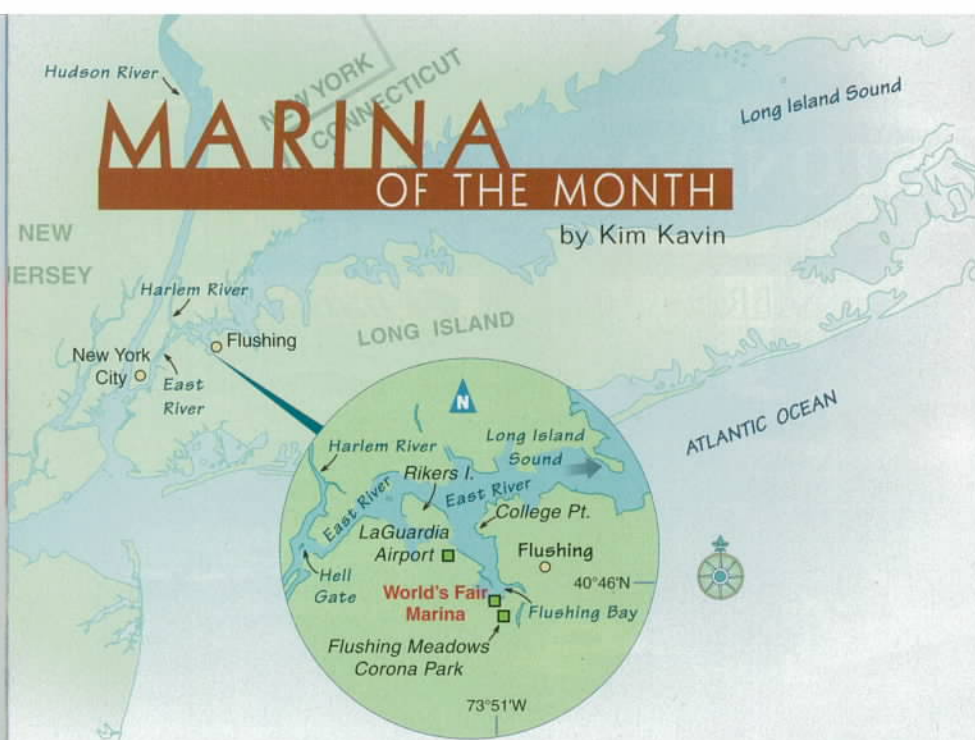


MARINA OF THE MONTH

by Kim Kavin



State Run, Boater Approved

Owned and operated by the city of New York, World's Fair Marina is working to bring boaters back to the waterfront.

World's Fair Marina is one of more than a dozen boating facilities on property owned by the New York City Parks & Recreation Department, but it's one of only three that the department manages without a concessionaire. The city took over in 1999, some 44 years after the marina opened on the site of the 1939 and 1964 World's Fairs, hoping to rekindle some of yesteryear's magic in the shadow of Shea Stadium in Flushing, where the East River opens into Flushing Bay.

"We're trying to bring it back to its original splendor," explains manager

Nate Grove of the expansive facility that was built in 1939 as an exhibition for the World's Fair and updated for the 1964 fair to become a full-time marina. "It used to be a marina of 800 slips. Right now, Pier 2 is completely unusable. It got silted in, because there wasn't enough demand. The years passed, and whoever had the concession wasn't focusing on it."

Grove and his crew work under the ultimate direction of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, and, as Grove explains, "[Former Mayor Rudy] Giuliani got people down to the waterfront. Bloomberg has taken the next step to try to get people on

the water, with things like launch ramps and marina investments."

World's Fair Marina has benefitted from those investments, most recently with a \$250,000 effort to reconstruct some of its Corona Park docks, including the addition of 40 slips. The marina has a total of 332 slips, including more than 20 for transients, as well as four commercial berths, a floating dock near the old Pier 2 and security guards at the gates. New showers, bathrooms and laundry rooms were installed this year, and ice, fuel, slipside electrical hookup, engine repair and free pump-out are also available. The improvements and amenities—including the hip onsite World's Fair Restaurant & Banquet Hall—along with a newly built promenade that runs a half-mile along the marina's waterfront on Flushing Bay and a free small-boat and kayak launch area, are the kinds of things Grove says are bringing boaters back.

One of World's Fair Marina's greatest assets is its proximity to the new Citi Field (where the New York Mets will play baseball) and the USTA National Tennis Center and Arthur Ashe Stadium (host of the U.S. Open). Shea is a 10-minute walk from the marina, and the tennis center is roughly 20 minutes away by foot, with dockage during sporting events just \$1 per foot. It's \$2 per foot for boaters not planning to attend a game or match.

The marina, which can handle boats up to 120 feet in length, is 1½ miles from LaGuardia Airport. It is also within easy reach of the New York Hall of Science, the Queens Art Museum and the Queens Botanical Garden.

There are three ways to get to the marina via Flushing Bay. From the west end of Long Island Sound, enter the East River and turn to port at College Point into the bay. If approaching from Upper New York Bay, turn to starboard into the East River and head through Hell Gate into the bay. From the north on the Hudson River, enter the Harlem River and follow it to Hell Gate, the East River and the bay. The marina is south of the LaGuardia Airport breakwater. Use NOAA chart 12339.



Kim Kavin

As a municipal facility, World's Fair Marina in New York has reasonable dockage rates.

WORLD'S FAIR MARINA, FLUSHING BAY FLUSHING, NEW YORK

718-478-0480; fax: 718-478-9487

www.nycgovparks.org/sub_things_to_do/facilities/marinas/html/marina-info.html
VHF channel 71

Lat/lon.....	40° 45.62' N / 73° 51.00' W
Total slips.....	332
Transient slips.....	20
Cost/foot/night.....	\$1-\$2
Moorings.....	No
Gas.....	Yes
Diesel.....	Yes
Pump-out.....	Yes
Engine repair.....	Yes