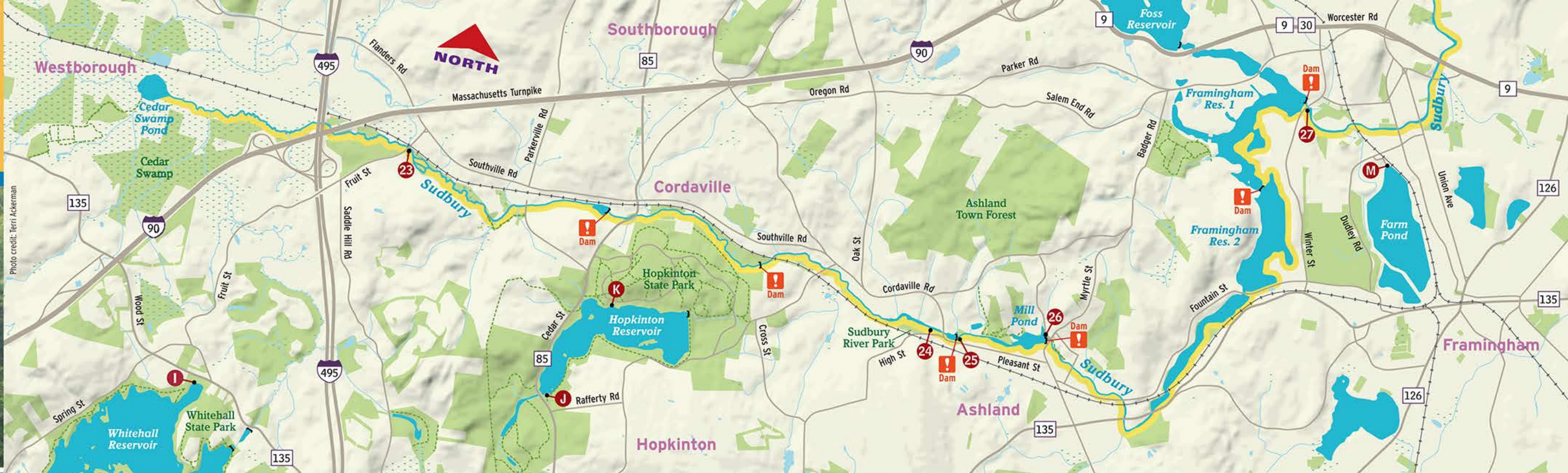



# Sudbury River

Recreation Guide





## 23 Fruit Street, Hopkinton

Mile Sudbury 1.7  



Access: Dirt road off Fruit Street just left of the Southborough Rod & Gun entrance. Trips upstream to Cedar Swamp are possible in spring flows. Parking: 6+ cars near access road end.

## 24 High Street, Ashland

Mile Sudbury 5.6  



Access: From parking lot for Gryncel Park ball fields off High Street across from the Ashland MBTA. Short trips upstream. Station. Parking: 20+ in Ashland MBTA lot.

## 25 Marathon Park, Pleasant Street, Ashland

Mile Sudbury 5.7  


Access: From the Marathon Park off Pleasant Street. Car access poor. Good upstream destination from Mill Pond Park; portage around small dam for further upstream access. Parking: paid parking available nearby at Ashland MBTA lot.

## 26 Mill Pond Park, Pine Hill Road, Ashland

Mile Sudbury 6.5  

Access: From parking lot for Mill Pond Park at Myrtle Street dam. Short upstream trips. Picnic benches. Parking: 8 - 10 cars in gravel lot.

## 27 Winter Street, Framingham

Mile Sudbury 10.3 

Access: from Sudbury aqueduct trail downstream of Winter Street dam. The aqueduct trail is open from Winter Street to Dudley Street. Parking: no parking by the dam, but there is on-street parking on side streets.

## 1 Whitehall State Park, Wood Street (Rte 135), Hopkinton

Access: Hopkinton State Park boat ramp, off Rte 135. Scenic Whitehall Reservoir with 6.2-mile loop trail. Parking: 50-car lot. Note: see on-line map for Pond Street access.

## J Hopkinton Reservoir, Rafferty Road, Hopkinton

Access: access road off Rafferty Road near corner of Rte 85. Short carry in. South end of the popular Hopkinton State Park. Parking: 6 cars.

## K Hopkinton State Park, Cedar Street (Rte 85), Hopkinton

Access: main entrance to Hopkinton State Park off Rte 85. Canoe/kayak rentals available ([www.boatinginboston.com](http://www.boatinginboston.com)). Ten miles of hiking trails, lifeguarded swimming areas in season.

## M Farm Pond, Lakeview Avenue, Framingham

Access: gravel ramp at the end of Lakeview Avenue. Parking: 10 cars.



Photo credit: Eric Scaccia

## SUGGESTED TRIPS

**Trip 1** upstream from 23 (3.5 miles roundtrip)












**Fruit Street to Cedar Swamp Pond, Westborough**  
This paddle is best attempted in the spring. With perseverance you will wend your way upstream, through hairpin turns, to reach the unspoiled headwaters of the Sudbury River, Cedar Swamp Pond. Cedar Swamp is the state's first designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

**Trip 2** upstream from 26 (4.2 miles roundtrip)

**Mill Pond Park to Chattanooga Dam, Ashland**  
A short exploration is possible upstream from the put-in at Mill Pond Park. Portage at the dam at Marathon Park, and continue upstream to the very pretty breached dam at the historic Chattanooga Mills. Narrow sections and downed trees.

**Trip 3** 27 to 29 (4.5 miles)

**Winter St. to Centennial Drive, Framingham**  
Below the Framingham Reservoirs, the river winds through Framingham, alongside Route 90, and into the historic Saxonville impoundment. Portage the Fenwick St. dam at about 2.5 miles.

 Access site	 Hiking trail nearby
 Caution	 Bicycle trail nearby
 Carry-in access	 Boat rental nearby
 Boat ramp	 Open space
 Landing	 Bike trail / Hiking trail
 Dam	0 1 Mile

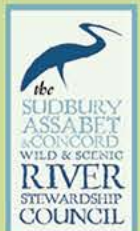
## RIVER SAFETY

Although most of the Sudbury River flows gently, be aware that dams, high water (and low bridges), downed trees, and seasonal rapids can pose serious hazards. Please be careful and wear a life jacket.

## 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 restore the health of the rivers. We have accomplished a great deal and we depend on your support to continue protecting these important resources.

More details and additional access points:  
[www.oars3rivers.org](http://www.oars3rivers.org) or (978) 369-3956

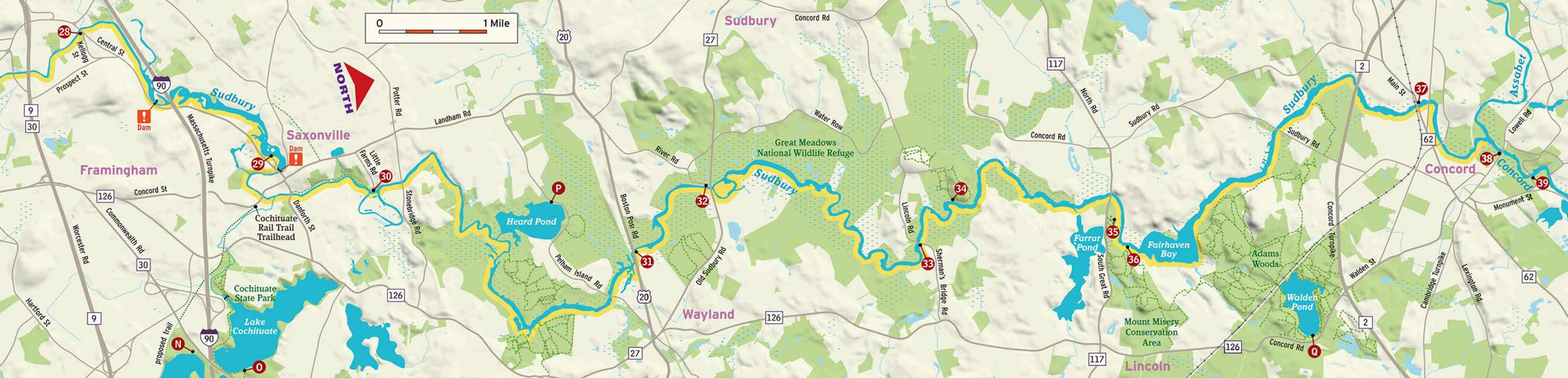
**OARS**

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



**OARS**

FOR THE ASSABET SUDBURY & CONCORD RIVERS



## THE SUDBURY RIVER

“A river flowing in lazy serpentine through a land bordered by wide green floodplains.” (Zwinger & Teale, 1982) The Sudbury River is best known for the wet meadows – Wayland Meadows, Sudbury Meadows, Sedge Meadows – through which it flows. Once prized by settlers for their wild hay, the meadows are now protected as part of the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and are valuable habitat for nesting, resting, and feeding for more than 220 species of birds.

The Sudbury rises from Cedar Swamp in Westborough and flows northeast, tumbling over a series of old mill dams, passing through busy Framingham, winding among the Great Meadows to join the Assabet River in Concord. Upper sections of the river make interesting short explorations, while the wide lower sections offer beautiful slow paddles – with time for birding and photography. As of 2016, the Framingham Reservoirs, a former Boston water supply, are not open for boating.

The Sudbury is the second in OARS’ series of recreational maps. Sites 1–22 and A–G can be found on the Assabet map and at [www.oars3rivers.org](http://www.oars3rivers.org).

## SUGGESTED TRIPS

**Trip 4** 30 to 33 (8 miles)

**Little Farms Road to Sherman’s Bridge Road, Sudbury**  
From the leafy cover of its middle reaches this Wild & Scenic River broadens to the scenic Great Meadows passing the natural Oxbow and skirting the historic Stone’s Bridge. The upper section can be shallow; the lower is an easy paddle.

**Trip 5** 33 to 38 (8 miles)

**Sherman’s Bridge Road, Sudbury to Lowell Road, Concord**  
A gentle paddle from historic Sherman’s Bridge, past the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge headquarters, through Fairhaven Bay, and onto the Concord River. Lots of options for shorter trips.

**Trip 6** from 38 (up to 5 miles)

**Three-river exploration from Lowell Road, Concord**  
An easy afternoon paddle to explore all three Wild & Scenic Rivers. The historic North Bridge is 0.3 miles downstream on the Concord. Upstream, the Assabet runs under the shade of the leaning hemlocks.

- 28 Kellogg Street, Framingham**  
Mile Sudbury 12.2   
Access: from Riverside Park near the corner of Kellogg and Central Street. Parking: 6 cars in gravel lot.
- 29 Centennial Place, Framingham**  
Mile Sudbury 14.8   
Access: from the end of Centennial Place; Sudbury Valley Trustees conservation land. This is good access to the impoundment upstream of the historic Saxonville dam. The Saxonville dam is the downstream-most dam on the Sudbury. Parking: 2-3 cars at end of road.
- 30 Little Farms Road, Framingham**  
Mile Sudbury 16.1   
Access: from the end of Little Farms Road. This section is shallow, but passable at lower summer flows. The mouth of a natural oxbow of the river is across the river from the access; at higher flows it is possible to paddle the mile-long oxbow. The federally-designated Wild & Scenic River starts upstream at the Danforth Street bridge. Parking: 8-10 cars.

- 31 Route 20, Wayland**  
Mile Sudbury 20.3   
Access: best gravel access ramp on the river, north-east side of Route 20. Downstream of here the river enters a long section surrounded by the wide floodplains of the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Parking: 6-8 cars along the access road.
- 32 River Road, Wayland**  
Mile Sudbury 21.3   
Access: rough gravel ramp at the side of River Road. This access is within the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Parking: 6-8 cars roadside.
- 33 Sherman’s Bridge Road, Wayland/Sudbury**  
Mile Sudbury 24.0   
Access: gravel ramp off Sherman Bridge Road, east side of the bridge. Parking: 3-4 cars in the gravel pull-out.
- 34 Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge HQ, Weir Hill Road, Sudbury**  
Mile Sudbury 24.6

- Access: short trail from the Great Meadows NWR parking lots. Good place to pull out to walk the trails around the refuge. Parking: 30 cars in lot.
- 35 South Great Road (Rte 117), Lincoln**  
Mile Sudbury 26.5   
Access: short trail from parking lot on Rte 117, 0.2 miles east of the bridge. A small, cut channel leads to the river. Walking trails to Lincoln’s Mount Misery Conservation Area connect here. Parking: 10 cars in lot.
- 36 Mount Misery Landing, Lincoln**  
Mile Sudbury 26.7   
Access: good landing spot for a picnic or walk of the trails to Mount Misery. No road access.
- 37 South Bridge Boat House, 496 Main Street, Concord**  
Mile Sudbury 30.1   
South Bridge Boat House ([www.southbridgeboathouse.com](http://www.southbridgeboathouse.com)) rents canoes and kayaks. No private boat access. Parking: roadside (check with the Boat House).

- 38 Lowell Road Landing, Concord River, Concord**  
Mile Concord 0.1   
Access: boat ramp off Lowell Road at the Old Calf Pasture. Parking: roadside parking. Just upstream, at the confluence of the rivers, Egg Rock is inscribed to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Concord.
- 39 North Bridge, Concord River, Monument Road, Concord**  
Mile Concord 0.5   
Access: good landing just downstream of the bridge to explore the Minute Man National Historical Park.
- N Lake Cochituate State Park, Commonwealth Rd. (Rte 30), Natick**  
   
Access: State Park main entrance off Rte 30 east of intersection with Speen St. Access to Lake Cochituate middle lake, canoe and kayak rental ([www.boatinginboston.com](http://www.boatinginboston.com)), swimming beach. Parking: lots.

- O Lake Cochituate, Commonwealth Rd. (Rte 30), Wayland**  
   
Access: access road for Cochituate State Park north lake near junction of Rte 30 and Main Ave. Close to the Wayland Town Beach. Parking: 15 cars in lot.
- P Heard Pond, Pelham Island Road, Wayland**  
   
Access: from the side of Pelham Island Road. Heard Pond is almost completely surrounded by the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and connected to the Sudbury River at flood flows. Parking: 6 cars along the roadside.
- Q Walden Pond, Concord Road, (Rte 126), Lincoln**  
   
Access: Walden Pond State Park boat ramp off Concord Road. The ever-popular Walden Pond is a beautiful paddle with fall colors. Access to hiking trail system and beach. Parking: 8 cars. Additional parking in the main lot.