



Fort Lee Borough Living Guide

Version: April of 2023

I. Travel

Located on the banks of the Hudson River, connected to the George Washington Bridge, Fort Lee has historically been a military geographic key area.

There are multiple public transportation routes for commuting to downtown New York:

1. NJ Transit, Coach bus, jitney private minibus via the Washington Bridge to the New York 175th Street bus station, transferring to the subway. Board the bus under the overpass at the intersection of Lemoine Ave and NJ Turnpike.
2. NJ Transit buses 159R, 156R, and 158 travel south along River Road to the Port Authority Bus Terminal in Midtown Manhattan. The R line operates only during peak commuting hours, with the 156 and 159 local lines available at other times.
3. NJ Transit buses heading south to Port Imperial connect to ferries in Midtown or Downtown Manhattan.
4. NJ Transit buses heading south to Port Imperial connect to the light rail to Newport, where passengers can transfer to the PATH train to Downtown Manhattan.

- Passengers can purchase tickets and check route schedules using the NJ Transit App. Route schedules are also available on buses or at the Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York City, which includes route maps and boarding gate numbers.

- The Fort Lee City Government provides free shuttle bus services. For specific schedules, please visit <https://www.fortleenj.org/399/Free-Bus-Transportation>.

- a. Service is available from Fort Lee to Edgewater Ferry Landing for access to ferries to Midtown Manhattan.
- b. Fort Lee local loop service is available.
- c. Specialized routes for seniors to supermarkets, shopping malls, hospitals, and local clinics are available. Some routes require booking in advance.

For traveling to Flushing, passengers can take a Korean-operated minibus from 490 Main Street, Fort Lee. For more information, visit:

- <http://ktabus.com>
- For “Happy Journey” services, call 347-608-6487. Boarding location: **King Spa at 321 Commercial Ave, Palisades Park.** driver in advance for boarding from the schedule is as follows:
- (First

NJ)

快乐之旅时间表			
冲洗汉阳超市前出发			
(法拉盛) 上午		6:30	下午 1:00
		7:30	2:00
		9:00	4:00
		10:30	5:30
			6:30
在新泽西州国王桑拿前出发			
(NJ)		上午7时30分	下午 2:30
		8:30	3:30
		10:00	5:30
		11:30	7:00
			8:00
代表电话347-608-6487			



487 Main St
487 Main St, Fort Lee, NJ 07024
0.2 mi

Please contact the main street. The

table: Morning, Second table: afternoon) (Top: Flushing, Bottom:



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II. Government Services

Subscription Service:

- Simply register on [Nixle: Resident](#) to receive timely updates on important information from the city, including temporary road closures, accidents, and traffic.

News Media:

- [Fort Lee Today](#) on Facebook and Instagram regularly posts news from the city
- Official Website: <https://www.fortleenj.org> contains links to other platforms. The official website integrates news from various media sources.

Common Government Service Information:

1. Garbage collection is overseen by the [Public Works & Recycling \(DPW\)](#) Department, and outsourced to Interstate Waste Services (IWS).
 - Household garbage is collected twice a week, with schedules determined by region. See <https://www.fortleenj.org/DocumentCenter/View/1446/Solid-Waste-Pick-Up-Schedule-PDF> for more details.
 - On the second garbage collection day each week, up to two bulky items (furniture, mattresses) are accepted.
 - White goods (metal and appliances) require booking with Interstate Waste Services (IWS) at 866-342-5497 for collection.
 - Refer to the attached Recycling Guide or use the RecycleCoach app on your phone for recycling information. Recyclable garbage is collected in full every week on a fixed day per district. If major holidays are observed, collection will take place the following day.
 - Every Monday from mid-March to mid-November each year, the entire town collects grass, leaves, and branches.
 - Old electronic products, computers, and rechargeable batteries can be disposed of at 530 Jane Street, Monday through Friday between 7:00 AM and 3:30 PM (Does not accept large appliances such as air conditioners, vacuum cleaners, microwaves, etc.)
 - The city offers two free shredding services per year, and Bergen County hosts multiple hazardous waste recycling events.
2. Resident parking permits are managed by the [Parking Authority](#)
 - Street parking requires a permit, which needs to be renewed every two years. Notices are sent out before expiration.
 - [Zone A](#), near Main Street, permits only residents within the area to park between 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM.
3. Building permits for home renovations are handled by the [Building](#) department. Specific regulations are outlined in Chapter Four: “Regulations.”



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4. Parks, sports, recreational facilities, and course schedules are managed by the [Recreation Department](#).
 - The Recreation Center offers affordable extracurricular classes three seasons per year.
 - Permits are required for access to swimming pools and splash pads each year.
 - The Community Center also offers some fitness classes. Free membership cards are available with proof of address. Course schedules can be found on the official website at <https://www.fortleenj.org/230/Jack-Alter-Fort-Lee-Community-Center>.
 - Since 2019, the town has been promoting sustainable development, allowing residents to apply for plots in public gardens for vegetable cultivation. Details can be found at: <https://www.fortleenj.org/347/Sustainable-Fort-Lee>.
5. Senior services are managed by the [Senior Services & Human Services](#) Department.
 - The Fort Lee Senior Center offers a variety of activities. The eligibility criteria include being over 55 years old and being a resident of Fort Lee, regardless of nationality, with an annual fee of \$20. Regular activities include fitness, entertainment, education, and health management.
 - Residents of Bergen County aged 60 and above can participate in free group meals daily, with reservations and participation in suitable volunteer services required. Turkey dinner sets are delivered to seniors' homes on Thanksgiving.
 - There is a WeChat group for town seniors; please contact the director of the Fort Lee Chinese-American Community Association to join.
 - Starting from the end of February 2023, the Fort Lee Chinese-American Community Association has secured the opportunity for seniors to use the Recreation Center every Tuesday morning from 10 am to 12 pm. Chinese seniors have spontaneously organized various cultural and recreational activities, including dance, vocal music, and English learning.
6. The Library:
 - Museum passes are available for borrowing at <https://fortleelibrary.org/borrowing/museum-passes/>, including passes to art museums such as the Guggenheim, MoMA, Storm King Art Center, and The Frick Collection.
 - Chinese books can be found by entering the keyword "Chinese" or the phonetic spelling of the book title.
 - A detailed introduction to the library's collection and services can be found in this [WeChat public account article](#).
7. The police department, in addition to its duties of maintaining public order, enforcing laws, and handling cases, provides the following convenient services:
 - Residents can notify the police department before going on vacation, and officers will visit your home at least twice a day to ensure there are no problems. In case of a burglary, residents should report it as soon as possible, protect the scene, gather evidence, monitor footage, and inform the insurance company.
 - In emergencies where car or house doors cannot be opened, the police can assist with unlocking them.



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8. Town Events:

- Major annual events include Memorial Day parades, Christmas tree lighting ceremonies, library Chinese New Year celebrations, and artillery performances on the day after Independence Day. During the summer, there are also a series of band performances, outdoor movies, and summer night-out events.
- The census is conducted every ten years, and the results directly affect the budget of each district. (Population numbers typically correlate with funding)
- Citizens must participate in the November elections every year, where positions up for election vary each time.

9. Environmental Protection

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection reminds residents to protect water resources from pollution through small actions. Fort Lee also has related regulations:

- Maintaining the street drainage system's cleanliness
- Not feeding wildlife
- Cleaning up pet waste in public places
- Controlling the use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Recycling hazardous substances through dedicated channels.

10. Sustainable Living (<https://www.fortleenj.org/347/Sustainable-Fort-Lee>)

- Fort Lee has a Green Team dedicated to promoting sustainable lifestyles and encouraging citizen participation in supporting environmental conservation. Recent related services include:

- Community gardens where residents can reserve a small plot to plant flowers, grass, and vegetables. Currently, two gardens are fully booked, while the construction of a third garden is underway.
- Medication recycling at large event venues and the police station are on an ongoing basis.
- Pet/dog training offered at the Fort Lee Dog Park takes place every Saturday at 11:00 AM.

11. Complaints and Suggestions

If there are any grievances, individuals can first approach departmental leaders to address the issues. If the problem remains unresolved, they can then contact the Municipal Office or reach out to the Fort Lee Chinese-American Community Association (FLCACA). **Government contact information is provided in the final chapter.**

12. Special Department

- Starting from March 2023, Congressman Gottheimer will be offering services on the second floor of the City Hall every Tuesday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. There will be commissioners available to answer and assist with any federal government-related inquiries, including social security, health insurance, taxation, infrastructure, funding, and more.

III. Education



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1. Public Schools

- New student registration usually begins around springtime every year, with the age cutoff being September 30th. Specific information is available on the [Board of Education](#) website.
- Elementary schools are divided into zones based on address, and the education department sometimes conducts random checks and home visits to verify addresses.
- Starting from 7th grade, students may be placed in honors classes for Math and English.

2. Bergen County Magnet Schools

Each school below conducts its own entrance exam, admitting around a dozen students from the city each year. The specific quotes are not publicly disclosed but are primarily determined by the funds provided by the city based on students' needs.

- Bergen Academy
- Bergen County Technical Schools
- Academies at Englewood
- Other schools listed [here](#)

3. Private Schools

- Dwight-Englewood School is a prestigious private institution with high tuition fees and a strong emphasis on humanities and arts disciplines.
- The following private schools offer relatively affordable tuition:
 - The Elisabeth Morrow School (pre-k through 8th)
 - Christ the Teacher Academy (pre-k through 8th)
 - Academy of Holy Angels (6th -12th)

4. Outside-of-school / Extracurricular Activities

- The Recreation Center offers affordable classes of interest throughout the year for both adults and teenagers
- The Fort Lee Community Center also provides fitness courses
- The [Girls Scouts](#) aim to foster independence and various life skills in girls.
- Cub Scouts, a junior branch of the Boy Scouts, is open to boys and girls in grades K-5, offering a range of crafts and outdoor activities. For registration, contact damee100@gmail.com
- More organizations can be found here: [Camps Near Fort Lee](#)

Reminder: Children under six have limited skill development capabilities. It is advisable to add only one new activity per season, preferably one that interests parents as well. Parents are the best mentors; they can teach for a while before enrolling in classes or hiring coaches. Weekend communication and interaction with family are essential parts of maintaining healthy family relationships.

5. Tutoring Courses

- Each school offers after-school enrichment programs
- There are also lunchtime tutoring classes outside of school.
- For instance, speaking Chinese regularly helps boost children's confidence and sense of ethnic identity, where some major education institutions include:



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- The largest Chinese school nearby is the Hua Xia Bergen Chinese School ([华夏博根中文学校](#)), which also offers non-Chinese tutoring classes. Apart from summer vacation, classes are held every weekend (on Sundays).
- Church-run Chinese schools
- Small groups teaching organized by families
- Online courses offered by U.S. institutions
- Remote online teaching provided by domestic institutions

6. Board of Education

The [Board of Education](#) is an administrative body independent of the city government. Major decisions are made collectively by elected representatives of the public and do not hold regular office hours. Bi-weekly open meetings are held to help parents understand recent decisions and raise concerns. Meeting dates and records are published on the website: <https://www.flboe.com/board-of-ed>. It is advisable to participate in these meetings to stay informed about the school district's current status, both online and offline. Meetings usually take place at the intermediate school cafe.

IV. Regulations

Every detail matters. Whether it's regarding wildlife, property renovations, neighborhood disputes, or safeguarding rights, understanding regulations is paramount. All municipal regulations can be accessed on this website: <https://ecode360.com/FO1867>

- Simply enter a keyword at the top to search for relevant sections. For instance, searching "animal" will provide you with regulations prohibiting the feeding of wildlife
- In cases of infringement, discrimination, bias, or verbal conflicts, it is imperative to gather detailed evidence and report immediately.

V. Chinese Language Services Resources

Nearby Institutions offering Chinese language services include:

1. Library: Grant, librarian, and board member of the Fort Lee Chinese Association
2. Some elderly Chinese individuals participate in activities at the Fort Lee Senior Center
3. Medical information can be obtained through the Holy Name Service hotline at 201-833-3388.

VI. Postal Services

- USPS will occasionally deliver packages to the wrong address. The quickest method to resolve this is to call the transit center inquiry line at 201-567-2739.
- Nearby Chinese courier companies: Shentong Express in Hackensack provides doorstep pickup services.



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VII. Surrounding Landscapes

Biking and walking:

- Fort Lee: Abbott Boulevard; Henry Hudson Drive; Washington Bridge (Note: Cyclists cannot directly access the riverside bike path after reaching New York)
- Surrounding areas: Overpeck County Park in Leonia; James J. Braddock North Hudson County Park in Fairview; Saddle River County Park

Places suitable for children to play can be found in [Great Places for Little Kids](#).

VIII. Emergency Contacts

In case of an emergency (requiring the police or the ambulance), please dial 911 directly. For the main department phone numbers, you can refer to the webpage at:

<https://www.fortleenj.org/directory.aspx?DID=>

Department	Contact / Phone #	Main Contact - Email	Department	Contact / Phone #	Main Contact - Email
Borough Office Main Line	201 592-3500		Board of Education	201 585-4612	
Borough Administrator	201 592-3500x1500	a-restaino@fortleenj.org	School #1	201 585-4620	
Borough Clerk	201 592-3500x1505	e-rosario@fortleenj.org	School #2	201 585-4630	
Senior Center	201 592-3500x1300	x1301 c-skarimbass@fortleenj.org	School #3	201 585-4640	
Building Department	201 592-3500x1503	x1025 b-ribarro@fortleenj.org	School #4	201 585-4650	
Health Department	201 592-3500x1510		Intermediate School, Middle School (5-8th grade)	201 585-4660	
Fire Department	201 592-3584	d-sauvageot@fortleenj.org	Fort Lee Public Library	201 592-3614	wei.guan@fortlee.bccls.org
Mayor	201 592-3500x1003	mayor@fortleenj.org	Community Center	201 592-4699	c-westeyn@fortleenj.org



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Department	Contact / Phone #	Main Contact - Email	Department	Contact / Phone #	Main Contact - Email
Parking Authority	201 592-3500x1518	gloriag@fortleeepa.org	Recreation Center	201 592-3612	b-yeandle@fortleeenj.org
Office of Emergency Management	201 592-3700x1512 Or 911				
Police Department	201 592-3700	report@fortleepolice.org			
Municipal Court	201 592-3500x1509				
Report an outage or downed power line	1-800-436-7734				

Appendix: Recycling Guidelines

PLEASE DO NOT PUT PLASTIC BAGS IN RECYCLING BINS.



RECYCLE:	DO NOT RECYCLE:
<p>Paper and Cardboard EMPTY, FLATTEN AND FOLD</p>  <p>Plastic Bottles and Food Containers ♻️ 1 ♻️ 2 & ♻️ 5 Empty and rinse containers. No loose caps.</p>  <p>Glass Bottles and Jars Labels are okay! No caps or lids.</p>  <p>Metal CANS Only Remove labels on aluminum cans.</p>  <p>Cartons</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">SET RECYCLING OUT THE NIGHT BEFORE</p> 	<p>NO shredded paper</p> <p>NO Styrofoam</p> <p>NO hoses or hangers</p> <p>NO hardback books, food soiled, or frozen food boxes</p> <p>NO foil items, bulbs, cookware, or window glass</p> <p>NO motor oil, batteries, or hazardous items</p> <p>NO plastic with a ♻️ 3 ♻️ 4 ♻️ 6 or ♻️ 7</p> <p>NO plastic bags, wrap, plastic envelopes, or shipping packaging</p> <p>NO plant pots, straws, trays, lids, cups, or loose caps</p> <p>NEVER place leaves in plastic bags; only place in paper lawn & leaf bags!</p> <p>NEVER put syringes in recycling!</p>   

Learn more at www.fortleenj.org/159/Department-of-Public-Works-Recycling-DPW