

LIBERTY STATE PARK



LEGEND

-  Playground
-  Pavilions
-  Park Office
-  Parking
-  Restrooms
-  Fishing
-  Bike Path
-  Richard J. Sullivan Natural Area
-  Information
-  Restaurant
-  Food Service
-  Picnicking
-  Public Boat Launch
-  Shuttle Bus (contact office for schedule)
-  Accessible to persons with disabilities
-  Nature Interpretive Center
-  No Public Access
-  Paths
-  Plaza
-  Hudson River Waterfront Walkway
-  Nature Path
-  Caven Point Boardwalk



INTRODUCTION

Liberty State Park is a green oasis in the most densely populated region of New Jersey. With magnificent views of the New York Harbor, Statue of Liberty and Manhattan skyline, it is truly a gem of the nation. Consisting of 1,212 acres, the park includes wildlife habitats, open water, nature trails, lawns, bike paths, playgrounds, picnic areas and a waterfront walkway. The history of the park and region can be found at the Central Railroad of New Jersey (CRRNJ) Terminal. The Nature Interpretive Center provides an opportunity to explore the natural resources of the area and offers environmental education programs. Ferry service to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island departs from the CRRNJ Terminal. Picnic areas and walkways offer scenic views and passive recreation opportunities.

HISTORY

The area that is now Liberty State Park was once a major transportation hub. From the Lenape Indian encampments and European colonization in the mid-1600s through colonial times, the New York Harbor served as an essential transportation corridor. In 1836, coal from the mines of Pennsylvania was first transported here via the Morris Canal, which terminated at what is now the north side of the park.

With the dawning of the Industrial Revolution, railroads quickly replaced canals as the primary means of transportation for both cargo and people. This site hosted the greatest concentration of freight and commuter rail facilities in the New York Harbor area.

The development of better roadways, tunnels and bridges in and around the metropolitan region slowed the railroad activities in the 1950s and brought them to a halt in 1967. In 1968, the CRRNJ Terminal and some of the waterfront properties were purchased with state and federal funds while the city of Jersey City donated 156 acres to help preserve this important piece of American history. On June 14, 1976, the State of New Jersey dedicated Liberty State Park as New Jersey's Bicentennial gift to the nation.

FEATURES AND ACTIVITIES

The Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal once served thousands of commuters daily and more than 70 percent of the immigrants processed at Ellis Island. Completed in 1889, this historic structure now stands as the cornerstone of Liberty State Park. A variety of exhibits and programs about the area are offered and ferry service to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty operates from here.



The Nature Interpretive Center features environmental and natural history exhibits that focus on the Hudson River and surrounding environment. Interpretive programs for school students, youth groups and the public are available. For more information, call (201) 915-3409.

Richard J. Sullivan Natural Area is a 36-acre State Natural Area, which protects one of the few remaining tidal marshes of the Hudson River's estuary. A nature path with observation points complements this wildlife habitat.



The Hudson River Waterfront Walkway is a waterfront promenade offering spectacular views of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and the New York skyline and harbor while connecting a number of features within the park. Located along the Atlantic Flyway, this walkway also provides prime wildlife viewing.

The Grove of Remembrance was created as a quiet place of reflection after the tragedy of September 11, 2001. These trees serve as a living memorial in honor of the New Jersey residents who lost their lives on that day.

NJ Empty Sky 9/11 Memorial was created to memorialize the New Jersey residents that were lost on September 11, 2001.

Liberty Science Center is a science museum that offers a variety of interactive exhibits focusing on invention, health and the environment. Featuring the nation's largest IMAX dome theater. For fees and hours, call (201) 200-1000 or visit www.lsc.org.

Liberty Landing Marina is a full service marina on the lower Hudson River offering fuel, a service yard, transient dockage and ferry service to Manhattan. For more information, call (201) 985-8000 or visit www.libertylandingmarina.com



Ferry Service

Ferry service from Liberty State Park to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty is available throughout the year. Tickets may be purchased at the ticket office located in the CRRNJ Terminal. Nearby parking is available for a fee. For information, call (877) LADY-TIX or visit www.statuecruises.com.



Picnic Areas

Picnic areas, with picnic tables, pavilions and views of the harbor and skyline, are located throughout the park. Group picnic reservations are available. For more information, contact the park office.



Fishing and Crabbing

The Upper New York Bay and Hudson River offer excellent opportunities for fishing. Common species include bluefish, shad, striped bass and blue claw crabs. Fishing and crabbing are permitted in accordance with New Jersey's Fish and Wildlife laws. Consumption advisories may exist for certain species. For more information, contact the park office. Please dispose of all stray fishing line properly.



Boat Launch

A boat launch ramp accommodates trailers up to 23 feet in length, providing boaters and fishermen with easy access to the Upper New York Bay, the Hudson River and nearby Atlantic Ocean. The ramp is open year-round during daylight hours. Launch fees are required and are payable at the self-serve machine in the boat launch parking lot. Annual and daily passes can be purchased at the park office.



Directions:

From the NJ Turnpike take exit 14B and follow signs to Liberty State Park.



Access for Persons with Disabilities

Liberty State Park's recreational facilities are partially accessible for persons with disabilities. Contact the park office for further information regarding disability access. Text telephone users can call the New Jersey Relay Service at (800) 852-7899.

Pets are permitted, but must be on a leash no longer than six feet in length and under the immediate control of the owner at all times. Please clean up after your pets.

For Further Information:

CRRNJ Terminal:
1 Audrey Zapp Drive
Jersey City, NJ 07305
Telephone: (201) 915-3440

Park Office:
200 Morris Pessin Drive
Jersey City, NJ 07305
Telephone: (201) 915-3402



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Liberty State Park



State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
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www.njparksandforests.org

