

Canoe / Kayak Guide Morris Creek



City of New Haven
Department of Parks,
Recreation and Trees

John DeStefano, Jr., Mayor
Robert D. Levine, Director

Canoeing Information

Canoe Zone

From Long Island Sound to Cart Road

Trail Length

1 mile roundtrip

Launch Point

At mouth of creek in Lighthouse Point Park
behind bus turnaround

Directions

From Hartford

I-91 into New Haven to I-95 North

I-95 North to exit 50, Woodward Avenue

At second stoplight, turn right on Townsend Avenue

Turn right on Lighthouse Road

From New York

I-95 North to exit 50, Woodward Avenue

At second stoplight, turn right on Townsend Avenue

Turn right on Lighthouse Road

From New London

I-95 South to exit 51

Turn left at stop light onto Townsend Avenue

Turn right on Lighthouse Road

Canoe/Kayak Trails of New Haven



Morris Creek

Safety Tips

1. Always wear a life jacket, even if you're a good swimmer.
2. Don't rock or stand up in the canoe.
3. If your boat flips, stay with the canoe.
4. Watch out for brush, fallen trees and other objects that could capsize your canoe.
5. In an emergency, grab anything that floats.
6. Always paddle directly into or away from the wake of larger boats.
7. Keep a safe distance from wildlife!

For more information, contact:

Outdoor Adventure Coordinator at (203) 946-6768
www.cityofnewhaven.com/parks

Morris Creek

Morris Creek is a tidal creek marking the border between New Haven and East Haven. It flows through a bird sanctuary in the northeast corner of Lighthouse Point Park designated to protect the many migrant birds that fly through here every year* This park is on the Atlantic flyway for fall migration, which explains why at least 260 different species of birds have been recorded here.

Access by canoe or kayak can be made from a launching site at the city bus turnaround in the southeastern corner of Lighthouse Point Park/ near the mouth of Morris Creek. Paddling north to the tide gate brings the boater through a salt marsh, with Lighthouse Park, New Haven on the left and East Haven on the right Many kinds of shore and marsh birds can be observed closely, including great blue herons, snowy egrets, great egrets, kingfishers, cormorants, and several kinds of ducks.

In the fall, many species of land birds and monarch butterflies leave their nesting and feeding grounds in the north and fly south, following the coast and eventually passing over Lighthouse Point Here the birds rest and feed in the woods, grasses, and marshes before moving on. Thousands of bobolinks, cedar waxwings, blue jays, and other songbirds drift past the point during fall migration, usually in the early morning. The blue jay migration in itself is spectacular, with as many as five thousand in the air at one time.

Paddling during the fall also affords the opportunity to observe the hawk migration. The park is well-known to the bird-watching community as one of the best spots on the Eastern seaboard to view the hawk migration. Hawks observed each fall include sharp-shinned hawks, kestrels, ospreys, broad-winged hawks and many others.



Canoeing Tips

1. The launch at Morris Creek is open all year, but there is a parking fee from Memorial Day to Labor Day.
2. Because of the tidal variations, launching a canoe or kayak at low tide is not recommended. Exposed mud flats present a messy, possibly dangerous situation if boaters try to walk across the mudflats.

Legend

- Launch Site
- Danger
- Park
- Road
- Park
- River

Morris Creek