

June is National Rivers Month



ResponsibleWorld

Our rivers are truly natural treasures, offering recreation, wildlife viewing, ecosystem study, or peaceful contemplation. They are also a necessary source of water for many of our communities. There are three rivers within our surrounding communities: the Merrimack, the Shawsheen and the Spicket. This guide provides concrete suggestions as to how best to enjoy our rivers and riverways, or how to get involved with cleaning and maintaining various parts of the river.

If you would like to volunteer your time to help clean up your local river or get involved in other ways, please contact these organizations:

Merrimack River: Merrimack River Watershed Council

Shawsheen River: Shawsheen River Watershed Association

Spicket River: Groundwork Lawrence

(978) 681-5777; www.merrimack.org

(978) 851-9505; www.shawsheen.org

(978) 974-0770; www.groundworklawrence.org



Featured Organization: **Groundwork Lawrence** The Spicket River is the sole natural feature in North Lawrence, yet it is almost invisible to the surrounding community, and often inaccessible. Groundwork Lawrence is developing a community-based plan to clean up and reclaim the river as an open space and recreational resource. This involves transforming old industrial sites along the river's edge into public parks, and creating a continuous Greenway that links residential neighborhoods with existing city parks, commercial districts and schools. **Groundwork Green Team** The Groundwork Green Team is a new program beginning this summer for middle and high school students to learn about horticulture and environmental issues, and to become environmental champions within their neighborhoods and schools. The pilot program involves students from the Lawrence Family Development Charter School working twice per week during the summer on environmental improvement projects in the city.

Help Contribute to the Groundwork Green Team: (978) 974-0770



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Try Boating on the Merrimack

Greater Lawrence Community Boating Program The Greater Lawrence Community Boating Program, Inc., is committed to providing safe, affordable boating for all Merrimack Valley residents. Learn to sail, canoe, kayak, row, or windsurf on the Merrimack River. Individual, family, youth, senior and reduced rate programs are available. Located off River Road, at Eaton St., in Lawrence. Open 7 days a week, 8 am to 8 pm throughout the Summer. (978) 681-8675 www.cityoflawrence.com/recreation/boatingprogram.asp.

Try Hiking Trails & Parks Along the River Banks

Shawsheen River Reservation: Andover In Andover, a scenic 1.5 mile trail is accessible at both ends; Dale St. or Central St. Maps available in local stores ("AVIS Guide to Walks in Andover"), or contact Andover Village Improvement Society at www.avisandover.org.

Shawsheen River Path: North Andover In North Andover, the Shawsheen River Path is accessible from Green St. (off Waverly Road), and continues until North Andover Plaza/Route 114.

Merrimack River Trail: Deer Jump Reservation, Andover In Andover, a wonderful 2.5 mile trail is accessible off River Road at numerous points, including Launching Road, Fossen Way, Inwood Lane and Nollet Drive. Same map as Shawsheen River Reservation.

East Andover Trail Another 2.9 miles of trail along the Merrimack River to the Lawrence City Line. Accessible off River Road at Brundett Ave., Andover Marriott or Lawrence Vocational Technical School.

Den Rock Park, Lawrence/North Andover A heavily wooded park, featuring rock climbing, mountain biking, nature walks and hiking trails, including a trail alongside the Shawsheen River. Located on Route 114 in Lawrence, across from the North Andover Mall.

Riverfront State Park, Lawrence Located near Lawrence Community Boating, Riverfront Park makes for a great family spot. Paved trails for rollerblades or bikes, kids' playground, shaded picnic groves and a great view of the city and river. River Road to Eaton St. to Everett St.

Pemberton Park, Lawrence Includes walking trails with great views of the Merrimack River, and open lawn for games and picnics.

4th Annual Kite Festival June 9th, 1pm-5pm; Located on the West Island, between Route 114 and Broadway.

Try Canoeing or Kayaking

Both the Shawsheen and Merrimack are great for canoeing and kayaking, offering wonderful views, abundant wildlife and easy paddling.

Please be sure you know how to swim and how to safely operate the boats.

Easy Put-in Spots: Shawsheen River

- * Lowell Junction Road, Andover, opposite Genetics Institute (Wyeth)
- * Ballardvale Mill Pond, Andover Street, Ballardvale (Andover)
- * Main St. (Rte. 38), Tewksbury, behind Knights of Columbus Parking Lot
- * River Street, Ballardvale (Andover); small boat access as well
- * Abbott Bridge Drive @ Central Street, Andover
- * Shawsheen Street, Opposite Mohawk Drive, Tewksbury

Easy Put-in Spots: Merrimack River

- * Public Boat Ramp, next to Riverfront Park (Lawrence); River Road to Eaton St. to Everett St.

Join an Organized Weekend Trip

- * Merrimack River: Merrimack River Watershed Council: www.merrimack.org/trips
- * Shawsheen River: Shawsheen River Watershed Association: www.shawsheen.org/Calendar/calendar.html

Suggested Retailers for Buying Canoes & Kayaks

Moor & Mountain, Andover; (978) 475-3665
DiGloria's Sports Shop, Metheun; (978) 689-4121
Eastern Mtn Sports, Salem, NH; (603) 894-5331
REI, Reading; (781) 944-5103
Charles River Recreation, Newton; (617) 965-5110
South Bridge Boathouse, Concord; (978) 369-9438

Get Involved

American Rivers American Rivers is a national non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting and restoring healthy natural rivers and the variety of life they sustain for people, fish, and wildlife. www.americanrivers.org; (202) 347-7550

Rivers Month Events Calendar The Massachusetts Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement publishes an online guide to river events throughout the state, in conjunction with Rivers Month. www.massriverways.org

Riverways Adopt a Stream Program Do you have a group or business who would like to adopt a section of a river to improve the water quality or protect the adjacent land? The Massachusetts Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement (DFW&LE) can help get you organized & provide technical and implementation support: (617) 626-1549

Volunteer Environmental Monitoring Network (VEMN) This network is a collaboration among agencies, businesses, groups and individuals working to monitor, restore and maintain the ecological health of the land and the waters of the Merrimack River Watershed, for the benefit of all its inhabitants. Want to get involved? Contact VEMN at (978) 681-5777. Managed by the Merrimack River Watershed Council.