

The Nationwide Rivers Inventory 30 Segments for the State of Massachusetts

Reference Source: <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/nri/> Note: Outstanding Resource Values (ORVs) Definitions at List Bottom

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River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Ashley Hill/Bashbish Brook	Berkshire	Confluence with Lee Pond to headwaters.	6	1982		S, G	See Ashley Hill/Bashbish Brook Comments	
<u>Ashley Hill/Bashbish Brook Comments:</u> Geologic-(Segment includes a 200' gorge and waterfalls unique in this section.) Scenic-(Diverse juxtaposition and combination of geologic, water and natural vegetative elements in a remote setting.)								
Charles River	Middlesex, Norfolk	Glenwood Cemetery to Rockville.	13	1982		R, O	See Charles River Comments	
Charles River Comments: Recreation-(Proximity to high concentrations of urban populations in the Boston metropolitan area.) Archeologic-(Segment includes significant prehistoric sites which indicate the region has had human occupation for 11,000 years.)								
Cold River	Berkshire	Confluence with the Deerfield River to headwaters.	12	1982		O	See Cold River Comments	
Bog Brook	Berkshire	Confluence with the Cold River to the headwaters.	3	1982		O	See Cold River Comments.	

Gulf Brook	Berkshire	Confluence with the Cold River to the headwaters.	4	1982		O	See Cold River Comments.	
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Cold River Comments: Wild-(An excellent example of an undeveloped free flowing, low order river system which is one of the few remaining examples of this type south of Vermont.)

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Concord River		From the confluence of the Sudbury and Assabet downstream to the Route 3 bridge in the town of Billerica.	0	1982/ 1995	Update 1995		See Concord River Comments1	

Concord River Comments1: This river is under Congressional study for designation to the Wild and Scenic River System. It is currently under the full protection of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act pursuant to Section 7 (b) of the Act.

Concord River	Middlesex	Route 3 bridge to Concord.	6	1982		R	See Concord River Comments2	
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Concord River Comments2: Recreation-(Proximity to urban populations of the Boston metropolitan area.)

Connecticut River	Franklin	Turners Falls to Schnell Bridge.	9	1982		O	Hydrologic- (An undeveloped, high order river segment.)	
Deerfield River	Franklin	Stillwater Bridge to Schneck Brook.	5	1982		F, O	See Deerfield River Comments1	

South River	Franklin	Confluence with Deerfield River to Conway.	4	1982		W	See Deerfield River Comments.	
<u>Deerfield River Comments1:</u> Fish-(A regionally significant trout stream and an historic Atlantic Salmon Fishery.)								
Deerfield River	Franklin	South of Charlemont to confluence with Fife Brook.	11	1982		F, H	See Deerfield River Comments2	
<u>Deerfield River Comments2:</u> Fish-(River is an historic Atlantic Salmon fishery.) History -(Segment parallels the Mohawk Trail, the principal route for expeditions against English settlements during French and Indian Wars.)								
Farmington River, West Branch	Berkshire	Confluence with Thorp Brook (above Colebrook Reservoir) to Hayden Pond.	11	1982		R, G, F	See Farmington River, West Branch Comments	
<u>Farmington River, West Branch Comments:</u> Recreation -(A unique diversity of flow gradients including 3 miles of Class IV rapids, flatwater-quickwater segments and easy rapids.) Fish -(River is currently being restored as an Atlantic Salmon fishery.) Geologic -(River related land forms and topography unique to the New England Upland section.)								
Housatonic River	Berkshire	Connecticut border to below Great Barrington.	14	1982		G, F	See Housatonic River Comments	
<u>Housatonic River Comments:</u> Fish -(River is an historic Atlantic Salmon fishery.) Geologic -(Course of the river follows a line of Stockbridge marble limestone cliffs referred to as Bartholemews Cobble, a National Natural Landmark.)								
Ipswich River	Essex, Middlesex	Palmer State Park to Peabody.	14	1982		H	See Ipswich River Comments	
<u>Ipswich River Comments:</u> Historic -(Segment includes the Choate Bridge, a National Historic Register site and the oldest stone bridge in the State.)								

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Konkapot River	Berkshire	New Marlborough to Breuer Lake.	8	1982		F	Fish -(Segment is part of regionally significant trout stream.)	
Mashpee River	Barnstable	Confluence with Popponeset Bay to Mashpee.	4	1982		F, O	See Mashpee River Comments	

Mashpee River Comments: **Fish**-(Segment includes a significant fishery for sea run trout, also referred to as "salters".)
Hydrologic-(Segment is the southernmost least developed free-flowing river in the section.)

Millers River	Franklin, Worcester	East of Athol to Birch Hill Dam.	6	1982		C	See Millers River Comments	
Millers River	Worcester	Above Whitney Pond to headwaters.	5	1982		H	See Millers River Comments	

Millers River Comments: **Cultural**-(Segment is a significant example of a river representative of the major periods of New England's history.)

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Nashua River	Worcester	Below Pepperell to the Ayer State Game Farm.	6	1982		F	See Nashua River Comments	
Nashua River	Hillsborough, Worcester	Above Hollis Depot to East Pepperell.	5	1982		G	See Nashua River Comments	NH
<u>Nashua River Comments:</u> Fish- (River is an historic Atlantic Salmon fishery.) Geologic- (River exhibits unique phenomenon of reversed mainstream flow due to geological uplift and glacial activity.)								
North River	Plymouth	Upstream from Cushing Memorial Park to east of Hanover.	9	1982		G, F, H, O	See North River Comments	
<u>North River Comments:</u> Botanic- (Stream includes a significant and diverse wetland system, which is a National Natural Landmark and part of the largest saltmarsh in Massachusetts.) Fish- (Stream supports a unique diversity of fish-over 45 species- including the significant anadromous herring.) Geologic- (Segment includes a unique phenomenon of drumlins and other glacial depositional features located in a saltmarsh.) Historic- (Corridor follows the Wampanoag Canoe Passage, formerly the primary route of Indians traveling from the coast to inland regions of New England.)								
Pamet River	Barnstable	Pamet harbor to the ocean dunes.	4	1982		O	See Pamet River Comments	
<u>Pamet River Comments:</u> Hydrologic- (Segment is an example of a river formed from flooded outwash plains. The geological term "pamet" has its origin with the river.)								
Parker River	Essex	Confluence with Plum Island Sound to I-95 bridge.	8	1982		R, W, O	See Parker River Comments	

Plum Island River		Confluence with Plum Island Sound to above Little Pine Creek.	2	1982		R, W, O	See Parker River Comments.	
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Parker River Comments: **Wildlife-**(Segment includes a National Wildlife Refuge, which is one of the most famous ornithological areas in the U.S. An exceptionally high number and diversity of waterfowl, shorebirds, rare and uncommon species are frequently observed. **Botanic-**(Corridor includes extensive tidal marsh and the Plum Island dune ecosystem which has a unique diversity of plant species.) **Recreation-**(Unique natural inland waterway connects Atlantic coast and the culturally significant Merrimack River, creating opportunities for a water trail system.)

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Scantic River	Hampden	Hampden to headwaters.	5	1982		W	See Scantic River Comments	CT

Scantic River Comments: **Wildlife-**(Segment includes Laughing Brook Wildlife Area, a Potential National Natural Landmark.)

Sudbury River	Middlesex	Below Sudbury Road Bridge to Route 20 Bridge.	8	1982		R, F	Fish- (River is an historic Atlantic Salmon fishery.)	
Westfield River	Berkshire, Hampshire	Holly Brook to the headwaters of Center Brook.	25	1982		S, R, G	See Westfield River Comments	

Westfield River Comments: **Hydrologic-**(One of the few remaining sparsely developed free-flowing low order rivers in the section.) **Recreation-**(One of the longest whitewater runs in the southern New England area.) **Scenic-**(A wide variety and diversity of views related to the juxtaposition of landforms, land use and vegetation.) **Geologic-**(River related land forms and topography are unique to section.)

Westfield River, Middle Branch	Hampshire, Berkshire	Dayville to Peru Wildlife Management Area.	11	1982		F	Fish- (Rivers is an historic Atlantic Salmon fishery.)	
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Westfield River, West Branch	Berkshire, Hampshire	Chester to Becket.	7	1982		R, F, O	See Westfield River, West Branch Comments
Shaker Mill Brook	Berkshire	Becket to headwaters	4	1982		R, F, O	See Westfield River, West Branch Comments.

Westfield River, West Branch Comments: **Fish-**(River is an historic Atlantic Salmon fishery.) **Hydrologic-**(Segment is one of the last major relatively undeveloped free-flowing rivers in the southeastern portion of this section.) **Recreation-**(Segment includes a diversity of challenging whitewater, including significant rapids of Class IV gradient.)

Outstanding Resource Values (ORV) Definitions:

Scenery (S): The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors -- such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed -- may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment.

Recreation (R): Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing and boating.

- Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract, or have the potential to attract, visitors from outside the region of comparison.
- The river may provide, or have the potential to provide, settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.
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Geology (G): The river, or the area within the river corridor, contains one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon that is unique or rare within the region of comparison. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a "textbook" example, and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, or other geologic structures).

Fish (F): Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions.

- *Populations:* The river is nationally or regionally an important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance is the presence of wild stocks and/or federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."
- *Habitat:* The river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison. Of particular significance is habitat for wild stocks and/or federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."

Wildlife (W): Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic wildlife populations or habitat or a combination of these conditions.

- *Populations:* The river, or area within the river corridor, contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique, and/or populations of federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."
- *Habitat:* The river, or area within the river corridor, provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."

Prehistory (P): The river, or area within the river corridor, contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must have unique or rare characteristics or exceptional human interest value(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare and represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups; and/or may have been used by cultural groups for rare sacred purposes. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which is administered by the NPS.

History (H): The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) or feature(s) associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or one-of-a-kind in the region. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A historic site(s) and/or features(s) is 50 years old or older in most cases.

Cultural (C): The river or area within the river corridor contains archaeological sites or areas significant to traditional cultures. Examples might be American Indian burial grounds, petroglyphs, the oldest known human use site in a region, or streams that support traditional agriculture, subsistence fishing, or religious ceremonies.

Other Values (O): While no specific national evaluation guidelines have been developed for the "other similar values" category, assessments of additional river-related values consistent with the foregoing guidance may be developed -- including, but not limited to, hydrology, paleontology and botany resources.