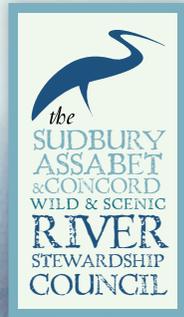


The Concord River Boater's Trail



photo: Catherine D. Ross



WWW.SUDBURY-ASSABET-CONCORD.ORG

Visit our website for additional information on historic, scenic and natural features of the Concord River Boater's Trail.

The Concord River Boater's Trail

From Egg Rock at the beginning of the Concord River in Concord to the Middlesex Canal in Billerica runs approximately 11 miles. It consists of 2 segments:

Trip 1: Egg Rock to Carlisle-Bedford Bridge

Trip 2: Carlisle-Bedford Bridge to the Middlesex Canal

Generally the current is gentle enough to paddle downstream and then return upstream, if you have the time and energy. Otherwise, each one way segment is perfect for a morning or afternoon outing.



Trip 1: Egg Rock to Carlisle-Bedford Bridge (Route 225)

The Trail begins at the confluence of the Sudbury and

Assabet Rivers, at Egg Rock, where they join to become the Concord River. The river is fairly slow moving and easy to paddle in this section, so you can appreciate the rich natural and cultural sites along the way. Pass by the Old Manse, home of Emerson and Hawthorne, and paddle under the famous Old North Bridge, a part of Minute Man National Historical Park. The River enters the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, and you can land your boat to explore the impoundments, home to a diversity of waterfowl. From here, the river continues to slowly meander through rich greenery until you reach Route 225.



Trip 2: Carlisle-Bedford Bridge (Route 225) to the Middlesex Canal

The River becomes quite wide in this

section and is popular for boating, birding and fishing. Great Blue Heron can be seen along the shores as they stalk their prey, while painted turtles sun on exposed logs. This is a peaceful section of the river. As you enter Billerica there will be a bit more development, and even a chance to stop for a meal at a riverside restaurant. After taking your boat off the river, be sure to visit the Middlesex Canal Museum to learn about the early industrial history of the area, and get a look at the old dam.

Helpful Resources

The Concord, Sudbury, and Assabet Rivers: A guide to canoeing, wildlife and history. By Ron McAdow.

Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge: www.fws.gov/northeast/greatmeadows

OARS: www.oars3rivers.org
Massachusetts Audubon Society: www.massaudubon.org
Sudbury Valley Trustees: www.sudburyvalleytrustees.org
Wild and Scenic Rivers Program: www.rivers.gov

What is a Wild and Scenic River?



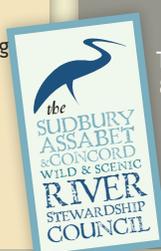
Enacted in 1968, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act created a program to permanently protect selected free flowing rivers. Those rivers deemed to possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, ecological, historical or cultural resources are included in the Wild and Scenic System. Nationally, 166 rivers are designated. The Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers are recognized, along with 6 other New England Rivers.

Credits

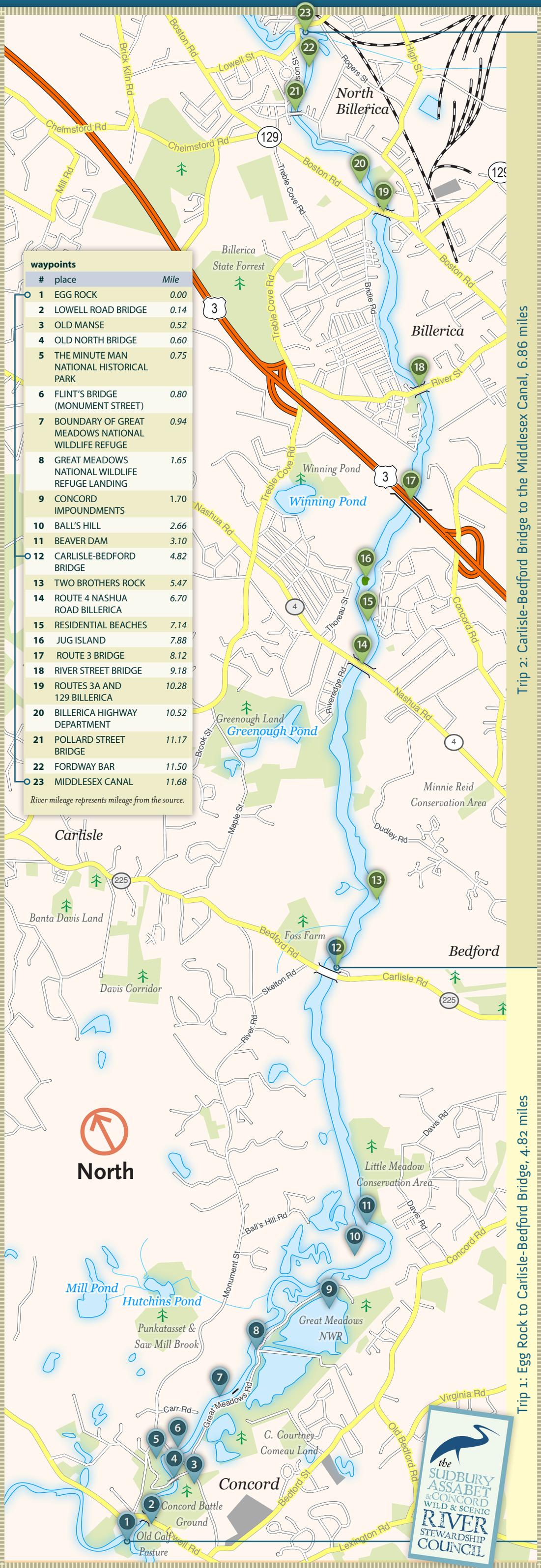


Special thanks to Rotary International, the Bedford, Billerica, and Concord Rotary Clubs, OARS: For the Assabet, Concord and Sudbury Rivers, and the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.

The Sudbury, Assabet & Concord Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council
c/o The National Park Service
15 State Street, 10th Floor,
Boston MA 02109, USA



The Concord River Boater's Trail



Trip 2: Carlisle-Bedford Bridge to the Middlesex Canal, 6.86 miles

Trip 1: Egg Rock to Carlisle-Bedford Bridge, 4.82 miles

