



CONCORD RIVER PADDLE

LOWELL & BILLERICA, MA

The Concord River starts where the Assabet and Sudbury Rivers join in Concord, MA, and travels about 16 miles to empty into the Merrimack River in Lowell, MA. In the 1800s and early 1900s, the Concord River served as a power source for textile mills in Billerica and Lowell. This section of the river is heavily wooded. This is a visual reminder of the importance of protected forestland along the river for reducing non-point source pollutant runoff into the waterway from commercial, industrial and residential areas in the watershed.



LOWELL PARKS & CONSERVATION TRUST

What you'll see: This is a beautiful stretch of the Concord River that is seldom paddled and very quiet. In most sections, the river is 80-100 yards wide, and easy to paddle through with a slow current that is noticeable but manageable when going upstream. Wildlife are abundant on the river: look for **turtles, great blue herons, mallards, red-tailed hawks, and double-crested cormorants** as you paddle. Bring some binoculars if you have them to best enjoy the wildlife viewing opportunities. Fish species include **large and small-mouthed bass, yellow perch, carp, and pumpkinseed (sunfish)**. This trip also includes passing under the new I-495 bridge over the Concord River.

Location: Muldoon Park, Lowell, MA upstream on the Concord River to Billerica and back

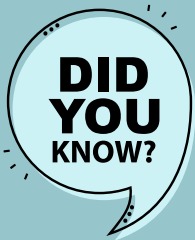
Length of Paddle: 5.3 miles round trip (out and back paddle)

Approximate time: 3 hours

Difficulty: Easy to moderate. Flat water, but you will be paddling upstream against mild current for the first half.

What to bring: PFD/lifejacket, water, lunch, water shoes, sunscreen and hat (high sun exposure), binoculars (optional), swimsuit (optional), small dry bag (optional)

Be Aware: Recent precipitation and weather can impact water level and current velocity.



- In the springtime (April and May), the **Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust** partners with **Zoar Outdoor** to run **whitewater rafting trips** on the Concord River. The whitewater section of the river is downstream from the Muldoon Park launch and not included in this paddle, but you can learn more about these trips at www.lowelllandtrust.org
- The Concord and Merrimack Rivers were the subject of **Henry David Thoreau's** first book, published in 1849 and titled *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*. In it, he recounts a boat trip with his brother and marvels at the beauty of his surroundings.



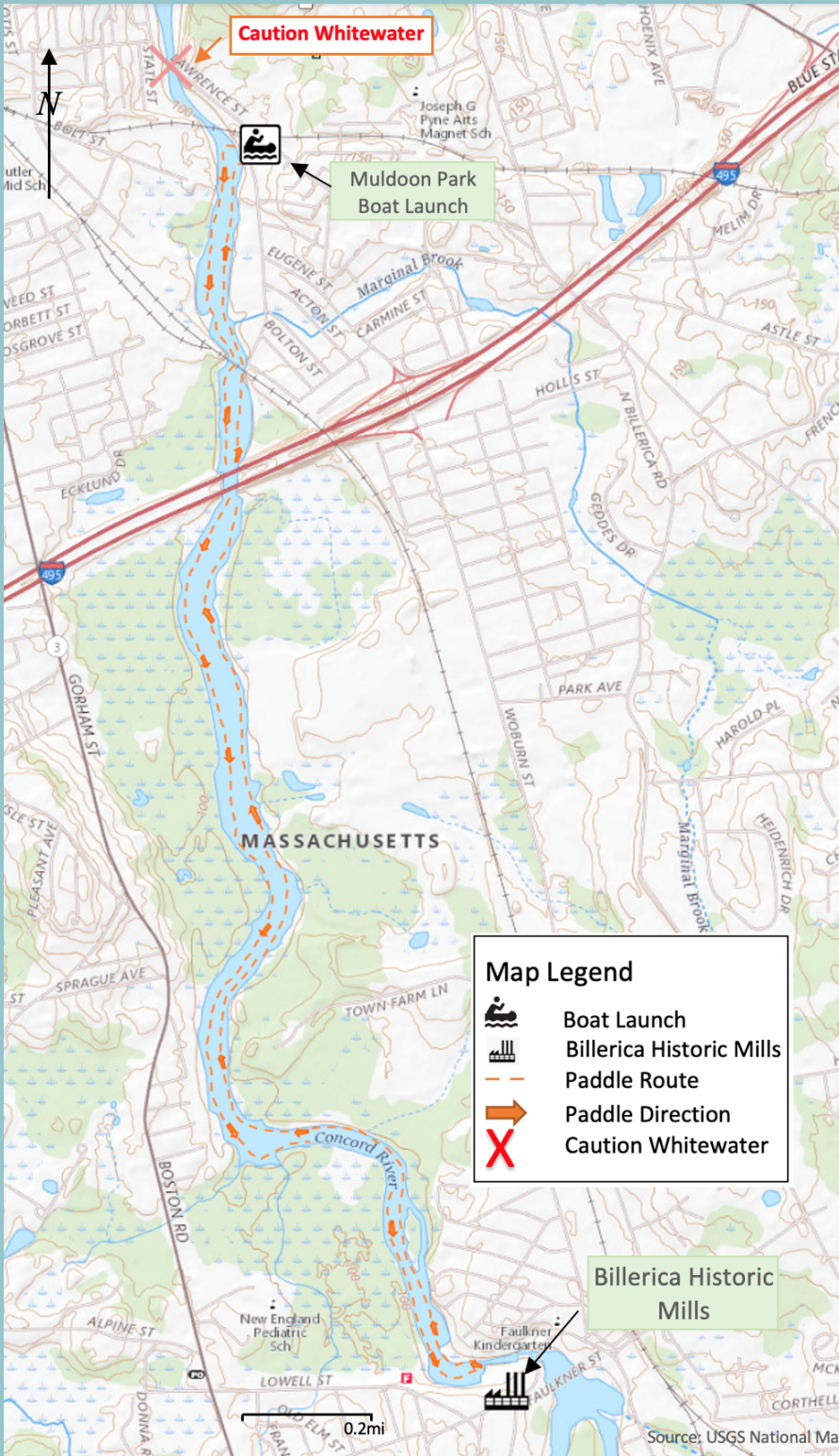
MERRIMACK RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL



GETTING THERE... maps & DIRECTIONS


Put In Location: Muldoon Park, 5 Billerica Street, Lowell, MA. Take the Woburn Street exit off I-495, left on Lawrence Street, then left on Billerica Street. Launch parking will be immediately on right.

GPS/Navigation App Coordinates: 42.625570, -71.295251



SUGGESTED ROUTE

- Put in at **Muldoon Park** in Lowell, MA and paddle upstream (left, if you're facing the river from the launch). Do not paddle downstream from this location (under the trestle bridge) as there is a small dam and potentially dangerous whitewater below.
- You will pass under two bridges within your first mile of paddling upstream, the second being the new Interstate 495 bridge. Keep paddling along this beautiful green corridor for approximately 2.6 miles until you reach the **Billerica historic mills**.
- You will see a large industrial building that looks like it is in the middle of the river- **turn around here** (beyond that is the dam and falls). Enjoy the leisurely paddle downstream back to **Muldoon Park**.

  Tag your photos
#merrimackpaddlechallenge
to share your adventures!



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