canal Road
Halfmoon, NY 12065

FACILITIES: Picnic tables. Parking for 20 cars.

E Mile 4.55 42.82145 -73.73167

Bridge E6, Loudon Road (NY 9)

E Mile 4.50, north side 42.82320 -73.73140

Crescent Terminal Wall

Terminal Road
Halfmoon, NY 12065

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

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

E Mile 4.50, south side 42.82010 -73.72990

Freddie's Park

22 North Schermerhorn Road
Cohoes, NY 12047

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

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

E Mile 4.32, south side 42.82075 -73.72771

Albany Marine Services

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

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

Private marina.

CAPITAL REGION

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

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

WATERFORD

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

Waterford is home to the Tugboat Round-up held each September. It is the largest annual tugboat festival in the Northeast. The

annual Canal Fest is held in mid-May. A farmer’s market takes place on the canalfront promenade near the visitor center at Lock 2 on Sunday mornings during canal season.

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

PLACES OF INTEREST OFF THE WATER

42.78906 -73.70892

Cohoes Falls

North Mohawk Street
Cohoes NY 12047
friendsofcohoesfalls.org

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

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

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

42.69507 -73.78091

The Waterford Historical Museum

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

42.79395 -73.67866

Old Champlain Canal Towpath

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

Beginning at Lock 2 Park, follow this walking and bike trail south for about one mile to see Old Champlain Canal Lock 4 and Lock 5, the old weigh lock, and several sidecut locks, all dating from the enlarged era.



PADDLECRAFT RENTALS

42.78570 -73.67762

Upstate Kayak Rentals

Flight Lock Road
Waterford, NY 12188

(518) 209-1063

upstatekayakrentals.com

Kayak rentals, traveling adventures, and self-serve kayak rental hubs throughout the Capital Region. In Waterford, they are located at Alcathy's Boat Launch and the Waterford Point Boat Ramp.

E Mile 3.02, north side

42.80789 -73.71451

Alcathy's Boat Launch (Flight Lock Road Boat Launch)

Western end of Flight Lock Road
Waterford, NY 12188

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

DEC fishing access site.

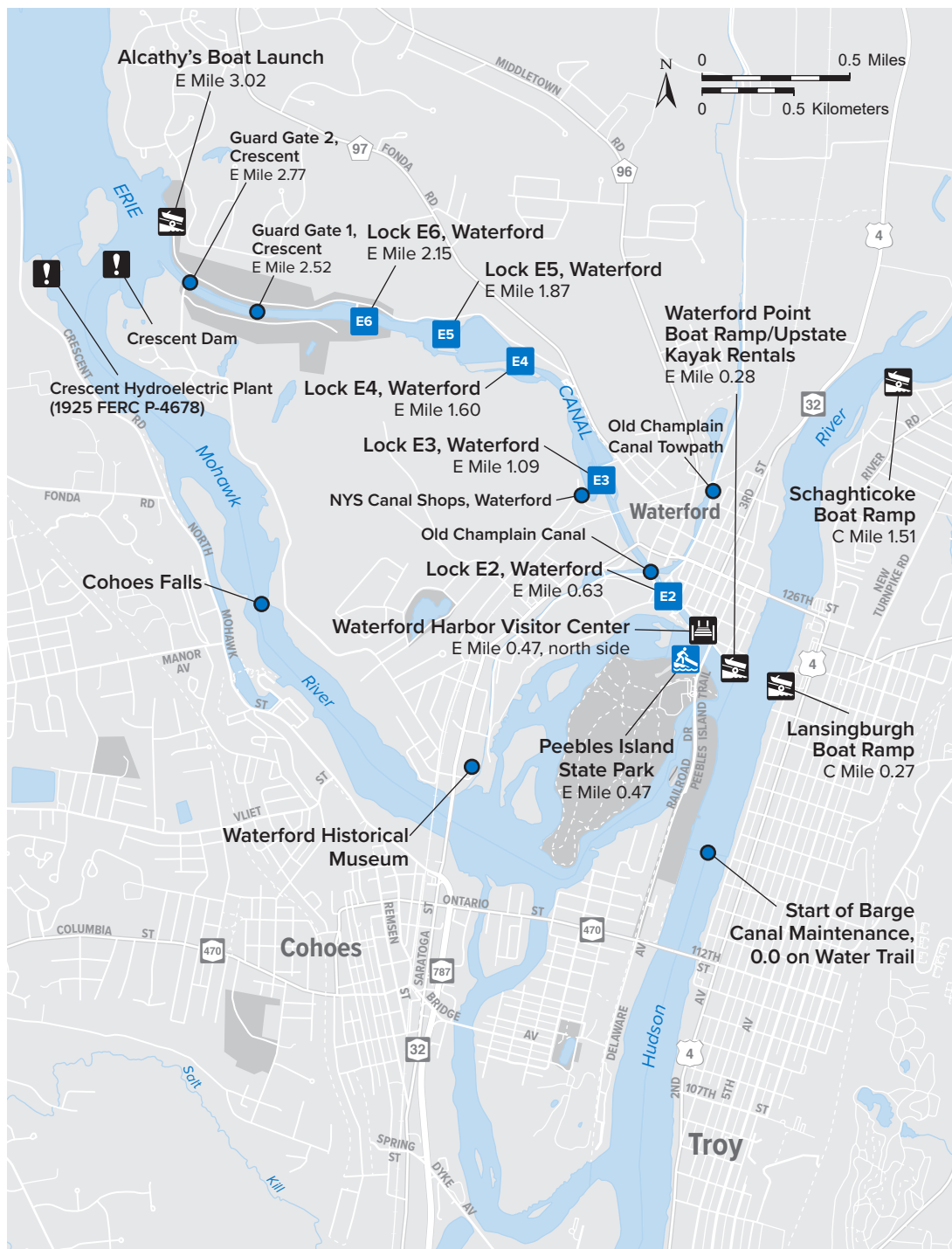
This launch is an outstanding starting point for paddling through the Waterford Flight of Locks. There are no services accessible to paddlers until Lock 2 at Waterford Harbor.

THE WATERFORD FLIGHT

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

- Safety first! Always wear life jackets. Beware of large boats traversing through the Flight.
- Allow two to three hours to complete the trip and arrive at Waterford Harbor.
- We recommend putting in at Alcathy's and taking out at Waterford Point Boat Ramp. Leave a vehicle at the take out point to facilitate your return at the end.
- There are no services accessible to paddlers and no take-out points until you reach Waterford Harbor.
- This trip takes you through two guard gates and five locks. Each lock takes about 20 minutes. Call ahead to alert lock operators of your journey so they are prepared to open gates and locks.
- As you start out, stay to the right hand shoreline to enter the canal channel. You'll paddle through a 0.5-mile long deep rock cut carved in the greywacke shale that forms the crest of Cohoes Falls.
- Large stilling pools between the locks ensure an ample supply of water for the locks and prevent overflow as the massive chambers empty and fill. The slab-on-pier guide walls between Locks E6 and Lock E5 allow the free flow of water into and out of the stilling pools. Stay in the channel; do not attempt to get out and walk on the concrete slabs.

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



E Mile 2.80, south side	42.80580 -73.71822
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Crescent Dam, Cohoes

The massive Crescent Dam on the south side is visible. Built in 1911, the 1,922 foot long dam consists of two curved sections separated by a rocky island.

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

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

E Mile 2.78	42.80489 -73.71349
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Bridge E5, Flight Lock Road

E Mile 2.77	42.80490 -73.71336
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Guard Gate 2, Crescent
Eastbound paddlers must call
(518) 237-0833 or VHF 13 to open.

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

E Mile 2.52	42.80340 -73.70891
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Guard Gate 1, Crescent

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

E Mile 2.15	42.80286 -73.70173
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Lock E6, Waterford

77 Flight Lock Road
Waterford, NY 12188
(518) 237-4014

LIFT: 33 feet.

FACILITIES: Portable toilet, picnic tables, viewing platform. Tie up at the western walls. Facilities are difficult for paddlers to access at this location due to vertical canal walls.

E Mile 1.87	42.80216 -73.69629
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Lock E5, Waterford

55 Flight Lock Road
Waterford, NY 12188
(518) 237-0821

LIFT: 33.3 feet.

The slab-on-pier guide walls between Lock E5 and Lock E4 allow the free flow of water into and out of the stilling pools.

E Mile 1.60	42.80078 -73.69142
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Lock E4, Waterford

25 Flight Lock Road
Waterford, NY 12188
(518) 237-0818

LIFT: 34.5 feet.

E Mile 1.10, south side	42.79415 -73.68747
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NYS Canal Maintenance Shops, Waterford
The entrance to the canal shops and drydock is on the south side. The shops repair NYS Corporation boats and locks in the eastern end of the system.

PADDLING NOTE: Do not enter the canal shops area. Watch out for workboats near the entrance.

E Mile 1.09 42.79486 -73.68613

Lock E3, Waterford

48 Washington Avenue
Waterford, NY 12188
(518) 237-0812

LIFT: 34.5 feet.

E Mile 0.97 42.79328 -73.68526

Bridge E4, CP railroad

E Mile 0.84 42.79159 -73.68420

Bridge E3, Saratoga Avenue (NY 32)

E Mile 0.63 42.78912 -73.68180

Lock E2, Waterford

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

LIFT: 33.6 feet.

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

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

E Mile 0.57 42.78849 -73.68098

Bridge E2, 4th Street

PADDLING NOTE: The stretch from here to the Hudson can be one of the busiest places on the canal. Watch out for powerboats, tugs and barges.

E Mile 0.47, north side 42.78743 -73.67952

 Waterford Harbor Visitor Center

1 Tugboat Alley
Waterford, NY 12188
(518) 233-9123
town.waterford.ny.us

FACILITIES: Electric, wi-fi, water, restrooms, showers. Shops and restaurants in Waterford are a short walk away. Volunteers provide visitor information. Visitor Center can be accessed from the Waterford Point Boat Ramp 0.19 of a mile east.

Designated Biker-Hiker-Boater site.

E Mile 0.47 42.78399 -73.68070

 Peebles Island State Park

1 Delaware Avenue
Waterford, NY 12188
parks.ny.gov

FACILITIES: Water, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, pavilion, hiking trails. Car top launch, beach landing. Parking for 40 cars. Open during daylight hours. Distance from parking about 535 feet. Shops and restaurants in Waterford are a short walk away over the Delaware Avenue Bridge.

The 90-acre Peebles Island State Park is located at the confluence of the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers. The park is accessible by a bridge over the Erie Canal or from the water using the launch on the east side of the Island on the Hudson River near the Observation Deck or the dock at the northern end of the island on the Erie Canal. Hiking trails around the island with cliffs, water views, and mature oak woodland. Peebles Island is headquarters to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

E Mile 0.41 42.78638 -73.67934

Bridge E1, 2nd Street (Peebles Island Road)



Waterford Harbor

Richard Endres

E Mile 0.28, north side 42.78554 -73.67745

Waterford Point Boat Ramp

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

FACILITIES: Concrete ramp, low dock, beach landing. Parking for 10 cars; overnight parking permitted. Distance from parking about 20 feet. Walk to restrooms, showers, and information at the Waterford Harbor Visitor Center. Upstate Kayak Rentals has a full-service kayak rental location.

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

CHAMPLAIN CANAL

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

Water Trail sites along the Champlain Canal can be found starting on page 256.