Harlem River Valley MAP and GUIDE

SHOREWALKERS

introduction

Unique vistas, differing cultures, and historic sites dot the Harlem River Valley. High bluffs surround the six-mile long Harlem River in the Bronx and Manhattan. Highbridge Park and University Heights display dramatic outcrops of black rock. Beautiful slashes of schist line the area above the Macombs Dam Bridge.

The Harlem River from Washington Bridge

The narrow Harlem River is now a tidal strait which connects the Hudson River and the East River. A small cove at Sherman Creek north of Dyckman Street and at Swindler Cove park just south of Dyckman Street, and a tidal marsh area in Inwood Hill Park indent the river's bulkheads. Part of the Great Saunter Trail, Shorewalkers' 32-mile footpath around the rim of Manhattan, runs along the Harlem River through Highbridge Park and Inwood Hill Park.

History

Before 1895, the shallow, crooked waterway connecting the Spuyten Duyvil Creek with the Harlem River was entirely interrupted at low tides, thereby preventing ship passage. In 1895, the Corps of Engineers filled in the northern reaches of the Harlem River, obliterated the Spuyten Duyvil Creek, blasted a 350-foot wide canal through Marble Hill and created the saltwater strait which was then called the New York Ship Canal.

In the Bronx, railroads and highways now cut most of the river off from the local population. Major industry moved away after 1950. The Container Revolution (replacement of cargo pallets handled by individuals with large containers managed with cranes) killed marine commerce on almost all of New York City piers. The wooden piers rotted, and almost no boats sailed on the once bustling river. Fortunately,

"The High Bridge at Harlem, N.Y. "
Nathaniel Currier, 1849

several major parks were in place. In the 1980s, planners and civic leaders began the process of putting the Harlem River Valley to recreational and economic use.

Today

On the Bronx side of the river, Borough President Adolfo Carrion is working with the City of New York Parks & Recreation , New York City Department of City Planning and the New York State Office of

Northern Manhattan in 19th Century, note: Marble Hill not detached

Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in developing plans for Regatta Park. This park would connect 225th Street to Macombs Dam Park. Carrion has also developed plans for Yankee Stadium and the Bronx Terminal Market.

On the river's Manhattan side, the Parks Department in collaboration with the New York State-DOT, New York City-DOT and other agencies, has been developing the Harlem River Greenway, which would extend from 145th Street to the Broadway Bridge at 225th Street and the Harlem River Park from 125th Street to 145th Street and the Sherman Creek area. In 2003, a major link was completed by the new Swindler Cove Park, just south of Dyckman Street.

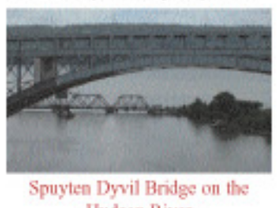
Harlem River Valley MAP and GUIDE

Sites of interest

S1 John F. Kennedy High School (718-562-5500), located at 99 Terrace View Avenue in the Bronx. One of the city's largest high schools.

B2 Spuyten Duyvil Railroad Bridge, a turn bridge located along the Hudson River, allows Amtrak passenger trains to run from Albany directly to Penn Station.

B3 Henry Hudson Bridge was built by Robert Moses through a rocky part of Inwood Hill to the heights of Spuyten Duyvil. It sports a graceful steel-ribbed arch with a 120-foot rise and a span of 800 feet. This elegant bridge can be walked (but not cycled) over.



Spuyten Dyvil Bridge on the Hudson River

P4 Spuyten Duyvil Park, a unique little park below the Henry Hudson Bridge, runs down to the railroad tracks. Heavily wooded with a natural spring running into a pond.

A5 The Inwood Hill Nature Center (718-421-2021) Inwood Hill Park's shore. Here grows marsh plants, water hemp, bulrush, sea beach dock, marsh elder, swamp rose mallow, and groundsel bush. A broad, expansive mudflat runs from the marsh to the Harlem River. Great blue herons and snowy egrets are common visitors.

View bridge of Palisades, Hudson River and Bronx shore

A6 Baker Field of Columbia University is located on the Harlem River northeast of Inwood Hill Park. A boathouse holds sculls and boats which ply the Harlem River. Across the waterway, Columbia students have painted a large "C".

Broadway Lift Bridge

B7 Broadway Bridge, a lift bridge whose middle section can be raised, carries the Broadway Local train as well as cars, trucks and pedestrians.

P8 Inwood Hill Park runs for over a mile south of the Harlem River to Dyckman Street. The second largest park in Manhattan and the last expanse of naturally seeded forest left on Manhattan. Birds, raccoons, wild cats, and waterfowl roam free in and around its enclosed lagoons.

P9 Isham Park, a rocky 21-acres adjacent to Inwood Hill Park, played a crucial role in the battle of Fort Washington during the American Revolution. The park features lovely, worn outcropping of Inwood marble.

A10 U.S. Veterans Medical Center is an imposing yellow building on a hill which was once occupied by a Revolutionary War fort.

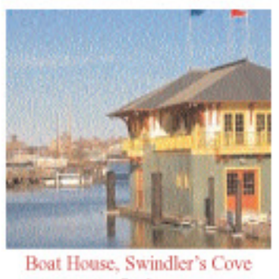
A11 NYCTA Rail Yards is where the New York City Transit Authority occupies the shore east of 10th Avenue from 207th to 218th Streets.

P12 Devoe Park is a triangular-shaped park south of the Veterans Hospital, west of the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail and north of Fordham Road.

B13 University Heights Bridge connects West 207th Street in Manhattan and West Fordham Road in the Bronx.

A14 Fort George Hill, on the east side of Broadway at 192nd Street and Audubon Avenue on the west bank of the Harlem River, was used by General Washington during the Revolutionary War. Now the site of George Washington Educational Campus.

P15 University Woods Park is a forested area located on a slope over the Harlem River with impressive views of Upper Manhattan, the Hudson River and New Jersey Palisades. Home of the Hall of Fame for Great Americans (A19).



Boat House, Swindler's Cove Park

P16 Swindler Cove Park, opened in 2003, lies south of Sherman Creek. A cooperative effort of New York State-DOT, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and New York Restoration Project. It features elegant walks, the Riley-Levin Children's Garden, a freshwater pond, native grasses and flowers, and the Peter Jay Sharp Boathouse installed in 2004.

S17 Bronx Community College is a branch of the CUNY system in University Heights overlooking the Harlem River. A beautiful campus, it has an historic library.

A18 Gould Memorial Library (718-289-5161) with an ornate dome is located on the campus of the Bronx Community College. Stanford White designed the classical temple in 1899.

A19 The Hall of Fame for Great Americans (718-289-5161) is a landmark with over 100 busts of distinguished Americans. On a cliff on the Bronx Community College campus.

P20 Highbridge Park stretches along the Harlem River between 155th Street and Dyckman Street. Its 119 acres include spectacular landscapes and hilly places for walking and running. The Old Croton Aqueduct Trail goes through the southern part of the park. It has an Olympic-sized swimming pool and playgrounds. The New York Restoration Project has assisted the Parks Department in making the park much cleaner and more user-friendly. Officially opened in 1935 by Robert Moses, refurbished in 2003 by Mayor Bloomberg working with Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe.

View from Washington Bridge, looking North, on the left is HighbridgePark on the right is Roberto Clemente Park

P21 Roberto Clemente State Park, 25-acres between the Major Deegan Expressway and the Harlem River, has a swimming pool, a waterfront esplanade, basketball courts, and a new dock for small boats.

S22 George Washington Educational Campus, located in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan, consists of four small high schools.

S23 Yeshiva University has approximately 7,000 students who take a variety of courses with an emphasis in Jewish studies. It has an elegant Moorish-style building on Amsterdam Avenue.

Washington Bridge Park

P24 Bridge Park is an undeveloped area beneath the Washington Bridge. Native vegetation is being restored by New York Restoration Project.

B25 Washington Bridge, built in 1888, is the third oldest bridge in New York City. This majestic stone and steel-arched bridge carries over 60,000 cars daily, as well as walkers and bikers.

P26 Bridge Playground is located at Boscobel Place, University Avenue and West 171st Street in an area with few recreational facilities.

B27 Alexander Hamilton Bridge, opened in 1963, this steel arch, eight-lane bridge carries approximately 175,000 vehicles per day across the Harlem River. No pedestrians allowed.

A28 Carmelite Monastery, a unique structure just north of the High Bridge, now a halfway house.

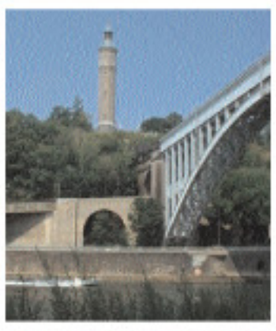
Highbridge Park, Washington Bridge

P29 Highbridge Park (at the Bronx end of the High Bridge) is an almost vertical, green area featuring massive marble steps which climb over 100 feet from the Major Deegan Expressway to Sedgwick Avenue.

B30 High Bridge, an elegant Romanesque bridge built to carry water in 1848, is the oldest standing bridge in New York City. Currently closed for repairs..

Henry Hudson Bridge in Winter (Kathi Criss)

A31 Highbridge Tower, built in 1872, this majestic 170-foot tall stone tower sits atop a ridge in Highbridge Park. It was constructed in conjunction with the Croton Water Supply and was fed by the aqueduct on top of the High Bridge. It offers fantastic views and is open some weekends in the summertime.



Highbridge Tower in Highbridge Park

A32 Jumel Terrace Historic District holds picturesque wooden row houses on Sylvan and Jumel Terraces built in the late 19th Century. Includes the Morris-Jumel Mansion.

A33 The Morris-Jumel Mansion (212-923-8008) at 65 Jumel Terrace and Edgecombe Avenue in Roger Morris Park is the only surviving colonial residence in Manhattan. George Washington and Aaron Burr both stayed here. Below it are the Polo Ground houses which previously held New York Giants playing fields.

A34 Audubon Terrace Historic District consists of several stately buildings around an open square west of Broadway. Features the Hispanic Museum (212-926-2234) with works by Goya, Velazquez and El Greco.

A35 Coogan's Bluff, a cliff Highbridge Park, was named for former Manhattan Borough President James J. Coogan.

P36 Macombs Dam Park is located near the Harlem River at Jerome Avenue, northwest of Yankee Stadium. Its 28 acres are a potential site for a new Yankee Stadium.

P37 Holcombe Rucker Playground, located north of 155th Street, is bounded by Frederick Douglass Boulevard and the Harlem River Drive. It contains play equipment and a comfort station.

B38 Macombs Dam Bridge connects West 155th Street in Manhattan with East 161st Street. An official New York City landmark as of January 1992.

B39 James A. & Ruth M. Bailey House, formerly the AIDS Resource Center provides housing for homeless people with AIDS.

A40 Yankee Stadium (718-992-1634), located at 157th Street and Ruppert Place in the Bronx, is home of the New York Yankees.

A41 The Bronx Terminal Market stretches north of 150th Street for about four blocks underneath the Major Deegan Expressway to the river's edge. This extensive property was bought in 2004 by a major developer. Re-development plans include a greenway and major facilities.

P42 Harlem Lane Park, extending from 154th Street to 151th Street west of Harlem River Drive, has basketball courts.

P43 Frederick Johnson Playground, a small playground from 150th to 151th Streets, was named for a great one-armed tennis player and coach. His student, Althea Gibson, became the first great African-American tennis star.

Highbridge

B44 145 Street Bridge, a turn bridge, has a design mimicing the Macombs Dam Bridge.

P45 Colonel Charles Young Playground runs from 143th to 145th Street west of the Harlem River Drive. Has extensive playing fields.

S46 Hostos College (718-518-4444), located at 500 Grand Concourse in the Bronx, is part of the CUNY system.

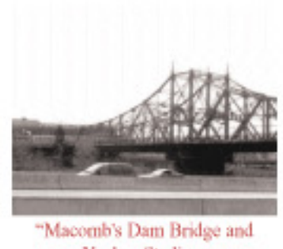
B47 Madison Avenue Bridge, a turn bridge originally built in 1884, was re-built in 1910.

P48 Harlem River Park lies east of the Harlem River Drive and extends from 125th Street to 142nd Street. This sliver of green is a wonderful place for fishing and watching the river. Under construction.

B49 Park Avenue Railroad Bridge, completed in 1954, this steel lift bridge is operated by the MTA Metro-North passenger railroad.

P50 Harlem River Drive Park has two baseball fields.

B51 Third Avenue Bridge features a 300-foot-long draw span that swings perpendicular to the approach roadways.



"Macomb's Dam Bridge and Yankee Stadium

P52 Marcus Garvey Memorial Park is a large rectangular park west of Madison Avenue, between 124th and 120th Streets. A prominent feature of this 150-year old park, originally called Mount Morris Park, is its Fire Watchtower.

A53 Keith Haring "Crack Is Wack" Mural, located at 2nd Avenue and East 127th-128th Streets, was painted in August 1987 by famed graffiti artist Keith Haring on the wall that adjoins the Carmine Street Pool at the James J. Walker Park handball court. It is 18 feet high and 170 feet long.

B54 Willis Avenue Bridge, constructed in 1901, this iron 1600-foot swing bridge is scheduled to be reopened with a wider $800 million span in the 2005-2010 era.

P55 Louis Cuvillier Park was located at East 125th Street between FDR Drive and First Avenue. Currently used by Housing Police Department for parking.

B56 Triborough Bridge, located at 125th Street in Manhattan, connects Manhattan with the Bronx to the north, and Queens to the east. The three separate spans of the Triborough meet on Randall's Island which has golf facilities, a dozen ball fields and a major stadium. Can be walked over.

The Old Croton Aqueduct Trail runs along the path of New York City's first and now abandoned aqueduct. In Manhattan it goes from the High Bridge to 158th Street, where it then ducks under Coogan's Bluff. In the Bronx the trail goes from the High Bridge north along University Avenue.

Harlem River Driveway and Esplanade runs along the Harlem River in Manhattan. Shorewalkers walk or bicycle along the river from about 155th Street to Dyckman Street. Also part of Shorewalkers' Great Saunter Trail and New York City's Manhattan Waterfront Greenway.

Regatta Park, being planned by the Bronx Borough president Adolfo Carrion, Jr.'s office and the City of New York Parks & Recreation with the assistance of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and others, it will go from Macombs Dam Park to 225th Street. It will be a multi-use greenway path along the Bronx shore of the Harlem River. The trail will provide access to Yankee Stadium, Roberto Clemente State Park, the High Bridge and local points of interest.

Croton Aqueduct Triangle, a traffic triangle created in 2001 as part of the New York City Parks Department's Green Streets program, is located at Goulden and Reservoir Avenues.

Kingsbridge Armory, built in 1917, looks like an enormous castle with turrets. Bordered by Goulden and Jerome Avenues, and 195th Street and Kingsbridge Road West in the Bronx. The neighborhood is named for a toll bridge built in 1693 by Frederick Philipse to span Spuyten Duyvil Creek.

Herbert H. Lehman College (877-LEHMAN-1), located at 250 Bedford Park Boulevard in the Bronx, is one of the senior schools of the City University of New York. Over 9,000 students attend classes at this 37-acre tree-lined campus.

Manhattan College (718-862-8000), located in the Riverdale neighborhood of the Bronx, was founded by the Christian brothers and now has over 3,000 students.

Other places of interest

Fordham University, Rose Hill Campus(718- 817-1000), a Jesuit-run educational school located in the Bronx with about 15,000 students, its campus is adjacent to the New York Botanical Garden and the Bronx Zoo.

Harlem River Bridges

The 6-mile stretch of the Harlem River strait is blessed with a variety of useful and beautiful bridges, most of which can be walked over. Fourteen bridges cross the Harlem River, more than cross any other 6-mile waterway in the world. These steel and stone spans serve as the main arteries for traffic between Manhattan, the Bronx and all of New England. They carry over 420,000 vehicles a day.

Much-needed rehabilitation of the City's older Harlem River Bridges will cost about a billion dollars. Repairs will be complete around 2013.

acknowledgements

Design/Cartography by Jennifer K. Kouyoumjian
Writing/Editorial by Cy A Adler

Thanks to the N.Y. City Environmental Fund; William Frost and the Littauer Foundation; and Helen Foster and the N.Y. City Council for their financial support.

We would like to thank the following people for their help in developing and editing the material for this map: Justin Bloom, Staff Attorney, Riverkeeper, Inc.; Dan Donovan, Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr.'s office; Sam Goodman, Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr.'s Planning Office; Edwin Huh, New York City Parks Department topographer; Jane Jackson, New York Restoration Project; Darrell Penn, Friends of Roberto Clemente Park; Emily Brandt and Eliza Bradley, Shorewalkers.

We'd like to thank the following individuals who sent support letters for the map: Commissioner Adrian Benepe, City of New York Parks & Recreation; Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr.; Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields; Helen Diane Foster, The City Council of the City of New York, Chair of the Parks Committee.

©2005 Shorewalkers, Inc., Box 20748, New York, New York 10025;

www.shorewalkers.org; 212-663-2167
Shorewalkers, Inc. and their affiliated members and organizations disclaim any liability to the use of this map and guide.

SHORE WALKERS