



## KAYAK, CANOE AND BOAT LAUNCH APPLICATION RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The success of the City's boat launches—both for human-powered and non-human-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, power and sailboat launch facilities. Permit applications may be submitted by mail or in person at the permit offices listed below. The fee for each permit is \$15. Payment may be made by credit card, check, or money order (if paying by check please make payable to "City of New York Dept. Parks & Rec."). Cash is accepted at the Arsenal only.

### **Bronx**

Ranaqua,  
1 Bronx River Parkway, Bronx Park East and Birchall Ave  
Bronx, NY 10462  
(718) 430-1840

### **Brooklyn**

Litchfield Villa  
95 Prospect Park West and 5th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11215  
(718) 965-8919

### **Manhattan:**

The Arsenal,  
830 Fifth Avenue and Central Park  
New York, NY 10065  
(212) 360-8133

### **Queens**

The Passerelle Building, across from the outdoor tennis courts  
Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Flushing, NY 11368  
(718) 393-7272

### **Staten Island**

Greenbelt Recreation Center  
501 Brielle Ave  
Staten Island, NY 10314  
(718) 667-3547 ext. 312 or 313

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.**



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## Power and Sailboat Launch Permits

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

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

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

Lemon Creek, Prince's Bay, Staten Island – (718) 605-1301

Power and sailboat launching at other NYC Parks marinas is subject to applicable fees and permits. For a complete list of NYC Parks Marinas and boating information visit the Parks website, [nycgovparks.org/facilities/boating](http://nycgovparks.org/facilities/boating).

## Kayak and Canoe Launch Permits

This permit allows kayak, canoe and other human-powered vessel launching at all NYC Parks-designated launch sites. The complete list of NYC Parks human-powered vessel launch sites is available on the [Parks website](#).

### Please note:

1. NYC Parks Kayak and Canoe Launches, as well as Power and Sailboat Launches, may only be used from April 1st to December 1st, and only during the hours between sunrise and sunset.
2. Power and sailboats may not launch at kayak/canoe launch sites.
3. Launch Permits are non-transferable and only valid for the individual named on the permit.

## 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 human-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 as well. New York State Boating Law requires that every pleasure vessel, including kayaks, canoes and rowboats, must have on board one U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable PFD for each person on the vessel. In addition, vessels 16 feet and greater in length must also carry a throwable PFD. Any youth under the age of 12 must wear a PFD. Any person on a pleasure vessel under 21 feet in length, operating between November 1st and May 1st, must wear a PFD.
  - 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, however smaller vessels must yield to larger vessels that are not as maneuverable. It is also wise to yield to fast-moving powerboats.
  - III. A vessel being overtaken should maintain its speed and direction.
  - IV. A vessel overtaking another should stay clear of the craft being overtaken.
  - V. 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 human-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 human-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 (or “float plan”) with your family or friends. Trip plans describe the trip you are planning to take in your vessel and list anyone who is travelling with you. There is a trip plan form included in this packet, or you can download one from the [United States Coast Guard](#).



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## Equipment Recommendations

All vessels, including kayaks and canoes, should carry the following:

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



## 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 guests 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.
- g. Swimming, water skiing, windsurfing, scuba diving or practicing immersion escape techniques in the waters to which the launch site give access are prohibited.
- h. No wildlife or natural land features may be disturbed.
- i. Kayaks and/or canoes may be launched only at launch 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 or outboard motor on any vessel once underway. No person shall launch rafts or other inflatables, sailboats, rowboats, "wind surfers" or sailboats of any kind.
- j. All persons using a kayak or canoe must wear a Personal Flotation Device.
- k. No person launching a boat from a kayak and/or canoe launch may begin a boating trip before sunrise or complete a boating trip after sunset. The launch sites will be open from April 1 to December 1.
- l. 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.
- m. 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.



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## KAYAK AND CANOE LAUNCH SITE RULES

- Permit is required for use of all City launches.
- All paddlers must wear a United States Coast Guard approved personal floatation device (PDF).
- Launch sites are open from April 1st to December 1st.
- Kayaks and canoes may launch after sunrise, and must return to the launch 1/2-hour before sunset.
- Paddlers enter the water at their own risk.
- Do not let children near launch sites without adult supervision.
- You may not store personal property or leave kayaks unattended.

### **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.

### **Safety Guidelines:**

- 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.
- Do not paddle alone.



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## POWER AND SAILBOAT LAUNCH SITE RULES

- Permit is required for use of all City launches.
- Each vessel must have at least one United States Coast Guard approved personal floatation device (PFD) per person onboard. Any youth under the age of 12 must wear a PFD. Vessels 16-foot and greater in length must also carry a throwable PFD.
- Launch sites are open from April 1st to December 1st.
- Vessels may launch after sunrise, and must return to the launch 1/2-hour before sunset.
- 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.
- Be aware of other vessels, personal watercraft, canoes, kayaks and other human-powered craft.
- We recommend you notify someone else of your trip plan.
- Do not let children near launch sites without adult supervision.

### Launch Rules Prohibit:

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



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## VESSEL TRIP PLAN

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility/location from which you are departing: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Automobile Make and Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Color: \_\_\_\_\_ License Plate Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Description of Watercraft

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Passengers: \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Age	Address and Telephone
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

### Trip Plans

Departure Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Time: \_\_\_\_\_

General Route:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





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## IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Learn more about New York State Boating Laws; find a boating safety course near you; or download the latest version of the NYS Boater's Guide at [nycgovparks.org/facilities/boating](http://nycgovparks.org/facilities/boating).

Boaters should familiarize themselves with the United States Department of Transportation and United States Coast Guard published Vessel Navigation Rules. Copies of the rules may be obtained at maritime bookstores, or from the United States Government Bookstore. Full text is also available online at [navcen.uscg.gov](http://navcen.uscg.gov).

Federal Requirements for Recreational Boats, published by the United States 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 [uscgboating.org](http://uscgboating.org).

### Emergency contact numbers:

United States Coast Guard SOS and Emergency Rescue  
(718) 354-4120/VHF ch. 16

NYPD Harbor Patrol  
(718) 765-4100/VHF ch. 16/17

National Response Center  
(For reporting maritime environmental issues or security threats)  
(877) 249-2824

For more information on boating, kayaking and canoeing, including free programs, maps, rentals and more, visit the [Boating and Marinas page](#) on the Parks website.