

**Androscoggin River Trail
Access Sites**

Mahoosucs


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
May, 2011



**Androscoggin
River Trail**



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.

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

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.

Gilead Bridge

Coordinates:

Location: Gilead, Maine. From west (NH) on Route 2, look for Bridge St. (in small village of Gilead) on left shortly after crossing over Wild River bridge. Site is approximately 0.2 miles northerly on left before Androscoggin River Bridge. From east, look for Bridge St. on right immediately beyond small WMNF park on left.

Owner: Private ownership allows public use **Manager:** Mahoosuc Land Trust/ARWC

Launch facilities:

A narrow 150 foot dirt road connects the parking area to the launch site
Steep, unimproved path to water, used with difficulty by hand-carry and drift boats

Parking:

Gravel, dirt and grass parking area for approximately 10 vehicles including several trailers

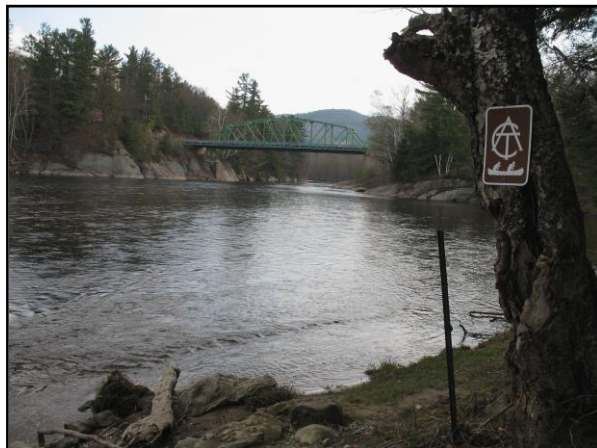
Amenities:

Water Conditions:

Shallow launch area with fast moving current short distance from shoreline. Short stretches of rips and Class I rapids down stream. A number of islands are found in this area.

General comments.

Again, the White Mountain National Forrest offers hiking opportunities nearby. Site is on approximately 30 acres of private land, but owners allow use of trails. Land stretches to Wild River. No amenities in Gilead but old White Mountain National Forest Picnic Area (now town maintained) is located on the opposite side of Route 2.



Newt's Landing

Coordinates:

Location: West Bethel, Maine. From Bethel, ME, take Route 2 west to West Bethel. Take a right onto Ferry Road and bear right following it to the end. Take a left down a gravel road to the launch.

Owner: Mahoosuc Land Trust **Manager:** Mahoosuc Land Trust

Launch facilities:

Wooden ramp with stairs leading down the bank to the water. Suitable for drift boats and hand-carry boats.

Parking:

Parking in gravel lot, limited to 8 vehicles.

Amenities:

Water Conditions:

Moderate current. Good drift boat access. Short sections of Class I whitewater depending on volume of water and path chosen. Numerous islands split the river. Recommend novice paddlers choose wider channel around islands.



General Comments:

Small store located westerly on Rt 2 in West Bethel Village. Scenic section of river leading into a historic Bethel Village.

Bethel Outdoor Adventures

Coordinates:

Location: Bethel, Maine Just off Route 2 eastbound from Bethel. River left, beside the recreation bridge.

Owner: Bethel Outdoor Adventures **Manager:** Bethel Outdoor Adventures

Launch facilities:

Silty beach suitable for hand-carry boats.

Parking:

Owner allows use of site. Public parking available in space shared by campground and guide service visitors in field at Rt 2 entrance. Parking is 350' walk from launch. Users may drive to launch, but please move vehicles to field for parking

Water conditions:

Generally moderate to fast current.

General Conditions:

See parking. Refreshments, boat and tube rentals available at campground. Guide service available. See amenities above and comments for Davis Park regarding amenities in Bethel Village. Sunday River Resort is also nearby.

Davis Park (Public Facility: Part of Androscoggin Canoe Trail but not an official site on the Androscoggin River Trail due to limited parking during weekends and periods of heavy use).

Coordinates:

Location: Bethel, Maine. On Route 26, southbound from Bethel

Owner: Town of Bethel **Manager:** Town of Bethel

Launch facilities:

Concrete ramp for trailered and hand-carry boats

Parking:

Reasonable size, but parking for multiple uses available at park including trailhead for Bethel Walking (Bike/Ped) Path and Skateboard Park. Also parking for Walking Path use on Route 2.

Amenities:

Picnic tables, toilets, nearby recreational trail, playground
Kiosk

Water Conditions:

Generally good current with short sections of rips and Class I rapids. Class II Bear River rips located just upstream from the next takeout.

General Comments:

Located within walking distance of amenities in Historic Bethel Village. A variety of restaurants, hotels, and Inns (B&B; s) are available in and around the village. The Moses Mason Museum offers a review of the area's history and an historic house tour. A walking/biking path borders the river in that area.

Moran's Landing.

Coordinates:

Location: Hanover, Maine. Route 2 in Hanover near the Newry town border, just easterly of the mouth of the Bear River and the Route 26 turnoff to Grafton Notch State Park.

Owner: Mahoosuc Land Trust **Manager:** Mahoosuc Land Trust

Launch facilities:

Concrete boat ramp suitable for small boats and drift boats. Launches into shallow water so unsuitable for large boats. No turn around so must back trailers 175 feet. Also short, hand carry trail to river.

Parking:

Adequate Parking

Amenities:

None



Pebble beach looking downriver. Hand carry path accesses to this beach.

Water Conditions:

Moderate to swift current short distance from shoreline. Just downstream of Bear River Rips. Downstream section of river suitable for only very small motorboats. May have to carry boat into deeper water during normal summer flow conditions.

General Comments.

Small store located at corner of Rt 26 and Rt 2. Near gateway to Grafton Notch State Park on Route 26 north. For hikers, try the Grafton Loop trail.



Hanover

Coordinates:

Location: Hanover, Maine Off Route 2 by the Hanover town office. Near Hanover village area.

Owner: Town of Hanover **Manager:** Town of Hanover

Launch facilities:

Steep concrete boat launch

Parking:

Ample parking for vehicles and trailers

Amenities:

Seasonal toilets at entrance near town office

Water Conditions:

Good current with river broadening out to a more moderate flow further downstream.
Shallow areas can cause hang ups for inexperienced paddlers at low flows.

General Comments:

Small Store with lunch counter located in Hanover Village with many historic properties located along Rt 2.



Rumford

Coordinates:

Location: Rumford, Maine Off Route 2 west of downtown Rumford, just past McDonalds

Owner: Town of Rumford **Manager:** Town of Rumford

Launch facilities:

Paved ramp suitable for trailered and hand-carry boats. Generally used as a take out for paddlers and drift boats since there is no formal downstream take out before reaching Rumford Falls.

Parking:

12 vehicle capacity

Amenities:

Rumford Snowmobile Club Meeting Place near site

Water conditions:

Moderate current.

General Comments:

Downtown Rumford and Mexico offer a variety of amenities. Rumford Falls has the largest drop of any waterfall east of Niagara Falls. Rumford has built a visitor information center and park at the foot of the falls. Rumford Island (the downtown) area and Strathglass Park are both National Historic Districts. Strathglass is a cluster of brick houses built for mill workers as Oxford Paper Company was being developed.



Mexico – Swift River Site

This is a secondary site that was essentially replaced in the late summer of 2010 by a new ramp in the parking area behind the Mexico shopping center and Town Office in downtown. This site has a FERC Part 8 sign but is not marked with Androscoggin River Trail signage.

Coordinates:

Location: Mexico, Maine Off Route 2 near downtown Mexico. Going westerly on Rt. 2, site is on right just before crossing Swift River bridge into Rumford.

Owner: NewPage Paper Co. **Manager:** NewPage Paper Co.

Launch facilities:

Heavily silted concrete ramp into shallow water. No access for trailered boats. Launch is under bridge

Parking:

Six vehicles; no suitable space for trailers

Amenities:

None

Water conditions:

Area is located on the Swift River near its mouth.

The Androscoggin has moderate current with areas of gentle rips downstream.

General Comments:

Groceries/eateries as well as some other stores are available nearby.



Mexico – Androscoggin River Site

Coordinates:

Location: Mexico, Maine Off Route 2 near downtown Mexico. This is a new ramp in the parking area behind the Mexico shopping center and Town Office in downtown. Going westerly on Rt. 2, site is the third right after crossing the Swift River bridge from Rumford (Riverside Drive). From the east, access is by the first left after the Mexico Congregational Church. It is located behind the Mexico Town Office.

Owner: Town of Mexico **Manager:** Town of Mexico

Launch facilities:

This site was added to the trail in the late summer of 2010. There is a short ramp leading from the paved public parking area behind the shopping center.

Parking:

There is adequate space for cars and vehicles with trailers.

Amenities:

There is a gazebo located behind the town office that is suitable for a lunch spot.

Water conditions:

The Androscoggin has moderate current with areas of gentle rips downstream.

There are several islands located opposite Dixfield Village just after the mouth of the Webb River. In low water conditions paddlers should stay river right of the islands. There may be stone beaches available for a brief stop-over on the paddle downriver.

General Comments:

Groceries/eateries as well as some other stores are available nearby.



Dixfield Verso

Coordinates:

Location: Dixfield, Maine. Canton Point Rd from Dixfield (Dixfield Road from Canton) 1.5 miles east of junction with Rt 2

Owner: Verso Paper **Manager:** Verso Paper

Launch facilities:

Hand-carry stairs to large stones down short steep bank

Parking:

Adequate parking for vehicles including trailers for hand carry kayaks and canoes. Drift boat access possible.

Amenities:

None

Water Conditions:

Moderate Current



General Comments:

The launch site is some distance downstream of Dixfield Village, which offers a corner store, small park, and a setting of older homes.



Canton

Coordinates:

Location: Canton, Maine. Off Route 140 on Dorey Road. Downstream of the Canton Village area (river left)

Owner: Maine Dept. of Inland Fish and Wildlife

Manager: IFW

Launch facilities:

Concrete ramp suitable for trailered and hand-carry boats

Parking:

Ample parking for vehicles and trailers in gravel lot. Paved accessible parking spaces and ramp area. Ramp area is steep, though. Downstream takeout not accessible.

Amenities:

Picnic table

Water Conditions:

Moderate current.

General Comments:

Canton Village offers several corner stores and a small park as well as this lovely site.



Riley Dam

Coordinates:

Location: Jay, Maine. Rt 140 near Jay/Canton town Line (river left.)

Owner: Verso Paper **Manager:** Verso Paper

Launch facilities:

Hand carry access above and below dam, and portage trail around dam. Upstream takeout is up a set of long, steep stairs.

Parking: limited parking, adequate for 5 vehicles

Amenities:

None

Water conditions:

Moderate current downstream of dam. Flat water above dam with light current.



General Comments:

Access is gated to vehicles. Carry to downstream access approximately 200 feet. Upstream access is approximately 800' from gate. Portage would be approximately 900'.

