Taunton River Pathways

Taunton River Pathways is a vision for a network of land and water based recreation along the Wild and Scenic Taunton River. www.tauntonriver.org

TAUNTON RIVER PATHWAYS is a collaboration between public and private conservation partnerships.

- Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Regional Recreation Council
- Rhode Island Blueways Alliance
- Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SREHDD)
- Taunton River Stewardship Council
- Taunton River Watershed Alliance
- The Nature Conservancy
- Wildlands Trust

Photo Credits
- J. Todd Keane
- Liz Ranft
- Jerry & Marcie Monkman
- Steve Arena
- Hessel's hairstreak: Concord Museum, photo by Steve Arena

FIND YOUR PATHWAY TO THE TAUNTON RIVER

The slowly meandering miles of the Taunton River will surprise you with unexpected scenic beauty and varied wildlife. Like the river itself, Taunton is gentle and perfect for families and casual or novice recreationists. Pastures, woodlands, marshlands along the river banks are rich with nesting birds like kingfisher, heron, providing an outdoor experience that feels surprisingly removed from the city. The Taunton is also rich in history, with examples of colonial millworks and stories of early contact between English settlers and the Wampanoag. Whether it’s a bike ride with friends, family picnic, or quiet evening paddle, Taunton River Pathways offers many ways to explore and find new adventures and treasures that have been here all along.

TAUNTON RIVER AFTERNOON

At 4:30 p.m. EST on Saturday, June 20th from Fall River take Route 78 West toward the Taunton Memorial Bridge. Cross the Taunton Memorial Bridge and then take Route 78 West to Taunton. In Taunton take Route 138 South toward the Taunton River’s Atlantic white cedar swamps.

Open 2011, it includes the separated bike path on its north side dedicated in honor of Pvt. Michael E. Bouthot.

The new Veterans Memorial Bridge is a four-leaf bascule bridge with its panoramic river views; then along the shaded Dighton to a grassy picnic spot overlooking the river in Sweets Knoll State Park.

After lunch, you follow the trail down to the river’s edge to visit the Taunton River's Atlantic white cedar swamps.

Cranberries, blueberries, strawberries, pumpkins, Christmas due to the decomposition of leaves from overhanging trees. The waters of the Taunton River are naturally tea-colored from 12,000–8,000 years before present day. New England. This site contains evidence of dwellings dating is the one of the most significant Paleoindian depositions in Wampanucket, at the Assawompset Ponds in Middleborough, a sign of improved habitat and water quality.

River otters and harbor seals have returned to the river, side dedicated in honor of Pvt. Michael E. Bouthot.

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EXPERIENCE the TAUNTON RIVER

SUGGESTED PADDLE
Weir Village Park to Dighton Rock State Park (6 miles/3-4 hours)

When paddling these waters you should plan your trip around the tides. A one-way trip downstream from Weir Village Park to Dighton Rock can be made at any tide but will be much easier on an outgoing tide. On an incoming tide you can also paddle upstream from Berkley Bridge, Sweets Knoll or Dighton Rock quite easily, making it possible to do a round trip if you time the tides right. Especially in the lower reaches, low tide will expose sandflats, which attract interesting birds but can make launching and landing more challenging. For more details, visit www.exploreri.org

SUGGESTED WALK AND PICNIC
Sweets Knoll State Park
(1 mile loop/1.5 hours, including picnic)

Down the hill from the parking area, follow the wide gravel trail straight down to a picnic table with an expansive view at the river’s edge. Retrace your steps to the old railroad crossing, then take the trail to the left to a stone wall, where the trail veers left again up a small knoll and picnic site overlooking the river. From the overlook, continue down to the river and then loop back to the trail along the railroad bed to return to the parking area.

Bicycle & Boating Tips

• Always wear your bicycle helmet on the trail and your life jacket on the river.
• Remove what you bring, clean up more if you can.
• Respect private property.
• Find bike safety publications at MassBike website: massbike.org
• Paddle safety info at American Canoe Society website: www.americancanoe.org
• For canoe/kayak rentals, visit Nemasket Kayak Center in Wareham. www.nemasketkayak.com

TAUNTON RIVER WATERSHED / 502 square miles

• PROPOSED BIKE ROUTE
• WATER TRAIL
• PUBLIC & CONSERVATION LAND
• TRAILERED BOAT LAUNCH
• CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH

• PROPOSED BIKE ROUTE
• WATER TRAIL
• PUBLIC & CONSERVATION LAND
• TRAILERED BOAT LAUNCH
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