

The Assabet River

“A more lovely stream than this,” Nathaniel Hawthorne said of the Assabet River, “has never flowed on earth, except to lave the interior regions of a poet’s imagination.” Much of the river is still beautiful today, with surprisingly remote and unspoiled sections. In 1999, four miles of the Assabet were designated under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers program.

The Assabet River begins in Westborough, flowing north for 31 miles through Northborough, Marlborough, Berlin, Hudson, Stow, Maynard, and Acton until it joins the Sudbury River in the town of Concord to form the Concord River. The river is home to abundant wildlife, including great blue herons, river otters, osprey, and painted turtles.

Despite an abundance of dams, difficult passage in the upper reaches, and even a bit of seasonal whitewater, the Assabet offers some easy and interesting paddles for the beginning canoeist or kayaker. We especially recommend the three trips highlighted in purple on the map.

River Safety

Although the majority of the Assabet River flows gently, please be aware that dams, high water (and low bridges), downed trees, and seasonal rapids can pose serious hazards to boaters. Please be careful and wear a life jacket. You can check with OAR if unsure of the conditions.

OAR

The Organization for the Assabet River (OAR) was established to preserve and enhance the river, its tributaries, and watershed. A membership organization with a small staff and an active board, OAR was founded in 1986 in response to citizen concerns about odors and pollution in the Assabet.

The Assabet is much improved since OAR’s founding days, but has some distance to go before the river is truly “fishable and swimmable.” The Assabet River suffers from nutrient pollution, creating excessive plant growth in the summer. Through our water quality and flow monitoring, advocacy, annual river cleanups and other programs, OAR has accomplished a great deal with limited resources. OAR needs your support to continue protecting this wonderful river and its watershed.

To find out more,
please visit our website at www.assabeteriver.org.
Organization for the Assabet River
Damonmill Square, Concord, MA 01742 (978) 369-3956.



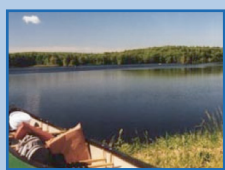
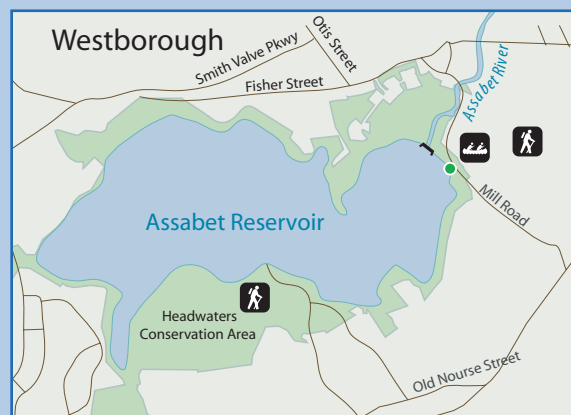
Helpful Resources

Books:

The Concord, Sudbury, and Assabet Rivers: A guide to canoeing, wildlife and history.
 By Ron McAdow. Bliss Publishing Company, Marlborough, MA. 1997. Available through OAR.

Websites:

- OAR: www.assabeteriver.org
- Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge: assabeteriver.fws.gov
- Assabet River Rail Trail: www.arrtinc.org
- Mass Audubon: www.massaudubon.org
- SVT: www.sudburyvalleytrustees.org
- Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council: www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org



The Assabet Reservoir in Westborough. See the other side for the complete river.

OAR thanks our project partners and sponsors:

Sponsors: Intel Massachusetts, Inc.
 Crossroads Community Foundation
 Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
 Riverways Program, DFG

Partners: Town of Westborough, Town of Northborough,
 City of Marlborough, Town of Hudson, Sudbury Valley Trustees

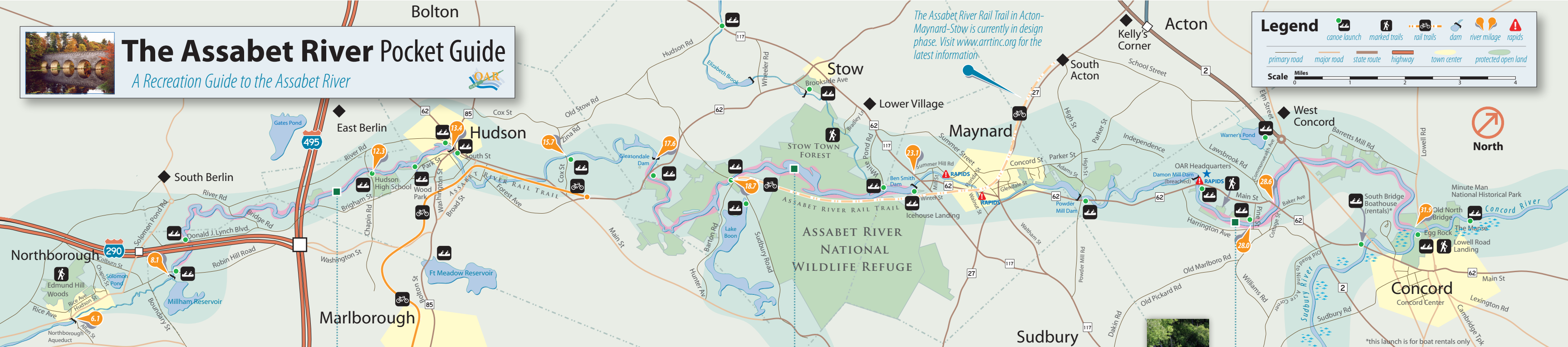
Our second edition made possible by a grant from Intel Massachusetts, Inc.





The Assabet River Pocket Guide

A Recreation Guide to the Assabet River



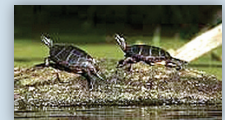
The Assabet River Rail Trail in Acton-Maynard-Stow is currently in design phase. Visit www.artinc.org for the latest information.

*this launch is for boat rentals only

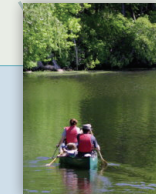
Recommended river trips for canoe or kayak: (river outlined in purple on map)



■ **Paddle 1: Robin Hill Road, Marlborough to Hudson Center.** This lovely five mile paddle takes you through narrow, leafy sections, out into open meadows, and back through the forest before arriving in downtown Hudson.



■ **Paddle 2: Gleasondale, Stow to Ice House Landing, Maynard (Ben Smith Dam).** A scenic and serene five-mile paddle featuring broad, open vistas and abundant wildlife.



■ **Paddle 3: Damonmill to Lowell Road, Concord.** A four mile trip down the federally-designated Wild and Scenic section of the Assabet; leafy canopies overhead lend this stretch an intimate charm. **CAUTION:** The stretch from Damonmill to Pine Street can be hazardous and contains downed trees; put in at Pine Street if unsure of conditions.