

Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site

129 Schoharie St, Fort Hunter, NY 12069



Legend

- Accessible Public Restroom
- Boat Launching Ramp
- Canal Lock
- Dock/Kayak Launch
- Historic Structure
- Kiosk
- Museum & Visitor Center
- Parking Lot
- Picnic Site
- Playground
- Scenic View
- Road
- Canal
- Stream
- Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site
- NYS Canal Corporation Land
- Village
- Village Park
- Water
- Wetlands

Trails

- EST - Empire State Trail
- OL - Overlook Trail - 0.25 Miles
- TO - Towpath - 2.5 Miles
- WC - Woodchuck Walk - 1.0 Mile
- Unmarked Trail - .45 Miles



Please respect private property. Please be considerate of other park users. Please report any accident or incident immediately to police. All boundaries and trails are shown as approximate. Be aware of changing trail conditions.

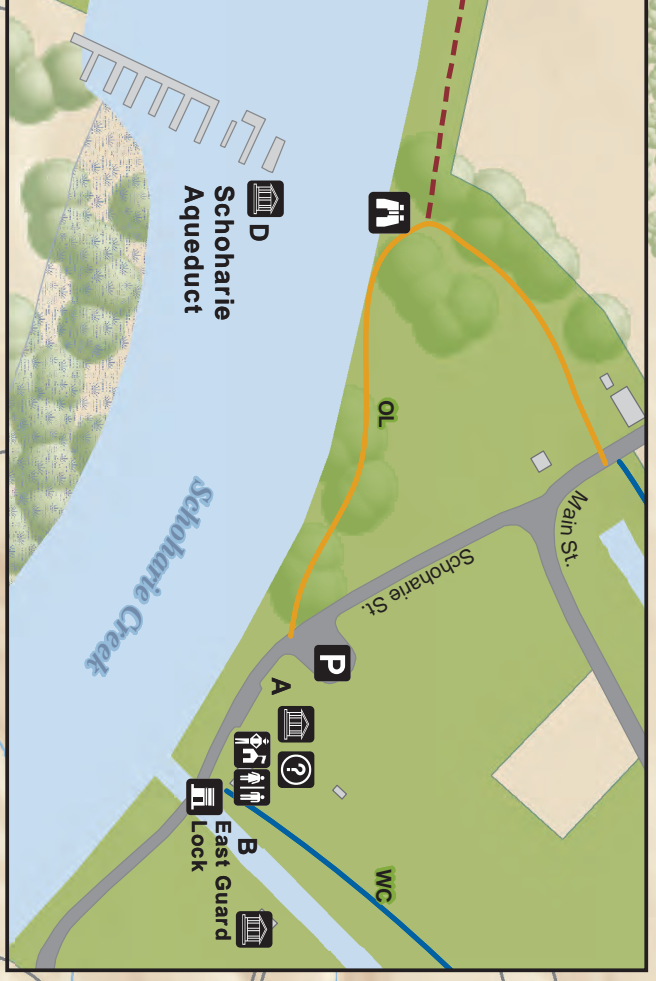
Site Office: (518) 829-7516
 Saratoga/Capital Regional Office: (518) 584-2000
 NY State Police: (518) 630-1700
 In Case of Emergency: 911
 Email: SchoharieCrossing@parks.ny.gov

Map produced by NYSOPRHP GIS Bureau, October 27, 2023.



New York State
 Parks, Recreation and
 Historic Preservation

Yankee Hill Parking Lot Address:
 550 Queen Anne Rd., Amsterdam, NY 12010



Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site

**Biking • Birding • Bridle Path • Educational Programs • Fishing • Group Tours • Guided Tours • Hiking
Interpretive Signs • Museum/Visitors Center & Gift Shop • Picnic Areas & Scenic Views • Self-Guided • Walking**

A – Museum / Visitor Center & Fort Hunter

The Museum / Visitor Center features an exhibit on the history of the Erie Canal, as well as a gift-shop and accessible restrooms. An outline of one of the blockhouses of Fort Hunter from the mid-17th century and other remains of the fort and the Lower Castle Village of the Mohawk people are also on exhibit.



B - East Guard Lock

Overlook the original 1820's "Clinton's Ditch" canal from the observation deck located at the guard lock for the original crossing of the Schoharie Creek.

C - Empire Lock #29 & Original Lock #20

One of the most serene spots on site, the double set of locks from the enlarged era of the canal was constructed in the 1840's then improved again in the 1880's. At the east end of these locks on the south side observe Lock #20 from the 1820's canal as it meets the "new" Erie as a feeder. This is the only place where one can examine locks from the Original Canal and the Enlarged Canal side by side.



D - Schoharie Creek Aqueduct

The Schoharie Aqueduct, built between 1839 and 1841 as part of the Enlarged Erie Canal, was one of the single greatest improvements made during the canal's enlargement phase. The 14-arch, 624-foot-long aqueduct carried the canal above, and totally apart from, the Schoharie Creek. Because the original 1820s canal entered the creek itself, whenever the Schoharie was flooding, traffic on the canal was often halted for days. After the Aqueduct went into operation in 1845, creek flooding no longer delayed canal traffic.

The Aqueduct was abandoned in 1916, when the Barge Canal opened in the Mohawk River. Its towpath remained intact until the early 1940s, when four arches at its east end were removed to allow for ice jams to flow out of the creek and into the Mohawk River. Since then, more arches have collapsed, leaving only six arches.



E - Boat Launch and Picnic Area

Access the Schoharie Creek with your canoe, kayak, small craft, or fish from the bank. There is also a great picnic area with tables, grills, and a playground, all with a wonderful view of the Aqueduct. Please do not play on or near the boat launch. Remember, carry out what you carry in.

F - Yankee Hill Lock #28 & Putman Canal Store

Foot bridges span the Yankee Hill Locks and visitors will find ample parking and a large picnic area with great views of the Mohawk River. Picnic tables and grills are spaced out along the river front here, and we have a dock for canoe and kayak launching. Yankee Hill Lock #28 was part of the Enlarged Erie Canal and was the last double lock that was completed in eastern New York. Although builders began its construction in the early 1840s, financial problems kept Lock #28 from opening until the 1850s. In operation until the 20th century, this lock had two side-by-side chambers that let boats going in opposite directions lock-through at the same time.

Putman's Lock Grocery was constructed in 1856 and was owned by the Garret Putman family into the 1900s. The store was typical of the many which lined the canal. The basement was used as a tavern. The room with three sets of French doors was for general sales, displaying goods which ranged from clothing and tobacco to harnesses. The porch was a meeting place for those whose lives depended on the canal.

The store was most profitable in the 1870s, when canal traffic was at its peak. After 1880, canal business, and the grocery, went into a long period of decline. The store closed in 1917, following the opening of the Barge Canal in the Mohawk River. The abandonment of the Enlarged Erie Canal eliminated any need for a store at this location.



OVERLOOK TRAIL -0.25 miles (orange blazes)– Takes you along the bank of the Schoharie Creek to observe the remains of the Aqueduct. Please stay on the trail and respect private property.

WOODCHUCK WALK -1.0 mile (blue blazes)– Takes you along the Original "Clinton's Ditch" 1820's Erie Canal. Connects the Schoharie Creek East Guard Lock to Lock #20/Empire Lock #29.

TOWPATH TRAIL -2.5 miles (red blazes)– This portion of trail is along the Enlarged Erie Canal prism used from 1845-1916. On it, observe Empire Lock #29 to Yankee Hill Lock #28 as well as canal walls along the prism and an abundance of nature that inhabits the abandoned artificial river.

EAGLE TRAIL -3.0 miles (white blazes)– This waterfront nature trail along the Mohawk River provides scenic views of the river along the historic towpath of the Erie Canal from Yankee Hill Lock to Port Jackson—the south side of Amsterdam. Use of the trail is provided by the Friends of Schoharie Crossing who have adopted this section of river front and the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Grounds open sunrise to sunset all year. Visitor Center is open from May 1st - Oct 31st: Wed - Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5

There is NO admission fee, however some fees apply for special events, educational programs, & tours.

We are a carry-in, carry-out site. Please don't litter. SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS & TENT RENTALS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE