



## THE ASSABET RIVER

"A more lovely stream than this," Nathaniel Hawthorne said of the Assabet, "has never flowed on earth, except to lave the interior regions of the poet's imagination." Glimpses of the region's early industrial past dot the river and remote sections teem with wildlife. In 1999, the last four miles of the Assabet were designated under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers program.

The Assabet River begins in Westborough, flowing north for 31 miles until it joins the Sudbury River in Concord to form the Concord River, which flows north to join the Merrimack River in Lowell. The river is home to abundant wildlife, including bald eagles, great blue herons, river otters, painted turtles, largemouth bass and many other species of fish.

The Assabet offers easy and interesting paddles for the beginning boater. There are also short sections of whitewater in the spring. The upper sections of the Assabet make beautiful short paddles in spring and fall; in the summer they can be very shallow.



## SUGGESTED TRIPS

### Trip 1 7 to 10

#### Robin Hill St., Marlborough to Hudson Center

This lovely five-mile paddle takes you through narrow, leafy sections, out into open meadows and back through the forest before arriving in downtown Hudson.

### Trip 2 13 to 16

#### Gleasondale, Stow to Ice House Landing, Maynard

A scenic and serene five-mile paddle meandering through broad open vistas with abundant wildlife.

### Trip 3 19 to 22

#### Damonmill to Lowell Road, Concord

A four-mile paddle down the federally-designated Wild & Scenic section of the Assabet; leafy canopies overhead and historic sites lend this stretch an intimate charm. Put in at Pine Street to avoid possible downed trees.

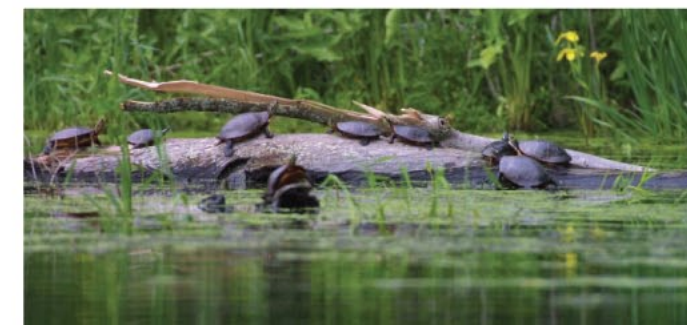
Sudbury State Forest and Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge across Sudbury Road.

### F Warner's Pond, Commonwealth Avenue, West Concord

Access: dirt road at Warner's Pond sign; parking lot and dirt ramp. Parking: 10 cars in lot. The pond is owned by the Town of Concord except Scout Island, which is owned by the Boy Scouts of America.

### G South Bridge Boat House, 496 Main Street, Concord

South Bridge Boat House on the Sudbury River rents canoes and kayaks. No private boat access.



### 20 Pine Street Bridge, West Concord

Mile 28.0 Access: path just upstream of bridge. Parking: 5 cars in grassy area.

### 21 West Concord, Main Street (Rte 62)

Mile 28.5 Access: at end of parking lot at Dino's Pizzeria. Parking: 2 designated spaces. Easy access to a charming stretch with leafy canopy.

### 22 Lowell Road Landing, Concord River, Concord

Mile 31.9 Access: boat ramp, trailer accessible. Parking: along roadside. Old Calf Pasture conservation land nearby and a short paddle to historic North Bridge and the Old Manse. Landing is just downstream of the confluence of the Assabet and Sudbury Rivers, forming the Concord River.

### E Lake Boon, Sudbury Road, Stow

Access: dirt ramp at Dawes Lot conservation area. Parking: 2-3 cars at road edge. Easy access to hiking trails in the Marlborough-

### 17 Powdermill Dam, Old High Street, Acton

Mile 25.3 Access: short path to stepping stones. Parking: 3 cars roadside just before dam. End of impoundment created by Powdermill Dam. Short trip upstream into Maynard.

### 18 Acton Canoe Launch, Powder Mill Road (Rte 62), Acton

Mile 25.5 Access: unpaved parking area on south side of river with Acton Canoe Launch sign. Parking: 6 cars. Scenic trip downstream into Concord. Passing the breached Damonmill dam in West Concord can be hazardous.

### 19 Main Street, opposite Damonmill Square, West Concord

Mile 27.3 Access: grassy path with wooden fence next to Westvale Meadow condos. Parking: 4 cars. Stay outside fence along edge of field when going down slope to put-in at the mill's old bypass reach. The federally-designated Wild & Scenic River starts 1,000 feet below Damonmill Dam. Very scenic 4-mile trip downstream to Lowell Road Landing.

### 14 Sudbury Road, Stow

Mile 20.3 Access: east side of bridge at "Maguzu's Landing"; stone steps to river. Parking: 4 cars east side, 2 cars west side, more at Assabet River Rail Trail. Very scenic and broad section, renowned for fishing. Near Honey Pot Hill Orchards, intersects with Track Road, which will be part of the Assabet River Rail Trail.

### 15 White Pond Road, Stow/Maynard

Mile 22.4 Access: northwest side of bridge, dirt ramp. Parking: 6 cars roadside. Wide impoundment created by Ben Smith Dam. Track Road and Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge with hiking and biking trails on east side of river.

### 16 Ice House Landing, Winter Street, Maynard

Mile 22.6 Access: level gravel path from near DPW Barn; rocky and muddy at put-in. Parking: 3-6 cars in lot at DPW, and along Winter St. Picnic area, historic display, and connection with Track Road. Very scenic trip upstream into Stow.

### 11 Cellucci Skate and Splash Park, Houghton Street, Hudson

Mile 13.9 Access: short trail from parking lot off Houghton Street. Parking: 65 spaces. Danforth Brook enters the Assabet here. The Assabet River Rail Trail crosses Broad Street, just east of this site.

### 12 Cox Street, Hudson

Mile 15.6 Access: short trail from parking on east side of bridge. Parking: 2-3 cars roadside. Very scenic 4-mile round trip downstream to the Gleasondale dam in Stow. Note: no warning of the dam and no public take-out upstream of dam.

### 13 Gleasondale (downstream), Gleasondale Rd/Rte 62, Stow

Mile 17.8 Access: under Rte. 62 bridge, access by path at downstream, east side. Parking: 2 cars roadside or grassy lot bounded by chain link fence across road. Stay on the trail next to the road and put in under the bridge.