

BEFORE THE MAST, INC.
5 South Front Street
Elizabethport, NJ 07206
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"The Sea Builds Integrity"

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Before the Mast was started in 1995 as a community-based non-profit organization to restore universal access onto our urban waterways. By contrast to suburbs, waterways are immediate to most cities and towns. This urban advantage of natural outdoor space was made good use of through the first half of the 20th century. Since then however, it has not been largely used, due to loss of ready and affordable access onto these inner-city rivers and bays. To restore public access in Elizabethport, *Before The Mast* is working with other local youth groups in our waterfront neighborhood to establish the infrastructure and institutions for "community boating." That is local, affordable boating especially geared to the needs of young people. *Before The Mast* is trying to persuade city agencies as well as the private sector to donate waterfront space for public boating. Its volunteers, largely youngsters, are planning to build our own Whitehall rowing/sailing gig - the "Admiral Halsey" - for public use at our community boathouse. Some gigs have been on loan to us from other boathouses these past years, enabling us to compete in the revival of the "American Star" rowing race held every second week in December. Together with Elizabethport's Millennium Mentorship program, our initiatives - in the spirit of having fun - are gradually bringing young urbanites back to full enjoyment of this major urban resource "our public waterways."