



New York City  
Department of Parks & Recreation



**Hearing before the City Council**  
**Committee on Parks and Recreation**  
**and Committee on Waterfronts**

**Marinas and Public Boat Landings**

**September 20, 2006**

- Under Mayor Bloomberg's leadership Parks is increasing public access to our historic waterfronts through the development of new waterfront parks and greenways. These spaces allow New Yorkers to relax and recreate along the shoreline and enjoy the city's beautiful waterfront vistas.
- Along with enhancing the waterfront, Parks is also helping New Yorkers safely enjoy the water. Millions utilized over 14 miles of city beaches and 50 outdoor pools this summer. Parks has 10 indoor pools that are open all year.
- Along with millions that visit City beaches and pools, thousands of other New Yorkers are docking their boats and launching canoes from City marinas and launches. Parks has 15 marinas that serve over 3,500 recreational boating New Yorkers each year. We like to think of ourselves as the recreational boating gateway to New York City. The boating season is still on, running from May 1 through October 31.

**Parks Marinas and Boat Launches**

**Parks Run Marinas**

- Parks internal Marinas Division manages three marinas. Parks flagship marinas are the West 79<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Basin in Riverside Park, Manhattan, and the World's Fair Marina in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens. Both marinas offer seasonal and transient recreational slips, kayak and canoe launches, commercial landing spots, and are staffed 24 hours a day, year round.
- The 79<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Basin has 116 boat slips and 70 moorings and is one of the city's most popular recreational boating locations. The current cost for a slip at the Boat Basin is \$100 per boat foot. A full season mooring is \$1,500. The site is so popular that there is currently a waiting list of over 400 for seasonal slips.
- We are exploring ways to meet the demand for more slips at the Boat Basin. Last spring, we added eight slips and seven moorings. We are currently in the beginning stages of conducting a dredging analysis for the site. This is the first step in determining the costs to dredge and the overall feasibility of expanding the basin.

- The Boat Basin is a popular location for non-boaters as well. The Boat Basin Café offers casual dining with great open-air seating overlooking the bobbing boats on the Hudson River. The Boat Basin supports the NYC Triathlon and Manhattan Swim events. Three years ago, we opened A-dock, a 350-foot marina working dock, for public strolling six days a week. This has proven a popular attraction, especially in the evenings, and is visited by hundreds daily. We also added a dedicated kayak launch there.
- The World's Fair Marina in Queens offers 292 recreational boat slips, seven commercial slips and a ferry landing. Recreational slips at World's Fair Marina range from \$68 per linear foot for our smallest vessels to \$115 per foot for those 66 feet or larger.
- The World's Fair Marina has a lot to offer to boating enthusiasts. You can take advantage of the marina's dinner, party and event cruises, a dock-and-dine restaurant, and the newly constructed 1.4-mile Flushing Bay promenade, which was constructed by Parks with support from DEP. Sports fans can avoid car traffic and boat to Mets games or the USTA. This marina also has the capacity to store boats during the winter.
- The World's Fair Marina has tremendous growth capacity. This fall we will restore 40 recreational slips at Pier 1. We are also installing new security features and amenities to draw additional boaters. There is a public boat launch for people that love the water but don't want a permanent boat slip. Each morning you see boaters leave from their berths at the marina to practice for the annual Dragonboat competition at Meadows Lake in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.
- Parks also operates the commercial piers at Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Currently, twenty-three fishing and charter boats operate year round from Sheepshead Bay, paying \$120 per foot.
- Parks is undertaking a number of improvements to ensure that Sheepshead Bay remains a top destination for boaters. We completed nearly \$900,000 in utility and pier renovations in 2003, and are currently restoring benches and sidewalks. A new Customer Center has been installed recently at Pier 10 and will soon open. A Marinas Division staff person will work from the center, helping to maintain and promote Sheepshead Bay.
- Parks has made its in-house marinas self-sufficient while keeping fees below comparable private facilities.
- In total, these three marinas generate nearly \$2.1 million in annual revenue while supporting thousands of boaters. Sales and revenue have increased 60% in five years.

In the last two years, we have increased by more than 50% the number of transient boaters at the Boat Basin.

### Marina Concessions

- Parks has over 600 concession agreements to provide food services and recreational opportunities in parks throughout the city. These concessions range from hot dog stands to gourmet kiosks and from batting cages to marinas. In addition to offering a variety of water-based recreational opportunities, our concessions improve the overall atmosphere at Parks marinas through regular maintenance and capital improvements such as new docks, piers and cafes.
- There are currently 12 concession-operated marinas. These marinas include: Bayside Marina, Dyckman Marina, Hammonds Cove, Lemon Creek, Mill Basin Marina, Hudson River Yacht Club, Midget Squadron Yacht Club, Diamond Point Yacht Club, Sebago Canoe Club, Paerdegat Squadron Yacht Club, Point Yacht Club, and Sherman Creek. In many cases, the City has worked in partnership with long-standing boat clubs to ensure these unique services remain available to neighborhoods throughout the City.
- These concessions vary in size and amenities but provide an affordable way for New Yorkers to enjoy the water. Our summer boat slip rates generally range from \$60-\$85 dollars per linear foot. The average cost in the tri-state area ranges from \$90-\$120 per linear foot, with Hudson River and New York Harbor based marinas charging even higher. Our concession rates are well below the rates of other marinas in the area.
- Bayside Marina located in Little Neck Bay, offers motor boat rentals, and a fishing pier. The concession has a bait and tackle shop and a café to keep fishermen and boaters well-stocked and well-fed. Adjacent to the marina there is also a public boat launch where boaters can launch motor boats, kayaks and canoes.
- At Hammonds Cove Marina in the Bronx, you can enjoy views of the Throgs Neck Bridge from the newly built “Ice House Café” and deck. Hammonds Cove offers a boat lift, winter boat storage and has 160 slips.
- Sebago Canoe Club located on Paerdegat Basin in Brooklyn is one of the oldest continuously operated paddling clubs in New York. This canoe club has a short pier and a floating boat launch that can be used to start your kayaking, canoeing and sailing adventures.
- These marinas also produce revenue for the City’s general fund. In FY06, marina concessions brought in nearly \$600,000. These concessions will also provide over \$1.7 million in capital improvements. For example, at Mill Basin Marina the concessionaire has replaced all existing slips and is currently working to add 20 to 30 new slips. At Hammond’s Cove in the Bronx, the concessionaire has renovated the

marina and has replaced all slips, upgraded dock side electric and water, and built a new snack bar and comfort station.

### New Marina and Boat Launch Development

- ◆ These marinas are a great resource and we want to get the word out to all New Yorkers. Parks has developed an extensive marinas and boating section on its website, [www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks). This site has contact and availability information on all Parks marinas and launches, maps, boating safety and emergency guidelines, marina rules, fees, fishing, and lots more. The website is becoming a one-stop location for recreational boaters and we continue to add new features and links. Parks has also offered a new Customer Survey that is available to all boaters at Parks managed marinas and on our website.
- ◆ Parks also reaches out directly to the boating community through promotions in boating circulations, trade magazines, and cruising guides. These include the MPC Official Boaters Directory and the Northern Waterway Guide.
- Marinas are not the only way for New Yorkers to access the waterfront. Parks has nine kayak launch sites throughout the City and three public launches for motor boats at Dyckman Marina, Bayside Marina and World's Fair Marina. We are developing new hand powered boat launches along the Bronx River and are exploring locations for new kayak and hand powered boat launches at many sites including Point Yacht Club in the Bronx, Fort Totten Park in Queens, Brooklyn Bridge Park, and Fresh Kills in Staten Island.
- Through its Capacity Fund, Partnerships for Parks, the joint program of Parks and the City Parks Foundation (CPF) is supporting both the Long Island City Community Boathouse and the Gowanus Dredgers' new Red Hook Boaters group. This fall, Partnership will sponsor a technical assistance program called "Make the Most of your Waterfront: From Usership to Stewardship" that will support efforts to further improve water access.
- ◆ The Urban Park Rangers offer programs that connect people with the waterfront. They offer canoeing throughout the warm months in parks citywide including Marine Park, Pelham Bay Park, Inwood Hill Park, Ft. Totten, Van Cortlandt Park, Prospect Park, Alley Pond Park, Central Park, and down the Bronx River. The Rangers' water-based education and recreation programming includes the Natural Classroom school program, ichthyology (the study of fish), and catch-and-release fishing. The Rangers have helped develop new canoe launches at Pelham Bay Park and Inwood Hill Park. The Downtown Boathouse also offers kayaking instruction from a dock in Riverside Park at 71st Street.

## Promoting Boating Safety

It is important that as more people begin to take advantage of New York's waterfront for recreational purposes that they are educated on boat and water safety.

- Last year, the City Council and the Mayor partnered on the no wake bill, the 'Jim Runsdorf' Law of 2005. The bill established a no wake zone from the Spuyten Duyvil trestle to the High Bridge on the Harlem River.
- Parks has been working with the NYPD to implement the law. With NYPD, Parks has developed a No Wake Advisory to educate boaters on the wake restriction and to promote responsible boating. We have distributed thousands of these brochures at all Parks marinas, through our internet site, and in cooperation with NYPD Harbor Patrol. Every Parks boating customer receives marina and boating safety and No Wake information as part of a new welcoming package.
- We have also posted 8'x4' 'No Wake' signage at the Henry Hudson Parkway Bridge just after the Spuyten Duyvil trestle, in front of the Nature Center in Inwood Hill Park, to the north and south of Swindler Cove and the new Sharp Boat House, and below the High Bridge, at the southernmost portion of the No Wake zone. We are currently working with the DOT Bridges Department to post additional No Wake signage on the inner two bridges—Broadway Bridge and University Heights Bridge.
- On June 27, Parks and the non-profit group Going Coastal held a Clean Boating, Clean Marina event at the 79<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Basin in Riverside Park. Parks is working together with City DEP, Going Coastal and others to promote responsible boating and use of free pumpout stations throughout New York and New Jersey. There are free pump-out stations for vessel waste at the Boat Basin and Dyckman Marina in Manhattan; Hammond's Cove in the Bronx; World's Fair Marina and Bayside Marinas, Queens; Hudson River Yacht Club, Brooklyn; and Lemon Creek Marinas Staten Island. Parks received the group's first Annual Clean Marina award.
- Parks is also working with the State of New Jersey, harbor education sub-committee, to promote safe boating in the Hudson through the 'IBoatNYNJ' program. Parks also promotes boating education for youth through partnerships at the Boat Basin with the historic sailing vessels Clearwater and the Lettie G. Howard from the South Street Seaport Museum, the Mystic Whaler from Mystic, Connecticut and the Upper West Side's Metropolitan Montessori School. Other non-profit educational groups that we have supported include Reach the World's 'Makulu', a world-spanning educational vessel; the Lady Maryland vessel from the Living Classroom Foundation; and the Ocean Classroom program.