

Section Highlights

- *Those without their own boat can access the water through canoe/kayak rental, water taxi and tour boat.*
- *An extensive and connected network of transient slips is necessary to support water transportation and touring.*

Kentucky River Tour Boat and Canoe Rental

Frankfort residents and visitors should have multiple opportunities to recreate on the Kentucky River. As demonstrated in stakeholder interviews and community meetings, boaters are most passionate about protecting and improving the river. This passion should be shared with those who do not own their own vessels.

Paddlepalooza demonstrated the potential for expanded canoe and kayak activity on the Kentucky River. Canoe Kentucky and other canoe rental firms are considering testing the market through period canoe rentals in the Lock 4 upper pool. These tests will affirm the desire of Frankfort and Franklin County residents and visitors to directly experience the river.

The river can be used as a form of transportation. With enough intriguing destinations on the river with transient dock access, a public boat route can be established. A water taxi can ferry passengers from point to point. Alternatively, a tour boat can provide river passage for tourists, including interpretation of the river and sites seen from the river.

Potential locations for water taxi and tour boat transient docks include:

- Capital View Park dock, with access to the park including enhanced educational and recreational attractions
- Capitol Complex Parking Garage. Until the pedestrian bridge connects to Capital View Park, a boat dock can provide access to a proposed elevator in the parking garage and thus the State Capitol Complex.
- Public Landing at the Old Blanton Lumber site.
- Dock at the former Frankfort Lumber site, with access to Rebecca Ruth Candies.

- Frankfort Boat Club dock, with access to the restaurant, KSU downtown campus and historic Frankfort.
- Benson Creek Marina.
- River View Park, with access to Capital Plaza Complex and the Washington Street urban park.
- Lock Tender's House Complex (dock positioned far enough from the lock for safety).
- Buffalo Trace Distillery dock and associated riverfront park and recreation area.

While connections to destinations in the Lock 4 upper pool will be significant, the Buffalo Trace Distillery complex is a leading destination for Frankfort tourists and residents. Access to Buffalo Trace Distillery and the other riverfront destinations in Lock 3 upper pool requires continued maintenance and consistent operations of Lock 4. This plan recommends investment in maintenance and operations of Lock 4.