



CROSS BORDER Merrimack Paddle

NASHUA, NH TO TYNGSBOROUGH, MA

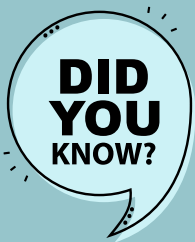
This one-way paddle requires spotting a car at the take-out location beforehand, but is well worth that effort to be able to cover a long stretch of the Merrimack (including two states!) while paddling leisurely with the current. You'll begin in the City of Nashua, NH and paddle past the confluence with the Nashua River, ending about 8 miles south in Tyngsboro, MA. You'll need a phone or GPS if you want to determine exactly when you cross the state line—there isn't a "Welcome to Massachusetts" sign along the river, but the ducks and fish don't seem to mind!



MRWC

What you'll see: As you launch in Greeley Park, the Merrimack runs along the east side of the City of Nashua. There are signs of development, but most of it is hidden by wooded river bank. For much of this 8 mile stretch of river, the shoreline is surprisingly green and forested. The **forested buffer** along the river is wider in some places than others, but in all cases it serves as an important buffer from pollutant run-off and a critical travel and habitat corridor for wildlife along the river. Keep your eyes open for wading birds like **herons and egrets** along the miles of river bank, and possibly **hawks, turkey vultures**, or a **bald eagle** soaring overhead.

Location: Greeley Park, Nashua, NH to River Front Park, Tyngsborough, MA (see reverse side for details)
Length of Paddle: 8 miles total **** This is a ONE-WAY paddle.** It can be made 2 miles shorter with alternate put-in at Merrill Park, Hudson, NH.
Approximate time: About 4 hours (3 hours if using alternate put-in)
Difficulty: Moderate, due to length. Flat water, and you will be paddling with the current.
What to bring: PFD/lifejacket, water, lunch, water shoes, sunscreen and hat (high sun exposure), binoculars (optional), swimsuit (optional)
Be Aware: Recent precipitation and weather can impact water level and current velocity.



- This area has been inhabited by people for at least 8,000 years, beginning with the people of the **Pennacook tribe**, who used the Merrimack and Nashua Rivers for both transportation and sustenance.
- The region from the Town of Merrimack NH (north of Nashua) south to Tyngsborough, MA, was all once the **Township of Dunstable, Massachusetts Bay Colony**, chartered in 1673. Today, as you're paddling southward in NH, the **City of Nashua** is on your right and the Town of **Hudson, NH** is on your left. When you reach Massachusetts, both sides of the river are the Town of **Tyngsboro, MA**.



MERRIMACK RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL



GETTING THERE... MAPS & DIRECTIONS

Put In Location: Greeley Park Boat Launch, Nashua, NH. From the end of Hills Ferry Rd in Nashua, cross the railroad tracks and bear right on a dirt road leading to the boat ramp parking lot.

GPS/Navigation App Coordinates: 42.7861723, -71.4612781 (end of Hills Ferry Rd., then follow above)

Alternate Put In Location: Merrill Park, Hudson, NH.

GPS/Navigation App Coordinates: 42.76010, -71.43984

Take Out Location: Tyngsborough Riverfront Park, 71 Frost Road, Tyngsborough, MA.

GPS/Navigation App Coordinates: 42.6829978, -71.4119649

Merrimack

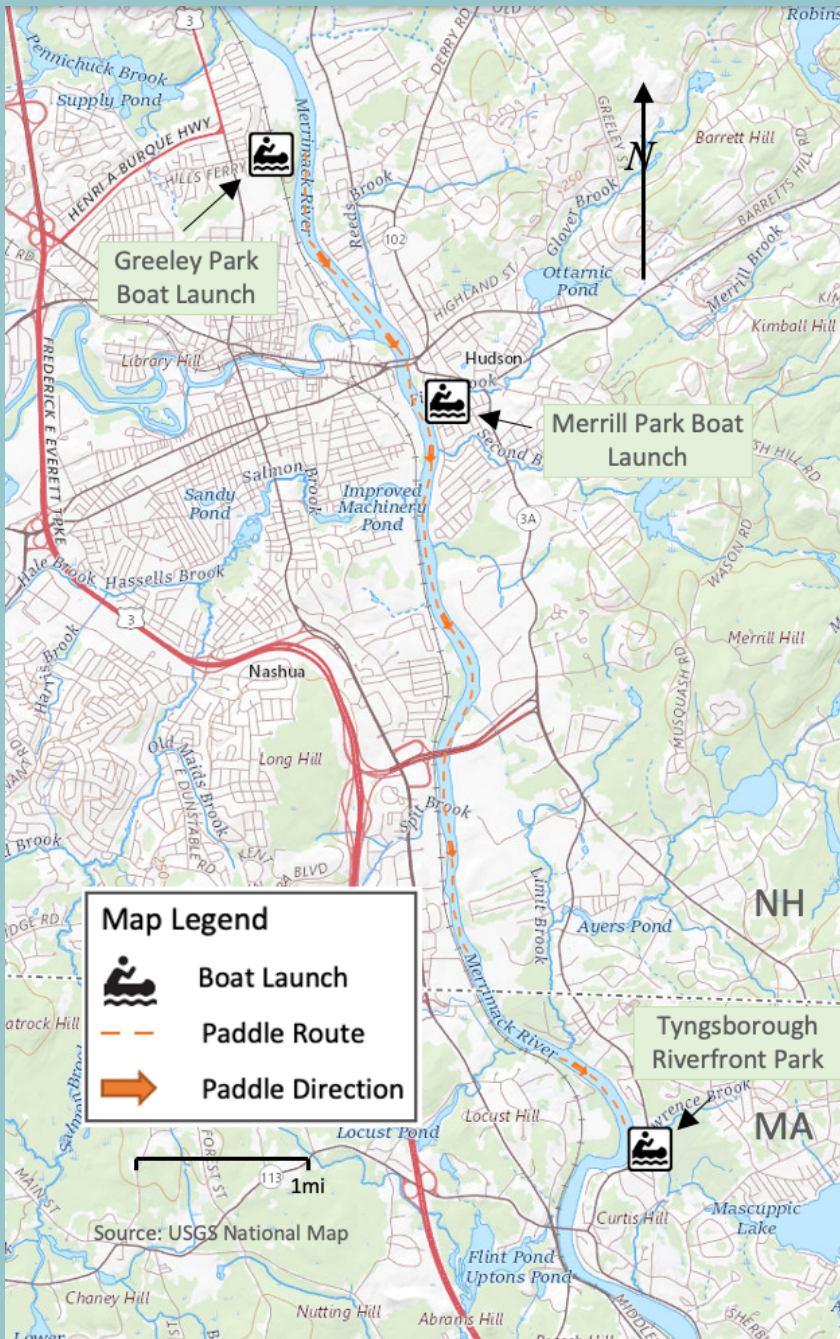
PADDLE CHALLENGE



Tag your photos

#merrimackpaddlechallenge

to share your adventures!



SUGGESTED ROUTE

- First, spot a vehicle at **Riverfront Park** in **Tyngsborough, MA**, near the boat launch. Then drive your boats north to the **Greeley Park Boat Launch in Nashua, NH**.
- From the **put in at Greeley Park** boat launch in Nashua, NH, **paddle south** (go right, with current) along the Merrimack River.
- In approximately two miles, you will pass the confluence with the **Nashua River** (on your right) where it empties into the Merrimack. The Nashua River, like the Merrimack, has lots of mill history. A side trip up the Nashua (not included in this paddle guide) can be an interesting and more urban extension to your voyage.
- Continue south along the Merrimack and you will pass under a handful of **bridges** and past some **old bridge abutments** as well. At about 6 miles, you will cross into **Tyngsborough, Massachusetts!**
- Keep paddling until the **take out at the Tyngsborough Riverfront Park** in Tyngsborough, MA.



MRWC

