



West Canal Marina

Docking Policy

March 4, 2024

West Canal Marina

- The park is open 7 days a week from 7:00 a.m. to dusk. **ONLY boaters with paid reservations have the access to power and water.** Boaters with paid reservation have right to enter and exit their boat while they are docked. All boaters and their guests who are staying on their boats overnight must have paid reservation.
- No overnight stay without a paid reservation. All boats without reservation must leave by 7:00 PM
- No burning or fires
- No dogs, except on leash.
- No damaging of county property.
- No glass containers allowed in park.
- Disorderly conduct and excessive noise are prohibited.
- Firearms and fireworks are prohibited.
- Garbage must be disposed of in the receptacles provided.
- No public gatherings or community activities without shelter rental.
- No food or merchandise vending allowed.
- Boaters must sign in upon arrival and sign out prior to departure in the log book located at the park office.
- No skateboarding, rollerblading, or biking; except on designated pathways.

FEES; CHECK-OUT TIME

- Upon docking, boaters are required to report directly to the park office to register their arrival time and date in the log book.

Docking by reservation includes electric and water. Reserve dock site at Niagara County Parks Webpage <https://www.niagaracounty.com/parks/West-Canal-Marina>.

- **Power and water are to be used with paid dock reservation only.**

DOCKING TIME PERIOD

The owner/operator of any boat, vessel or other conveyance to dock, moor, or anchor overnight at any public dock located within the West Canal Marina without reservations is short term only. No overnight stay with out reserved dock. There is a maximum of five days per stay. Boaters may not return until after **three consecutive days** have passed between docking periods. Any extended time of stay or docking must be approved by the Commissioner of Public Works.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- The DPW Commissioner is hereby authorized and directed to issue 'Special Events' permission to any owner/operator of any boat, vessel, or other conveyance for docking use, and for a period of time to be determined by the DPW Commissioner.
- All special events will require a shelter rental in advance for the day of event. Shelter rules and regulations will apply. **Docking reservations can be made on DPW webpage or call 716-439-7951**

COMMERCIAL USE RESTRICTED

Commercial use of the public docking facilities is prohibited without authorization of the DPW Commissioner.

EMERGENCIES

- The rules and restrictions prescribed in this chapter shall not apply to boats, vessels, or other conveyances which are in distress or forced to dock due to an emergency. However, immediate notification of said distress or emergency shall be given as soon as practicable to the police department Niagara County Sheriff's Department (911 Center). The notified police department will inform the other police agencies of such emergency if it is in their jurisdiction.
- In the event that the distressed vessel remains at the public docking facilities for more than 48 hours, the owner/operator shall be in violation of this chapter.

WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITED

- It shall be unlawful for the owner/operator of any boat, vessel, or other conveyance using the public docking facilities to discharge into the Erie Barge Canal/Ellicott Creek or by the shore area the contents of any septic holding tanks, garbage, oil, sludge, refuse matter, sewer, or waste matter of any kind. Garbage and refuse matter must be deposited in the receptacles provided for this purpose.
- No head (toilet) shall be dumped at West Canal Marina. Dumping or cleaning of portable toilets in the support facility rest rooms is prohibited.

USE OF ELECTRICAL POWER RESTRICTED

- It shall be unlawful for the owner/operator of any boat, vessel or other conveyance using the docking facilities to use the electrical power located at said docking facilities for any other purpose than for his/her boat.
- Use of electrical power is limited to one thirty-amp, one-hundred-ten-volt service outlet per boat berth. For boating safety, all electrical outlets shall have ground fault interrupters (GFI) installed.

PRESERVATION OF PROPERTY; BODILY HARM; AND CONDUCT

All persons causing injury or damage to other persons or boats within this corridor shall be liable. Therefore, any violations of boat dock rules and/or regulations, disorder or indecorous conduct by a patron, his crew or guests that might injure a person, cause damage to property, or harm the reputation of county parks is cause for immediate removal of the boat in question from the corridor. The DPW Commissioner or designated representative or a supervising law enforcement officer reserves the right to reject any request for a berth and to terminate without prior notice or refund any monies paid, when in the opinion of the DPW Commissioner or his/her designated representative, a question of safety or public interest is involved or whenever any rules and regulations have been violated.

CONDITION OF BOATS, VESSELS OR OTHER CONVEYANCES

Only pleasure boats in good condition, under their own power, shall be accepted for dockage. Conditions aboard any boat, vessel, or other conveyance, which in the opinion of the DPW Commissioner or designee constitute a hazard, menace, or a danger to public safety, must be corrected immediately upon notification by park staff.

ACCESSIBILITY

Berths are to be accessible at all times in case of fire, explosion, or other emergencies. Visitors will be permitted by the docking area only if an adequate pathway is provided for emergencies. In an emergency, Niagara County does not accept any responsibility for articles in the dock area that must be moved to provide for a pathway.

NOISE

Boat slip renters shall use discretion in operating engines, generators, radios, and television sets so as to not create a disturbance. Quiet hours are in effect between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. local time each day.

SAFETY

The County of Niagara is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged properties. The safety of all park patrons, boaters, and staff is paramount. Unsafe acts and conditions will be addressed at time of notification. Law enforcement will be involved as needed.

DOGS

Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet long and controlled at all times to ensure peace and privacy of other boaters and occupants in the corridor. No pet shall be allowed to remain in the park or corridor area unless the owner can furnish proof of a current rabies inoculation when requested by park personnel. The "Pooper Scooper" law is in effect, and dog owners are expected to clean up after their pet.

FIRES

Open burn or bonfires are not allowed in the area.

DOCKING AND RAFTING

Boats entering the corridor may dock at any numbered slip that is unoccupied or not reserved. Rafting off another boat is not permitted.

VEHICLES

- Boats registered overnight are allowed one vehicle at no additional charge when the vehicle is registered at the same time as the boat and both are listed in the log book.
- Vehicles remaining overnight must be parked in designated parking areas. Unregistered vehicles may be ticketed or towed at owner's expense.
- Each vehicle remaining overnight must have its license plate number recorded in park docking logbook.

West Canal Docking

Rules of Use

The park is open 7 days a week from 7:00 a.m. to dusk. Boat Docks are available for rental for a maximum of 5 days. **The use of water and electric utilities will require a reservation.**

Utilities use require a 24 hour notice. Dock reservations can be made at the Niagara County Parks Webpage <https://www.niagaracounty.com/parks/West-Canal-Marina>.

- No overnight docking without paid reservation. Day use boats must be out by 7:00 PM
- Reservation confirmation is to be displayed in boat window
- Utilities use require a reservation.
- No open fires or burning.
- Dock area is to be clear of obstacles at all times.
- No congregating or gathering that restricts boat access on docks.
- No damaging of county property.
- No glass containers allowed in park.
- Disorderly conduct and excessive noise are prohibited.
- The use of firearms and fireworks are prohibited.
- Garbage must be disposed of in the receptacles provided.
- No public gatherings or community activities without a shelter rental permit.
- No food or merchandise vending allowed.
- All pets require a leash and must be controlled at all times.
- No skateboarding, rollerblading, or biking, except on designated pathways.
- No boat repairs or service is to be performed when docked.
- Niagara County reserves the right to evict or have removed any boater with or without reservation at the discretion of the Parks Department. This will be enforced by the Niagara County Sheriff Office.

For more information and full dock use policy visit <https://www.niagaracounty.com/parks/West-Canal-Marina> or call parks office 716-439-7951, Monday - Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.