

# Announcing The Hudson River Fishermen's Association Hudson River Access Survey



It is clear to all fishermen that you can't catch fish if you can't get to the water. Over the years volumes have been written about the Public Trust Doctrine and endless fights with property owners, industries and communities to not only get to the water's edge but also to park and to be able to spend some time fishing. Now there is something you can do about it.

The Hudson River Fishermen's Association in association with Boating on the Hudson Magazine is conducting an access survey of all the communities and public spaces (parks, piers and marinas) that promote or cause problems for public access to the Hudson River. Here are some examples of the problems that we have found. A town will have a fishing pier or park but only one-hour parking meters. Commuter parking only allowed by permit. Park is for residents only. Parking is somewhere else so you have to walk a distance to the water. There are no bathroom facilities for families.

There is a town that has taken state, and possibly federal dollars (that's your money) to build a fishing pier. It advertises their new facility in real estate promotions, but does not allow parking on weekdays! They charge a non-resident daily fee one half more than resident's and parking meters are way out of range for seniors, disabled, and casual park use. The day that I visited the site I couldn't even get out of my car to walk to the pier but it was clear no one was using it. Most would say, "Can't fight city hall". Well, we got a complaint and decided to do something about it.

We would also like to hear about access friendly sites

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along the river. Boat launches that are free or reasonable. We want to know about parks with clean bathrooms and clear signage and polite public officials, including police. Another town I visited had clean bathrooms, clear fishing, picnic sites, a playground and plenty of free parking. It was a pleasurable experience along the water's edge. I talked with a patrolman who was on duty and he said it was a great beat.

Your input will be considered in the survey. As your comments come in, and with some site visits and research, we will compile a list of the ACCESS FRIENDLY SITES ALONG THE HUDSON RIVER. We will also include sites that are not so friendly or have substantial problems.



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