



June 2018

Sun setting in the western sky over the Hudson River

# Rensselaer County Hudson River Access Plan

A comprehensive look at ways to “get people to the River”

## *Access Sites*

This project is funded by a grant from the Hudson River Estuary Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.





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This project is funded by a grant from the Hudson River Estuary Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.  
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project goal: To provide a County-wide planning document that can be used to support and advance the implementation of Hudson River Access projects that have the support of municipalities and user groups and improve accessibility and storm resiliency.

## ABOUT THE PLAN

The Rensselaer County Hudson River Access Plan came about as a result of the **Rensselaer County Land Trust** securing a grant from the **Hudson River Estuary Program** of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The Plan was guided by RLT Staff, Board Members and an Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of the Hudson River Shoreline communities and Rensselaer County.

This plan covers all seven waterfront communities in Rensselaer County:

- Town of Schodack
- Village of Castleton-on-Hudson
- Town of East Greenbush
- City of Rensselaer
- Town of North Greenbush
- City of Troy
- Town of Schaghticoke

For approximately one year beginning in the spring of 2017, the consultant team led by Planning4Places, LLC with support from Weston & Sampson, conducted an existing conditions assessment, made site visits to assess the condition of existing and potential river access points, and went into the community to solicit input from the public. The project began with a well-attended kickoff meeting and engagement efforts included discussions with local elected officials and staff, attendance at three events and public meetings to present the results of the project.

This plan is built off of the existing conditions analysis and current, up-to-date information and discussions on each site to determine how best to develop the Plan. This document provides recommendations for site access along the entire Rensselaer County waterfront. When implemented, with direct involvement of each river community, Rensselaer County will have a significantly more accessible and visible presence along the waterfront.



## ABOUT THE PLAN




The Rensselaer County side of the Hudson River has significant potential to increase accessibility for residents and visitors from the land-side and to bring-in boaters from the water to enjoy Rensselaer County and patronize local businesses. This Plan, and the associated site location maps, show that the current availability of water access locations in Rensselaer County are more limited and further apart in the more rural locations and that there are distinct areas (within the more developed areas) that are either lacking accessibility or have significant gaps.

Many existing sites are currently difficult to locate from both the land-side and from the water. These sites can generally be better identified through improved wayfinding & signage either by using an existing signage system or developing a unique County-wide signage system. Updating online resources will also be beneficial to improving access opportunities. Flooding and sea level rise vulnerability has been assessed but more detailed information on these topics can be found at: <http://scenichudson.org/slr/mapper>.

The sites were initially identified through aerial image reviews with site visits used to identify potential access site locations. Each site was assessed for current conditions and a resulting recommendation was created. Sites have both a land-based and water-based mileage calculations. The water-based calculation generally following the shoreline. It begins at the Schodack Island State Park boat launch and ends at Lock C-4 at milepoint 41.5. These numbers can be found in the site overview section. Distances between existing access sites are also provided.

Finally, each site was assigned a priority score based on set criteria like distance to other sites, likely priority for local governments, recreational appeal, ease of constructability, implementation potential, and stewardship potential.

Site Priority Key:

	Higher Priority
	Moderate Priority
	Lower Priority



# COUNTY-WIDE SITE: RENSSELAER COUNTY TRAIL SYSTEM

## COUNTY-WIDE

**Site Overview:** A county-wide, connected trail system that accesses most, if not all, of the waterfront, is envisioned as a longer-term goal for Rensselaer County. Many trails exist within the County and more are planned, but there are significant gaps that need to be assessed, designed, and developed.

### Top Issues:

- 1) The issues for this project are often site-specific and will vary significantly from one area to another along the Rensselaer County riverfront. However, there are common issues and considerations that generally exist along much of the waterfront in areas where trails do not currently exist:
  - A) Portions of the Rensselaer County waterfront are cut-off by the presence of a rail line. Rail lines exist from South Troy to the southern end of the County.
  - B) Vulnerability: Much of the shoreline is vulnerable to river level changes, including seasonal flooding.
  - C) Accessibility: The shoreline and immediate area to the east is a mix of public and private land.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: The Uncle Sam Trail, Troy Riverwalk, and Tech Park trails are existing. Future trail planning currently includes the Riverwalk in Rensselaer, the Livingston Avenue Bridge, Mickey Mahar Memorial Trail & the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail.
- 2) Recreation: These projects, when completed, will link many of the existing and proposed access sites contained in this plan along with others that may come about in the future.
- 3) Development: A County-wide riverfront-focused trail/active transportation route is a realistic possibility given the infrastructure already in place, improvements underway, likely future additions to this system, and public interest in trails.

**Priority:** 

**Recommendation:** *The idea for a County-wide riverfront-area trail and active transportation system should be regularly discussed and planned so that it can be implemented in a coordinated manner with efforts currently underway and as a cohesive, regionally-planned effort (See also Site #14).*



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# SITE ID #1: SCHODACK ISLAND STATE PARK

## TOWN OF SCHODACK

Site Overview: This State Park provides direct access to the Hudson River from a large boat launch as well as a car-top only launch located on the Schodack Creek. (Milepoint 0.1)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** This is an expansive site with many different areas and different conditions.
- 2) **Current Use:** State Park with day-use, a boat launch, and a campground.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The site is hardened along the shoreline of the Hudson River in proximity to the boat launch. The creek side is not hardened but is a tidal wetland/creek.
- 4) **Safety:** The location has on-site staff.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The site has ADA accessible facilities and ADA accessibility to the water's edge near the boat launch.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The site is at the southern end of Rensselaer County and provides many different recreational and outdoor activities. The site is well maintained and a popular destination. The kayak launch into the Schodack Creek requires an approximately 5.5 mile paddle to reach the Hudson River. A boat launch is located on the Hudson River.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is a major recreation destination, is the southernmost site, and is 0.8 miles south of the next closest access point - the Castleton Boat Club.
- 3) **Development:** Ideas for improvement mentioned during this project included providing docks at the boat launch, a kayak launch on the Hudson River to provide direct access to the River, and access to a beach south of the boat launch that could be re-opened - it already has access via a dirt road.

Priority: 

Recommendation: *Talk with NYS officials about developing the additional opportunities listed above.*





## SITE DETAILS



The Park has a protected wildlife area along the entrance road.



The Park has trails throughout the site for walking, hiking, and bicycling.



The boat launch is large enough to allow one boat to launch and another to be pulled-out at the same time. There is significant boat and trailer parking available in the adjacent lot.



The waterfront is hardened with concrete and includes a pedestrian walkway with great views of the bridge in the distance.



The Schodack Creek kayak launch has boat racks and lockers located upland from the boat launch.



The kayak launch provides parking for approximately 6-8 vehicles. It requires a short carry to the Schodack Creek.

## SITE ID #2: CASTLETON BOAT CLUB

Site Overview: This is an existing private boat club with kayak storage racks, overnight dockage with electric, a club house, and fuel. (Milepoint 2.3)

### Top Issues:

- 1) Visibility: There is visibility from the water and signage from the street.
- 2) Current Use: Private boat club. The club does hold events that attract boaters and others to the River - including the Horsepower on the Hudson event.
- 3) Vulnerability: This site has some hardening of the shoreline.
- 4) Safety: The site is located in the Village in a residential/mixed-use area. Access to the site requires crossing the railroad - crossing gates are located at the driveway.
- 5) Accessibility: The site is not open to the public. It is ADA accessible with parking on-site and parking is available on-street as well. Boat storage is available on-site.

## VILLAGE OF CASTLETON-ON-HUDSON

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: The site provides a private club and docking for members. Guests can also utilize overnight dockage.
- 2) Nearest Existing Access Sites: The site is 3.6 miles south of Papscanee Nature Preserve South and 0.8 miles north of Schodack Island State Park.
- 3) Development: No proposed changes as this is an existing private site.

Priority: N/A

Recommendation: *This is a private club. No recommendations are proposed.*





## SITE DETAILS



The Club has a hardened shoreline.



The docks can handle larger boats and several dozen boats are located here. Based on a review of the club website, they allow non-member transient boaters to dock for a fee and they have fuel services.



Land-side access is located in the heart of the Village of Castleton-on-Hudson with vehicular access located between existing buildings.



The club has access via a driveway that crosses the railroad tracks between buildings fronting on Route 9J and the Club.



The Club has a significant land area as well as a long dock stretching south generally parallel to the Rensselaer County shoreline. *(Image from NYSGIS Clearinghouse)*



**Site Overview:** This is a publicly owned, undeveloped parcel of land located at the northern end of the Village. The Village has a very strong desire to develop the property into a public park but the AMTRAK line and previous agreements are currently limiting access to all but those who go to the site to maintain it. (Milepoint 2.5)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** The site was encircled by vegetation but in November of 2017 the Village organized a clean-up and clearing effort which significantly opened-up the site and improved visibility.
- 2) **Current Use:** Vacant land.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The shoreline is hardened with a concrete wall and large stones/concrete.
- 4) **Safety:** This site is currently undeveloped and illegal to access except for maintenance-related efforts.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The site is not currently open to the public.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The site has water access on the north, west, and south sides. It is relatively flat and open and easily redeveloped as a park site.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is 3.5 miles south of Papsweeney Island Nature Preserve South and 1.0 mile north of Schodack Island State Park.
- 3) **Development:** The Village is ready to develop the site as a park but first needs to obtain public access across the existing railroad tracks.

**Priority:** 

**Recommendation:** *This is a high-priority development location. Once the accessibility issue has been resolved, which is a major issue, redevelopment of the site should be a quick and somewhat easy undertaking as the Village is leading the effort, is the project champion, and the site is mostly paved - minimizing natural features and environmental concerns.*



Photo Provided by the Village of Castleton-on-Hudson

## SITE DETAILS



Access to the property is legally restricted. The site used to provide a boat launch to the Hudson River and was an active boat repair business.



A fence and no trespassing sign discourage accessing the site despite a large NYS EPF Grant sign labeling it a park. A gap left in the fence and paved crossing over the tracks exist on the site.



The views from the parcel are fantastic and somewhat unique. Since the property juts out into the River it almost feels like you are on a boat while standing at the rivers edge.



The site has a hardened shoreline made up of large stones and broken concrete pieces. Vegetation covers/covered much of the shoreline.



The northwestern corner of the property is hardened with a concrete wall that rises above the land by a few feet on the shoreline side.



The site was formerly a business and thus much of it is paved/impervious.

*Note: The Consultant Team was escorted onto the site by Village officials for an official viewing of the property.*



## SITE ID #4: COW ISLAND

## TOWN OF SCHODACK

Site Overview: This is not actually an island but a land area bordered by the Hudson River to the west and Papscanee Creek to the north. (Milepoint 3.2)

### Top Issues:

- 1) Visibility: The site is visible from the road.
- 2) Current Use: Private business use.
- 3) Vulnerability: The shoreline is gently sloping and vulnerable to water flow and level changes.
- 4) Safety: This site is rural and located across the railroad tracks, just off of Route 9J.
- 5) Accessibility: This is not a public site.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: The site is private property used for a business.
- 2) Nearest Existing Access Sites: The site is located 2.8 miles south of Papscanee Island Nature Preserve South and 1.6 miles north of Schodack Island State Park.
- 3) Development: This is a private site. The owner of this property has not been directly contacted as part of this project regarding development but was engaged in the past regarding potential opportunities to provide river access.

Priority: N/A

Recommendation: *There is no specific recommendation for this site. It is recommended that the community stay engaged with the property owner to identify any potential to create/enhance water access in the future.*



## SITE DETAILS



Cow Island is developed but development does not stretch to the waterfront.



The Papscanee Creek has a wide opening at the confluence with the Hudson River and it remains wide until just before the railroad crossing abutments further inland.



In the early 1900's, this was the site of Sunnyside Island, an amusement park and picnic area.



The site is home to an existing business which is located between the railroad tracks and the waterfront. The NYS SHPO Cultural Resource Information System shows this location as a former ice house.



The site has a paved access road over the existing railroad line.



A fence separates Route 9J from the railroad tracks and this property.



## SITE ID #5: CAMPBELL ISLAND

## TOWN OF SCHODACK

Site Overview: This is a large peninsula with the Hudson River along its western side and the Papscanee Creek on the eastern side. This site is the beginning of a several-mile stretch of mostly forested open space that extends north. (Milepoint 3.5)

### Top Issues:

- 1) Visibility: The site is developed private property to the north and undeveloped public and private property in the central and southern sections.
- 2) Current Use: Private residence in the north along Staats Island Road and undeveloped land in the central and southern sections of the site.
- 3) Vulnerability: The shoreline is gently sloping on the river side and along the creek and thus vulnerable to flooding.
- 4) Safety: This site is rural and isolated, located several hundred feet from Route 9J, and approximately 2.9 miles north of the Village of Castleton-on-Hudson.
- 5) Accessibility: The site is not publicly accessible.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: The site is currently a mix of private property used as a residence and undeveloped private and public property.
- 2) Nearest Existing Access Sites: The site is located at/south of Papscanee Island Nature Preserve South and is 3.6 miles north of the Castleton Boat Club.
- 3) Development: The owner of the southernmost portion of the site is interested in developing the site and including public access.

Priority: 

Recommendation: *There is a long history of efforts at this location to gain access to the southern portion of the peninsula. Members of the Rensselaer Land Trust have been in contact with the property owner of the southern-most section of the peninsula and with New York State (which owns another parcel) to discuss potential options and opportunities for development. Development of this site should include public access given its location and natural features. A phased site plan has been drafted by one property owner. While planning for this site is complicated by a complex set of land ownerships, efforts should continue with the landowners to open this site to the public.*



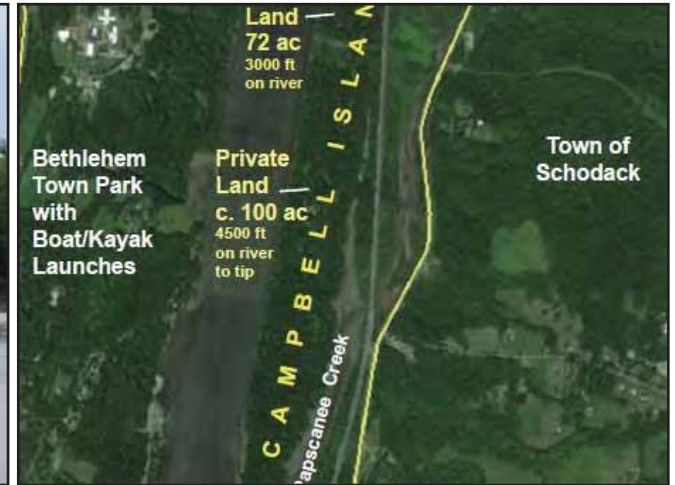
## SITE DETAILS



The peninsula is long - approximately 1.8 miles from the southern tip to the property at Staats Point.



The Papscanee Creek has a wide opening at the confluence with the Hudson River and it continues generally like this until just before the railroad crossing abutments.



This is an image capture of a map created by the landowner on the southern portion of the Island that shows the undeveloped land acreage and river frontage in the central and southern portion of the island.



The site has thick vegetation which extends to the waters edge. It has both environmental and archeological significance.



The home in the distance is the only developed portion of the island. It has access via Staats Island Road to Route 9J.



Vehicular access to the peninsula is via Staats Island Road which is posted private property shortly after the railroad tracks just past the Papscanee Island Nature Preserve South parking area.

## SITE ID #6: PAPSCANEE ISLAND NATURE PRESERVE SOUTH

## TOWN OF SCHODACK

Site Overview: This is an Open Space Institute-owned and Rensselaer County maintained open space with access located off of Staats Island Road. It is part of a several-mile stretch of mostly forested riverfront open space starting on Campbell Island and extending to the northern Preserve entrance. (Milepoint 5.3)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** The site is an undeveloped parcel of land with a single-track trail and visibility that would be expected with this type of use.
- 2) **Current Use:** Open space - Open April through October.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The shoreline is generally gently sloping, natural and thus vulnerable to water flow and level changes.
- 4) **Safety:** This site is rural and isolated. The entry road crosses the AMTRAK rail line but it does have crossing gates.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The site is not ADA accessible. The trails are generally dirt and during the time of the site visit, somewhat overgrown.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The site provides significant hiking trails which access the riverfront in spots.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** This is a recreation site. It is 7.2 miles south of the Papscanee Island Nature Preserve North site and 3.6 miles north of the Castleton Boat Club.
- 3) **Development:** The site needs some maintenance work, including grading and possibly some fill at the parking lot (this work is planned for summer 2018) and clearing along the trails.

Priority: 

Recommendation: *The site would benefit from the development of more loop trails, educational & wayfinding signage, riverfront access, and the placement of natural benches (using downed-trees on-site to make a bench) at key locations, particularly along the riverfront. The Town of Schodack, Rensselaer County and Open Space Institute, in cooperation with the Papscanee Tribe, should cooperatively develop a plan for undertaking future improvements and maintenance.*





## SITE DETAILS



The site has great natural views to the north. Inset picture shows an idea for construction of benches that can be cut from downed trees on-site.



The site also has great views to the south.



Most of the waterfront is not hardened and has vegetation and a gentle slope up to the river and waterline.



The site has a very visible sign located along Route 9J. The road to the site is hardpacked dirt and crosses the rail line just before reaching the parking area.



The trailhead and information kiosk is located at the parking lot. The lot can accommodate approximately 8-10 vehicles.



The trail is well-defined but is overgrown in some areas.



**Site Overview:** This is an Open Space Institute-owned and Rensselaer County maintained open space with access located at the end of American Oil Road. This site is part of a several-mile stretch of mostly forested riverfront open space that extends north from Campbell Island. (Milepoint 6.8)

## Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** The site is an undeveloped parcel of land with single and double-track trail and the visibility that would be expected with this type of use.
- 2) **Current Use:** Open space - Open November through March.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The shoreline is generally gently sloping, natural and thus vulnerable to water flow and level changes.
- 4) **Safety:** Though just south of the City of Rensselaer, this site is rural and isolated. Parking is adjacent to an industrial use.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The site is not ADA accessible. The trails are generally dirt and during the time of the site visit, somewhat overgrown.

## Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The site provides hiking trails and significant birdwatching opportunities, including viewing of Bald Eagles.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** This is a recreation site. It is 1.9 miles south of the Port of Rensselaer Viewing Area and 7.2 miles north of the Papscanee Island Nature Preserve South.
- 3) **Development:** The site needs maintenance work, clearing and grading along trails, signage, and parking area upgrades.

**Priority:** 

**Recommendation:** *The site would benefit from the development of more loop trails, educational & wayfinding signage, riverfront access, and the placement of natural benches (using downed-trees on-site to make a bench) at key locations, particularly along the riverfront. The site needs parking upgrades and improved visibility of the trailhead. The Town of East Greenbush, Rensselaer County and Open Space Institute, in cooperation with the Papscanee Tribe, should cooperatively develop a plan for undertaking future improvements and maintenance.*



## SITE DETAILS



The site includes a vast amount of shoreline. Improved access to the riverfront and improvements such as benches made from on-site downed trees (see inset) would help increase usability of this site.



Some of the shoreline is hardened by cracking sloped concrete.



Much of the waterfront, however, is not hardened and has vegetation and a gentle slope.



The site has a very visible sign located along Route 9J. The road to the trailhead is paved, though the pavement deteriorates as it gets closer to the trailhead.



The entrance to the site provides parking for a few vehicles. The trail is blocked by a gate, forcing hikers to create a pathway around the gate structure.



The trailhead includes an information kiosk with a map.



## SITE ID #8: PORT OF RENSSELAER "OVERLOOK"

## CITY OF RENSSELAER

Site Overview: This is an open space created in a corner of the Port at the end of an off-street bicycle path that runs through the Port. (Milepoint 9.1)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** The site is open and visible from all sides except the river side which has significant vegetation along the shoreline.
- 2) **Current Use:** Open space.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The shoreline is hardened with stone to just above the high-tide water level and becomes natural after this point.
- 4) **Safety:** The site is isolated and does not appear to be heavily used.
- 5) **Accessibility:** Access to the site is via a paved pathway but the sitting area consists of loose stone and is not ADA accessible.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The sitting area provides a somewhat quiet (for an active Port location) viewing area. It has a good view of the City of Albany via the apparently illegal pathway that has been cut down to the waterfront.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** This is a recreation site. It is 2.3 miles south of the Crailo Historic Site and 2.0 miles north of the Papsweeney Island Nature Preserve North.
- 3) **Development:** The site is relatively new and does not need any additional development work.

Priority: 

Recommendation: *Select vegetation trimming would open-up views to the riverfront which could potentially increase desirability of utilizing the site without necessarily degrading the vegetative "buffer" along the rivers edge.*



## SITE DETAILS



The site is accessible both by vehicle and bicycle via the off-street path seen in this image. However, there is no formal vehicle parking and the location has heavy truck traffic.



Access to the site is ADA accessible via the paved path, however, the sitting area consists of stones and is not ADA accessible.



A bike rack is provided at the end of the paved pathway.



It appears that visitors to the site are looking to get access to the River and have taken down part of the fencing where it faces the River.



This "goat path" to the River is evidence that people are accessing the River from this site.



The view of the City of Albany, Port, and points north and south from this site is impressive.



## SITE ID #9: BELMORE PLACE WATERFRONT PARCEL

CITY OF RENSSELAER

Site Overview: This is a vacant parcel owned by the City of Rensselaer and located adjacent to the County pump station. (Milepoint 9.4)

### Top Issues:

- 1) Visibility: The waterfront site consists of grass and trees which reduce visibility to the water.
- 2) Current Use: Vacant land.
- 3) Vulnerability: The shoreline is hardened with a concrete wall.
- 4) Safety: The site could easily be developed to provide good visibility and safety.
- 5) Accessibility: The site is not currently accessible.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: The site could provide access focused on fishing and viewing the River. It should be somewhat easy to provide ADA accessibility as the terrain is generally flat and a pier could be designed to be ADA accessible.
- 2) Nearest Existing Access Sites: The site is 0.1 miles south of the Crailo State Historic Site and 1.8 miles north of the Port of Rensselaer viewing site.
- 3) Development: This site holds potential for fishing-type access to the Hudson River, including the opportunity to construct a pier that would enhance access potential for people of all abilities.

Priority: 

Recommendation: *While not a high priority, this potential opportunity could provide a unique access point to the River that is primarily dedicated to fishing and viewing the River.*



## SITE DETAILS



The site is located along a tree-filled section of the riverbank buffering residential properties from the adjacent treatment plant and industrial uses to the south.



The shoreline consists of loose stones and vegetation. It appears that the shoreline may be susceptible to erosion from flooding and/or boat wakes.



The site includes a tree line and runs along a fence line extending into the Hudson River.



The site has a slope between the treatment plant and residential property that will need to be considered with any future access.



The site has a curbed section and an uncurbed section as well as a utility warning sign. These elements will need to be considered with future access.



The site is located just to the south of the intersection of Belmore Place and Riverside Avenue.



## SITE ID #10: CRAILO STATE HISTORIC SITE

## CITY OF RENSSELAER

Site Overview: This is a public historic site located just south of Columbia Street/Route 20 on Riverside Avenue. (Milepoint 9.7)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** The waterfront site is generally open to the water and Riverside Avenue.
- 2) **Current Use:** Historic site with a historic structure open for tours, used to host events, and providing a passive open space lot on the waterfront.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The shoreline for this site is not hardened and there is evidence of some erosion at the waterline.
- 4) **Safety:** The site is open and accessible to Riverside Avenue. It is located in an existing residential neighborhood. The site closes at night.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The waterfront parcel is not ADA accessible. The site is behind a curb, is a grassy area with no paved sidewalk or path, and has a moderate slope to the water.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The site provides an overlook to the River.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is a historic/tourism destination. It is 0.5 miles south of Riverfront Park and the Dunn Memorial Pedestrian connection and 1.4 miles north of the Port of Rensselaer viewing site.
- 3) **Development:** The site has no formal waterfront access. An access amenity including a dock and pathway could be developed to encourage water-based visits to the site and provide more accessibility to the waterfront.

Priority: ●●●

Recommendation: *The development of water-based access through a dock or non-powerboat landing area for small craft would provide additional access opportunities and visitor potential for the site. Additionally, developing an ADA accessible pathway to the waterfront/stone retaining wall, if feasible with the slope, from the road and an associated passive sitting area would increase access opportunities to the River at this site.*





## SITE DETAILS



The site has interpretative signage located adjacent to the southbound lane of Riverside Avenue.



ADA accessibility to the waterfront could allow for increased visitation to the site and provide a unique historic stopping point for both land- and water-based visitors.



The waterfront is located down a moderate slope from the road and historic structure. This slope may prevent ADA accessibility to the waterfront or could require earthwork to get the required slope(s).



The site has a historic curved stone wall at the water which makes for a unique waterfront element and defines the site from its neighbors.



The site is located within a residential neighborhood where the adjacent properties have docks and utilize the waterfront portion of their properties.



The historic structure sits uphill and across Riverside Avenue from the passive open space and Hudson River.

## SITE ID #11: ALBANY YACHT CLUB

## CITY OF RENSSELAER

Site Overview: This is a private yacht club. (Milepoint 9.9)

### Top Issues:

- 1) Visibility: N/A
- 2) Current Use: Yacht Club providing memberships, transient docking, and fuel as well as non-boating memberships.
- 3) Vulnerability: The shoreline on this site is mostly overgrown. The type of shoreline is somewhat unknown as it was not easily visible during site visits but appears to be a mix of large stones and pieces of concrete. These stones cover a steep slope/vertical drop between the River and upland area.
- 4) Safety: N/A
- 5) Accessibility: The site appears to be ADA accessible.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: The site provides dock facilities for seasonal or transient boaters.
- 2) Nearest Existing Access Sites: The site is a recreation destination for powerboats. It is 1.3 miles south of Riverfront Park and the Dunn Memorial Pedestrian connection and 0.2 miles north of the Crailo State Historic site.
- 3) Development: N/A

Priority: N/A

Recommendation: As a private yacht club, there are no recommendations for this site.





## SITE DETAILS



The Yacht Club has significant dock space and is located just off of Columbia Street/ Route 20 and the Dunn Memorial Bridge.



The site includes several structures and can dock large boats.



Access to the waterfront is provided through a winding pathway and ramp to the park dock. A formal gathering area is located at the top of the dock ramp.



The Club has its own off-street parking.



The site is generally hidden from view from the road behind a vegetation-covered fence.



Mill Creek and Riverfront Park are located just upriver from the Club.



## SITE ID #12: RIVERFRONT PARK (BROADWAY)

## CITY OF RENSSELAER

**Site Overview:** This is a public park with water access and a dock located under and south of the Dunn Memorial Bridge. (Milepoint 10.2)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** The site is large and consists of several different recreational activity areas, but the visibility within the park is generally good.
- 2) **Current Use:** Active and passive recreation, including a dock to access the River.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The shoreline for this site is hardened with large rocks and metal retaining wall.
- 4) **Safety:** The site is open to the waterfront and adjacent neighborhood and visibility is generally good.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The site is ADA accessible via a network of sidewalks and pathways. The riverfront sitting area and dock are also ADA accessible.

### Top Opportunities:

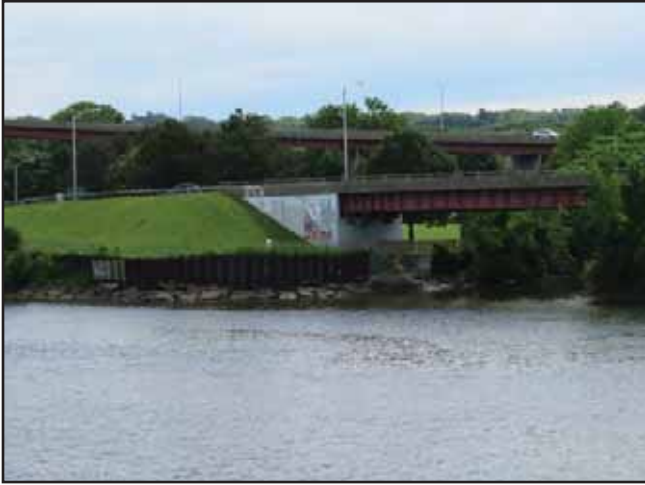
- 1) **Offerings:** The site provides children's' play areas, basketball, and walking paths. A riverfront improvement plan has been developed.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is a recreation destination. It is connected to the Dunn Memorial Bridge pedestrian connection. The site is 1.4 miles south of the Forbes Avenue Boat Launch and 0.6 miles north of the Crailo State Historic Site .
- 3) **Development:** Park updates as detailed in the draft plan should be implemented.

**Priority:** 

**Recommendation:** *The site has a development plan created. This plan should be pursued to enhance the site and provide more options to entice people to visit the site and access the riverfront. Expansion of the docks is a priority to improve water-based access and the ability to more fully participate in the tall ships event which must end here due to the barrier created by the bridge.*



## SITE DETAILS



The site includes all the land north of Mill Creek and west of Broadway to an area under the Dunn Memorial Bridge. The site is hardened with large rocks and metal retaining wall.



The site includes many different activities from playgrounds to basketball and tennis, walking paths, and waterfront access via a dock.



Access to the waterfront is provided through a winding pathway and ramp to the park dock. A formal gathering area is located at the top of the dock ramp.



The dock is held in place by concrete pillars and metal beam connections. The dock can raise and lower with changes in the water level.



The dock and ramp, as well as the access pathway, are in good condition. The dock provides fishing and boat tie-up opportunities.



Mill Creek runs along the southern border of the Park and is accessible to kayakers and small boats. The shoreline of the creek is hardened as seen in this picture.



## SITE ID #13: HUDSON RIVER WALKWAY & DE LAET'S LANDING

## CITY OF RENSSELAER

**Site Overview:** This is a private 24-acre mixed-use development that is currently being constructed. It is listed online being approved for 250,000 s.f. of office space, 165,000 s.f. of retail space, a 236,000 s.f. hotel, and 630,000 s.f. of residential space. The schematic on the project website also shows docking for up to six boats. (Milepoint 10.5)

### Top Issues:

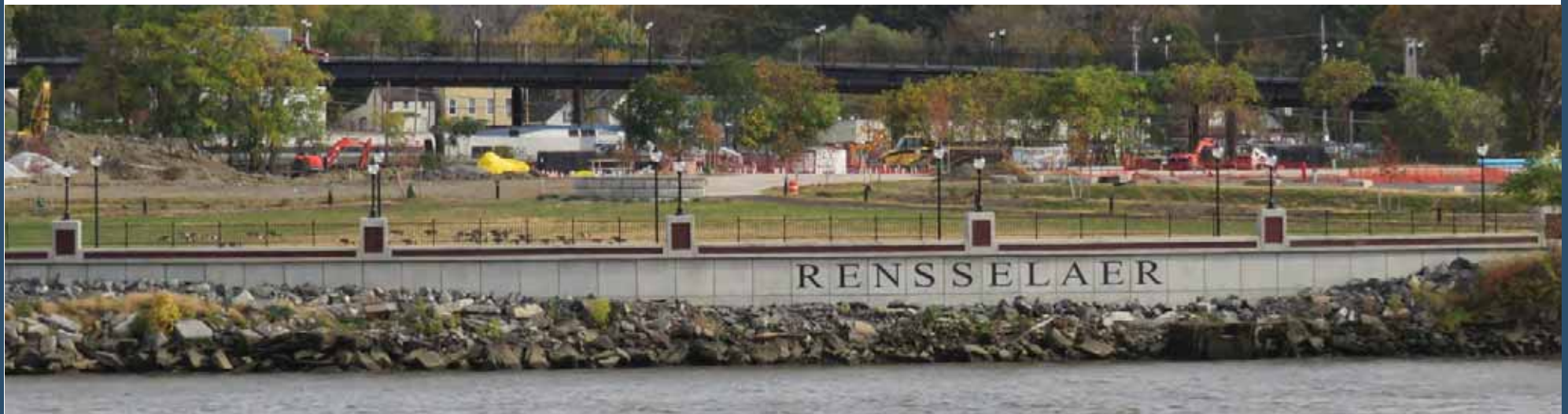
- 1) **Visibility:** The site is currently under construction but sketches show a significant amount of open space, particularly along the waterfront.
- 2) **Current Use:** Under construction.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** Part of the shoreline for this site is hardened with a decorative wall - the remainder with large stones.
- 4) **Safety:** N/A - the site is under construction.
- 5) **Accessibility:** Based on a review of the plans, it appears the site will have significant accessibility, including ADA accessibility, via sidewalks and paths.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The site will provide access to the waterfront and passive open space with views of the River.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is proposed to have recreation elements. It is 1.1 miles south of the Forbes Avenue Boat Launch and 0.3 miles north of Riverfront Park and the pedestrian connection to the Dunn Memorial Bridge.
- 3) **Development:** This site is currently under development but could, based on discussions held as part of this project, include future dock space along the riverfront.

### Priority: N/A

**Recommendation:** *As a private site currently under development, there are no physical recommendations for this site. However, discussions should be undertaken to assess the potential to put in dock space in the future which would provide additional access to the waterfront in this location.*





## SITE DETAILS



This site, mapped as Van Rensselaer Island, is just north of Riverfront Park and located in close proximity to the Amtrak Station.



Improvements to the waterfront are already visible. Much of the site is hardened with large stones.



A walking path has been constructed and as can be seen in this image and the image to the left, lighting is provided along the length of the path.



The northern end of the site abuts the Amtrak Yard and just a bit farther to the north the Livingston Avenue Bridge. The shoreline to the north of the construction area is tree-lined and undeveloped.



The site location in close proximity to the Amtrak Station and just north of the heart of Downtown Rensselaer makes this a site that is likely to be very popular once completed.



The site is bordered to the east by the Amtrak rail line and the Broadway bridge over the railroad tracks.

## SITE ID #14: LIVINGSTON AVENUE BRIDGE

## CITY OF RENSSELAER

**Site Overview:** This is a 100+ year-old swing-type railroad bridge used by approximately 14 Amtrak and 6 CSX trains per day according to the NYSDOT. It is a vital crossing that needs to be replaced due to the deterioration of the bridge. There is a significant push to reopen a pedestrian connection across the bridge as part of any upgrade or replacement. (Milepoint 11.1)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** The site is currently closed to pedestrians but visibility is good in all directions.
- 2) **Current Use:** Freight and passenger rail bridge. The pedestrian connection was closed decades ago.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The bridge is elevated well above the River and does not get inundated with flood waters. For a train bridge, the structure is quite old and deterioration is a vulnerability.
- 4) **Safety:** The bridge is deteriorating and pedestrians are not currently permitted on the structure.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The site is not accessible or open to the public.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The site could provide a unique and important bicycle and pedestrian connection between the City of Rensselaer and the City of Albany.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is located 1.1 miles south of the Forbes Avenue Boat Launch and 0.3 miles to north of Riverfront Park and the Dunn Memorial Bridge pedestrian connection.
- 3) **Development:** There is significant advocacy ongoing to ensure that pedestrian access is provided when the bridge is upgraded or replaced. Inclusion of a pedestrian element on the bridge is vital to connecting the City of Rensselaer to the City of Albany.

**Priority:** 

**Recommendation:** *Support efforts to ensure that a pedestrian connection is provided across the bridge. Realignment of the crossing should occur to the south due to the presence of NYS OGS-owned property.*





## SITE DETAILS



The bridge currently lands in Rensselaer County at an undeveloped parcel(s) of land which is slated for development through the Killaen's Landing project.



The bridge is a unique swing-type bridge that swings open to allow boat traffic to pass through. According to the NYSDOT, the swing mechanism is not reliable and has caused both marine and rail delays.



According to the NYSDOT, the structure is eligible for listing on the National Register and State Register of Historic Places. The swing section opens approximately 400x per year.



The existing structure connects a current park - the Corning Preserve - and the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail in Albany with what will be a linear park and trail along the Rensselaer County waterfront.



According to NYSDOT, the bridge piers are made of stone and were constructed in 1866. The steel structure was constructed in 1901.



This bridge is high above the water and allows smaller boats to pass through without needing to open.



## SITE ID #15: KILLAEN'S LANDING

## CITY OF RENSSELAER

**Site Overview:** This is a proposed mixed-use development along a large section of the northern part of the City of Rensselaer waterfront extending into North Greenbush at/near the Tech Valley Trails. A portion of the area is owned by NYS OGS. When completed it will include a maritime center, passive and active recreation fields, and trail/sidewalk connections. (Milepoint 11.3)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** The site is currently under development and the plans reviewed showed significant open spaces between buildings and along the waterfront.
- 2) **Current Use:** The area has a mix of uses currently.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The shoreline varies as this project covers a significant distance along the River.
- 4) **Safety:** The area is a mix of uses with different conditions depending on the location.
- 5) **Accessibility:** A review of the project plans show significant accessibility improvements throughout the project area.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The site currently includes/incorporates the Forbes Avenue Boat Launch which provides direct water access. The proposed private development will provide options for public access throughout the redeveloped site.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is proposed to have recreation elements. It is 1.1 miles south of the Forbes Avenue Boat Launch and 0.3 miles north of Riverfront Park and the pedestrian connection to the Dunn Memorial Bridge.
- 3) **Development:** This site is currently in the planning and development stages. A Master Plan is available for public review on the City of Rensselaer website.

**Priority:** N/A

**Recommendation:** *There are no specific recommendations for this location. The City and community are engaged in the planning and development process and the proposed project includes public open space and connections along the waterfront.*



## SITE DETAILS



The concept plan for redevelopment as part of Killian's Landing begins at the north side of the Livingston Avenue Bridge and continues to the RPI Tech Park trails.



The site includes the Forbes Avenue Boat Launch and Hilton Park.



This view shows the Forbes Avenue Boat Launch and Hilton Park site - a location that will be integrated into the overall project. The building to the right is proposed for redevelopment into a mixed-use building.



Land to the south is already being cleared. This location is proposed for a 5-story, 40-unit residential structure.



This section is proposed for development as ball fields and will be connected via a road under I-90 and conceptually to Jordan Road in the Tech Park.



A recreation center is slated for development just south of the I-90 bridge. Though no water access is shown on the plans it would be a logical location for such access.



# SITE ID #16: FORBES AVENUE BOAT LAUNCH & HILTON PARK

CITY OF RENSSELAER

Site Overview: This is an existing boat launch and waterfront park. (Milepoint 11.5)

## Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** The site is not easy to find and the access road looks like a private driveway, but the park and boat launch are open with views of the River and a tree-lined shoreline.
- 2) **Current Use:** Boat launch & park/sitting area with tables and portable bathrooms.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The shoreline for this site is not hardened. There is evidence of slope undercutting adjacent to the launch. The site is elevated well above the River.
- 4) **Safety:** The park and boat launch are somewhat isolated but the site is generally open and visibility is good. There is a railroad line crossing on the site access road which includes gates and warning signage.
- 5) **Accessibility:** There is a driveway, handicapped parking, and sidewalk leading to the site.

## Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The site provides an existing site to access the waterfront for picnicking, motorboating, car-top boat access, and fishing.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is a recreation destination. It is 6.2 miles south of the Madison Street Fishing Pier and 1.4 miles north of Riverfront Park.
- 3) **Development:** Some enhancements and improvements to existing infrastructure would be beneficial. This site is part of the proposed Killbuck's Landing waterfront plan/project.

Priority: 

Recommendation: *Installation of permanent bathroom facilities would be highly beneficial given the other on-site amenities and the location of this site in proximity to others. Minor improvements like better signage and upkeep of existing amenities would make the site more usable. A larger project to expand dock space could also be considered to make the launch more boater-friendly.*



## SITE DETAILS



The site runs parallel to the waterfront for several hundred feet. There is parking for approximately 20 vehicles and another 8 truck and trailer combinations.



The site is accessible by vehicle and pedestrian but has a railroad crossing. The crossing provides both vehicular and pedestrian gates.



The site includes several picnic tables along along the tree lined waterfront. Trash containers are also located on site as well as portable bathroom facilities.



The dock is held in place by two concrete pillars via a metal walkway with railings. The setup allows the dock to raise and lower with changes in the water level.



There are remnants of old dock footings along the shoreline to the north. This picture also shows some of the undercutting of the shoreline and exposed tree roots.



The view of Downtown Albany from this location is fantastic. The River is wide and generally calm, though there can be a swift current.



## SITE ID #17: RENSSELAER TECHNOLOGY PARK TRAILS

## TOWN OF NORTH GREENBUSH

Site Overview: These trails connect part of the developed section of the property to large undeveloped parcels. The focus site includes hiking trails from the hilltop down toward, but not yet reaching, the Hudson River waterfront. (Milepoint 12.5)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** The area is wooded and used for hiking trails so visibility is as would be expected for a wooded area.
- 2) **Current Use:** The focus area is on the trails which begin at two trailheads near the developed portion of the property(ies) but quickly enter the large undeveloped portion of the property.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The shoreline has a hardened concrete sloped wall that is cracking and deteriorating in some locations.
- 4) **Safety:** The trails traverse steep slopes so common concerns related to hiking in a unique environment exist. There is a freight rail crossing which an obstacle to further trail development and accessibility to the water.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The trails are generally not ADA accessible.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The site has existing trails open to the public, but they do not reach the waterfront.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is a recreation destination. It is 6.0 miles south of the Madison Street Fishing Pier and 3.4 miles north of the Forbes Avenue Boat Launch.
- 3) **Development:** The Town of North Greenbush owns land just south of the wastewater treatment plant. There are plans by the Technology Park to expand the trail system to the waterfront. The southernmost section of this site from south of the I-90 bridge to approximately where the new trail segment to the River is proposed is included in the Killaen's Landing waterfront project.

Priority: 

Recommendation: *Support efforts to expand the trail system (including the Mikey Mahar Memorial Trail) to gain access to the waters edge and for any future connections to/through this site, including efforts to create a County-wide waterfront trail.*



## SITE DETAILS



The shoreline is completely undeveloped in this area.



The shoreline is hardened with a concrete sloped wall that extends for a significant distance along the Rensselaer County waterfront. The wall is deteriorating in some locations.



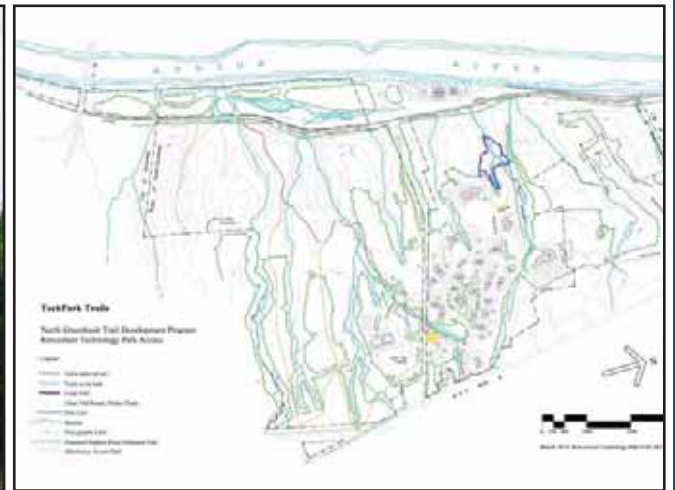
The site is crisscrossed by a significant utility right-of-way. There may be an opportunity to work with the utility company to create additional trails/access.



The property encompasses land surrounding the I-90 bridge. According to interview discussions, this land is currently unofficially used by ATVs and others.



The property owned by RPI Technology Park is large. The waterfront for their holdings begins south of the I-90 bridge and runs several thousand feet north.



There is a formal trail system and plans for additional trails in the future that will access the riverfront. *(Image provided by Friends of Tech. Valley Trails)*



## SITE ID #18: RENSSELAER COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT PROPERTY

## TOWN OF NORTH GREENBUSH

Site Overview: This is an existing site that is actively used as a wastewater treatment plant. It includes the plant, grassy areas, and parking as well as a 1.5 mile entry road. (Milepoint 13.6)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** The area does not have good visibility. The existing road and site is generally surrounded by vegetation.
- 2) **Current Use:** The site is a sewer treatment plant. The site reportedly has issues related to smells emanating from the plant that may be objectionable to potential recreational users.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The shoreline has a hardened concrete sloped wall. It is cracking and deteriorating in some locations.
- 4) **Safety:** The site is isolated and a long distance from the nearest neighborhood. It has a fence along the river-side of the road and runs parallel to the existing freight railroad tracks.
- 5) **Accessibility:** There is a paved road to access the site.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The site was identified as a potential access site because it is existing publicly-owned land and is the type of use often considered for new water access.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is 3.0 miles south of the Madison Street Fishing Pier and 6.5 miles north of the Forbes Avenue Boat Launch.
- 3) **Development:** This site could somewhat easily be developed as it is generally cleared and level. Given all the other options and the location and work that would be required to enhance the site, this is a longer-term option.

Priority: 

Recommendation: *A kayak launch and possible ADA overlook/fishing pier (like at Madison Street) should be considered. This would be a longer-term project.*



## SITE DETAILS



The waterfront on this site is screened by thick vegetation.



The entrance area to the treatment plant is maintained and includes significant vegetation, shielding the plant from view at the entrance.



There is a turn-around area at the entrance to the sewer district property. A new river access point would likely be constructed here as it is outside the physical plant property.



The northern section of road is bordered by a fence and freight rail line. The Mickey Mahar Memorial Trail is proposed to run along this road. This area is a hazardous waste remediation site.



Where the fence does not exist on the southern portion of the entry road there is a guardrail separating the road from the waterfront.



The entry road has a more natural feel the closer it gets to the sewer district property. The road is paved & extends approximately 1.5 miles from the nearest major road - Route 378 to the north.



## SITE ID #19: UNDER/NEAR TROY-MENANDS BRIDGE

CITY OF TROY

**Site Overview:** This is a very large vacant site located under and within close proximity north and south of the bridge. The area in and around the bridge is owned by two private companies. (Milepoint 14.8)

### Top Issues:

- 1) Visibility: The area is open and visibility is good, however, there is no visibility of the River in this location.
- 2) Current Use: The site is vacant and fenced.
- 3) Vulnerability: Unknown shoreline due to vegetation coverage but it appears to be unimproved loose rock/dirt except south of the site where it has been hardened with large stones.
- 4) Safety: The site is isolated and a long distance from the nearest neighborhood.
- 5) Accessibility: There is a paved road which is utilized for access to the Rensselaer County Wastewater Treatment Plant.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: The site is privately owned land under, and in close proximity to, the bridge.
- 2) Nearest Existing Access Sites: The site 1.8 miles south of the Madison Street Fishing Pier and 6.0 miles north of the Forbes Avenue Boat Launch.
- 3) Development: This site could somewhat easily be developed as it is generally cleared and level, however, given all the other options and the location and work that would be required to enhance the site, this is a longer-term option.

**Priority:** N/A

**Recommendation:** *This site will be part of the Mickey Mahar Memorial Trail and any future changes to the site should include the appropriate area to provide the desired trail alignment. The site is part of a hazardous waste remediation effort so other uses would have to be carefully considered. Aside from ensuring a trail alignment is provided, there are other sites that should be prioritized before this location is considered for river access.*



## SITE DETAILS



View of the waterfront under the Troy-Menands Bridge. Note that the waterfront is fully screened by thick vegetation.



The site is level and open but fenced. It recently underwent remedial construction.



South of the bridge, the shoreline is hardened with stones for several hundred yards. This area is a hazardous waste remediation site.



North of the site the shoreline is generally the same - fully screened by vegetation. This is a future remediation site and potential development site.



The paved road parallels the River for approximately 1.3 miles from the Troy-Menands Bridge to the entrance to the Rensselaer County Sewer District property.



The fence line extends for several hundred yards south of the bridge along the shoreline. The Mickey Mahar Memorial Trail is proposed to run along this road.



## SITE ID #20: BURDEN DISTRICT

CITY OF TROY

Site Overview: This site has been part of a redevelopment planning process for years. It is an old industrial site that is currently mostly vacant land. (Milepoint 15.0)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** There are trees running through the site including along the shoreline which reduces or eliminates visibility of the River in this location.
- 2) **Current Use:** The site is vacant and mostly undeveloped except for a building that remains.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** Unknown shoreline due to vegetation coverage but it appears to be unimproved loose rock/dirt.
- 4) **Safety:** The site is isolated and a long distance from the nearest neighborhood.
- 5) **Accessibility:** There is a paved road running through the site. This serves as an entrance to the County sewer district property (Site ID #18).

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The site is large, includes a significant amount of shoreline, and could provide any number of public access opportunities and amenities.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is 2.0 miles south of the Madison Street Fishing Pier and 5.8 miles north of the Forbes Avenue Boat Launch.
- 3) **Development:** This site could somewhat easily be developed as it is generally cleared and level. This location is a focus area for redevelopment by the Troy Local Development Corporation.

Priority: 

Recommendation: *The Troy Local Development Corporation has been engaged in a planning effort for this site for some time. Any future development of the site should provide public access, consider the potential to provide space for the Mickey Mahar Memorial Trail, and water access.*



## SITE DETAILS



View of the southern end of the site looking toward the Troy-Menands Bridge. Note that the site here is generally cleared and level.



The site has one existing structure located which is located along the waterfront.



This schematic shows the proposed development concept for the Burden District as detailed in the City's Comprehensive Plan. *(Image from Realize Troy Comprehensive Plan)*



This close-up view shows that the outlet of the Wynants Kill is hardened with concrete. This location also has a cable running along the riverbed.



The site has a beach with a gentle slope to the water, however, it is encompassed by trees and not easily accessible except by boat.



The site still has the remnants of the old dock used by the previous industrial operations.



## SITE ID #21: MONROE STREET TERMINUS

CITY OF TROY

Site Overview: This is an unofficial access site that has been used extensively for fishing. It's use has increased significantly over the years. The City applied for a grant in 2013 to improve the site but the grant was not awarded. (Milepoint 16.0)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** Visibility of the site is somewhat limited. It is located between two existing businesses and currently not very welcoming as a public access site.
- 2) **Current Use:** The site is currently used for fishing access and as an overflow location when the Madison Street Fishing Pier is heavily used.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The site consists of a steep rocky bank with overgrowth. The street level is significantly higher than that the water.
- 4) **Safety:** The bank is somewhat steep and while there are active businesses here it feels somewhat isolated.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The site is not ADA accessible.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The site offers fishing access to those able to walk down the slope to the River.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is an unofficial recreation site. It is 1 block south of Madison Street Fishing Pier and 6.1 miles north of the Forbes Avenue Boat Launch.
- 3) **Development:** This site has been proposed in the past for improvements to make it more accessible.

Priority: 

Recommendation: *Continue to advance the proposal originally put forward in 2013 by the City of Troy to re-grade the site, install a concrete staircase, and remove overgrowth to provide an access site and amenity that residents can safely use as a fishing access location.*



## SITE DETAILS



This aerial image from a previously submitted grant application shows the context of the site which includes existing actively-used buildings along the riverfront.  
(Image provided by the City of Troy)



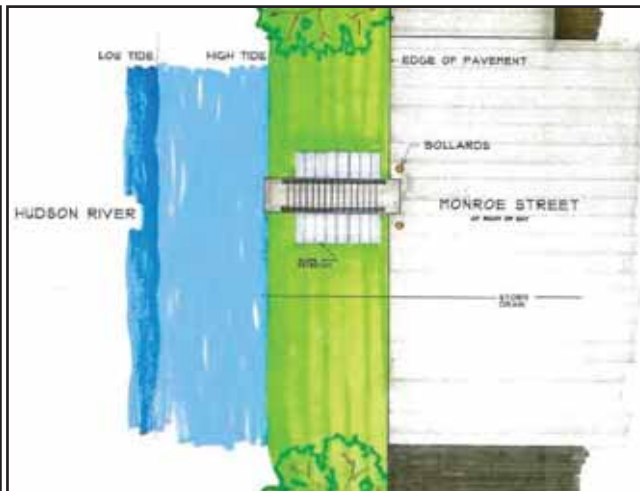
The site is located at the end of Monroe Street - a paved road currently used by existing businesses.



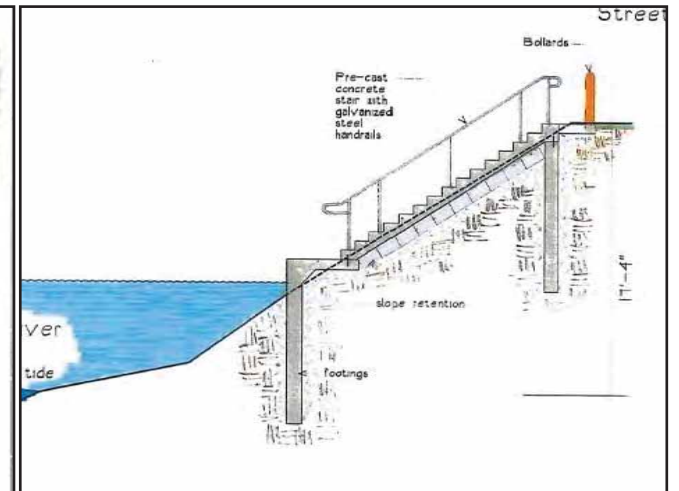
The site has an existing beach and a "goatpath" or trail created by frequent use that leads from the road down to the River.



The road and structures are elevated above the River. The existing slope is currently covered in vegetation.



This sketch shows the site plan for the proposed stairway leading from Monroe Street to the River.  
(Image provided by the City of Troy)



This image from the previous grant application shows the elevation sketch for the proposed stairs and fishing platform.  
(Image provided by the City of Troy)



## SITE ID #22: MADISON STREET FISHING PIER

CITY OF TROY

Site Overview: This is an existing wood platform with railings that extends from the end of Madison Street to the waters edge. (Milepoint 16.1)

### Top Issues:

- 1) Visibility: The area is open and visibility along the street and to the adjacent business is good.
- 2) Current Use: The site is currently a fishing pier that can also be also be used for viewing the River/area and sitting or picnicking.
- 3) Vulnerability: The site platform is built at the waters edge. Vulnerability appears to be low due to the construction of the structure, height above the water, and reinforced shoreline.
- 4) Safety: The site is open but being located at the end of Madison Street it is somewhat secluded.
- 5) Accessibility: The site is not ADA accessible. There is a curb and 10+ feet of loose rock from the parking area to the edge of the platform.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: The platform provides great access to the River n this part of the City. There is a concept to create a greenway along the adjacent Poestenkill Creek.
- 2) Nearest Existing Access Sites: The site is a recreation element. It is 1.4 miles south of Riverfront Park and 6.2 miles north of the Forbes Avenue Boat Launch.
- 3) Development: This site needs better accessibility and upkeep.

Priority: 

Recommendation: *Enhancements to provide ADA accessibility would be a generally quick and lower-cost improvement. Some additional site work/maintenance to make it more inviting is needed including clearing weeds and cleaning-up existing amenities already on-site. Wayfinding signage from 1st & 2nd Streets indicating the presence of the Fishing Pier would also be beneficial to increase visibility of the site.*



## SITE DETAILS



View of the platform and benches/picnic table looking south.



View of the parking area. Note the curb and loose stone - these elements extend the width of the entrance to the platform and thus prevent ADA accessibility.



There are amenities already in-place. They are in need of paint and maintenance. Given the weed growth it is apparent that these tables are not regularly used.



The overlook is at the end of Madison Street so access is good. There are, however, several rail lines that must be crossed which could limit ADA accessibility for anyone not driving to the site.



To the south, the shoreline is steep and covered with rocks and vegetation. This is private property and signs indicate that it is not open to the public.



The Pier is elevated significantly above the waters edge. The shoreline to the north is hardened with a concrete wall while to the south the site has a rock reinforced slope.



## SITE ID #23: ADAMS STREET/OLD CLEMENTE CONCRETE SITE

CITY OF TROY

**Site Overview:** This is a NYS Canal Corporation-owned property (river frontage only) is located between Adams St. and Washington St. This site is at the end of a proposed new/renewed road. (Milepoint 16.3)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** The area is generally open and visible from both the water and shore, though the site is covered in vegetation.
- 2) **Current Use:** The site is currently an undeveloped lot covered in vegetation, however, it is surrounded by undeveloped cleared lots and an active industrial use.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** It is not possible to see the shoreline for this site specifically, however, lots to the north and south are hardened with a concrete wall.
- 4) **Safety:** The site itself is covered in trees and inaccessible. Adjacent sites are industrial and not safe for public access.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The site is not ADA accessible. Adams Street is located approximately 150' to the east of this site.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** There are currently no offerings on this site.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is a recreation element. It is 0.75 miles south of Riverfront Park and 0.5 miles north of the Madison Street Fishing Pier.
- 3) **Development:** This site will need to gain public access.

**Priority:** 

**Recommendation:** *Consider development of a non-motorized boat launch at this location.*



## SITE DETAILS



View of the entrance to the site from Adams Street.



The southern portion of the site includes a SPDES discharge outfall permit informational sign.



The site is blocked by concrete barriers from Front Street as well as the riverfront.



To the south and east the site is adjacent to an active industrial use.



The area immediately adjacent to the Hudson River is owned by the Canal Corporation.



The site is undeveloped and largely cleared.



## SITE ID #24: FRONT STREET/DIVISION STREET

CITY OF TROY

**Site Overview:** This site is located at the at the end of the off-ramp from the Ferry Street./Route 2 bridge on Front Street. The adjacent large fenced-in open space is owned by Russell Sage College and the parking lot by the Troy Housing Authority. (Milepoint 16.7)

### Top Issues:

- 1) Visibility: The area is open and has visibility of the waterfront.
- 2) Current Use: The site is currently a mix of uses.
- 3) Vulnerability: The site has a hardened seawall, though Hurricane Irene topped the seawall and flood this area in 2011 (and prior to that it occurred during the January 1996 flood event).
- 4) Safety: The site is in a somewhat secluded area fenced off and surrounded by buildings which mostly don't front toward the site.
- 5) Accessibility: The site is generally ADA accessible. There is no direct access to the River or a formal access point.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: The area provides existing views of the River.
- 2) Nearest Existing Access Sites: The site is 0.4 miles south of Riverfront Park and 0.8 miles north of the Madison Street Fishing Pier.
- 3) Development: No formal development is proposed at this time.

**Priority:** 

**Recommendation:** Consider future opportunities to increase public access to the Hudson River from this site and adjacent area(s). This could be done by providing a small pocket park or sitting area at the edge of Front Street. Coordination with Russell Sage College and the Troy Housing Authority should be undertaken to identify any potential joint project possibilities. Continue efforts to extend the linear Riverwalk/Greenway to this site.



## SITE DETAILS



View looking west across the Russell Sage College field toward the Hudson River.



View looking inland from the waters edge of benches and bollards in the center of the Park.



View of the Housing Authority project overlooking the River and Russell Sage College field.



The Russell Sage field is located adjacent to the end of the Riverwalk that leads to Riverfront Park.



The parking lot is adjacent to the Russell Sage College field and owned by the Troy Housing Authority.



This piece of undeveloped land is a potentially ideal location to develop a pocket park and river access to allow fishing, a sitting area, and act as a formal gateway to the Riverwalk.



## SITE ID #25: RIVERFRONT PARK

CITY OF TROY

Site Overview: This site is an existing linear park that includes walkways and passive open space. (Milepoint 17.2)

### Top Issues:

- 1) Visibility: The site is generally open and visibility is good.
- 2) Current Use: The site is an existing waterfront park and linear walkway. It is the primary waterfront park in the City of Troy.
- 3) Vulnerability: The site has a hardened seawall, which will be reconstructed starting in 2018. Hurricane Irene topped the seawall and flooded this area in 2011 (and prior to that it occurred during the January 1996 flood event).
- 4) Safety: The site is generally safe with pedestrian activity generally found throughout the day.
- 5) Accessibility: The site is ADA accessible. There is no access to the water in this location as it is gated and the River is several feet below the park/shore at the seawall.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: The site provides a unique urban waterfront attraction and somewhat large areas of passive open space.
- 2) Nearest Existing Access Sites: The site is a recreation element. It is 0.2 miles south of the Downtown Troy Downtown Marina & Riverwalk and 1.0 mile north of the Madison Street Overlook.
- 3) Development: The site is currently developed. The adjacent parcel that was the former City Hall is slated for redevelopment.

Priority: 

Recommendation: Enhance the overall visual look along the riverfront and improve views of the River by relocating visual obstructions such as garbage cans to the opposite side of the walkway. Consider the installation of more unique sitting & gathering areas, particularly in the southern portion of the Park. Continue efforts to extend the linear Riverwalk/Greenway to the south.



## SITE DETAILS



View looking north from the center of Riverfront Park.



View of Riverfront Park from the Hudson River.



View of the River looking south. There is a low fence running along the entire length of the Park.



There is a wide Riverwalk paved walkway along the northern section of the Park.



The Park is generally in good condition. The southern section, part of the redevelopment project area, is in need of enhancements.



The southern section of the Riverwalk, adjacent to the future redevelopment site, changes in character to a narrow sidewalk with a parking lot and no amenities.



**Site Overview:** This site is an existing linear pedestrian walk that connects the south side of City Hall to the south side of the Green Island Bridge along the waterfront. (Milepoint 17.5)

## Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** The site is generally open and runs along parking lots and the rear of retail and restaurant uses.
- 2) **Current Use:** The site is a pedestrian Riverwalk and dock that serves motorboats.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The site has a hardened seawall, though Hurricane Irene topped the seawall and flooded this area in 2011 (and prior to that it occurred during the January 1996 flood event).
- 4) **Safety:** The site is generally safe, has activity along the Riverwalk and patrons in the adjacent businesses.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The site is generally ADA accessible. There is no access to the water as it is gated & locked for use by boaters only.

## Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The Riverwalk provides a unique urban walking experience that connects businesses and eliminates the need to cross the Green Island Bridge/River Street intersection.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** the site is 3.1 miles south of the 111th Street Launch and 0.2 miles north of Riverfront Park.
- 3) **Development:** The site is currently developed though some upgrades would enhance the user/visitor experience.

**Priority:** 

**Recommendation:** Consider the installation of more benches, unique sitting & gathering areas and greenery. Enhance the overall visual look along the riverfront and improve views of the River by relocating visual obstructions such as garbage cans to the opposite side of the walkway. Continue efforts to extend the Riverwalk to the north and south.



## SITE DETAILS



View of the Riverwalk looking south toward the Green Island Bridge and Downtown Troy. Note the location of the garbage receptacle along the fence.



The Riverwalk under the Green Island Bridge looking north.



View of the River from the northern extent of the Riverwalk.



Another view of the Riverwalk looking north - here the grassy area between the parking area and Riverwalk is wider, potentially providing an opportunity to create a unique sitting/gathering area.



The Riverwalk is separated from the water by an ornamental fence. The site provides signage indicating the presence of the marina docks.



The site accesses the River through a locked gate.



## SITE ID #27: INGALLS AVENUE

CITY OF TROY

**Site Overview:** This is a brownfield site that is planned for reuse as a boat launch but has been delayed in large part due to cleanup efforts. Neighborhood interest in this area has been significant. The Nature Conservancy conducted a study over a decade ago assessing access potential on an adjacent parcel. (Milepoint 18.3)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** The site is open but located behind buildings fronting on River Street.
- 2) **Current Use:** The site is a vacant, undeveloped parcel.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The site is vulnerable along the riverfront, though it has a rocky shoreline and the site slopes upward quickly which elevates it substantially from the waterline.
- 4) **Safety:** There are potential safety issues due to the isolated nature of the site and overgrowth/vegetation.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The site is accessible on foot and by vehicle, though it is not currently ADA accessible.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The City of Troy has plans to develop the site into a boat launch.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is 1.9 miles south of the 111th Street Launch and 1.2 miles north of the Downtown Troy Marina & Riverwalk.
- 3) **Development:** The site is proposed for development by the City and plans have been developed.

**Priority:** 

**Recommendation:** *Implementation of the proposed boat launch is moving forward as shown on the proposed plans. This site will be ADA accessible and include an ADA compliant kayak launch as well as a full boat launch. Connections to, and development of, the adjacent property to the south of this site, previously assessed through a planning effort undertaken by the Nature Conservancy, should be considered with any future discussions of redevelopment of that parcel.*



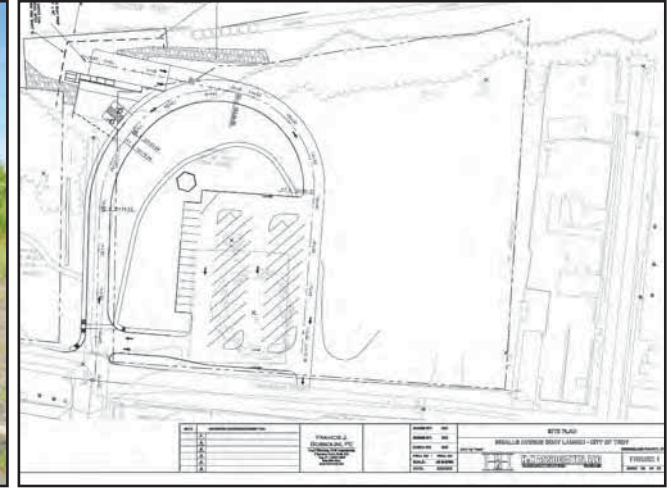
## SITE DETAILS



View of the existing roadway entrance to the site.



This is the existing paved driveway which begins at the gravel lot and extends to the waters edge.



Copy of the site plan for development of Ingalls Avenue into a boat launch.  
*(Image provided by City of Troy)*



The site has direct access to the River via the paved driveway.



To the south is the Route 7 bridge, several islands, and Downtown Troy.



The site accesses the River just below the Hudson River Lock & Dam.



## SITE ID #28: HUDSON RIVER LOCK & DAM

CITY OF TROY

Site Overview: This is an existing Lock and dam site that includes an Army Corps of Engineers work area and a boat launch. The site is not accessible to the public, however boats can lock-through. (Milepoint 18.5)

### Top Issues:

- 1) Visibility: The site is open.
- 2) Current Use: The site is an existing Lock and home to the Army Corps of Engineers.
- 3) Vulnerability: The site is hardened with a concrete wall along the shoreline and the west side of the Lock.
- 4) Safety: The site is gated.
- 5) Accessibility: The site has a paved driveway and parking areas. It is largely ADA accessible from the paths and sidewalks that run throughout the site. Again, the site isn't open to the public so it isn't accessible to anyone except those working at the location.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: N/A
- 2) Nearest Existing Access Sites: The site is 1.5 miles south of 111th Street Launch and 1.6 miles north of the Downtown Troy Marina & Riverwalk.
- 3) Development: The site is not recommended for development.

Priority: N/A

Recommendation: *The site is not recommended for development. This is a gated site with no public access.*



## SITE DETAILS



View of the power generating station on the Albany County side of the dam and Hudson River.



This is the entryway to the Lock from the north.



View of the downstream section of the Lock.



The site has parking, sidewalks, and unpaved areas.



The site has existing structures and parking which are used by the Army Corps of Engineers.



The Lock is part of a large dam complex that terminates at the tidal portion of the Hudson River. *(Image from NYS GIS Clearinghouse)*



**Site Overview:** This is an existing grassy area adjacent to the River and the gravel parking lot behind the Church. It is located at the northern extent of the Hudson River Lock and Dam. (Milepoint 18.8)

## Top Issues:

- 1) Visibility: The site is visible from the road and relatively open.
- 2) Current Use: Unprogrammed grassy area.
- 3) Vulnerability: This site has a concrete wall.
- 4) Safety: The site is somewhat isolated behind the church, though the space itself is open and visibility is good.
- 5) Accessibility: The site is somewhat accessible, though ADA accessibility is limited. Access to the waterfront is unavailable as the River is fenced-off.

## Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: The site is part of an existing church property.
- 2) Nearest Existing Access Sites: The site is 1.4 miles south of the 111th Street Launch and 1.7 miles north of the Downtown Troy Marina & Riverwalk.
- 3) Development: The site could provide a small community pocket park.

**Priority:** 

**Recommendation:** *Talk with the Church about the potential to develop the existing greenspace as a publicly-open pocket park to provide visual access to the Hudson River. The site is large enough to potentially develop a small pavilion/seating area and/or playground. Any potential changes should take into account the ability to support activities put on by the Church including Greek Fest.*



## SITE DETAILS



This is a large undeveloped area of land located behind St. Basil's Greek Orthodox Church.



The entire site is fenced-off from the waterfront.



The site is mostly grass with a tree-line along the Hudson River.



The site is just above the Hudson River Lock & Dam, thus immediately adjacent to the active channel portion of the river.



The frontage along the Lock entryway is fenced-off.



This site is adjacent to a gravel parking lot located behind the church.



## SITE ID #30: 2ND AVENUE (@ 104TH)

CITY OF TROY

Site Overview: This existing grassy area located along 2nd Avenue is mostly private property, however a portion near 104th St. is public and may be a viable location to provide public access. (Milepoint 19.3)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** The site is highly visible from the road being located along 2nd Avenue. The public site has visibility of the River with some vegetation located along the shoreline.
- 2) **Current Use:** Passive open space/private land.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** This site is not hardened and the waterline consists of a rocky shoreline. Undercutting of the slope, particularly during times of high water, could be an issue.
- 4) **Safety:** The site is highly visible from 2nd Avenue. The land is elevated above the River so issues related to the drop to the River are a potential concern.
- 5) **Accessibility:** There is no ADA access. The site is behind a curb and cable barrier. There is no parking on-street or off-street.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The site is in a residential neighborhood with potential to provide a more formal access opportunity.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is 0.5 mi south of the 111th Street Launch and 2.6 mi north of the Downtown Troy Marina & Riverwalk.
- 3) **Development:** This site could be formalized for better access and official use by the public on the public portion of land.

Priority: 

Recommendation: Consider formalizing parallel parking along 2nd Avenue, removing the cable barrier, formalizing the public portion of the site to provide access and views of the River, and providing ADA accessibility. A sidewalk at this location, connecting to existing sidewalk 0.5 blocks north and 1.5 blocks south would be a valuable addition providing enhanced pedestrian accessibility along this section of 2nd Avenue and filling a lengthy gap in the sidewalk system.



## SITE DETAILS



Some sections of the linear greenspace area between 103rd and 104th, like this view looking north at 104th, are open to the River and provide views of the River.



Other sections south of 104th are more vegetated and provide only filtered views of the River.



The site is located just south of property owned by Rensselaer County at 105th Street.



The cable barrier is located several feet behind the curb.



There are fantastic views along this straight stretch of River to both the south and the north.



The shoreline consists of small stones and vegetation. The typical water level is several feet below the undeveloped land and 2nd Avenue.



## SITE ID #31: 111TH STREET LAUNCH

CITY OF TROY

**Site Overview:** This site is an undeveloped lot along the riverfront. The parking area is approximately 10' and 12' above the water line. (Milepoint 20.0)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** There is no visible indication that this is a public site. It is not clear that access is provided or permitted and access to the water is difficult as no formal path or steps exist.
- 2) **Current Use:** This site is listed as an official water access site. Existing public access via stairs to the north are currently used by adjacent property owner.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The site shows signs of erosion likely caused by changing river levels, runoff and/or natural slope failure.
- 4) **Safety:** The site is somewhat isolated despite being adjacent to a mixed-use neighborhood. The drop from the land to the River makes it very isolated at the water's edge.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The site is not ADA accessible to the water, only to the edge of the parking area.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The site is in a mixed-use neighborhood with several shopping opportunities which could appeal to boaters and those accessing the site from the land-side. The location is also well spaced from other existing sites.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is 0.9 miles south of the Troy Motor Boat and Canoe Club and 3.1 miles north of the Troy Downtown Marina/Riverwalk.
- 3) **Development:** The site has the potential for development, though moderate effort will be needed to overcome the elevation issues between land and waters edge. An existing shed and stairway to the water (where there used to be a dock) are being used by the adjacent property owner.

**Priority:** 

**Recommendation:** *Formalize the site as an access point, initially via signage. Improve land-side access with a more accessible path to the water. Consider a landing-area for small craft, though a larger dock may be desirable. (See Site Sketch)*



## SITE DETAILS



This site has a fantastic view of the 112th Street Bridge.



The access "goat path" is narrow, overgrown, and would be difficult to utilize for car-top boat access.



The location has a cable crossing (which may be exposed - see inset) and could impact improvements, especially if they involve moving dirt or accessing the riverbed (Ex: pylons or anchors for a dock).



The lack of signage and visual cues make it difficult for a casual observer to realize this is an official access site. There is a 10' - 12'+ drop from the parking area to the waters edge.



The slope from the parking area and neighborhood to the waters edge is significant. The land appears to be undercut and slope stabilization is needed.



The shoreline is full of debris and downed branches and trees. It is apparent that cement was dumped (see inset) and covers a sizeable area of the shoreline at this site.



## SITE ID #32: 1ST AVENUE/112TH STREET - 9/11 MEMORIAL PARK

CITY OF TROY

Site Overview: This site is existing 9/11 memorial located along 1st Avenue at 112th Street. (Milepoint 20.1)

### Top Issues:

- 1) Visibility: The site has good visibility from the road.
- 2) Current Use: A memorial park.
- 3) Vulnerability: The site is in good shape. The shoreline consists of rocks and vegetation and the site itself is elevated above the typical waterline.
- 4) Safety: The site is open and visible with streetlights on 1st Avenue and the adjacent 112th Street bridge.
- 5) Accessibility: The site is ADA accessible and has on-street parking.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: The site is a memorial park.
- 2) Nearest Existing Access Sites: The site is 0.8 miles south of Troy Motor Boat and Canoe Club and 0.1 miles north of the 111th Street Launch.
- 3) Development: The site is fully developed.

### Priority: N/A

Recommendation: No recommendations for this site. The immediate area around 112th Street is part of a recreation improvement area and any improvements should take into consideration the Memorial Park.



## SITE DETAILS



This site has ADA accessibility.



The memorial is well maintained and offers seating.



A sidewalk spans the length of the memorial along the River.



Sidewalk benches are located near, but not along, the existing sidewalk.



The shoreline is hardened.



The memorial is located in the middle of the site. Pull-off parallel parking for 3-4 cars is available adjacent to the site with more on-street parking available along the road.



## SITE ID #33: TROY MOTOR BOAT AND CANOE CLUB

CITY OF TROY

Site Overview: This site is an existing private site with docks, overnight dockage with electrical for transient boaters, a club house, and fuel. (Milepoint 20.8)

### Top Issues:

- 1) Visibility: There is visibility from the water and signage from the street.
- 2) Current Use: Private boat club.
- 3) Vulnerability: This site may have some hardening - the site visit did not allow for a good view of the shoreline.
- 4) Safety: The site is located in a residential area and very close to a mixed-use/shopping area.
- 5) Accessibility: The site is ADA accessible with limited parking on-site and parking on-street. Boat storage is on-site. This site is not open to the public, except transient boaters.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: The site provides a private club and docking for members. Guests can also utilize overnight dockage.
- 2) Nearest Existing Access Sites: The site is 0.2 miles south of the 123rd Street Launch and 0.9 miles north of the 111th Street Launch.
- 3) Development: No proposed changes as this is an existing private site.

Priority: N/A

Recommendation: *This is a private club. No recommendations are proposed.*



## SITE DETAILS



The Club is located on 1st Avenue @ 121<sup>st</sup> Street. It has a single driveway access to the property and is fenced off at the street.



This is a private boat club.



The club docks can handle larger boats. Based on a review of their website, they allow non-member transient boaters to dock for a fee and they have fuel services.



The Club is located at the confluence of the Hudson River and Mohawk River adjacent to the entrance to the Waterford Flight.



The Club is located in a residential neighborhood.



The Club is located two blocks south of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Street Boat Launch.



## SITE ID #34: 122ND STREET & VETERANS OF LANSINGBURGH PROPERTY

CITY OF TROY

Site Overview: This site includes both an existing private club that has docks on the Hudson River and a proposed Water Lobby at the 122nd Street terminus (See Site ID#38).  
(Milepoint 20.8)

### Top Issues:

- 1) Visibility: There is visibility from the water and the street.
- 2) Current Use: Private Veterans Club.
- 3) Vulnerability: This site has some hardening using large rocks.
- 4) Safety: The site is located in a residential area.
- 5) Accessibility: The site is ADA accessible and the club has off-street parking. 122nd Street is currently being used for storage.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: The site provides a private club and docking for members. The end of 122nd Street is proposed as a Water Lobby in the Realize Troy Comprehensive Plan.
- 2) Nearest Existing Access Sites: The site is 0.1 miles south of the 123rd Street Launch and 1.0 miles north of the 111th Street Launch.
- 3) Development: No proposed changes to the private club, however, development of the terminus of 122nd Street as a Water Lobby is proposed in the City Comprehensive Plan.

Priority: 

Recommendation: *Implement the Water Lobby improvement concept for 122nd Street. No recommendations for the private club.*



## SITE DETAILS



The Club is located on 1st Avenue @ 122<sup>nd</sup> Street. It has several structures including a large pavilion.



This private club is located adjacent to a proposed Water Lobby on 122<sup>nd</sup> Street.



The club has a large parking lot and a covered pavilion in addition to the main building a few outbuildings.



This view of 122<sup>nd</sup> Street shows that the Water Lobby is located between the Veterans Club and residential uses.



The Club is located adjacent to, and north of, the Troy Boat Club located on 1st Avenue at 121<sup>st</sup> Street.



The Club and Water Lobby are located one block south of the existing 123<sup>rd</sup> Street Boat Launch.



## SITE ID #35: 123RD STREET LAUNCH

CITY OF TROY

**Site Overview:** This site provides full access to the River for car-top and trailered launches as well as fishing from the docks. There is also a trail along the River. There is parking for 10 vehicles with trailers. (Milepoint 20.9)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** This site has signage indicating its location and has good visibility.
- 2) **Current Use:** This is a developed site for fishing, walking, and boating.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The land slopes toward the River. There is a rocky shoreline on the south side that and a stone wall on the north side.
- 4) **Safety:** The site is located in a mixed-use area.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The site is accessible via a paved launch ramp and sidewalk to the dock. However, the slope to the dock at is significant and would not be easily used by a wheelchair during that time.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The site is in a mixed-use neighborhood with several shopping opportunities which could appeal to boaters and those accessing the site from the land-side.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is 1.1 miles south of the Schaghticoke Launch and 0.2 miles north of the Troy Motor Boat and Canoe Club.
- 3) **Development:** The site has additional potential to enhance user amenities.

**Priority:** 

**Recommendation:** *Additional amenities such as a picnic areas and bathrooms along with additional signage would help expand the site's potential at a minimal expense.*



## SITE DETAILS



This is a well-maintained, paved boat launch with parking for approximately ten vehicles and trailers. The site is located adjacent to residential and commercial uses.



The launch includes a well-maintained L-shaped dock. There is a long section of dock parallel to the shore that runs along an old stone wall.



The launch provides a paved area that extends well into the River to accommodate low water levels. Access to the dock is from a metal ramp that moves with the water level.



This launch is across the River from the junction with the Mohawk River, the Waterford Flight, and Peebles Island State Park. The structure in the River is the Old Troy Water Supply water intake.



The site includes a path along the River that connects the launch to the parking area.



The launch is near the Troy Motorboat and Canoe Club, Peebles Island State Park, Broad Street Bridge, and Old Champlain Canal.



## SITE ID #36: PRICE CHOPPER (865 2ND AVENUE)

CITY OF TROY

Site Overview: This site is a shopping center anchored by the grocery store. It includes a parking area and an existing water access behind the shopping center. There is public property located at the end of 124th Street along the south side of the shopping center. (Milepoint 30.0)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** Visibility is limited from the water by vegetation and from the land by the existing structure.
- 2) **Current Use:** Not currently used for access to the River.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** This is unknown as the shoreline was not visible during site visits. The site is elevated several feet above the River like other sites in this area.
- 4) **Safety:** The site is somewhat isolated due to existing site conditions and layout.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The shopping center is ADA accessible but access to the shoreline generally would not currently be considered accessible.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** This site provides a significant potential for boater amenities with the Price Chopper and other nearby shops.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is 1.0 mile south of the Schaghticoke Launch and 0.1 mile north of the 123rd Street Launch.
- 3) **Development:** The site is private though 124th Street does extend to the water and is proposed as a Water Lobby.

Priority: 

Recommendation: *Discussions with the shopping center owner could be undertaken to investigate the potential to reopen the staircase behind the structure to boaters. 124th Street, at the southern side of the shopping center, is proposed as a Water Lobby and should be pursued.*





## SITE DETAILS



The store is located along Route 4/2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue just south of the Broad Street Bridge.



124th Street terminates at the shoreline between the shopping center and Burger King. This location is a proposed Water Lobby.



There is vehicular access and pavement located around the entire property, including parallel to and along the entire shoreline.



There is a significant amount of vegetation that blocks views of the River.



The site has an existing old staircase to the River located approximately mid-way along the back of the building. There is a locked gate and bollards preventing access.



Fencing extends along a portion of the shoreline and includes private property signage. This no dumping sign is likely indicative of a current or former issue.



## SITE ID #37: HANNAFORD SUPERMARKET (126TH STREET)

CITY OF TROY

**Site Overview:** This site is an existing grocery store with a large parking area located adjacent to the Hudson River. It was reviewed due to its proximity to the River, availability of parking, and potential to provide amenities for boaters. (Milepoint 30.2)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** The site is highly visible from the street, particularly due to the location at the foot of the Broad Street Bridge, but not from the waterfront.
- 2) **Current Use:** Grocery store. Not used for access to the River.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** This is unknown as the shoreline was easily visible during site visits, however, it appears to be a natural shoreline. The site has significant elevation change to the water.
- 4) **Safety:** The site has a chain-link fence at the water's edge.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The shopping center is ADA accessible but there is no access to the shoreline.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** This site provides a significant potential for boater amenities with the Hannaford and other nearby shops.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is 1.0 mile south of the Schaghticoke Launch and 0.3 miles north of the 123rd Street Launch.
- 3) **Development:** The site is private and has significant constraints.

**Priority:** 

**Recommendation:** *This site is not recommended for public access.*





## SITE DETAILS



This site is located at the corner of Route 4/2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Broad Street (the Broad Street Bridge) and directly along the shoreline.



The site does not provide accessibility to the River nor does it have much of a view of the River due to the fence and vegetation.



There is a covered break area for Hannaford employees located along the fence.



There is a potentially nice view of the Broad Street Bridge, however it is obscured by the fencing and vegetation.



There is a parking area/loading area behind the store but it is not used by the public and appears to be primarily for deliveries.



This rear parking area is fenced and vegetation completely blocks views of the River.



## SITE ID #38 (CITY-WIDE): WATER LOBBIES

CITY OF TROY

Site Overview: The City of Troy has numerous east-west roads that very often terminate at the Hudson River shoreline. The recently drafted Realize Troy Comprehensive Plan talks about the potential to transform these areas into small “parkettes” called Water Lobbies. The Plan defines Water Lobbies as “Spaces along the water’s edge that are located at the end of public streets and provide opportunities for enhanced recreational enjoyment and public access to the waterfront.” See Plan Goals 3.5.2, 4.1.1, 4.2.4 and the “Quick Win” implementation discussion—9.2.3. The plan can be accessed at [www.realizetroy.com](http://www.realizetroy.com).

### Top Issues:

- 1) Current Use: Many of these locations are currently used by adjacent properties as their own space.
- 2) Accessibility: Most of these sites should be ADA accessible, though it is likely that improvements to sidewalks and infrastructure will be required in some locations to improve sidewalk and roadway conditions.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: The Realize Troy Comprehensive Plan stated that significant improvements to public access and enjoyment of the waterfront are possible with the development of waterfront lobbies and site visits confirm that there is potential to open up the waterfront using these locations throughout the City.
- 2) Development: There is potential to develop Water Lobbies all along the Troy waterfront. The Comprehensive Plan provides location recommendations for these new access locations.

Priority: 

Recommendation: Support the Realize Troy Comprehensive Plan recommendation to develop Water Lobbies throughout the City. Priority should be given to locations that either do not have, or are far from, existing or planned/proposed access sites.



# COMPREHENSIVE PLAN RECOMMENDED WATERFRONT LOBBY LOCATIONS

## Lansingburgh

123rd Street  
122nd Street  
120th Street  
118th Street  
117th Street  
116th Street  
115th Street

114th Street  
113th Street  
107th Street  
106th Street  
105th Street  
104th Street  
103rd Street

## South Central

State Street  
Adams Street  
Congress Street

Madison Street  
Liberty Street  
Monroe Street

## South Troy

Jackson Street  
Van Buren Street  
Harrison Street

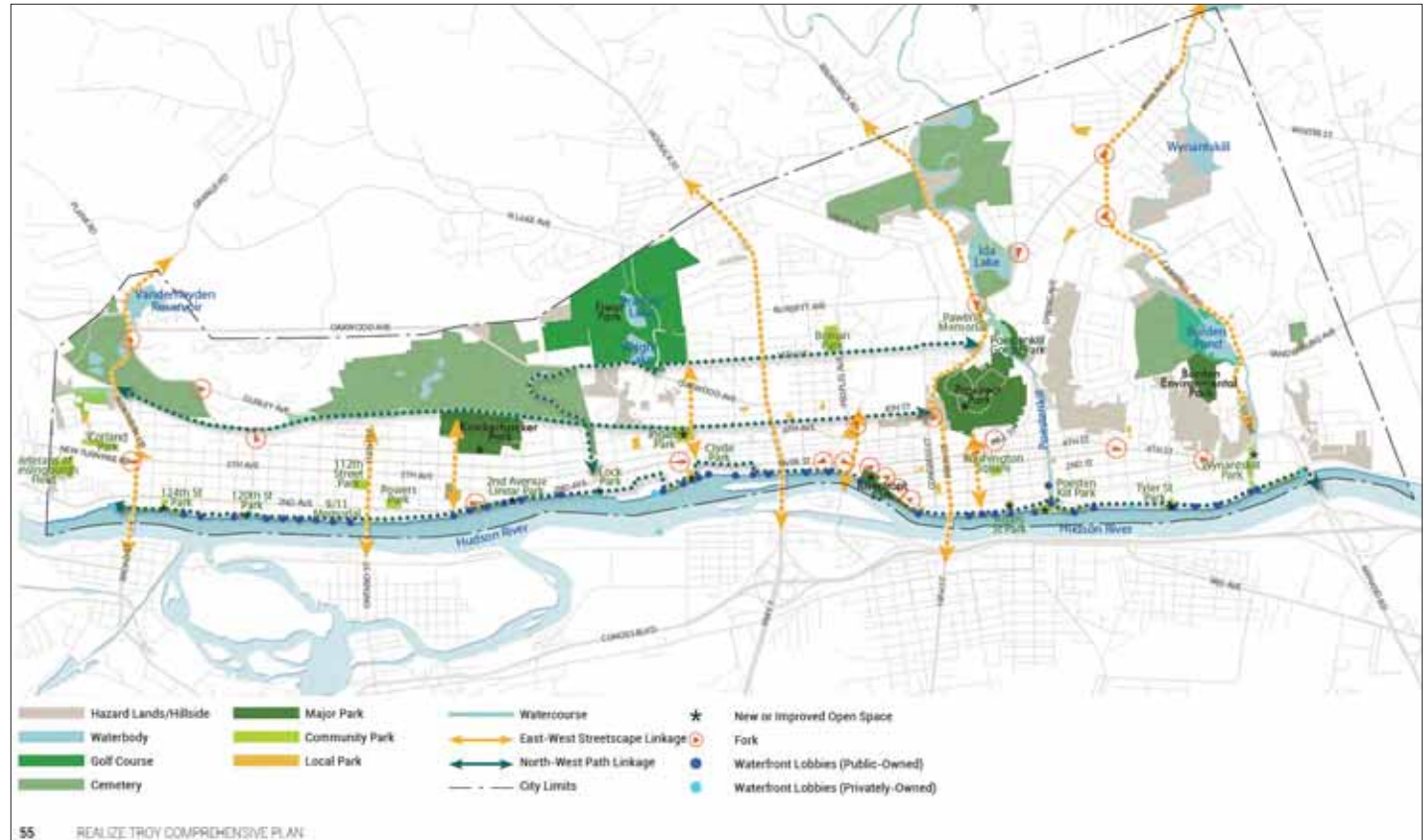
Tyler Street  
The bottom of Wynantskill  
Water Street



113th Street



117th Street



(Image from Realize Troy Comprehensive Plan)



Site Overview: This site is a public dirt boat launch that was historically used as a ford across the River. It is located in an existing residential neighborhood and has a single-lane access to the Hudson River. (Milepoint 31.0)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** This site seems to be used as an access spot primarily for locals/neighborhood residents who have somewhere to park and know about the site.
- 2) **Current Use:** Dirt boat launch.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The site is gently sloping to the River, adjacent to a creek, and not hardened, giving it moderate to high vulnerability to flood events.
- 4) **Safety:** The site is somewhat isolated due to topography and vegetation despite being adjacent to residential homes.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The side is not ADA accessible.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** The site is in a nice location along the River to launch a boat but without parking it is difficult to see it getting much use.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is 10.9 miles south of Lock C-3 and 1.2 miles north of the 123rd Street Launch.
- 3) **Development:** The site needs formalized parking, potentially a picnic area, and improvements to the launch to be more actively used.

Priority: 

Recommendation: *Formalize the site as an access point. This will require significant coordination with the neighborhood and could require significant site-work. Recommend adding formal parking, picnic facilities, and a dedicated launch as well as ADA accessibility.*



## SITE DETAILS



This is an existing boat launch located within the Pleasantdale neighborhood.



Signage shows the site as a boat launch, catch and release fishing access, and carry-in/carry-out location.



Despite being a dedicated launch and fishing access site, there is no official on-site parking. This would require anyone with a vehicle to park in the neighborhood.



The launch is unpaved and consists of hard-packed dirt and loose gravel. For launching motorboats a 4x4 vehicle may be required.



The site is on the outside of the bend in the Hudson River and located adjacent to a cliff. The site had been used as a ford to cross the Hudson River.



There is a stream entering the Hudson River immediately adjacent to the launch site.



## SITE ID #40: LOCK C-1 (BELOW DAM)

## TOWN OF SCHAGHTICOKE

Site Overview: This site is located along one of the oldest roads in the County. It is a very interesting location and has unique paddling potential, however, it is limited by issues related to riverside topography, unstable hillsides, and private property ownership. Access is via a dirt road which runs for a mile from River Road/Calhoun Drive. (Milepoint 33.0)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** Visibility is what would be expected for a rural, dirt road, However, visibility of/from the road and of/from the River south of the dam are very good.
- 2) **Current Use:** The road currently serves a few private homes.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The site can be high above the River, during low water levels. The site has steep slopes and visible erosion.
- 4) **Safety:** The site is isolated but has a few adjacent residential properties.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The site is not ADA accessible and would take significant work to make it accessible.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** This site is a very interesting location and could provide immediate access to an area of islands which are a somewhat unique potential attraction. There are existing trails running through adjacent properties.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is 6.2 miles south of Lock C-3 and 6.0 miles north of the Schaghticoke Launch.
- 3) **Development:** This site could be developed if parking and access to the River was formalized and property could be acquired. Concerns related to slumping of the steep slopes would need to be addressed and access to the water will require significant engineering due to soil instability. Above the dam, access to the River could potentially be provided but it would require removing significant vegetation, creating a parking area, and overcoming some slope issues.

Priority: 

Recommendation: Access to the River could be provided in this unique location or alternatively a viewing area could be created.



## SITE DETAILS



View of the dirt road entry to the site. There are a few residential properties along this road. The road ends ~1 mile from the intersection with Calhoun Drive.



View of a turn-around area located adjacent to Lock C-1.



View of the dirt road running along the steep slope. The land is slumping above and below the road due to the grade and nature of the soil.



View of the dam located approximately half-way down the dirt road. Lock C-1 is located just out of the picture on the Saratoga County side of the Hudson River.



This is likely the location where access would be taken to get to the River. During times of low water levels the slope and distance to the water is significant.



One unique aspect of this location is its proximity to several islands. The largest island - Campbell Island - is leased to the Troy Motor Boat and Canoe Club by NYS.



## SITE ID #41: NYS-OWNED PARCEL - RIVER ROAD

## TOWN OF SCHAGHTICOKE

Site Overview: This site is located along River Road just south of Pinewoods Road. It is a NYS-owned undeveloped and unimproved site with over 8 acres of land and a significant amount of shoreline. (Milepoint 36.0)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** Undeveloped land running along River Road. This property has significant frontage along River Road and the River.
- 2) **Current Use:** Undeveloped, though it appears adjacent properties may be using the parcel for access to the River.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The site appears to be elevated above the water. A view of the shoreline was not possible during the site visit.
- 4) **Safety:** The site is isolated but is adjacent to residential lots.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The site is not developed or ADA accessible.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** This site is located on a quiet section of the River where development along the Rensselaer County shoreline is limited.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is 3.7 miles south of Lock C-3 and 5.0 miles north of the Schaghticoke Launch.
- 3) **Development:** This site could be developed to provide many different types of access but it would take significant work as it is undeveloped. In addition, the site contains significant woodlands so careful planning to minimize tree removal should be a part of any future development plan.

Priority: 

Recommendation: *Begin a dialogue with NYS and adjacent landowners about potential options for access to the Hudson River at this site.*





## SITE DETAILS



The site is undeveloped and vegetation covers the site to the edge of the road.



Adjacent property owners have mailboxes located on the site and in this picture, a path or trail can be seen cutting through the property.



This view shows another path or trail that has been cut through the site to provide access to the Hudson River.



The site has significant frontage along River Road.



In winter, it is easy to see that the Hudson River is a short distance from River Road.



There is a large, cleared and mowed lawn/field that is part of the adjacent residential property bordering the southern portion of the site.



## SITE ID #42: HEMSTREET AVENUE

## TOWN OF SCHAGHTICOKE

**Site Overview:** This site is the end of a road right-of-way and is currently an undeveloped area along the riverfront. The road and right-of-way is being used for parking by adjacent residences and appears to have formerly been a connection across the River. (Milepoint 39.0)

### Top Issues:

- 1) **Visibility:** This site is generally open from the street. Visibility from the River is limited.
- 2) **Current Use:** Dead-end street used for parking by adjacent residences.
- 3) **Vulnerability:** The site is elevated an estimated 10' and 15' above the water line. The shoreline is hardened with the old bridge structure. North and south of the road it appears the shoreline could be subject to erosion from high water events.
- 4) **Safety:** The site is located in a residential area.
- 5) **Accessibility:** The site is ADA accessible via a deteriorating sidewalk and the paved right-of-way/street.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) **Offerings:** This site could provide an access location within the existing neighborhood.
- 2) **Nearest Existing Access Sites:** The site is 0.9 miles south of Lock C-4 and 10.5 miles north of the Schaghticoke Launch.
- 3) **Development:** The site has the potential for development, similar to the waterfront lobby concept in the City of Troy. .

**Priority:** 

**Recommendation:** *This is a potential site for access in the future below Lock C3. Any improvements in this location will require removal of vegetation, an engineered access plan, and discussion and coordination with the neighborhood for their input on opening up this currently quiet dead-end street as a public access point.*



## SITE DETAILS



The site is located one block south of the Route 67/Veterans Memorial Bridge. This bridge connects The Town of Schaghticoke to the City of Mechanicville.



The site is located within a higher-density, smaller-lot single-family residential neighborhood.



The site is in close proximity to the Mechanicville Dock and an island just to the south.



Residential properties abut the dead-end street and on-street parking is utilized by residents.



There is an existing concrete wall at the end of the street. It does not appear that the site currently gets significant use.



Based on a review of online resources, the abutments appear to be remnants of a former bridge that crossed the River to Mechanicville at this location.



## SITE ID #43: LOCK C-3/MECHANICVILLE DAM

## TOWN OF SCHAGHTICOKE

- 1) Site Overview: This site is a developed day use access and Lock. Fishing, picnicking and a restroom (in the Lock house) are available. Boat tie-up locations are also available. (Milepoint 39.7)

### Top Issues:

- 1) Visibility: The site is open and accessible.
- 2) Current Use: Existing Lock and day-use facility.
- 3) Vulnerability: The site is hardened for use as a lock and has a man-made berm extending from the Lock to the shoreline on the northern end of the site. The Lock and dam are part of the NYSEG structure/use.
- 4) Safety: The Lock has access controls and is a developed site built to accommodate boaters and land-based visitors.
- 5) Accessibility: The site is ADA accessible. ADA access is possible to the water primarily along the north end of the site.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: The site has potential for a car-top launch on the north side via a floating dock that would need to be installed (to manage the gap from concrete wall to water).
- 2) Nearest Existing Access Sites: The site is 4.6 miles south of Lock C-4 and 10.9 miles north of the Schaghticoke Launch.
- 3) Development: The site has the potential for development, though moderate effort will be needed to overcome the elevation issues between land and waters edge. In particular, access to the south of the Lock would be desirable but the existing slope and limited shoreline area next to the Lock outlet does not lend itself to use as a launching area. This property is also owned by the adjacent golf course so ownership issues would need to be considered.

Priority: 

Recommendation: *Work with the New York State Canal Corporation & NYSEG to develop a car-top launch on the north side of the Lock.*



## SITE DETAILS



The site has parking for a dozen or so vehicles and is open to the public. It provides picnic tables and a grill with a single bathroom in the Lock house.



The southern side of the Lock has a grassy area and significant drop to the water along with a great view looking south. The land to the south of the Lock is owned by the adjacent golf course.



The downriver entry to the Lock does not provide water-based access to the shoreline.



The Lock sits adjacent to a dam and the NYSEG electricity generating plant on the west side of the River.



The site provides a unique view of the railroad bridge to the north and a wide section of the Hudson River north of the Lock.



Access to the site is signed and easily accessible via a paved driveway.



## SITE ID #44: LOCK C-4 CANAL PARK/HOOSIC RIVER

## TOWN OF SCHAGHTICOKE

Site Overview: This site is located at a lock and provides day use access and ample parking. Fishing, picnicking and hiking opportunities are available. Boat tie-ups are available outside the Lock. The site is owned by the Canal Corporation. (Milepoint 41.5)

### Top Issues:

- 1) Visibility: Except for a trail through the woods on the southern end of the property, the site is open and visibility is generally good.
- 2) Current Use: Lock and public day use.
- 3) Vulnerability: The site has concrete walls to the south on the Canal-owned land and the site is significantly elevated above the water. To the north there are steep slopes and unhardened edges along some of the site.
- 4) Safety: There are no identifiable safety issues. As a somewhat rural location, safety concerns would be as expected for the location but in-season a Lock attendant would be on-site.
- 5) Accessibility: Much of the site is ADA accessible.

### Top Opportunities:

- 1) Offerings: The site has potential for a car-top launch which would provide a public access point several miles, both north and south, from the nearest other public access points.
- 2) Nearest Existing Access Sites: This is the northernmost site. The site is 4.6 miles north of Lock C-4.
- 3) Development: The site has the potential for improvements the bring about increased recreation-focused opportunities, like a car-top launch, though some effort would be required overcome elevation issues between land and the River.

Priority: ●●●

Recommendation: *Work with the Canal Corporation to create a car-top launch on-site - most likely toward the southern tip of the property where the canal and Hoosic River meet. This will likely require improving access to the site either via automobile or a wider path boaters can use to carry-in their canoes and kayaks.*



## SITE DETAILS



The Hoosic River runs along the west side of the Lock C-4 property.



Access to the Lock and tie-up area is open, however, for all but larger powerboats the elevation difference between the water and land is too significant to use to gain access.



A picnic table and grassy area on the southwest side of the Lock are privately-owned and thus not available for use by the public.



Lock C-4 property includes a hiking trail from the parking lot south along the channel.



There is ample parking on-site. Below the Lock is parking for over a dozen vehicles with additional parking available above the Lock near the entrance gates.



The Lock has significant grassy areas, grills and several picnic tables.



## KEEPING RIVER ACCESS SITE INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE

Things change...that's guaranteed! Through our site review efforts, we identified inconsistencies between some site conditions and what was/is listed in online databases that already exist for some access locations. These inconsistencies generally show the challenges that come about in maintaining a database, or several databases, that cover miles of shoreline across municipal borders and include a diverse set of property owners.

This overarching issue highlights a potential concern that could come about by locals and travelers coming in from other locations. If people depend on this information to find the right access point to the river for their use and find that the information is incorrect, it could impact their desire to access the river in the future. This is important as inaccurate information can frustrate residents and visitors alike if they find that a location is not what it was detailed to be from an official source. To keep this information up-to-date and accurate takes a regular, planned, and coordinated effort.

The practical response resulting from the finding that current information is out of date is that improved coordination amongst many different agencies is likely needed for Rensselaer County to keep their shoreline asset(s) information up-to-date. To do this a single group or agency, or several groups could agree to take-on a regularly scheduled site review program to assess if changes has come about since this document was drafted.

Therefore, the recommendation of this plan is to conduct annual site visits to ensure conditions haven't changed and to note any maintenance or other needs. These visits would likely be best timed for after the Spring thaw when River levels are back to normal, snow has melted and any damage to sites from the previous fall or winter can be identified, documented, and hopefully addressed for the upcoming warmer months.



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