

Clarion River Public Access Sites—Upper Section

River miles are used to identify the locations of various sites along the river. River mile 0 is at the confluence of the Clarion River and the Allegheny River. "River Left" and "River Right" are used to indicate which side of the river a site is on. Orient yourself looking downstream to determine left and right. River miles for the East and West Branches continue from the mileage on the main stem with "E" added for the East Branch and "W" added for the West Branch.

Launch Permits: PFBC (PA Fish & Boat Commission) and DCNR (PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) launches require boat registration (other states accepted) or a launch permit from a state park office or PFBC. Corps (US Army Corps of Engineers), ANF (Allegheny National Forest) and PGC (Pennsylvania Game Commission) do not require launch permits.

115 E River Right	Instanter Boat Launch DCNR	Lat 41 36 21 Lon -78 33 34	Located in Elk State Park on the north end of the East Branch Lake, this launch provides access for motorboats and paddlers. The no-wake zones along the Fivemile and East Branch Clarion forks are popular with paddlers. Facilities include ample parking, picnic area, and restrooms.
111 E River Right	East Branch Boat Launch Corps	Lat 41 33 49 Lon -78 35 37	Located on USACE land near the East Branch Dam, this launch provides access for motorboats and paddlers. Facilities include phone and restrooms. Parking can be congested on summer weekends. Launch fee waived during dam construction.
110 E River Right	Kilgus Road Canoe Launch Corps	Lat 41 33 15 Lon -78 35 46	Located on Corps of Engineers land below the East Branch Dam, this hand-carry launch provides access for paddlers. The access road can be rough in wet weather. There is room to park 3-5 cars.
107 E River Left	Bendigo State Park Take-out DCNR	Lat 41 31 42 Lon -78 37 46	This hand-carry launch is located at Bendigo State Park. Facilities include picnic areas, swimming pool, drinking water, restrooms and public phone. This is the last take-out on the East Branch because public use is not permitted where the river flows through the mill at Johnsonburg.
110 W River Right	Wilcox Canoe Launch Jones Township	Lat 41 34 45 Lon -78 41 21	This hand-carry launch is located next to the township garage on Old Kane Road. This site provides ample parking, but be careful not to block access to the garage or equipment. Adequate river flow for paddling is present in the spring and after a heavy rainfall.
94 River Left	Country Squirrel Outfitters Private	Lat 41 25 16 Lon -78 44 02	Located in Ridgway on the east bank of the Clarion River where the river crosses PA Route 948. The launch is privately owned, however, the public may get permission from Country Squirrel Outfitters to use the launch. Parking can be limited during peak paddling season.
85 River Left	Portland Mills Canoe Launch PGC	Lat 41 22 07 Lon -78 49 42	This hand-carry launch is located on SGL 44 just upstream of the town of Portland Mills. There is parking for 8-10 cars which can be congested during peak paddling season.
80 River Left	Arroyo Canoe Launch PGC	Lat 41 23 22 Lon -78 52 52	Located on SGL 44 across the river from the town of Arroyo, this hand-carry launch can accommodate about 10-15 cars.
76 River Right	Irwin Run Canoe Launch ANF	Lat 41 24 00 Lon -78 54 20	Located on the Allegheny National Forest upstream of Hallton, this hand-carry launch provides access to paddlers. There is parking for 7-10 cars. This site can be very congested on spring and summer weekends. A restroom is located onsite. Walk-in camping is permitted upstream of the parking lot.
74 River Right	Hallton Canoe Launch PGC	Lat 41 24 04 Lon -78 55 57	This hand-carry launch is located on SGL 28 in the town of Hallton where Spring Creek empties into the Clarion River. There is parking for 10-12 cars.

Caution Information

The East and West Branches of the Clarion River are more susceptible to stream-wide strainers and have limited access. The East Branch has swift water. Motorboat traffic can be heavy on the East Branch Lake during the summer months. On the main stem of the Clarion River, there are four class I to II rapids that can be navigated by scouting ahead. In-stream hazards are listed below. Be prepared.

- **River mile 108.7E:** Low bridge clearance at Glen Hazel Road.
- **River mile 104.5E:** Stream-wide low hanging cable.
- **River mile 103E to 102.5E (confluence):** RIVER CLOSED to public use where it flows through the Domtar Mill in Johnsonburg. No portage available. Paddlers should take out at Bendigo State Park due to no public access on the East Branch in Johnsonburg.
- **River mile 107.8W:** Stream-wide low hanging cable.
- **River mile 88.6:** Railroad trestle bridge abutments with possible STRAINERS caused by trees wrapped around the piers.

