GETTING TO THE RIVER — ACCESS REAL AND VIRTUAL

Reports like this one offer an armchair look at the Hudson. To really appreciate the river, there's no substitute for going to the water. Opportunities to do so abound, thanks to the efforts of government agencies, community leaders, businesses, private non-profits, and committed citizens. Increasingly, access points are designed to accommodate an aging population and persons with disabilities. And in the virtual world offered by modern technology, digital devices can access near real-time hydrological, weather, and water quality data via the internet.

Steve Stanne/DEC

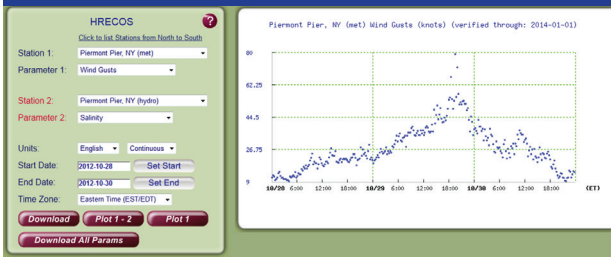
Opened in 2009, the Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park is the longest elevated pedestrian walkway in the world, offering splendid views from 212 feet above the river.

TREND: As community interest in river recreation grows, an increasing number of access sites and opportunities are welcoming everyone to the Hudson.

Steve Stanne/DEC

Paddlers are discovering the enjoyment of kayaking on the Hudson. Check out the Hudson River Greenway Water Trail online at www.hudsongreenway.ny.gov/trailsandscenicbyways/watertrail.aspx.

TREND: Near real-time, high frequency data on weather and river conditions are available from an expanding number of sensor installations on the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers.



Hudson River Environmental Conditions Observing System

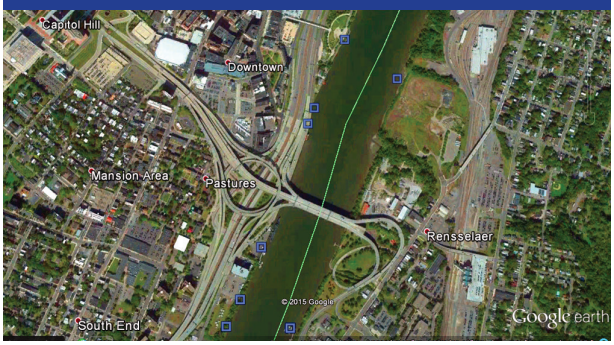
The Hudson River Environmental Conditions Observing System (HRECOS) website posts near-real time data from remote sensors at sixteen locations. Historic data is also available through the system. This graph shows wind speeds at the end of the Piermont Pier during Superstorm Sandy. Check out HRECOS at www.hrecos.org.

TREND: Participation in Day in the Life of the Hudson River increased from 1,175 in 2004 to 3,220 in 2014, as teachers took their students to the Hudson for hands-on learning experiences.

Chris Bowser/DEC

Each fall, Day in the Life of the Hudson River brings classes to the water from New York harbor to the head of tide and beyond. They study the river in their communities and then share their findings with other participants via the internet. Check out Day in the Life and other river education resources online at http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/ 5102.html.

TREND: Access to information about sewage spills is improving thanks to the Sewage Pollution Right to Know law and efforts to communicate information to the public.



DEC is using NY–Alert, a free statewide public notification system, to make it easy for municipalities to report sewage spills and to inform the public. The agency also provides data on combined sewer overflows through an outfalls map on Google Earth. Check it out at http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/90315.html.

THE STATE OF THE HUDSON 2015
Hudson River Estuary Program
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Joseph Martens, Commissioner

ABOUT THE HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM
The Hudson River Estuary Program leads a unique regional partnership with the mission of helping people enjoy, protect, and revitalize the estuary. Created in 1987 by the Hudson River Estuary Management Act (ECL 11-0306), the program focuses on the tidal estuary and its adjacent watershed from the federal dam at Troy to the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in New York City.

The Estuary Program implements the Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda to achieve six key benefits: clean water; resilient communities; a vital estuarine ecosystem; conservation of fish, wildlife, and habitats; preservation of the river's natural scenery; and enhanced opportunities for education, river access, recreation, and inspiration. The Program's partners include the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve, Hudson River Valley Greenway, New York-New Jersey Harbor and Estuary Program, New York State's Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation and Departments of State, Health, Transportation, and General Services, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Department of Commerce/NOAA, and many municipal governments, non-profit groups, academic institutions and private sector organizations. For more information, visit http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4920.html.

ABOUT THE NEW YORK STATE WATER RESOURCES INSTITUTE
The New York State Water Resources Institute's mission is to improve the management of water resources in New York State and the nation. A federally and state mandated institution located at Cornell University, the institute is uniquely situated to access scientific and technical resources relevant to water management. It collaborates with regional, state, and national partners to increase awareness of emerging water resources issues, develop and assess new water management technologies and policies, and connect the water research and water management communities.

New York State
Water Resources Institute

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