

## Hudson River Valley Greenway

### **Hudson River Greenway Water Trail List of Designated Sites**

#### **General Description**

The Hudson River Greenway Water Trail connects communities and people to the Hudson River, promotes recreational access for all users, provides infrastructure for multi-day paddles, protects natural and cultural resources, and supports the health the river for future generations.

The Water Trail is designed with the goal of providing one or more access points (launches and take-outs) every 10 miles or less along both shores of the river, a series of campsites (or other overnight accommodations) every 15 miles or less that will promote multi-day excursions on the river, and access to as many day use attractions (points of interest to boaters) as possible. Day use attractions vary from wildlife marshes, islands and swamps, to historic sites, downtowns and hiking trails.

One of the responsibilities of the Greenway is to address that need. Access to the River may be visual (scenic overlooks) or physical. Physical access can be land-based (waterfront parks and trails), or water-based (boating, swimming, fishing). The Greenway is meeting the latter of these demands by developing a water trail. North American Water Trails, Inc., a coalition of North American water trail organizations, defined a modern water trail as a recreational waterway on a river, lake, or ocean between specific points, containing access points and day use and camping sites for the boating public.

The Greenway water trail is designed for use by two very different types of boaters. The first is the person looking to spend a day or part of a day on the river (day user). The second is the long distance traveler, who wants to traverse the entire length of the river, and beyond.

The immediate need for the day user portion of the trail is to provide access points (boat launches) on both sides of the river. A wider ranging goal is to provide access to different kinds of day use attractions up and down the river. These attractions may be natural, cultural, or historic in nature. Many of the natural wonders of the Hudson are accessible as soon as the boater is on the river. Access, both to the river and many of the historic and cultural sites, is blocked by the railroads along both shores. In fact, over seventy percent of the land is inaccessible from the river.

To meet the needs of the long distance paddler the Greenway is working with the Hudson River Watertrail Association, Inc., an all-volunteer, non-profit group working to build a long distance water trail system throughout New York State. When complete, the long distance portion of the trail will provide overnight accommodations in the form of primitive campsites, or perhaps hostels or B&Bs.

#### **Data Collection Methodology**

Communities, non-profits, and private entities wishing to designate their sites as part of the Hudson River Greenway Water Trail submit a designation request. Data from that request, combined with filed visits to verify details form the basis for this database.

#### **Statistical and Analytic Issues**

None known.

**Limitations of Data Use**

None. Everything is public information