



August 23, 2012

Final Report

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Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club, Inc.

Free Public Kayaking at Kennedy Marina
July 11, 2011 to August 31, 2012

Primary goal was to expand the program for youth 12-17, to maintain their interest by venturing out of our protected cove with longer trips and greater challenges.

For three years we have used 12 sit-on-top kayaks at Kennedy marina to put all ages on the water in our 500 meter protected cove. This project allowed us to store ten deck boats in a new cargo container and secure an area between them with chain link fencing. Teenagers graduated from the SOT's to these boats with enthusiasm. Skills sessions were added to the program to assure safety in these new kayaks; wet-exits and rescues were practiced with the various groups. On September 10th a group was led across the Hudson to the Alpine Park for a trail hike and history lecture by Eric Nelson.



1 The new container, trip announcement, Buena Vista participants with one of our 17 year old guides, Taylor



2 Twelve Teens and three guides on a Monday night program this July using our new boats.

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With the funding from NEIWPCC HEP we were able to purchase a second cargo container and have it placed twelve feet from our original box. The City of Yonkers assisted us by fencing the area in between the containers, volunteers built racks inside the new container to hold ten boats. The YPRC board approved the purchase of three deck boats for the program and received donations by members of three more. The remaining spaces in the container are for the guides to store their boats on the condition that they can be used in their absence by other guides. These physical improvements have allowed us to expand the program and continue to allow us to perform an expanded program in this second summer. This summer skills sessions have resumed with many of the boy scout troops who are showing up for repeat sessions (to earn badges).



1Boats as installed this summer

Accomplishments: We have a secure storage system at water's edge in Kennedy Marina for our public program needs. This benefit will serve us for many years. It now holds 25 kayaks, over 50 PFD's of all sizes, 20 adult paddles and 20 children's paddles.

During our grant period we have put 863 kayakers on the water. Many of these individuals have returned for many trips. Adults 237, Minors 626. The cross river trip had 19 Minors attending. Without the addition of deck boats

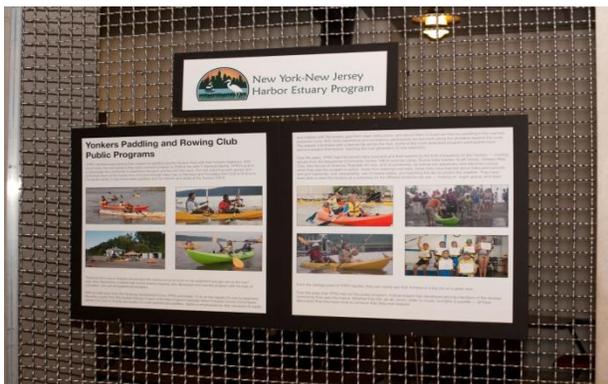
many of the minors would not return after age twelve. They now see themselves in the same boats that the guides

use and feel like it's worth their time to learn more about the sport and the river.

Lessons: A physical presence in the park is its own advertising! Demand for the program exceeds the time our volunteers can give it. The "free" space initially given by one public administration does not guarantee it forever. Kennedy Marina now has a per boat launch fee which this year cost our program \$1200. Teenagers take disappointment hard, over the last year we had to cancel programs due to sewage contamination of the river and adverse weather conditions.



3Three of our teens.



4The display for this program during our Yonkers Library Exhibit which was a feature there for all of February this year.

YONKERS PADDLING AND ROWING CLUB

Free Public Kayaking at Kennedy Marina, Yonkers



Cross Hudson Paddle and History Hike with Eric Nelson **SEPTEMBER 10, 2011**

Guided trip in cockpit kayaks for
paddlers from JFK Public Program

Leaves from YPRC
dock at 9:00am
Saw Mill River visit
at Noon, back at 1:45pm

Sign-up at JFK Ramp
House or YPRC
in advance. For more
information contact
Jerry Blackstone
914 318-4630



New York-New Jersey
Harbor Estuary Program

This project was funded by a cooperative agreement awarded by the Environmental Protection Agency to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission in partnership with the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program



New England Interstate Water
Pollution Control Commission