

**Androscoggin River Trail
Access Sites**

North Woods

168 miles from its source at
Lake Umbagog to Merrymeeting Bay

**Trail Under Construction
More than 40 Public Access Sites Available**

Androscoggin River Watershed Council
10/11/09



**Androscoggin
River Trail**

The text 'Androscoggin River Trail' is displayed in a blue, serif font. Below the text are three stylized, wavy lines in shades of blue, representing water or a trail. The lines are layered, with the top one being lightest and the bottom one being darkest.

Maps

Since sites are changing, a limited number of printed maps are available. Public information is being furnished by this web site, including maps and a description of access sites that follows. Maps are also located at kiosks at popular access points. Full color, paper maps may be obtained by contacting trek@androscogginwatershed.org at a cost of \$20 per set of six of the most detailed maps.

The Mahoosuc Land Trust has an excellent map of the Androscoggin Canoe Trail. It includes eight access sites from Shelburne, New Hampshire to Rumford, Maine, a beautiful section of river. Maps are available for \$7.50. The map may be obtained by calling (207-824-3806), e-mailing info@mahoosuclandtrust.org or writing to the Land Trust at PO.Box 4400, Bethel, ME 04217

An older, water-resistant overview map of the trail published by the AMC contains the vast majority of access points, although a few are no longer available to the public. The map contains good descriptions of most sections. The map may be purchased from the Androscoggin River Watershed Council for \$7.50 by e-mailing trek@androscogginwatershed.org.

Wentworth Location, Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge

Under development by LUNWR

North of Wildlife Headquarters on Route 16

Headquarters, Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge (LUNWR)

Coordinates: 44 56' 10.2" 71 02' 05.0"

Location: Route 16 at the Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters

Owner: US Fish and Wildlife Service Manager: Lake Umbagog NWR

Launch facilities:

- Gravel boat launch for trailered boats
- Grassy river bank for hand carry boats
- Floating dock for loading boats

Parking:

Parking for 12 vehicles, including several with trailers across from headquarters (note that the parking area is used by USFWS personnel as well)

Amenities:

- Toilets (seasonal)
- Information kiosk
- Picnic tables
- Telephone
- LUNWR information and resources

Water Conditions:

The water is deep close to shore and there is a slow current. The section of the river from the Route 16 bridge near the Maine/New Hampshire state line to the confluence with the Androscoggin River is flat water with a moderate current.

General Comments:

This site can be crowded with motorcraft and trailers. Hand-carry access at Wentworth location preferred. There are excellent wildlife viewing opportunities along the river, but there may be considerable large boat traffic in the summer, especially on weekends. Large boats tend to be courteous, especially on narrow waterways.

Errol Dam

Coordinates: 44; 47'; 14.9" 71; 07'; 17.0"

Location: Errol, NH. From Errol, NH, take Route 26 east, crossing the Androscoggin River. Take the first left onto Mountain Pond Road (gravel). Follow this road, bearing left at the fork.

Owner: **Manager:** New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

Launch facilities:

- Good trailer access with concrete boat launch
- Hand carry access
- Floating dock for loading and boarding boats

Parking:

- Large gravel lot for vehicles and trailers

Amenities:

- Toilet facilities (seasonal)
- Information kiosk
- Portage trail around dam
- Special Parking for anglers – about 5 vehicles
- Northern Forest Canoe Trail kiosk and blazes on portage trail

Water Conditions:

Calm water at launch site, but use **Caution:** There is a strong current in the river channel just beyond the launch and the Errol Dam is just downstream; use caution to avoid the dam. Easy paddling upstream once away from dam area.

General Comments:

Basic Amenities including lodging and outfitter in Errol.



Portage stairs below dam

Bragg Bay

Coordinates: 44; 46'; 41.45" 71; 07'; 58.26"

Location: Errol, NH. Heading east from Errol, NH, this site is at the edge of town where Route 26 crosses the river, on river right.

Owner: **Manager:** Town of Errol.

Launch facilities:

Concrete launch ramp beside the parking area. Although access is tight, small boats, such as drift boats, can be launched off of trailers from this site.

There is also a sandy, probably informal launch area at the bottom of the rapids. It is reached by a short carry trail heading downriver (river right).

Parking:

Good gravel parking for approximately 15 vehicles



Amenities:

Information kiosk for Lake Umbagog Chamber of Commerce
Northern Forest Canoe Trail two-sided kiosk
Portage trail around the rapids, on private lands and may be gated upstream in autumn

Water Conditions:

There is a fast current and rapids just at the launch site; Bragg's Bay begins just downstream from the launch. **Caution:** The ramp is in fast, rocky waters, use appropriate care in launching and boarding.

Mollidgewock State Park Campground (Check with NH Division of State Parks at (603) 271-3556 to ensure park is open and that day use from the road is permissible).

Coordinates: 44; 44'; 18.41" 71; 08'; 36.57"

Location: Errol, NH. From Errol, travel approximately 3 miles south on Route 16. The campground entrance is on the left and marked with a large sign.

Owner: State of New Hampshire **Manager:** NH Division of Parks and Recreation

Launch facilities: Ramp

Parking: Ample parking

Amenities:

- Toilets (seasonal)
- Information kiosk
- Picnic tables
- Camping
- Telephone

Water Conditions:

Moderate to fast current with several short sections of Class I and II rapids. That may require good boat handling skills depending on flows.

Seven Islands Bridge

Coordinates: 44; 42'; 52.09" 71; 10'; 26.58"

Location: Errol, NH. Route 16 south of Errol, NH. The site is on the left, just downstream of the bridge.

Owner: **Manager:** 13-Mile Woods

Launch facilities:

There is a rocky path down a 5 to 6 foot bank onto a large cobble beach suitable for hand-carry boats. (While not suitable for trailers at the bridge, drift boats and other small boats on trailers are often launched from the grass banks just south of this site. These areas can be muddy and slick).

Parking:

There is a good gravel parking area adjacent to the river with room for approximately 12 vehicles. There is additional parking along the highway, and in a snowmobile/ATV parking area across the road off of the Millsfield Pond Road (gravel).



Amenities:

None

Water Conditions:

Caution: The main channel has a very fast current. There can be large standing waves down stream of the bridge. There are eddies just downstream of the launch area, especially on highway side – (river right).

Bog Brook

Coordinates: 44; 40'; 03.48" 71; 10'; 47.85"

Location: Cambridge, New Hampshire. On Route 16 between the highway and the river between Errol and Milan, NH.

Owner: **Manager:**

Launch facilities:

There are several paths over the grass bank to the river; footing and room to load and board watercraft varies depending on the particular path chosen. Suitable for hand-carry boats.

Parking:

There is fair parking along an abandoned stretch of old highway with several pull off areas.

Amenities:

None

Water Conditions:

There are class II rapids just down stream of the launch area

Pontook Dam (Up-Stream of Dam)

Coordinates: 44; 38'; 00.60" 71; 14'; 57.78"

Location: Dummer, New Hampshire. The site is directly off of Route 16, between Milan and Errol, NH.

Owner: Brookfield Power **Manager:** Brookfield Power

Launch facilities:

Upstream: Concrete ramp suitable for trailered boats and in good condition.

Parking:

There is excellent parking in two lots; one gravel and one asphalt

Amenities:

Toilets (seasonal)
Information kiosks
Land trails

Water Conditions:

Upstream: River Bottom is muddy with sunken logs, pulp wood and stumps. The calm water is moderately shallow. Paddling upstream on dam pond is possible but area general used as takeout.

General Comments:

This also offers a portage area around the dam and a hiking path along the river leading downstream to Bofinger Conservation Area. Large grass area for picnics and small group activities.



Pontook Dam, Down Stream of Dam

Coordinates:

Location: Dummer, New Hampshire. The site is directly off of Route 16 between Milan and south of Errol, NH.

Owner: Brookfield Power **Manager:** Brookfield Power

Launch facilities:

There is a gravel path down a gravel bank; easy walking and portaging. Suitable for hand-carry boats.

Parking:

There is excellent parking in two lots; one gravel and one asphalt.

Amenities:

Toilets (seasonal)
Information kiosk
Telephone
Land trails

Water Conditions:

The River Bottom: gravel beach and rocks. There is fast current at launch site and rapids downstream. Can be half mile of Class II whitewater downstream during periods of high flow or during dam releases. (possibly Class III depending on base flow at time of release)

General Comments:

See Pantook Dam, upstream

Bofinger Conservation Area

Coordinates: 44; 36'; 53.88" 71; 13'; 21.48"

Location: Dummer, New Hampshire. On Route 16 north of Milan, NH take the gravel road on the right along the north edge of the field.

Owner: State of New Hampshire
and NH Fish and Game Department

Manager: NH Department of Environmental Services

Launch facilities:

gravel road and launch

Parking:

Excellent parking in gravel parking lot

Amenities:

Toilets (seasonal)
Information kiosk
Land trails upstream to Pontook

Water Conditions:

The water is shallow with a rocky bottom; boat launches may be difficult. Fast current with occasional ripples downstream, but generally suitable for most paddlers.

General Comments:

There is a river side hiking path going northerly to Pontook.
Grass area suitable for picnics and group activities.



Leavitt Stream

Coordinates: 44; 34'; 09.60" 71; 10'; 34.49"

Location: Milan, New Hampshire. In Milan Village, take Bridge Street east, across the river. At the stop sign, take a right and head south on East Side River Road for approximately 0.5 mile. The launch is on river left.

Owner: Town of Milan

Manager: Town of Milan

Launch facilities:

Rough gravel and steep launch access

Parking:

Parking is limited to the side of the road for 4 to 5 vehicles. Trailers launch from site but generally poor conditions for trailers. Extremely limited roadside parking for trailers.

Amenities:

None

Water Conditions:

There is a slow current, and water depth is sufficient for small boats.



Nansen Wayside Park

Coordinates: 44; 31'; 50.51" 71; 09'; 50.85"

Location: Milan, New Hampshire. Off Route 16, at the Berlin/Milan town line; take the gravel road off the east side of the highway and follow it down the hill and across the flats to the Wayside Area.

Owner: State of New Hampshire

Manager: NH Division of Parks and Recreation

Launch facilities:

Gravel and mud launch; can be difficult and muddy in low water. May be difficult for trailers, especially during low water or in wet conditions.

Parking:

Good parking in gravel lots

Amenities:

Picnic tables

Kiosk

Water Conditions:

Moderate current; calm water. During low water levels or wet conditions, launch can be muddy and vehicles with trailers may be susceptible to getting stuck or having difficulty retrieving loaded trailers.

General Comments:

Large grass area suitable for picnics and small group gatherings.

Rotary Park

Coordinates: 44; 29'; 11.48" 71; 10'; 00.42"

Location: Berlin, New Hampshire. On Route 16, approximately 0.5 mile north of Brown Elementary School and approximately 0.5 mile south of 12th Street Bridge.



Owner: City of Berlin **Manager:** City of Berlin

Launch facilities:

Path over low grass bank for hand-carry boats. Small motor boats can obtain access but trailers cannot be backed into water.

Parking:

Fair parking on limited gravel and more parking on grass and on side of street

Amenities:

Benches

Water Conditions:

Flat water with dam approximately 1.0 mile downstream and low bridge that can limit some motor powered craft short distance upstream.

General Comments:

Berlin offers a number of amenities including restaurant and shops. The former home of Brown Paper Company. Just downstream, the Northern Forest Heritage Park, offers a look at an earlier era in the North Woods – worth the visit. Check with the Chamber for hours of operations. Large grass area suitable for picnics and group gatherings.

Northern Forest Heritage Park (NFHP)

Coordinates:

Location: Berlin, New Hampshire. On Route 16, approximately 0.2 mile north of Brown Elementary School and approximately 0.7 mile south of 12th Street Bridge.

Additional Information: There is a nominal admission charge to NFHP. Worth a tour of park before or after any river outing.

Owner: Northern Forest Heritage Park **Manager:** NFHP

Launch facilities:

- Boat launch
- Hand Carry Access
- Docks

Parking:

Adequate parking including trailers

Amenities:

- Toilets
- Local Information
- Historic Heritage Exhibits

Water Conditions:

See Rotary Park. Dam short distance downstream.

General Comments:

The Northern Forest Heritage Park is worth a visit. Unfortunately access in Gorham is very limited with several traditional areas now gated. Next public put in Shelburne. Motels and amenities available in Berlin and Gorham.

Shelburne Bridge

Coordinates: 44; 24'; 18.78" 71; 04'; 05.69"

Location: Shelburne, New Hampshire. From Gorham, NH, go east on Route 2 then take a left onto Meadow Road going across the river. The launch site is on the left, down a short gravel road.

Owner: New Hampshire DOT right of way **Manager:** Town of Shelburne and Mahoosuc Land Trust

Launch facilities:

There is a rocky bank; canoes and kayaks are generally launched from the rocks under the bridge. Launching is difficult and into moderately fast current.

Parking:

There is limited parking for approximately 8 vehicles in a gravel lot. Drift boat access is possible but difficult.

Amenities:

None

Water Conditions:

Fast moving current with short sections of rips and Class I rapids at intervals downstream.

**General comments:**

Historic Shelburne Village is small but aesthetically enjoyable. Philbrook Farm Inn offers travelers an opportunity to stay at an historic property. Upstream, Gorham offers a variety of amenities, several motels, various eateries, shopping, and historic properties. Gorham is the northerly gateway to Mount Washington attractions such as the COG Railway, the White Mountain National Forest. Many private lands offer tremendous hiking opportunities. Upstream access to Reflection Pond (above Lead Mine Dam at North Road) is now gated.

Androscoggin Canoe Trail by Mahoosuc Land Trust (separate paper map available)

The Meadow Road access site is most up-river point of the Androscoggin Canoe Trail that was developed several years ago by the Mahoosuc Land Trust. The Trail consists of eight sites with the down-river most site being above the falls in Rumford. The trail starts in the small, historic village of Shelburne, New Hampshire and passes the picturesque town of Bethel, Maine, home to Gould Academy and a beautiful National Historic District. The Moses Mason historic house and museum is located in the District. The trail ends just above downtown Rumford that also contains a National Historic District.