

A set of four maps with vital information for all paddlers.



The Hudson River Greenway Water Trail is a 256-mile paddler's dream, extending from the Adirondack Park and Lake Champlain to Battery Park in Manhattan.

Adirondack-Champlain Hudson River Greenway Water Trail



MAP 1 of 4

MAP 1 of 4 The east branch of the Hudson River Water Trail begins at the southern end of Lake Champlain and continues south along the Champlain Canal to Fort Edward. The west branch begins in the Adirondack Park on the Hudson River and continues through rapids and past dams to Fort Edward. Both branches join at Fort Edward and continue south 193 miles to New York City. Highlights of this segment include:
• The Village of Whitehall, birthplace of the United States Navy
• "Locking though" five locks on the Champlain Canal
• Whitewater and portages around dams on the Hudson River
• Rogers Island, birthplace of the U.S. Army Rangers

The Hudson River Water Trail Guide is a meticulously researched guide for paddlers and small boaters. It contains both practical and fascinating information about the Hudson River Valley Greenway, including suggestions for day and weekend trips, tides and currents, plus much more. The Guide is available at www.hrwa.org as a benefit of membership, and at many outfitters and retail bookstores.

Maps are viewable on our web site: HudsonRiverGreenwayWaterTrail.org

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Locking through on the Champlain Canal



Source of the Hudson River - Lake Tear of the Clouds



Paddlers enjoy a sunny day on the river.



A group of friends paddling on the Hudson River

The Hudson River was one of the original "highways" used by Native Americans, and continues to be a corridor of commerce to this day. This 67-mile section of the Water Trail features a whitewater section to the west with dams to portage around, a significant stretch of the Champlain Canal to the east and north, and the Village of Whitehall at the head of Lake Champlain and the canal. Whitehall is where the U.S. Navy was founded by Benedict Arnold.

Glacial Lake Albany

Glacial Lake Albany was formed when ice "plugged" the Hudson between Storm King Mountain and Breakneck Ridge (see Map #4) about 16,000 years ago. The lake existed for about 4,000 years. The surface of the lake was roughly 150' above current sea level. The 150' contour interval shown on this map (reverse side) represents Glacial Lake Albany's shoreline and shows where you would have been able to paddle then. A drysuit would have been essential!

Lake Tear of the Clouds

The 315-mile Hudson River begins high in the Adirondack Mountains at a small pond and swamp called Lake Tear of the Clouds. Lake water flows into Feldspar Brook, the Opalescent River, and Flowed Land. Calamity Brook leaves Flowed Land to the west and becomes the Hudson River at its junction with the Henderson Lake outflow. Lake Tear of the Clouds has a maximum depth of about three feet and is replenished by snow melt and rain runoff. The summit of Mount Marcy, the highest point in New York State, is also the highest point of the Hudson River watershed.

The lower 153 miles of the Hudson, from Troy to New York Harbor, is a tidal estuary. Native Americans called the Hudson River "Muh-he-kun-ne-tuk" which roughly means "the river that flows two ways." The 78,000 acres of estuary are composed of both fresh and salt water. The globally rare freshwater tidal wetland is a common feature seen by paddlers north of Newburgh Bay. The Hudson is more than 200 feet deep in places such as World's End near West Point. At its widest point the river spans 3.5 miles at Haverstraw Bay. It is home to more than 200 species of fish.

British Major Robert Rogers and his Ranger Company were quartered here between 1756 and 1759. It was here that Major Rogers developed his 28 "Ranging Rules" that set forth his Rules of Order and training methods. Irregular forces all over the world adopted some form of these rules. The Ranger's Handbook used by today's U.S. Army Rangers includes a version of these rules to this day. "Rogers Rangers" were the first Special Forces ever in America, and the U.S. Army Rangers consider Rogers Island their spiritual home.



Scott Kalar

Canoeing on the river.

Although the British abandoned it after the conclusion of the French and Indian Wars, Fort Edward and Rogers Island remained strategically important. American troops garrisoned the island during the Revolutionary War until 1777 when the British, under the command of General John Burgoyne, forced them away from the area. Burgoyne continued on to Saratoga where he was roundly defeated by American forces led in part by Benedict Arnold.

Rogers Island

Rogers Island is located in the Hudson River, just upstream from the junction of the Champlain Canal near Fort Edward. Native Americans inhabited the Rogers Island area for at least 4,000 years before Europeans arrived in the



Map of Rogers Island and Fort Edward c. 1759.

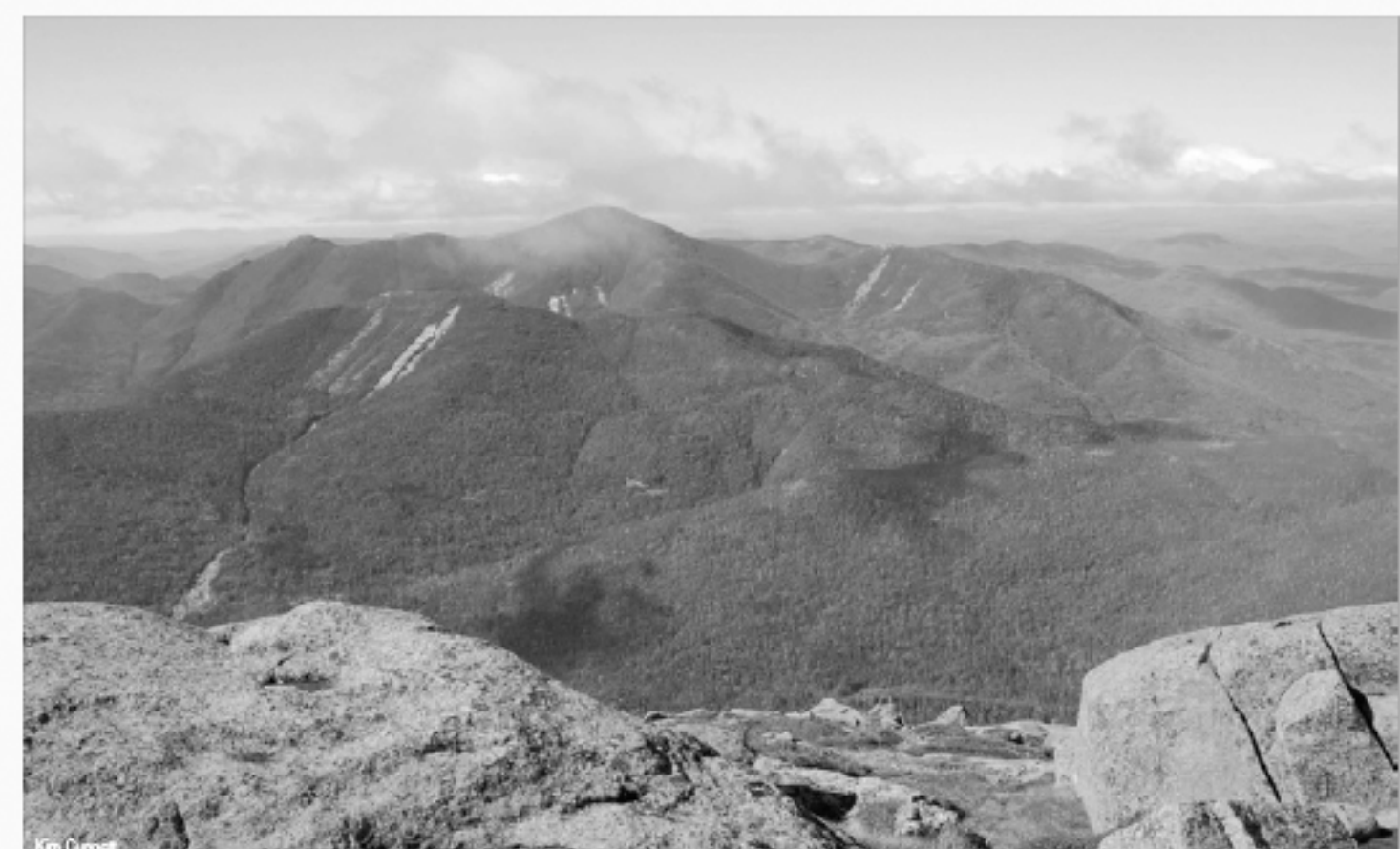
In the 1800s, houses were constructed on the northern part of the island and local militia troops trained here before deploying to the Civil War. Presently a visitor's center occupies the middle part of the island (www.rogersisland.org). Bradley Beach, a park with a hand launch, may be found on the north end of the island.

Adirondack Park

The Adirondack Park, the largest public park in the lower 48 states, has a unique public/private ownership dynamic. The Adirondack Park was created in 1892 by the State

of New York amid concerns for the water and timber resources of the region. Today the park is the largest publicly protected area in the contiguous United States, greater in size than Yellowstone, Everglades, Glacier, and Grand Canyon National Parks combined. The boundary of the park encompasses approximately six million acres. Nearly half of which belongs to all the people of New York State, and is constitutionally protected to remain "forever wild" forest preserve. The remaining half is private land which includes settlements, farms, timber lands, businesses, homes, and camps.

The Adirondack region boasts more than 3,000 lakes; 30,000 miles of rivers and streams; more than 1,800 miles of marked trails available for people of all interests and abilities;



The Adirondack High Peaks from Mount Marcy. Mount Colden in foreground; Iroquois, Algonquin, and Wright beyond.

area around 1700. Archeological studies have revealed the remains of Native American trash pits and hearths along the bank of the Hudson, as well as many artifacts of European settlement on the island.

For Native Americans and early European settlers, the route from Canada to New York City was mostly a water route. The water route south from Lake Champlain continued to Fort Ann at its southern end, where travelers had to endure a ten mile portage to Fort Edward and Rogers Island. From there, travelers could take the Hudson River all the way to New York City. The general footprint of this route between Lake Champlain and the Hudson River would become the Champlain Canal.

The 18th century French and Indian Wars between Britain and France for control of the continent—as well as world domination—made this a very precarious place to settle in the 1700s. Fort Edward became one of the largest British fortifications in North America, enhancing the strategic importance of Rogers Island. Fort Edward and Rogers Island were used as staging areas for British invasions of Canada, with troop quarters including a blockhouse, storage facilities, barracks and a hospital all being constructed on the island.

Far above the chilly waters of Lake Avalanche at an elevation of 4,293 feet is Summit Water, a minute, unpretending, tear of the clouds, as it were – a lovely pool shimmering in the breezes of the mountains and sending its limpid surplus through Feldspar Brook and to the Opalescent River, the well-spring of the Hudson.

–Written by Verplanck Colvin, in his 1872 report to the State Legislature, on surveying the Adirondack Mountains.

A watershed is the area drained by a river or lake and all of the tributaries that flow into it. The Hudson River's 13,000+ square mile watershed is composed of three major sub-watersheds, the Upper and Lower Hudson River and the Mohawk River Watersheds. Together they feature more than 20,000 miles of rivers and streams, and nearly 700 lakes, ponds and reservoirs covering 133,000 acres. The Hudson's watershed is mostly in New York State, but portions are also in Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey. The Hudson's watershed covers all or part of 21 counties in New York, and is home to some five million people.

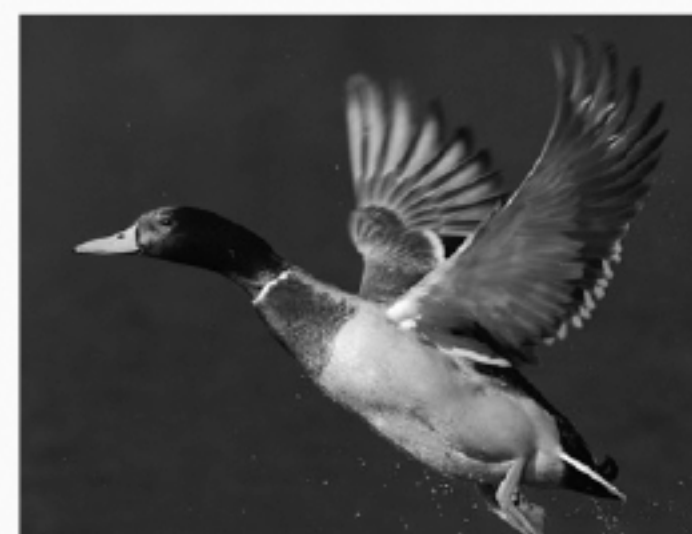
When addressing water quality issues, it is critical to view the watershed as a single ecosystem. Activity in the watershed affects water quality in the Hudson. Likewise the health of the water affects the health of all living organisms in the watershed.



A great horned owl.



Jonathan Lantz/Shutterstock



EliKington/Zoomer/Getty Images



Wes Johnson/Shutterstock

The Adirondack Region has abundant wildlife.

Canal Building

The Champlain Canal made possible the transport of goods between New York City, the Hudson Valley, and Canada. The Champlain and Erie Canals opened the entire eastern half of the North American continent to ship-borne commerce. The original Champlain Canal was constructed in 1823 and was used until the current canal opened in 1916. Today's canal follows the Wood Creek Valley from Whitehall to Fort Edward, but not the winding creek itself. From Fort Edward to the Federal Lock at Troy the canal follows the bed of the Hudson River. At the head of Lake Champlain, the northern end of the sixty-three mile Champlain Canal is 96 feet above sea level. The canal rises to 140 feet near the junction with the Glens Falls Feeder Canal, and then descends to



Library of Congress Wall of Champlain Canal, Waterford Locks c.1966

sea level at the Troy Lock. There are eleven locks on the Champlain Canal and a Federal Lock at Troy. The canal locks are numbered 1 (Waterford) to 12 (Whitehall), but there is no lock 10. While originally called for, subsequent redesign of the canal eliminated the need for Lock 10.

Hudson River Valley Greenway and National Heritage Area

The Hudson River Valley Greenway was created by New York State to continue and advance the state's commitment to the preservation, enhancement and development of the world-renowned scenic, natural, historic, cultural and recreational resources of the Hudson River Valley while continuing to emphasize economic development activities and remaining consistent with the tradition of municipal home rule. The Greenway's programs include regional planning, a land and water trail system, and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. On the web: www.hudsonrivervalley.ny.gov.

The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area was designated by Congress in 1996 and is one of forty-nine federally-recognized National Heritage Areas throughout the United States. Through a partnership with the National Park Service, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area collaborates with public agencies, non-profit groups and private sector partners to interpret, preserve and celebrate the nationally-significant cultural and natural resources of the Hudson River Valley. In this way, the Heritage Area works to inspire public stewardship for these resources and related economic development activities for the benefit of the nation. The Heritage Area has established a network of designated Heritage Sites, classified by theme and amenities. On the web: www.hudsonrivervalley.com.

