

Hudson River Greenway Water Trail Launch Site Facilities Checklist

Although not every launch site will have all of these facilities this is a good reference when planning and designing a new launch site.

- Accessibility** - to streets, highways and public transportation. Links to other trails and/or greenways would be a plus. Public recreation facilities must also be accessible to disabled users where practicable.
- Boat racks and equipment storage** - Short term storage. A safe place to lock your boat while you shuttle/hike on the trail.
- Camping area** - Many water trails around the country feature access to camping on islands or in remote areas or in areas inaccessible by road or foot trails. Siting launch sites in or near existing camping areas allows longer through travel on the waterway.
- Landscaping** - grasses, shrubs, trees, flowers, etc.
- Lighting** - parking, walkways, unloading area, stairs and dock or ramp.
- Launch** - beach, dock or ramp. Clearly identified from both land and water.
- Parking** - free, 24 hour access, adequate for site, handicap spaces, and reasonable walking distance to ramp.
- Picnic area** - lawn, beaches, picnic tables, grills shelter.
- Playground** - because not every family member wants to or is able to kayak/canoe, playgrounds are good places to recreate while waiting at the take-out, making family outings possible.
- Signage** - Examples: signs that identify the water trail from the land and the water, locating and directing traffic to the entrance of the site, signs identifying parking, phone and unloading areas.
- Security** - fencing, lighting, public phones, emergency phone.
- On-site Access** - Stairs, walkways and paths.
- Swimming area** - where the waterway is clean and safe. Many beaches on larger lakes have areas where swimmers are not allowed that would make excellent launch sites.
- Toilets** - standard flush toilets, port-a-potties, or composting toilets.
- Unloading area for boats** - separate from parking, near launch, dock or ramp.
- Waste disposal** – Carry-in/Carry-out or supply containers large enough to dump garbage collected along the water trail.
- Water** - drinking fountains, faucets for filling tanks and canteens, washing.

List adapted from Openlands.org