

Explore the Lamprey River Map and Tour Guide Supplement and Revisions

Welcome to the Lamprey River Tour

Change 47 miles to 49 miles. (2 miles were added to include the saltwater portion.)

National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program (OLD) change to: Federally and State Protected

The entire Lamprey River and five major tributaries are protected under the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. For 23 miles in Epping, Lee, Durham, and Newmarket, the river is also designated as protected under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee is the local side of a partnership with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and the National Park Service to protect the river's natural features and historic sites. Please do your part to keep this river special.

Epping

1. Mary Blair Park (REVISED)

DESCRIPTION This is the official start of the Lamprey River Tour and where the annual Lamprey River Canoe Race begins. The National Wild and Scenic River portion of the river begins here where the Folsom Dam formerly was sited. The dam was removed in 2011, but the four panels of the history trail behind the Mary Blair Park kiosk describe the dam and other historic features of the park. In addition to the canoe access and the history trail, this 11-acre park also includes two baseball fields and a natural playground.

DIRECTIONS Follow signs for Mary Blair Park off Route 27 in West Epping. Plenty of parking.



Photo by S. Petersen

Children enjoy Mary Blair Park's natural playground

3. Epping Town Hall (REVISED)

DESCRIPTION The center of Epping is mostly residential. Town Hall, situated next to the river, is the most prominent building and is constructed of bricks made

in Epping. Visit the library and nearby historical society to learn more about the town.

RECREATION Canoe and fishing access are located behind Town Hall.

DIRECTIONS Route 125 to Route 27, turn right on Main Street.

4. Route 87 Bridge/ Tilton Conservation Area

DESCRIPTION Under dry conditions, this is an ideal spot for a short walk right along the river. The floodplain trail has numbered posts that are described on the kiosk at the trail's start. This site is the finish of the annual Lamprey River Canoe Race. Although it is possible to paddle from here downstream to Wadleigh Falls in Lee, paddlers should expect to encounter some down trees and be prepared to portage.

DIRECTIONS Route 125 to Route 87/Hedding Road. 1.5 miles to bridge. Parking is just after the bridge on the left.

ACCESS Tread lightly on this wet often-wet area. No bicycles allowed.

Lee

Lee Public Canoe Access (NEW)

DESCRIPTION The small parcel of land, granite landing, and kiosk for the only public canoe access in Lee were donated by the Lamprey River Advisory Committee. The access offers a tour upstream through one of the most natural and least developed sections of the river. Please note that this section has a history of several downed trees that can be difficult to pass without portaging. Paddlers should not plan to travel downstream due to dangerous falls at the breached dam just beyond the Route 152 bridge.

DIRECTIONS The access is located a short distance west from the Route 152 bridge at Wadleigh Falls. Limited parking for 5 or 6 vehicles is available adjacent to the river.

5. Wadleigh Falls

DESCRIPTION same

DIRECTIONS same

ACCESS The falls and island are privately owned. No access allowed.

Durham

Thompson Forest (NEW)

DESCRIPTION This 53 acre conservation area was once part of a 200 acre dairy farm. Part of it sits atop part of Durham's public water supply and has significant frontage along the Lamprey River. A walking trail passes through forest and a wildlife habitat management area.

DIRECTIONS The site is located at 199-177 Wednesday Hill Rd between Durham and Lee, just west of Griffith Drive. Off-road parking for 6 cars.

ACCESS No wheeled vehicles allowed. Dogs must be leashed.

8. Wiswall Falls/ John Hatch Park (REVISED)

DESCRIPTION This 3-acre site, owned by the Town of Durham, was once a center of activity in the 1800s. It is listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*. Various mills and Durham's first electric power plant were built here. Although the mill buildings were destroyed by fire, visitors to the site can see several foundations. A Denil fish ladder was constructed here in 2012. Visitors can enjoy a short river-side walk, history, and picnicking.

DIRECTIONS On Wiswall Road between Packers Falls Road and Lee Hook Road. Limited parking for 5 or 6 cars. Do not park on the road.

Newmarket

Schoppmeyer Memorial Park (NEW)

DESCRIPTION This 3 acre conservation area is dedicated to Chris Schoppmeyer who served his community as a conservation officer and volunteer for the town's fishing derby and conservation commission and also as an advocate for the Lamprey River. The park features a contemplative garden, river-side picnic area, and a kayak access to the impounded area behind the Macallen Dam. Kayaks on site can be rented from the Newmarket Recreation Department.

DIRECTIONS The park is located .2 miles south of the Durham/Newmarket town line on Route 108. Limited parking is available to the right of the Newmarket Community Church Thrift Store. This is a carry-in kayak access.

Macallen Dam (NEW for 2020)

DESCRIPTION This half-acre site is owned by the NH Fish and Game Department. It features a Denil fish ladder. An overhead walkway allows views of the full dam and fish ladder. The site will undergo improvements in 2019 as the Town of Newmarket makes repairs to the Macallen Dam. This is where the annual Herring Aid event is held in spring.

DIRECTIONS Route 108 (Main Street) on the north side of the mill area. Park on Route 108 or in the municipal lot behind the library.

12. Richard Schanda Conservation Park- Town Boat Landing (REVISED)

DESCRIPTION This town-owned park is below the Macallen Dam and offers access to the tidal portion of the river out to Great Bay. During the summer, free concerts are offered. The annual Splash and Dash kayak race is held here. Kayaks on site can be rented from the Newmarket Recreation Department.

DIRECTIONS Take Water Street off Route 108 in downtown Newmarket.

A. Folsom Conservation Area- Epping

D. George Falls Woods- Epping

DESCRIPTION This 11-acre Town Forest has a one-mile walking loop that passes through a pine grove with many mature trees.

G. Thompson Inn (formerly Highland House Resort)- Durham

DESCRIPTION Highland House was a farmhouse turned destination resort. The inn drew families, writers, actors, and musicians from Boston, New York, and beyond to enjoy the elegance and calm of country life from the 1890s into the 1960s. Now fully restored, the facility caters to wedding parties and other special events.

DIRECTIONS same

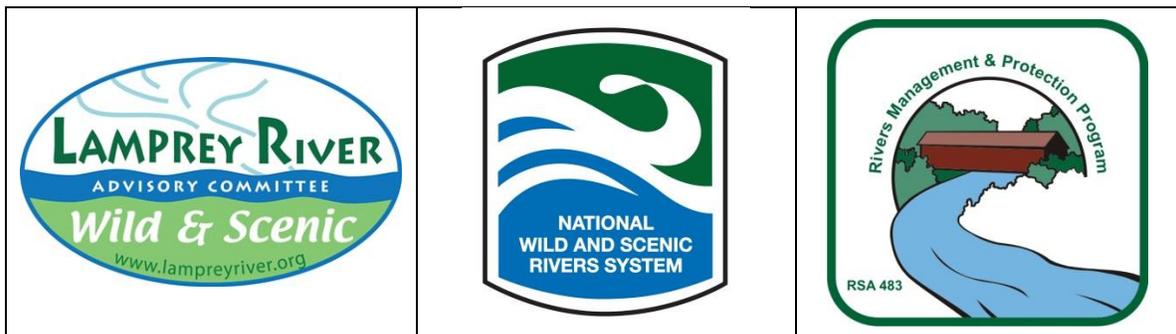
ACCESS same

H. Lamprey River Preserve- Durham

DESCRIPTION same

DIRECTIONS Located on Packers Falls Road near the Durham-Newmarket town line.

Replace current logos with these new logos:



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