



# Niagara River Greenway

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## Paddles Up Niagara

### Mark Your Calendars for the 17th Annual Paddles Up Niagara set for Saturday July 29th!



**What:** Paddles Up Niagara is a family friendly and safe way to experience the natural areas and unique habitats of the Niagara River. Whether you are a novice or an experienced paddler, you will enjoy spending the morning with an enthusiastic paddling community. Guides and safety paddlers will be on hand to assist and answer your paddling questions.

**Where:** Beaver Island State Park, Grand Island, New York  
Meet at Shelters 2B, launch from the far end of the beach.



**Registration will open soon!** [>](#)

\*You need to set up an account in order to register for this free event.

**FREE T-Shirt for the first 200 Registrants!**

When: **Saturday July 29th 2023**

### 7:00 AM - *Eco-tour Lite - New this year!* Check in and launch from East River Marsh

This tour will have all the wildlife viewing but with less paddling. It is meant for beginners or those who are more interested in learning about the habitat. This tour will take approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Eco-tour Lite Map 

### 7:00 AM - Eco-tour #2 Check in at Shelter 2B and launch from beach

#### 7:30 AM - Eco-tour #3

The eco-tours #2 and #3 begin at Beaver Island beach and are a bit longer and more strenuous than the Eco-tour Lite. They are meant for more intermediate to advanced paddlers. These tours can take up to 2 hours.

All Eco-tours are designed to be smaller in size, so everyone can hear the guide interpret plants and animal life as they guide the group through habitats around Beaver Island. Spaces are limited so please register early and only if you know you can attend. ***IF your plans change, PLEASE cancel your reservation, so someone else can have your spot.*** Please be ready to depart from launch site 10 minutes prior to start time. Each eco-tour is limited to 15 participants each.

Eco-tour Map 

### 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM - 15 minute Kayak Trial Sessions

***New this year!*** These sessions are offered by the NY State Parks Interpretive staff, who perform regular learn to Kayak sessions throughout the summer. For the Paddles UP Niagara event, they are offering a 15 minute kayak trial session on a first come first serve basis. If you have ever wondered what it would feel like to sit in a kayak in the water, now is your chance to experience just that! Our expert trainers will walk you through how to get into a kayak and how to paddle correctly. Kayaks and PFDs will be provided. If you decide to participate in the Fun Paddle you can rent a Kayak from Blue Water Marina, information below. These sessions are offered to anyone age 8 and up and are limited to 10 participants at a time. The sessions will be taking place at the Beaver Island Beach launch site, near shelter 2B.

### 8:00 AM - Eco-tour Hike

***Back again for the 2nd year!*** The Eco-tour Hike will be lead by members of the Niagara Frontier Botanical Society, it will begin at shelter 2B and walk to River Lea and the Allenton Farm. From there it will continue on down the East River Trail, to the Kayak launch and then return to shelter 2B. The expert guides will identify and discuss trees, shrubs and flowering plants along the way. It is an easy walk on level ground. This hike is limited to 16 participants. ***If you register and your plans change, PLEASE cancel, so we can open up a spot for someone on the waiting list.***

Eco-tour Hike Map 

### 10:30 AM - Fun Paddle

The large Fun Paddle leaves from Beaver Island beach goes past the Marina, around Little Beaver Island, and then back to the launch site. This session is unique because it is a very large group, possibly the largest in NY State all launching at the same time! We have safety paddlers to help guide the group along the route and the Park Police and GI Fire Department on motor boats to keep motor boats away from the paddlers.

Fun Paddle Map 

### 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Environmental Exhibitors

Make sure to visit the many organizational partners that will be exhibiting very important water safety equipment & information, sharing environmental resources and other interesting facts about our unique and precious natural resource that surrounds WNY, our Great Lakes and the Niagara River! Some of the participating organizational partners include; NY Sea Grant, Citizen Coalition for Wildlife & Environment, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, WNY

Land Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Black Rock Riverside Alliance, WNY Raptor & Wildlife Care, Department of Environmental Conservation, Niagara Region Parks Interpretive, and Erie County Climate Action.

### 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Free admission to Grand Island Historical Museum at River Lea!

Paddles Up participants will have the opportunity to step back in time and see what it was like living on Grand Island during the 1800's, when Grover Cleveland's uncle, Lewis Allen, built the mansion, that is now called River Lea. If you have been inside River Lea in the past, you may want to make another visit because it has gone through some changes with new displays. To follow recent developments with the museum and historical society visit: <http://www.isledegrande.com/historicalsociety/historicalsociety.php>

## Where to rent kayaks:

For individuals who don't feel like bringing their own kayak, or for those who are just starting out and need a kayak, please contact **Blue Water Marina**. They are a trusted partner with quality boats and they bring the kayaks right to the Beaver Island Beach on the day of the event.



Address: 330 East River Rd. Grand Island, NY  
 Phone: 716-773-7884  
 website: <https://www.bluewatermarinagi.com/>

## Refreshments: hosted by Bogey's at BIGC **Bogey's**

Bogey's will be offering sandwiches and wraps at a mobile trailer right at the main event site.

## Important Must Do's:

### *Personal Flotation Device*

1. All paddlers **MUST** wear a zipped up coast guard approved lifejacket, anyone who refuses to wear a lifejacket will not be permitted to paddle with the group. Lifejackets must be worn properly.



### *Sound Producing Device*

2. Paddlers should bring a whistle on their watercraft. NY State Parks Marine Services will have some to pass out at the event. If you are in need of assistance on the water, blow your whistle and wave your arms or paddle in the air to alert the safety paddlers.

## *Follow the Course*

3. Paddlers must follow the designated course and display their numbers on their boat or lifejacket. Race type bibs with numbers will be supplied on the day of the event.

*For more information about boating safety please visit: <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/>*

**Organizing Partners:**



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

