

Assabet River

Recreation Guide



Access site	Open space
Caution	Hiking trail nearby
Carry-in access	Bicycle trail nearby
Boat ramp	Biking trail
Dam	Walking trail
Wetland	

0 1 Mile

1 Assabet Reservoir (Mill Pond), Mill Road, Westborough



Access: paved boat ramp off Mill Road. Parking: 5 cars in lot, plus roadside. The reservoir is the headwaters of the Assabet River, created in 1968 for flood control and wildlife recreation. Westborough's Charm Bracelet and other connecting trails run around much of the pond.

2 Assabet Reservoir (Mill Pond), Arch Street, Westborough



Access: small trail off of Arch Street just south of RR bridge. Parking: 7 cars, roadside. Small channel to the main reservoir. Shallow in the summer.

3 Oak Bluffs, Nipmuck Drive, Westborough



Mile 2.0
Access: path by gate at end of cul-de-sac. Parking: 3 cars. Westborough Community Land Trust's Oak Bluffs property abuts the river; the trail is about 600 feet from parking to river.

4 Hudson Street, Northborough



Mile 6.3
Access: from paved footpath under aqueduct or next to parking up-

stream of aqueduct. Parking: 2 cars roadside. Very scenic with a short paddle upstream, bounded by old mill dams. Easy access to trails in the Edmund Hill Woods area, just to the west of Hudson Street.

5 Yellick Conservation Area, Hudson Street, Northborough



Mile 6.5
Access: small trail off lot. Parking: 20 cars in lot. Natural stream with riffles, meanders through forest and wetlands downstream. Shallow at low flows. "Coyote Trail" connects to Boundary Street and Route 20.

6 Boundary Street, Northborough/Marlborough



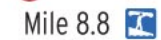
Mile 7.6
Access: Southwest corner of bridge. Parking: 2 cars for loading, 10 cars in lot east of bridge at trail head. Natural stream meanders through forest and wetlands upstream and downstream. Shallow at low flows.

7 Robin Hill Street (downstream of dam), Marlborough



Mile 8.1
Access: off Robin Hill St. just west of the bridge. Short, gentle path at kiosk, but a steep muddy bank. Parking: 6 cars in lot.

8 Donald Lynch Boulevard, Marlborough



Mile 8.8
Access: path off the northeast corner of the parking lot behind shopping center at 739 Donald Lynch Boulevard (Shops at the Pond). Stone steps to river. Parking: many cars.

9 Riverside Park, Chapin Road, Hudson



Mile 12.2
Access: entrance with stone pillars near ball fields. Boat drop-off 75 feet from river. Parking: 8 cars in lot. A scenic and quiet stretch of river.

10 Hudson Library, Rte 85/62, Hudson



Mile 13.7
Access: short, steep path from back left corner of parking lot behind library. Parking: 10 cars in right corner of lot. Paddle upstream past Riverside Park, downstream limited by dam.

A Lake Chauncy, Westborough



Access: gravel ramp off Chauncy Street. Parking: 10-15 cars. Lake Chauncy, a natural Great Pond, is bordered by the old Westborough

State Hospital land (now town-owned) and the Westborough Wildlife Management Area.

B Little Chauncy Pond, Northborough



Access: dirt road off of Lyman Street. Parking: 12 cars, but can be muddy. The dirt ramp is suitable only for small boats and canoes, and is part of the Westborough Wildlife Management Area. Tranquil fishing.

C Bartlett Pond, Northborough



Access: paved road off Lyman Street at sign for Watson Park. Parking: 10 cars. Paved ramp suitable for small boats and canoes.

D Fort Meadow Reservoir, Bolton Street (Rte 85), Marlborough



Access: short trails to Fort Meadow Reservoir from parking lot for "The Grove." Parking: 20 cars in parking area. Short hiking trails through the conservation area.

RIVER SAFETY

Although most of the Assabet River flows gently, please be aware that dams, high water (and low bridges), downed trees, and seasonal rapids can pose serious hazards to boaters. Please be careful and wear a life jacket. You can check with OARS if unsure of the conditions.

THANK YOU PROJECT SPONSORS!

Fields Pond Foundation



And OARS volunteers and members

OARS - FOR THE RIVERS

OARS is the non-profit watershed association for the Assabet, Sudbury and Concord Rivers, just 20 miles west of Boston, Mass. Our mission is to protect, preserve and enhance the natural and recreational features of these three rivers, their tributaries and watersheds. Founded in 1986, OARS uses science-based advocacy, education and recreation to work to restore the health of the rivers. We have accomplished a great deal and we depend on your support to continue protecting these important resources.



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To learn more:
www.oars3rivers.org
or (978) 369-3956



FOR THE ASSABET SUDBURY & CONCORD RIVERS
23 Bradford Street, Concord, MA 01742



FOR THE ASSABET SUDBURY & CONCORD RIVERS



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.



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.

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.

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.

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-