

# Bring your family to enjoy the Sudbury, Assabet, & Concord Rivers



Use this guide to pick an adventure that's suitable for the whole family on the Wild and Scenic Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers.

## 1 Middlesex Canal Museum

17 Faulkner St., North Billerica  
Open on weekend afternoons and weekdays by appointment, the Middlesex Canal Museum is a small museum that preserves and commemorates the history of the Middlesex Canal. The museum is located in a portion of the old Faulkner Mills complex and contains maps and artifacts from the canal and mills.



## 2 Vietnam Veterans Park

Treble Cove Rd., Billerica  
Located by Wining Pond, Billerica's Veterans Park offers playgrounds, soccer fields, plenty of walking trails, and opportunities for fishing.\*



## 3 Ralph Hill Conservation Area

Treble Cove Rd., Billerica  
With property on both sides of the Concord River and adjacent to Vietnam Veteran Park, the Ralph Hill Conservation Area provides ample opportunity for nature walks and exploration along the Concord River. Beaver ponds and vernal pools are home to aquatic wildlife, and the white pine and oak forests are home to many birds. Enter the conservation land via the Vietnam Veterans Park entrance.



## 4 Bartlett's Landing

56 Morgan Rd., Billerica  
Bartlett's Landing Conservation site provides public access to the Concord River in Billerica. There is plenty of space for launching boats, parking, and wading along this segment of the National Wild and Scenic Concord River.



## 5 Foss Farm

Rt. 225, Carlisle  
Located on Rt. 225 (Bedford Rd.) between Skelton Road and River Road in Carlisle, Foss Farm is a 57-acre property that continues to be used for community gardens. Many walking trails meander through this property and the adjacent Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (no dogs) and Greenough Conservation Land, and offer ample opportunity for nature exploration.



## 6 Bedford Boat Launch

Carlisle Rd (Rt. 225), Bedford  
This boat launch provides easy access to the Concord River. A small ramp on the west side of the river is suitable for canoes and kayaks. Fishing\* is also allowed at the boat launch. A trail leads to Two Brothers Rock.



## 7 Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge—Concord Impoundments

Monsen Rd., Concord  
Located on the Concord River, the Concord Impoundments are two water-level controlled ponds just north of Concord Center. A level roadway around the ponds provides an excellent walking trail for children of all ages, and there are several other trails through the woods. The ponds provide opportunities for birding and other wildlife sightings, like frogs, turtles, and muskrats. There is a short walking trail to the Concord River where fishing\* is allowed and kayakers and canoers can land. Dogs are not allowed on the refuge.



## 8 The Old Manse

269 Monument St., Concord  
An historic house built in 1770 along the banks of the Concord River overlooking Old North Bridge, the Old Manse served as home to such significant literary figures as Nathaniel Hawthorne and Ralph Waldo Emerson. The Old Manse and its surrounding grounds provide ample opportunity for easy walking, guided tours, picnicking, canoeing and kayaking, and bird watching.



## 9 Minute Man National Historical Park

Liberty St., Concord  
Across the river from the Old Manse, the Park commemorates the beginning of the Revolutionary War. There are wide open fields with easily walkable trails and beautiful views. Historic buildings and a visitor center offer many learning opportunities. North Bridge crosses the Concord River and is a fun place to watch boats go by.



## 10 Old Calf Pasture / Egg Rock

Lowell Rd., Concord  
Off Lowell Road there is a boat launch and a short trail along the river ending at a point where the Assabet and Sudbury Rivers join to form the Concord River. Enjoy picnicking along the banks of the rivers. Across the river (at the confluence the rivers) is Egg Rock, a local landmark with a plaque that commemorates the original inhabitants of the area. Egg Rock can be accessed via a trail off Nashawtuc Road. Old Calf Pasture is subject to flooding.



## 11 South Bridge Boat House

496 Main St. (Rt. 62), Concord  
A small, family-owned boathouse on the Sudbury River, South Bridge Boat House offers canoe and kayak rentals. It is an easy paddle in either direction from this point.



## 12 Park by Nashoba Brook

Commonwealth Ave., W. Concord  
At Warner's Pond dam there is a small pocket park. This is a fun place to watch the water flow over the spillway. Nashoba Brook Bakery is just across the street. The Brook passes right behind the bakery and is a good spot to watch for fish and look for snapping turtles.



## 13 Walden Pond State Reservation

915 Walden St., Concord  
Known for its natural and historic significance, Walden Pond offers swimming, trails for nature walks, and guided tours of the land and a replica of Henry David Thoreau's one-room cabin. The Reservation also provides ongoing educational programs.



## 14 Fairhaven Bay/Wright Woods

Concord & Lincoln (multiple entrances)  
Fairhaven Bay is a large embayment on the Sudbury River in Concord. It is accessible by boat by paddling about one half mile downstream from the Lincoln Boat Launch on Rt. 117. The river is very gentle and opens up into a beautiful bay. There is an island where you can disembark to stretch your legs, or visit the small stone boathouse across the bay.



## 15 Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge—Headquarters

73 Weir Hill Rd., Sudbury  
The headquarters of the Great Meadows NWR is located on the Sudbury River in Sudbury. Two trails totaling one mile are located here—the Weir Hill Trail provides access to the river and then climbs a steep hill left by glaciers while the Red Maple Trail is flat. Neither trail is suitable for strollers. There is canoe and kayak access at the river which is less than 0.25 miles from the parking area. Dogs are not allowed on the refuge.



## 16 Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge

680 Hudson Rd., Sudbury  
The Assabet River NWR is over 2,300 acres of woodland and wetland habitat with many trails suitable for all ages. The refuge is filled with local history and many opportunities for nature exploration. There is a small boat launch on Puffer Pond for canoes and kayaks and a separate fishing\* platform on the Puffer Pond Trail. Some trails are suitable for strollers and bicycles. The refuge also has a visitor center with exhibits that is open Thursday through Sunday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Dogs are not allowed on the refuge.



## 17 Wolbach Farm

18 Wolbach Rd., Sudbury  
Home to Sudbury Valley Trustees, Wolbach Farm is a 54-acre property along the Sudbury River. The Farm is a great place to explore local history and natural areas. The Nature Nook in the main building provides interactive displays and crafts designed to teach children and families about wildlife found on the Farm.



## 18 Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge—Pelham Island

Pelham Island Rd., Wayland  
The short Griscom Trail offers a walk that wends through forests and looks out over the Sudbury River floodplain. There is some slight elevation change, but it is an easy walk. There is parking for three cars on Pelham Island Road. Dogs are not allowed on the refuge.



## 19 Heard Pond

Pelham Island Rd., Wayland  
An 85-acre pond in Wayland, Heard Pond provides opportunities for nature exploration, walking, and birding. A small pull-off on Pelham Island Road allows water access.



## 20 Greenways Conservation Area

Green Way (off Rts. 126/27), Wayland  
The Greenways Conservation Area is owned by Sudbury Valley Trustees and the Town of Wayland and is an 87-acre parcel of wooded land, wetlands, and fields along the Sudbury River. Trails wind through the conservation area for wildlife viewing and nature exploration. There is a pet cemetery to visit and picnic tables by the river's edge.



## 21 Carol Getchell Trail

Little Farms Rd., Framingham  
Running along the Sudbury River, the Carol Getchell Trail is an easy walking trail with boardwalks over wetlands and lovely views of the river. The Trail stretches from Little Farms Road upstream to the Old Danforth Street Bridge. Parking and a trail access point are also located at the end of Hillside Street. Trail is subject to flooding.



### Icon Key

DAM	PICNIC AREA	WALKING TRAILS
CANOE/KAYAK ACCESS	PLAYGROUND	WADING
FISHING	STAFFED VISITOR CENTER	WILDLIFE VIEWING
NEARBY FOOD	STROLLER FRIENDLY	
MUSEUM	TRAILERED BOAT ACCESS	

\*Fishing is catch and release only.

### Protecting Our Rivers Is a Group Effort.

Learn more about the rivers or how you can get involved. Check out the great work of some of our partners:

**Massachusetts Audubon Society**  
massaudubon.org

**Massachusetts Riverways Program**  
mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/der

**National Park Service**  
nps.gov/nero/rivers/sudbury.html

**OARS**  
oars3rivers.org

**SuAsCo CISMA**  
cisma-suasco.org

**SuAsCo River Stewardship Council**  
sudbury-assabet-concord.org

**SuAsCo Watershed Community Council**  
suasco.org

**Sudbury Valley Trustees**  
sudburyvalleytrustees.org

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
fws.gov/refuge/assabet\_river  
fws.gov/refuge/great\_meadows

Photo at top by: Frank Turpmann, Concord River with canoes, July 2005 CC BY-SA 3.0

## Get To Know Your Rivers

- The National Wild & Scenic Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers stretch a combined total of 83.4 miles, flowing north from Westborough to Lowell.
- Twenty-nine of these miles are part of the National Wild & Scenic River System. The rivers have no dams or other man-made obstructions on their length, and have the outstanding resource values of ecology, scenery, recreation, history, and American literature.
- The Sudbury and Concord Rivers both drop just a few inches per mile on their Wild and Scenic segments. A gentle and slow flow makes the rivers excellent for beginners and paddlers of all ages.

- The Concord River watershed is an important stopover point along the Atlantic Flyway, providing important food and habitat for migrating birds. Rich in biodiversity, the rivers are home to many plants and animals, including beavers, otters, great blue herons, and the threatened Blanding's turtle.
- Home to Old North Bridge, the site of the "shot heard round the world," the rivers are rich with historical and literary significance.
- Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Louisa May Alcott all lived on or near the rivers and were at times inspired by them in their writing.

### So Many to Choose From!

Welcome to the family friendly Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers. See the other side of this map for details on what each location offers.

1. Middlesex Canal Museum
2. Vietnam Veterans Park
3. Ralph Hill Conservation Area
4. Bartlett's Landing
5. Foss Farm
6. Bedford Boat Launch
7. Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge—Concord Impoundments
8. The Old Manse
9. Minute Man National Historical Park
10. Old Calf Pasture/Egg Rock
11. South Bridge Boat House
12. Park by Nashoba Brook
13. Walden Pond State Reservation
14. Fairhaven Bay/Wright Woods
15. Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge—Headquarters
16. Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge
17. Wolbach Farm
18. Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge—Pelham Island
19. Heard Pond
20. Greenways Conservation Area
21. Carol Getchell Trail



### SAFETY TIPS

Consider the following tips to maximize your family's fun on the river while remaining safe

- Wear life vests whenever you're on the water
- Keep children away from vehicles and the road at boat launches
- Dress appropriately for the weather
- Bring water, sun screen and bug spray
- Watch out for ticks and poison ivy



Did you enjoy your time on our rivers? Want to learn and do more? Check out our Junior River Ranger program or visit [www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org](http://www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org) for more information about our rivers!