Using Mass Transit to Reach Freshwater Angling spots in NYC

One of the greatest things about New York City is our extensive public transportation network. The broad geographic reach, ease of use, and 24 hour service in many parts of the city render a car unnecessary. In several boroughs, this is a great boon to the resident or visiting NYC angler. Avoid the traffic and the even greater hassle of parking- no matter what part of the city you’re in, great freshwater angling is only a walk, bus-ride, or subway away. Grab your rod, grab your bait, and grab your metrocard™!

Every freshwater angling pond in New York City is mapped in the following pages. The nearest (when applicable) subway or commuter rail stop is listed, as are as many bus stops as are feasible; in some maps, redundant stops of the same bus line are not shown. There are countless ways to get to each park, so not every single possibility is included, only the most convenient directions from a subway or train line. Your route may be different, depending where in the city you start out from. Visit www.mta.info for complete route maps of bus, subways, and commuter rails.

Most freshwater fishing in NYC takes place in New York City Parks, so make sure to follow all park angling rules: all fishing is catch & release only; non-lead weights and barbless hooks are required. See http://www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/fishing for more information. For complete information on freshwater fishing in New York State, check out http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/fishing.html.

Use the citywide map to get oriented and find your favorite spot!
Bronx

Indian Lake, Crotona Park

1.) 2/5 train to 174th St: walk sw on Boston Rd. until you can turn right onto Charlotte St. Follow Charlotte to the park, lake will be straight ahead.

2.) B/D to 170th St; transfer to BX11 to Claremont Pkwy/Crotona Ave; walk north along Claremont, the lake will be on your right.

Highlights: Historically packed with panfish, great for kids. After landscaping renovations, the fish population is unknown pending a survey slated for 2010.

Van Cortlandt Lake

1.) 1 train to 242nd St and walk east into the park; Lake is located adjacent to the public golf course.

2.) BxM3 or Bx10 bus to Van Cortlandt Park S and Van Cortlandt Ave W walk north into the park; lake is next to the public golf course

Highlights: Panfish, particularly yellow perch and crappie
Brooklyn

Prospect Park Lake

1.) F/G train to Fort Hamilton Pkwy and walk east on Ocean Parkway until Park Circle; follow S Lake Dr. into the park, the lake is on your left.

2.) Q train to Parkside Ave; walk west on Parkside Ave then follow S/E Lake Dr. into park. Lake will be directly ahead, across the road/bike path.

Highlights: Best bass fishing in NYC!
Manhattan

Harlem Meer

1.) 2/3 train to 110th St, Central Park walk south into park, lake will be on your left.

2.) B/C train to 110th St Central Park walk east on Central Park N; lake on your left

3.) 6 train to 110th st, walk west into park. Lake will be on your left.

Highlights: There is easy access to virtually every inch of shoreline on the meer, but there can be dense algae growth during the summer.

Central Park Lake

1.) C train to 72nd St and walk east into park; walk north on West Dr., lake is on your right.

2.) N/R/W train to 5th Ave, transfer to M01/M02 bus north to 72nd St and walk west along terrace Dr. until you see Bethesda Fountain on your right. Lake is right there.

3.) 1/2/3 train to 72nd & Broadway; walk east on 72nd st. to the park, then follow directions as per 1.) above

Highlights: One of the greatest things about the lake is the convoluted shoreline, offering almost limitless fishing opportunities. Oh yeah, it's also full of lunker bass.
Queens

Flushing Meadows-Meadow/Willow Lakes

E/F/G/R/V train to Forest Hills, transfer to Q64 bus to 69th Rd and Grand Central Pkwy walk east into park; Meadow lake is on your left, Willow on the right.

E/F train to 75th Ave and walk east on 75th Ave into park. Willow lake is directly ahead.

You might also want to consider walking the mile or so from Willets Point/Citi Field across the old World’s Fair grounds.

Highlights: These lakes offer the opportunity to fish species typically found in marine & estuarine waters, such as trophy white perch or gizzard shad. Freshwater species are also found. If you catch one of the invasive snakehead fish, don’t put it back, contact NYSDEC at 718- 482-4922

Baisley Pond

1. E/J/Z train to Sutphin Blvd/Archer Ave; transfer to Q6 bus to Sutphin Blvd/Rockaway Blvd. Lake is North of the bus stop.

2. A train to Rockaway Blvd, transfer to Q7 bus to Sutphin Blvd/Rockaway Blvd.

Highlights: This off-the-beaten-track little pond is chock-a-block full of bass.
Queens (Continued)

Kissena Lake

1.) 7 train to Main St/Flushing, transfer to Q17/Q25/Q34 to Kissena Blvd/Rose Ave. Walk east along Rose Ave, through the park, lake will be on your left.

2.) Q65 bus to 164th St/Lithonia Ave. Walk west into park, lake is on your right.

Highlights: This lake is inhabited by some truly monstrous carp. If you hook one of these, you’ll know.

Oakland Lake

1.) 7 train to Main St/Flushing, transfer to Q27 bus to 48th Ave/216th St walk east into the park

2.) Long Island Rail Road to Bayside; transfer to Q31 bus on Bell Blvd to 48th ave. Walk east towards the lake.

Highlights: Tucked away in NE Queens, in beautiful Alley Pond Park by Little Neck Bay, this little lake is a New York gem. See www.nycgovparks.org/parks/alleypondpark for more information.
Despite its reputation in the other 4 boroughs for remoteness, SI is surprisingly easy to reach by bus or ferry and well worth the trip.

1.) 1 train to South Ferry, transfer to Staten Island Ferry, transfer to S66/S67/S91/S92 bus to Clove Rd/Victory Blvd. Walk west into park, lake is right ahead.

2.) R train to 95th St/Bay Ridge, walk NE on 5th Ave to 92nd St and east to Fort Hamilton Pkwy, transfer to S53 bus to Clove Rd/Victory Blvd

Highlights: This long narrow lake looks like a gash in the Earth, but, if you like to fish for catfish- I mean, really like it- this is the lake for you.

Wolfe’s Pond

1.) 1 train to South Ferry, transfer to Staten Island Ferry, transfer to SIRR train Prince’s Bay, transfer to S55/S56 bus to Hylan Blvd/Seguine Ave, walk northeast on Hylan then south on Holton. The pond is about 0.25 mi down Holton on your left.

2.) R train to 95th St/Bay Ridge, walk NE on 5th Ave to 92nd St and walk east to Fort Hamilton Pkwy transfer to S79 bus to Marsh Ave/Richmond Hill Rd, transfer to S55/S56 bus to Hylan Blvd/Seguine Ave

Highlights: This little lake in the southern part of SI is great! A secluded wooded shoreline, lots of structure, and lily pads means you completely forget you’re in the city while you’re here. Break out the scum frog, catch some bass, and daydream back 300 years.