

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- High winds that can come up suddenly on Cayuga Lake can produce 2- to 3-foot waves, rolling swells, and choppy breakers that can swamp and upend small crafts. It may be unsafe to be on the lake during these conditions.
- Being in cold water is dangerous and even deadly. Winter water temperature is near freezing. In the spring and fall, the water is still very cold (45-50°F); therefore, wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) and cold-protection gear during this period.
- Balance your loads and avoid overloading. If you go overboard, stay with your craft, put on your PFD immediately, and only then, consider re-entry of your vessel.
- Carry a rope, bailer, extra paddle, and a whistle.
- Dress for visibility—wear PFD and bright clothing.



Especially for CAYUGA INLET

- In Cayuga Inlet, stay to the right and close to shore to avoid power craft and interfering with rowing shells.
- Obey the “KEEP OUT” signs at the Cayuga Inlet Fishway weir (low dam) at the south end of Cayuga Inlet (Fig. 1). The hydraulic drop can be dangerous due to a treacherous undertow.

IT'S THE LAW!

- Personal Flotation Device (PFD)**—Each person MUST have on board a Coast Guard—approved PFD. It is recommended that all wear a PFD when underway. PFDs must be worn at all times by anyone under 12 years old and by everyone on small vessels less than 21 feet in length from Nov. 1 to May 1.
- White Light at Night**—Night paddling and rowing is not recommended, but if you must, display a white light in time to avoid a collision.
- Right of Way**—Paddle craft have the right of way over power craft. But be wary since some boat operators may not be aware of the law or they may not see you.
- It is illegal to operate a vessel while intoxicated.**
- Carry a whistle or sound signal device.**

Help Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY! IT IS THE LAW

The shallow waters and soft sediments at both ends of Cayuga Lake and at the mouths of its inlet streams are prime territories for the infestation of invasive species. Invasive plants such as **HYDRILLA** and **WATER CHEST-NUT** can form dense mats that disrupt boating, swimming, and fishing. They also degrade water quality and harm wildlife, fish, and plant habitats. Since paddling craft can be used in many bodies of water over a short period of time, they can easily spread invasive plants to nearby lakes. Help us prevent the spread of invasive species.



When you are done paddling

- ◇ **CLEAN**—Remove **ALL** visible mud and plant or animal material that might be clinging to your craft, equipment, and gear. Dispose of these materials in one of the Invasive Species Disposal Stations located at many boat launches, in the trash or at a location on land away from the launch ramp.
- ◇ **DRAIN**—Remove **ALL** water from the craft.
- ◇ **DRY**—Dry everything that has been in the water before re-launching in another body of water.

If you see Hydrilla or Water Chestnut in Cayuga Lake, take a photo (if possible), record the location, and report sightings to the Hydrilla Task Force at: stophydrilla@gmail.com.

This pamphlet was prepared by the Tompkins County Water Resources Council in 04/17. For additional copies, download at www.tompkinscountyny.gov/files/planning/Paddling_Brochure2017 or contact TC Planning & Sustainability Dept., 121 Court Street, Ithaca, NY, 607-274-5560, planning@tompkins-co.org



PADDLING SOUTHERN CAYUGA LAKE AND CAYUGA INLET

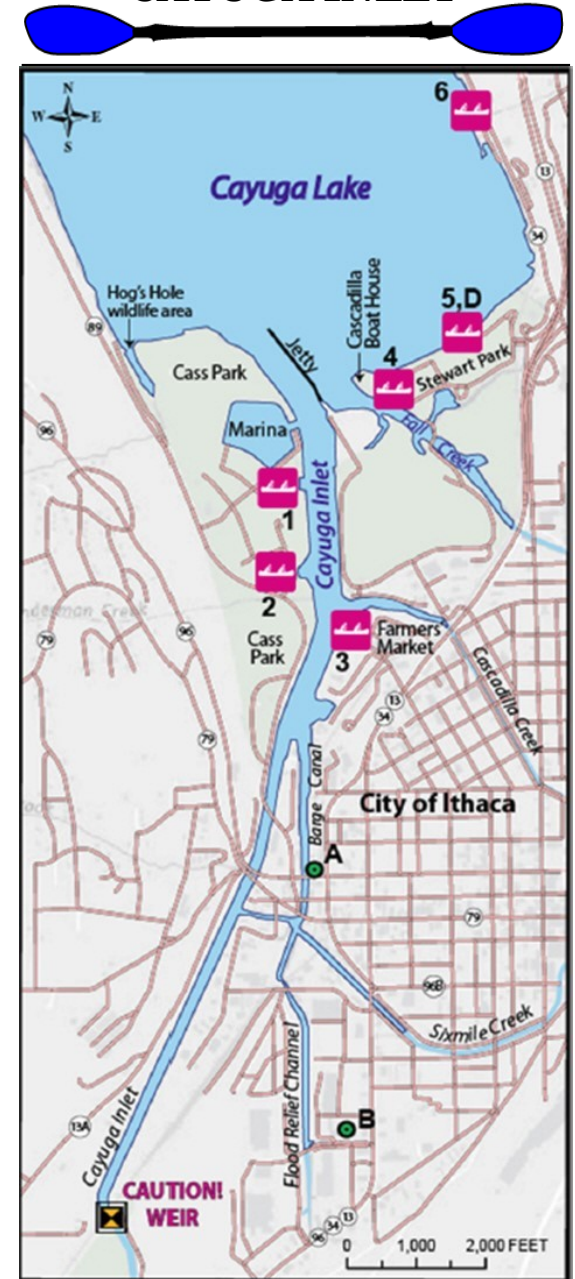


Figure 1—Boat launch sites at the southern end of Cayuga Lake and Cayuga Inlet

PADDLING SOUTHERN CAYUGA LAKE AND CAYUGA INLET

Paddling a canoe, kayak, or stand-up paddleboard at the southern end of Cayuga Lake can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience, offering ample opportunities to view wildlife and plant ecosystems, picnic, explore Ithaca, and engage in heathy exercise. This guide shows where to obtain paddle craft, launch, view selected points of interest, and lists local paddling organizations where one can enjoy the support and company of fellow paddlers. Remember to paddle safely, including letting someone know when you are going and when you anticipate on returning, Be mindful of others and of the environment. Some safety practices, guidelines, and rules you should and must follow are included in this pamphlet.

WHERE TO RENT OR PURCHASE

A. Puddledockers (rent or purchase)

www.puddledockers.com (Figs. 1 and 2)

Boats, gear, and lessons. 704 W. Buffalo St, Ithaca • 607-273-0096

B. Eastern Mountain Sports (rent or purchase) www.ems.com (Figs. 1 and 2)

Kayaks, car racks, and gear. 722 S. Meadow St, Ithaca • 607-272-1935

C. Cornell Outdoor Education (rentals only)

www.coe.cornell.edu (Fig. 2)

Boats and gear. B01 Bartels Hall, Cornell University • (607) 255-6183

D. Paddle-N-More (rentals only)

www.paddlenmore.com (Fig. 2)

Myers Park, Town of Lansing; Stewart Park, Ithaca; Taughannock Falls State Park, Town of Ulysses • 607-441-6773

E. Dick's Sporting Goods (purchase only)

www.dickssportinggoods.com (Fig. 2)

Boats and gear. Ithaca Mall, 40 Catherwood Rd. Ithaca • 607-257-5077

WHERE TO LAUNCH

1. Allan Treman State Park Boat Launch, Cayuga Inlet (Fig. 1)

Off Rte. 89. Trailered and non-trailered launch. Fee on weekends and holidays. Ample parking.

2. Cass Park Dock Launch, Cayuga Inlet (Fig. 1)

Off Rte. 89 (opposite municipal swimming pool). Non-trailered launch only. Limited parking.

3. Ithaca Farmers Market, Cayuga Inlet (Fig. 1)

West of Rte. 13. Undeveloped, non-trailered launch only. Ample parking except during market hours.

4. Cascadilla Boat House, Mouth of Fall Creek at Cayuga Lake (Fig. 1)

West end of Stewart Park. Dock launch for paddle craft. Trailered launch for rowing shells only.

5. Stewart Park Dock Launch, Cayuga Lake (Fig. 1)

Off Rte. 13 and Rte. 34 (middle of park). Non-trailered launch only.

6. East Shore Park, Cayuga Lake (Fig. 1)

Rte. 34, 0.5 mi north of Ithaca, near Cornell Sailing Center. Non-trailered launch only. Limited parking.

7. Myers Park/Salt Point, Myers Point, Town of Lansing, east shore of Cayuga Lake (Fig. 2)

West of Rte. 34B, 6 mi north of Ithaca. Trailered and non-trailered launch. Ample parking. Fee for non-residents at Myers Park. Free parking at Salt Point.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Cayuga Inlet and Cascadilla Creek** to view wildlife and to visit the Ithaca Farmers Market, check website for schedule (www.ithacamarket.com)
- **Myers Point and Salmon Creek** to view wildlife (Nature Preserve at Salt Point).
- **Hog's Hole** to view waterfowl and wetland species.
- **Fall Creek (Stewart Park) bird sanctuary, picnic area** to view the wide variety of tree species.
- **Cayuga Blueway Trail**—Recreational waterway trail on Cayuga Lake (coming in 2018) www.cayugablueway.weebly.com



Figure 2—Location of places to buy or rent paddling craft

ORGANIZATIONS

Cascadilla Boat Club

www.cascadillaboatclub.org

Promotes and conducts recreational and competitive rowing for all ages.

Cayuga Outrigger Canoe Club

www.cayugaoutrigger.com

Promotes Polynesian outrigger canoeing from the East Shore Marina on Cayuga Lake.

Dragon Boat Club

www.fingerlakesdragonboat.org

Local team-sport group uses “Dragon Boats” or 20-people wooden canoes for fun, camaraderie, and exercise. Located on Cayuga Inlet.

WEATHER AND WIND CONDITIONS

Forecasts

www.weather.gov/bgm/ then enter Ithaca, NY in search box or use your cell phone weather app

Current and Past Conditions

www.cayugalake.cornell.edu