

# NASHUA RIVER FROM DOWNTOWN NASHUA TO MINES FALLS PARK

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Approximately 6.0 miles round trip (HALF OF THIS TRIP IS AN UPSTREAM PADDLE!)

Flat water

We'll paddle behind the woolen mills to Jackson Falls, upstream to Mines Falls for lunch, then back to the put-in with the current.

### **TRIP LEADERS:**

Denise Hurt (hurt28@charter.net) 603-889-4812, cell phone 603-533-9460

Sue Sanborn (asis72@msn.com) 603-880-1687, cell phone 603-582-9699

### **WHAT TO BRING:**

Boat, paddle, life jacket (must be worn while on the water), water, sunscreen, insect repellent, hat, set of dry clothes, lunch/snack, and a smile!

### **TIME:**

Meet at the put in at 10:00 AM

### **DIRECTIONS TO PUT-IN/TAKE OUT (NO SHUTTLE):**

#### *From the South:*

Take exit 5E from the Everett Turnpike (Route 3). Go straight through the stop sign and then follow directions below....

#### *From the North:*

Everett Turnpike to Exit 5E in Nashua, NH. After going back over the turnpike...

#### *Both Directions:*

Keep going straight following sign to Downtown Shops and Dining. You will be on Kinsley Street. Go through the traffic light at St. Joseph's hospital, down a hill and past a cemetery on left. At the next traffic light take a left on Pine Street. Go straight thru next light, continue on Pine St. Go straight thru stop sign and continue on Pine Street. Directly in front of you you'll see a smokestack that says THE MILLYARD on it. Drive towards the smokestack. You'll see D. F. Shea Company on the left and Furnas on the right. Take road that bears left, then a right on Technology Way. You'll see a building that says Millyard Technology Park directly in front of you. Continue through the gates, follow road through another set of gates to the large parking lot. You'll see a gazebo, some picnic tables along the river bank and then the boat ramp on the left. I have permission to use the boat ramp.

### **DIRECTIONS TO BREAKFAST:**

Some of us are meeting for breakfast at 9:00 AM at the Pine Street Eatery, on Pine St. for breakfast prior to the paddle. To get there, simply follow the directions above, but turn RIGHT on Pine Street instead of left. The restaurant will be a short way up the street on the left, parking lot on the right.

We'll get together after the paddle at Peddler's Daughter on Main Street for a screening of "Work of 1000" - a film by Susan Edwards which tells the story of Marion Stoddard and her fight to clean up the Nashua River. Not to be missed.

# Nashua River Downtown Nashua to Mine Falls



This walkway, now restored, went from the mill on one side of the river to a warehouse on the other side. It is now part of the Nashua River Walk.



Our grandmother Albin Jean who worked in the mills.



The dam at Mine Falls

Canal water exits the mill to re-enter the Nashua River after powering the looms and other machines.



Approaching Main St. Bridge

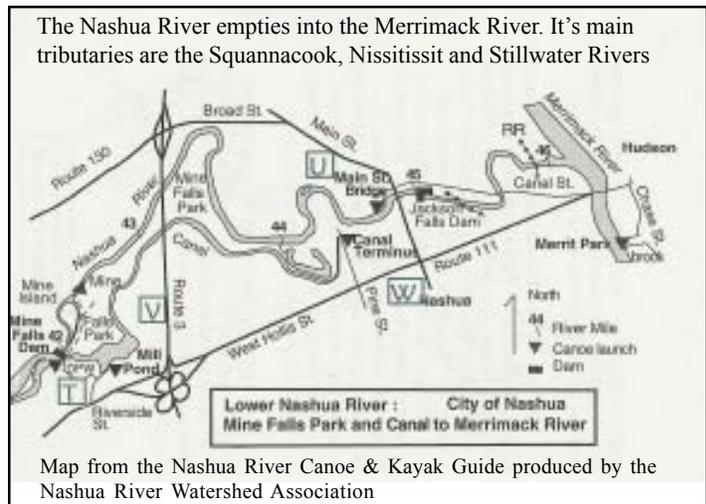


Great Blue Heron

In 1820 workers, using shovels and mules, began a 6' deep, 35 feet wide, 3 mile long canal which would provide power to the mills of Nashua Manufacturing Co. (formed in 1823). A dam was built at Mine Falls at the head of the canal. (The hydroelectric plant near the falls was built in the early 1980s.) Nashua Manufacturing grew to include the Indian Head Mills and the Jackson Mills which got their power directly from the Nashua River.

The first water began turning the wheel in the machine shop of the mill's master machinist, Ira Gay, on Christmas Day 1824. Work on Mill #1 (now the Clock Tower Apartments) began in 1825. When the big water wheels started turning and the interlinked shafts began to turn, the building would vibrate as the machines ran. Rookie workers were so fearful, they sometimes fled the building in fear or even quit. (Mill #1 burned down in 1857 and was rebuilt.)

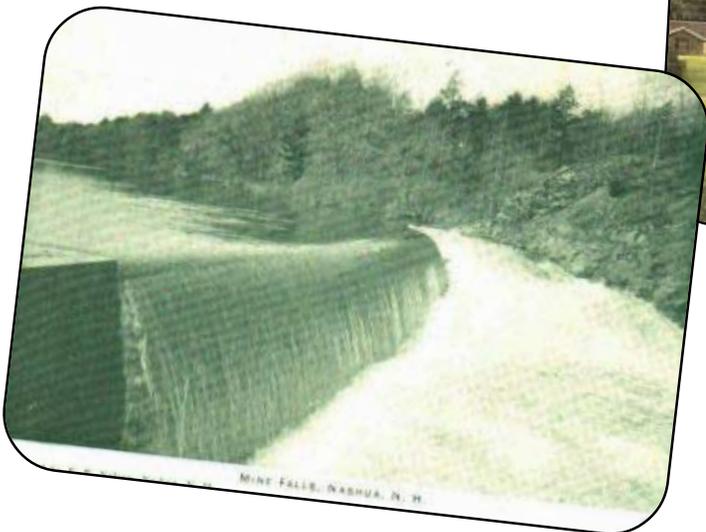
A typical day for the early mill girls began at 4:00 AM when the bell in the tower of Mill #1 rang. The girls were at work by 4:40 AM. In 1942, a mill worker who worked 22.75 hours earned \$11.47 or about 50 cents per hour. We know this from our great aunt's time slip from that year.



There was a warehouse for the mills on other side of the Main St. bridge, river right. Boats came up the Merrimack and entered a canal to get around the Jackson Falls. They could then pull directly into the basement of the warehouse to deliver goods. This building currently houses the Peddler's Daughter pub.

The name Mine Falls derives from an attempt in 1680 to mine low quality Galena from the islands below the falls. Galena is almost all lead and includes some zinc and silver. It is a natural semiconductor and is the forerunner, the enabler, of all the electronic gadgets we have today.







# Merrimack River Watershed Council, Inc.

## About the Watershed

### Geographical Introduction to Merrimack River Watershed

#### The River and Its Watershed

- Many Native American Indian tribes once occupied the watershed and gave the river a number of different names. The most well known Indian name is merruasquamack, which means “swift water place,” and is believed to have originally applied to the portion of the river between Garvins Falls in Bow, NH and Pawtucket Falls in Lowell, MA. Today, the river is known as the Merrimack.
- The Merrimack River, which passes through central and southern New Hampshire and northeastern Massachusetts, is a vital natural resource sustaining plants, wildlife, and humans.
- The Merrimack River is formed by the confluence of the Pemigewasset River, which originates from Profile Lake at the Old Man of the Mountains in Franconia Notch, NH, and the Winnepesaukee River, which has its source in a lake of the same name.
- The Merrimack mainstem is formed by the marriage of the Pemigewasset and Winnepesaukee Rivers in Franklin, NH where it flows 115 miles to its meeting with the Atlantic Ocean in Newburyport, MA.
- In total, the Merrimack River stretches some 180 miles. The 75% of the watershed located in New Hampshire contains most of the state’s lakes and ponds.
- The Merrimack River watershed was first surveyed by Goodman Woodward in 1638 and is the fourth largest watershed in New England.
- *A watershed is the land area from which surface runoff and groundwater flows into a particular river, lake, stream, pond, or other body of water.*
- It occupies 5,010 square miles and is comprised of 203 communities ranging from rural towns such as Woodstock, NH and Newbury, MA to the industrial cities of Manchester, NH, Lowell, and Lawrence, MA.

#### Subwatersheds

- The Merrimack basin has been divided into 17 subwatersheds. Figure 1 shows the location of each subwatershed.
- *A subwatershed is an area from which groundwater and surface water drains and contributes to flow in another body of water.* For example, the Piscataquog River is a subwatershed because it eventually drains into the Merrimack River.
- The subwatersheds of the Merrimack River are as follows, with their approximate square mileage presented in parenthesis (information calculated by Merrimack River Watershed Council using Geographic Information Systems data compiled by the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission for planning purposes only):

- Beaver (94.66)
- Cohas (69.97)
- Contoocook (765.66)
- Merrimack (576.63)
- Nashua (530.7)
- Pemigewasset (1,001.71)
- Piscataquog (216.38)
- Pow Wow (58.63)
- Salmon Brook (31.75)
- Shawsheen (78.09)
- Soucook (91.66)
- Souhegan (219.64)
- Spicket (77.49)
- Stony Brook (45.53)
- SuAsCo (Sudbury/Assabet/Concord - 399.62)
- Suncook (257.10)
- Winnepesaukee (484.41)

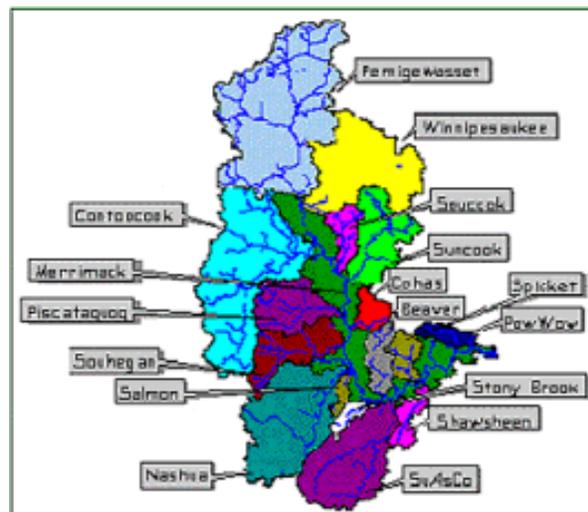


Figure 1.

## BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

**YES!** I want to join the Merrimack River Watershed Council and help protect the rivers and streams in my community.

- \$15 Student membership
- \$25 Individual membership
- \$35 Family membership
- \$50 Extended Family membership
- Send me information on the "Adopt-A-Merrimack-Mile" Business Membership Program

*For information about these membership levels or to become a member on-line, go to [www.merrimack.org](http://www.merrimack.org)*  
**(PayPal available on-line)**

MRWC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Your **tax-deductible** contribution will support watershed protection.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about MRWC? \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:



Merrimack River Watershed Council  
60 Island Street  
Lawrence, MA 01840

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# NASHUA RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

## Publications Order Form

To order NRWA publications by mail, please print this page, check your selections, and mail the form with your check to the Nashua River Watershed Association.

Select:	Publication	Price Each
_____	<b>Nashua River Canoe and Kayak Guide</b> <i>Shipping and handling</i>	\$10.00 \$ 1.50
_____	<b>A River Ran Wild by Lynne Cherry</b> <i>Shipping and handling</i> (Hardcover version)	<b>\$17.00</b> \$ 5.00
_____	<b>National Geographic's Written in Water:</b> <i>Messages of Hope for Earth's Most Precious Resource</i> <i>Shipping and handling</i>	\$26.00 <b>\$5.00</b>
_____	<b>Nashua River Greenway Guide</b> <i>Shipping and handling</i>	\$ 5.00 \$ 1.50
_____	<b>1995 to 2020 Vision for the Nashua River Watershed</b> <i>Shipping and handling</i>	\$10.00 \$ 5.00

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form along with your payment to:

Nashua River Watershed Association  
592 Main Street  
Groton, MA 01450