

SEARCH FOR NEW KAYAK RACK LOCATIONS

P&H Facilities

At 541 Beach Drive the Kayak Ramp has 11 racks, of the “balanced cantilever” design, with an 8’x8’ footprint and 4 spaces each, for a total of 44 spaces. The property is constrained by the Rain Garden installed a few years ago, and there is no on-site parking. Launching is from a dock that has exceeded its useful life and needs to be replaced. There is no beach area for launching. Two additional cantilever racks could be added here, one on the left (North) side closest to the water, and one on the right (South) side, farthest from the water, for a total of 8 new spaces.

At 609 Beach Drive, the Beach Drive Boat Ramp has 6 balanced cantilever racks and two “box” type racks for a total of 44 spaces. Launching is from the concrete and gravel boat ramp; there is no beach area for launching. There is parking available with the purchase of a ramp key. With the recent removal of trees at the Boat Ramp, two additional balanced cantilever racks could be added next to the existing ones, on the sloping embankment, closer to the water, for an additional 8 spaces. One of the box racks could be extended to accommodate 2 more spaces. Farther up the property toward Beach Drive there is ample (45’) real estate, but this is not an optimal location for kayak racks. The farthest racks are already 150+ feet away from the water. New racks in this location would be farther away from the water, and not user friendly or convenient.

At 143 Bay View Drive East, the Sunset Drive Boat Ramp has 26 spaces on 4 box-type racks, and launching is from the concrete boat ramp. There is limited parking available with the purchase of a ramp key. But there is no area available to locate additional kayak racks at Sunset Drive.

Hillsmere Beach Locations

In my opinion, there are three excellent locations at the Hillsmere Beach for the installation of kayak racks. Parking is available, as are sandy beaches for launching.

East Side. On the East side there is an expansive area approximately 20’ x 35’ (up to 50’ with the transplant of one small tree) between the Buzzy Abbott stone marker and the living shoreline area. At the Far East corner is an excellent little sandy beach, approximately 10-15’ wide for launching. During this summer the Key School campers used this corner to land and launch their canoes paddled over from the Marina.

West Side. On the West side of the beach there are two excellent sites. The first is another expansive area, approximately 45’ x 10’ inside the walkway, adjacent to the parking lot.

In addition, two small, 8’x8’ balanced-cantilever racks could be installed under the pine trees near the water on the West side, each using only two posts. This would make use of currently unused space, and be very convenient to the water.

Lake Hillsmere

There has been some suggestion that a portion of the Lake Hillsmere shoreline, in the area between 602 and 610 Harbor Drive where there is chain link fencing, could be a kayak rack location. It is believed that property is owned by the Lake Hillsmere Association. Someone would need to research titles and plats, and perhaps have discussions with Lake Hillsmere Association about the feasibility of kayak racks in that area.