



City of New York Parks & Recreation Kayak, Canoe and Boat Launch Application Rules and Recommendations

The success of the City's boat launches — both for hand-powered and non-hand-powered craft alike — is dependent upon our safety record. To assure compliance with safety requirements, the City requires a permit for the use of all City kayak and canoe as well as power and sailboat launch facilities. Permits may be obtained by mail or in person for a fee of \$15.00 at the following permit offices:

- Bronx:** Ranaqua, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Bronx Park East and Birchall Ave
Bronx, NY 10462 Tel: (718) 430-1840
- Brooklyn:** Litchfield Villa, 95 Prospect Park West and 5th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11215 Tel: (718) 965-8919
- Manhattan:** The Arsenal, 830 Fifth Avenue and Central Park
New York, NY 10065 Tel: (212) 360-8133
- Queens:** The Passerelle Building, across from the outdoor tennis courts
Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Flushing, NY 11368
Tel: (718) 393-7272
- Staten Island:** Greenbelt Recreation Center, 501 Brielle Ave
Staten Island, NY 10314 Tel: (718) 667-3547 ext. 313 or 312

It is important that you read the following conditions and rules carefully. Issuance of this permit is based on your affirmation that you have read the conditions and rules and that you understand and agree to abide by them. You alone are responsible for your own safety and that of your passengers.

Failure to abide by these conditions and rules shall lead to revocation of the permit.



Power and Sailboat Launches

This permit allows power and sailboat launching only at the following facilities and only at the free public launch site as marked by NYC Parks signage:

World's Fair Marina, Flushing Bay, Queens – (718) 426-5971 or (718) 478-0480

Bayside Marina, Little Neck Bay, Queens – (718) 229-0097

Lemon Creek, Prince's Bay, Staten Island – (718) 356-7235

Power and sailboat launching at other NYC Parks marinas is subject to applicable fees and permits.

For a complete list, visit the "Boating and Marinas" link on the Parks website www.nyc.gov/parks.

Kayak and Canoe Launch Locations

This permit allows kayak, canoe and other hand-powered vessel launching at all NYC Parks-designated launch sites. The complete list of NYC Parks hand-powered vessel launch sites is available via the "Kayak/Canoe Launch Sites" link on the Parks website www.nyc.gov/parks.

Power and sailboats may not launch at kayak/canoe launch sites.



Safety Recommendations For All Boating

- 1) You must be familiar with and obey all federal, state and local boating rules and regulations. These include but are not limited to:
 - a) All vessels are subject to safety inspection at any time by any federal, state, or local authorities.
 - b) All persons aboard a hand-powered craft must wear Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) at all times. It is recommended that all persons aboard power and sailboats wear PFDs at all times. Vessels must be equipped with at least one PFD per passenger.**
 - c) Both a sound-producing device such as a small air horn or loud whistle-and a distress flag or flare or flashlight should be carried in case of an emergency.
 - d) All vessels must obey the Rules of the Road. These include, but are not limited to:
 - I. When two vessels are on a collision course in a crossing situation, the vessel on the right has the right of way.
 - II. Vessels without mechanized power have the right of way, but smaller vessels must yield to larger vessels that do not have the same maneuverability. These include sludge carrying ships, oil tankers and barges and any large commercial vessel. It is also wise to yield to fast-moving powerboats. A vessel being overtaken should maintain its speed and direction.
 - III. A vessel overtaking another should stay clear of the craft being overtaken.
 - IV. In any case, take whatever action is necessary to avoid the collision.
 - e) Federal and state regulations prohibit mooring, that is, tying up to navigation aids such as channel markers and buoys except under emergency conditions.
 - f) Negligent or grossly negligent operation of a recreational craft that endangers lives or property is not permitted. Examples of negligent operation include:



- I. Operating a vessel in a swimming area.
 - II. Operating a vessel while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
 - III. Permitting passengers to ride on the bow, seatbacks or gunwales.
- 2) Because this is a water-use program, landing on any lands or shoreline or islands, other than a launch site or designated dock, is not allowed, except in an emergency.
 - 3) Use up-to-date navigational charts of the water, **tidal current charts**, tide tables, and consult the Local National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather station. In addition, check your local newspapers for weather and general tide information.
 - 4) It is much safer to travel with companions.
 - 5) Always carry an additional means of propulsion, whether it is a paddle or oar when operating a hand-powered craft. Sailing vessels should be equipped with an auxiliary engine.
 - 6) Never carry more persons than recommended by the manufacturer for the capacity of your vessel.
 - 7) When either air or water temperatures are cold, it is advisable to wear an exposure (dry) suit when operating a hand-powered craft.
 - 8) Because the shoreline can accumulate broken glass, rusted metal and other hazardous objects, passengers and operators alike should all wear foot covering when getting in and out of vessels.
 - 9) Be aware that derelict cars, old boats and rotting pilings may be submerged in many of the shoreline areas. In addition, be on the alert for people fishing from bridges, unexpected approaching speedboats, and construction or repair activities.
 - 10) Operators should be trained in first aid and know how to deal with hypothermia.
 - 11) You should leave a detailed trip plan with your family or friends. Trip plans describe the trip you are planning to take in your vessel and lists anyone who is travelling with you.**



Equipment Recommendations

All vessels should carry the following:

- a) Bailer
- b) Lines for bow and stern and extra line
- c) Sound producing device air horn or whistle
- d) Distress flag
- e) Flare or flashlight
- f) First aid kit
- g) Sunglasses, sun screen
- h) Drinking water
- i) Compass, charts, tide tables, current charts
- j) Duct tape for emergency repairs
- k) Waterproof containers for spare clothing, charts, etc.



City of New York Parks & Recreation

Rules for Operating a Kayak or Canoe

The following is an excerpt, taken from the Park Rules & Regulations and shall apply to all City kayak or canoe launch permit sites and parking areas for boaters using the aforementioned sites, under the jurisdiction of New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

§2-06 Kayaks and Canoes.

- (a) A permit allows a permittee and his or her guests to use the City's access facilities for a kayak or canoe. A permittee may have more than one boat listed on his or her permit, but each kayak or canoe on the water must carry a permittee.
- (b) The permittee is responsible for the safety of all those in his or her craft. Operation of the kayak or canoe under a permit is solely at the operator's own risk.
- (c) Permittees and guest should be strong, experienced swimmers. It is recommended that permittees be able to sustain themselves fully clothed for ten minutes in deep water; swim two body-lengths underwater at a depth of six feet; and tow a "victim" fifteen feet.
- (d) Permittees must be familiar with and obey all federal, state and local boating rules and regulations.
- (e) Permittees must be aware that environmental conditions such as rip tides and other strong currents can overwhelm even the most adept swimmers. They should know the water and weather conditions before going out.
- (f) Because the waters can be polluted, boaters should avoid water contact to the greatest degree possible. Swimming, water skiing, windsurfing, scuba diving or practicing immersion escape techniques in the water to which the launch site give access are prohibited.
- (g) No wildlife or natural land features may be disturbed.
- (h) Kayaks and/or canoes may be launched only at sites designated for this purpose. No person shall launch any boat or water vehicle that requires the use of a boat trailer or other such trailer for its land transportation. A person shall not launch a motor powered vessel, or use either an inboard motor on any vessel once underway. No person shall launch rafts or other inflatables, sailboats, rowboats, "wind surfers" or sailboats of any kind.
- (i) All persons using a kayak or canoe must wear a Personal Flotation Device.**



- (j) No person launching a boat from a kayak and/or canoe launch may begin a boating trip before sunrise. **Kayak trips shall be completed no later than one-half hour before sunset.** The launch permit sites will be open from May to November, weather permitting. Launches may be closed due to inclement weather or unsafe conditions.
- (k) No person shall enter a launch site, or operate or ride as a passenger in a canoe or kayak, under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- (l) No person shall use any boat-launching site or any adjacent waters within 100 feet from the shore of a launch area, including offshore and inshore approaches, for any purpose other than launching boats or removing boats from the water, unless a written permit is obtained from the department.



Kayak & Canoe Launch Site Rules

Safety Guidelines:

- Permit is required for use of all City launches.
- All paddlers must wear a United States Coast Guard approved personal floatation device (PDF).
- Be aware of weather, tides and currents.
- Be aware of power boats and other personal watercrafts.
- Notify someone else of your trip plans and check in when you return.
- Carry a spare paddle.
- Bring appropriate safety, rescue, and navigational aids, and more than adequate food, water and extra protective clothing.
- Paddlers enter the water at their own risk.
- Please do not let children near launch sites without adult supervision.
- Do not paddle alone.

Launch Rules Prohibit:

- Swimming, diving, or entering the water. This includes pets.
- Dogs off leash.
- Littering or dumping debris.
- Any discharge into water.
- Camping or open fires.
- You may not store personal property or leave kayaks unattended.

Power and Sailboat Launch Site Rules



Launch Rules:

- Boaters enter the water at their own risk.
- All boats must be seaworthy with appropriate registration and insurance.
- Sailing vessels must be equipped with an auxiliary engine.
- Boats must be equipped with United States Coast Guard approved personal floatation devices (PDF). There must be at least one PFD per passenger.
- A 5 mph 'No Wake Zone' in boat ramp areas must be observed.
- You may not store personal property or leave boats unattended.
- Vehicles, trailers and hitches must be parked in designated parking areas. Trailers and hitches must be attached to tow vehicles at all times.
- Be alert to weather conditions and other boats. We recommend you notify someone else of your trip plan.

Launch Rules Prohibit:

- Jet skis or rafts.
- Swimming, diving, or entering the water. This includes pets.
- Littering or dumping debris.
- Any discharge into water.

Please do not let children near launch sites without adult supervision.



City of New York Parks & Recreation Vessel Trip Plan

Date: _____

Permit #: _____

Facility/location from which you are departing: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Automobile Make and Year: _____

Color: _____ License Plate #: _____

Description of Watercraft:

Type: _____

Color: _____ Registration #: _____

Length: _____ Width: _____

Number of Passengers: _____

Name

Age

Address and Telephone

Trip Plans:

Departure Time: _____ Arrival Time: _____

General Route:



**City of New York Parks & Recreation
Kayak, Canoe and Boat Launch
Application for Individual Seasonal Permit**

Date: _____

Permit #: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (cell): _____ (home): _____

E-mail: _____

Persons to be notified in the event of an emergency:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (cell): _____ (home): _____

Vessels for which permit is being sought:

For each vessel of each type (kayak/canoe/rowing shell/tandem/folding/powerboat)

provide the following information:

(If you will be using club-owned vessels only, write "Vessels owned by _____ Club")

<u>Type</u>	<u>Registration or Hull ID #</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Width</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
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Important Additional Information

Boaters should familiarize themselves with the U.S. Department of Transportation & United States Coast Guard published *Navigation Rules International and Inland*. Copies of the rules may be obtained from the U.S. Government Bookstore. Full text is also available online at:

http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/mwv/navrules/rotr_online.htm.

Federal Requirements for Recreational Boats, published by the U.S. Coast Guard is available, free of charge, by writing to Commander, First Coast Guard District, Coast Guard Building, 408 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA 02210-2209. This information is also available online at:

<http://www.uscgboating.org/regulations/fedreg.htm>.

Emergency contact numbers:

United States Coast Guard

SOS and Emergency Rescue

(718) 354-4120

(617) 223-8555

(757) 398-6390

NYPD Harbor Patrol

(718) 765-4100

For more information on boating, kayaking and canoeing, including free programs, maps, rentals and more, visit the "Boating and Marinas" section of the Parks website at www.nyc.gov/parks.