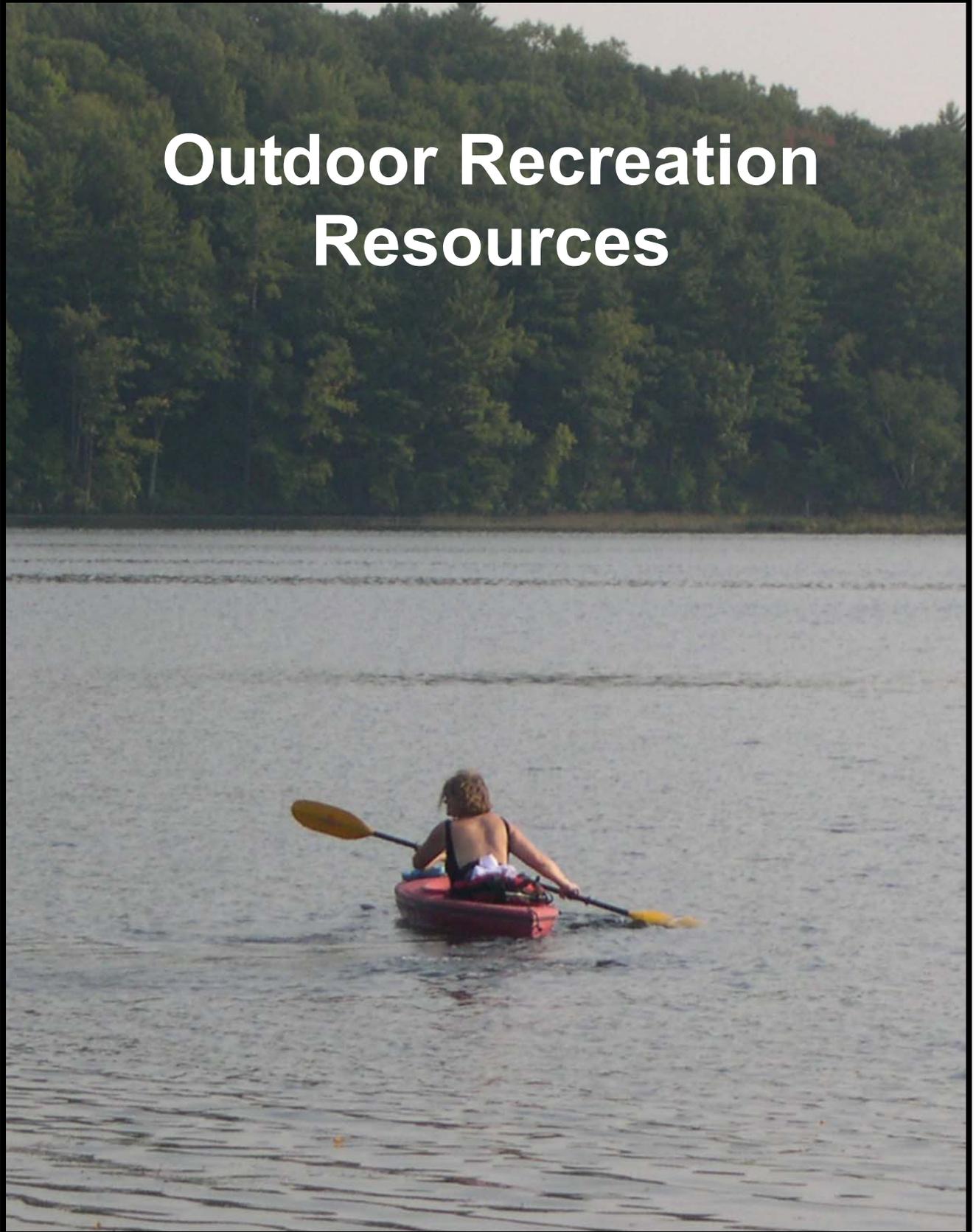


Outdoor Recreation Resources



There are many outstanding outdoor recreational resources located along the eastern section of the Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway. The Connecticut and the Millers Rivers as well as the mountainous terrain located within close proximity to the Byway provide unique recreational opportunities. The diverse outdoor recreational activities include camping, hiking, mountain biking, river related activities, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, golfing, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, canoeing, kayaking, road bicycling, swimming, bird watching and snowmobiling. This chapter of the Corridor Management Plan provides an inventory of these facilities by type of activity, identifies issues related to the existing and potential increase in the use of the recreational facilities, and recommends future actions to ensure that the recreational resources remain an asset to the region's economy and quality of life.

While this Corridor Management Plan primarily focuses on resources within a half-mile radius of the Byway (Route 2 and Route 2A), the recreational resources section of the report does include attractions that are located outside of this project area boundary, but within the towns along the Byway. Recreational resources that are primarily accessible from the Byway route and within a short drive have also been included.

State Forests

The Erving State Forest and the Wendell State Forest are located in the project area. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) owns and manages both of these facilities. These facilities include almost 10,000 acres with multiple use trails for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, camping, swimming, picnicking, fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing. A brief description of the facility and a summary of the activities available at each of these sites are also included below.

Wendell State Forest

Wendell State Forest is located south of the Millers River. It includes 7,566 acres of rolling forested hills, streams, ponds, and trails. There are 50 miles of trails within the state forest. The land was purchased in the 1920s. The area was heavily burned during the early 1900s. Some of the park and most of the road systems were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. Ruggles Pond is the main day-use area. This 10-acre pond offers crystal clear water for swimming and fishing. There are also picnic sites and a ball field with a pavilion located near the pond. There is a small boat launching ramp located at the Northern end of Wickett Pond. The Metacomet Monadnock Mattabesett Trail

(MMM Trail) traverses the forest and includes a small Adirondack shelter for trail users. The facilities and activities available at the State Forest include: hiking, picnicking, fishing, hunting, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, boat launch access and snowmobiling.

Website: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/wndl.htm>

Erving State Forest

Erving State Forest is located to the north of Route 2 in the Town of Erving. This recreational area provides a wide variety of activities including, boating, swimming and fishing at Laurel Lake with its beautiful brick-lined lakeshore, camping, picnicking, hunting, horseback riding and winter sports. There are 8 miles of forest roads, and numerous trails that lead to points of scenic interest throughout the forest. The Erving State Forest has overnight accommodations, toilet facilities and showers. The affordable accommodation and facilities provided at the state park campsites are popular with various groups, and are often sold out on weekends. The facilities and activities available at the State Forest include: *hiking, boating, camping (including shower facilities), picnicking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.*

W e b s i t e :
<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/ervf.htm>

Other Recreation Areas and Parks

Athol

Alan E. Rich Environmental Park

The Alan E. Rich Environmental Park is located at the west end of Athol center. The park has car-top access to the Millers River and trails through Cass Meadow Wildlife Management Area. The facilities and activities available include: *picnicking, hiking, cross-country skiing, canoeing/kayaking, boating, and wildlife viewing.* Website:

www.athol-ma.gov/parks.html

Bearsden Conservation Area

The Town of Athol's Bearsden Conservation Area includes ten miles of trails crisscrossing 1,000 acres of forest. The trails provide diverse exploration options including views of the Millers River, nearby mountains, the Millers River, stone walls and a cut through rock ledge. A strenuous climb leads to Round Top, which is Athol's second highest hill at 1,278 feet, and to Warren's Vista. Both locations have a panoramic view of the surrounding valleys. There are also trails that lead to the Newton Reservoir, formerly a water supply; Duck Pond, a haven for waterfowl; the Ox Bow, a curve in the river and a popular picnic spot; and Thousand-Acre Swamp a magnificent wetland area. There are lots of opportunities for bird-watching and other nature viewing. There is also limited camping permitted by prior arrangement. The facilities and activities available include: *picnicking, fishing, hiking,*

hunting, mountain biking, rock climbing, horseback riding, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and wildlife viewing.

Website: <http://www.northquabbinwoods.org/entries/219>

Cass Meadow Wildlife Management Area

The Cass Meadow Wildlife Management Area was once a place where the Nipmucks planted maize and European settlers raised hay. It was also the site of a toll road, chartered in 1799, linking Boston to Brattleboro. Today, the area is being maintained as an example of early successional habitat with grasses and wildflowers that provide a home for butterflies, dragonflies, birds, and animals that desire sun. The area includes 36 acres that are owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and abuts eight acres that are owned by the Town (Alan E. Rich Environmental Park) both of which are on the north shore of the Millers River. Future plans include the construction of a bridge linking Cass Meadow to the Alan E. Rich Environmental Park on the south shore of the river. The facilities and activities available include: *fishing, hiking, kayaking/canoeing, and cross-country skiing.* Website: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/bdi/cassmeadows7c1.htm>

Millers River Wildlife Management Area

The Millers River Wildlife Management Area includes extensive wetlands in the north which are fed by numerous brooks; a shrubby corridor along a power-line right-of-way; rugged and forested terrain with steep slopes

into the Millers River valley in the south; miles of frontage on the river. A section of the Millers River Wildlife Management Area near downtown Athol spans both sides of the river. Moose, deer, coyote, raccoon, snowshoe hare, grouse, turkey, and forest birds live within the area, and some pheasant are stocked. For anglers this is a catch-and-release area. The area is owned by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. The facilities and activities available include: *Fishing, hiking, hunting, and camping only by permit of M D F W .* Website: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/>

Skyfields Arboretum

The Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust is a private nonprofit organization that was founded in 1986 and protects significant natural, agricultural and scenic areas. The Trust encourages land stewardship in 23 cities and towns of North Central and Western Massachusetts. The Trust's Skyfields headquarters in Athol offers trails showcasing native plants. The historic Willis Farmstead at Skyfields has beautiful stone walls and a showcase of native plant species that serve the needs of wildlife. The area includes ten acres of open fields laced with loop trails teeming with birds, butterflies, and dragonflies, and the woodland fringe connects to the much larger (440-acre) Lawton State Forest, itself a treasure house of woodlands and ponds. Across Old Keene Road, there are an additional 30 acres of Skyfields that serves as a demonstration of the methods and values of forest stewardship. The facilities and activities available include: *hiking,*

hunting, and cross-country skiing.

Websites: <http://www.mountgrace.org/> and <http://www.northquabbinwoods.org/entries/154>

Lake Ellis

Lake Ellis is a Town owned beach with swimming and boating activities. It offers a great beach and picnic area. Boaters and anglers enjoy the lake. Among the fish found here are bass, pickerel, bluegill and hornpout. The facilities and activities available include: *picnicking, swimming, fishing and boating.*

Websites: <http://www.northquabbinwoods.org/entries/131>

Silver Lake Park

Silver Lake Park is a town owned 15 acre park which has a spring-fed, trout stocked pond. This park also has a large beach, bathhouse, picnic area, ball fields and a skateboard park. The facilities and activities available include: *picnicking, swimming, fishing, and boating.*

Websites: <http://www.northquabbinwoods.org/entries/127>

Orange

Battle-Dorrance Memorial Forest (55 acres)

The Battle-Dorrance Forest is located on the north side of Route 2A, approximately 1.75 miles west of Downtown Orange. The forest was a Walden Pond for Harry A. Battle. Mr. Battle gradually acquired the four separate parcels that now make up the forest from various members of his family. He built a cabin for shelter and moved to the property for summers, after wintering in Mexico. Mr. Battle was less than five feet in height,

but he carefully pruned every tree in his forest to five or six feet. Mr. Battle also built a pond entirely by hand, moving the materials and earth with his wheelbarrow. His infrequent trips to town were made on foot or bicycle. In 1974 a fire from his wood burning stove destroyed his cabin, so he sold the property to his cousin and left for Mexico. Elizabeth Dorrance, a conservationist, made the gift to the New England Forestry Foundation to ensure the survival of this twentieth-century Walden Pond. The facilities and activities available include: *hiking, horseback-riding, hunting, mountain biking and cross-country skiing.*

Website: <http://www.northquabbinwoods.org/entries/153>

Fittz Family Memorial Forest

The 75-acre Fittz Family Memorial Forest is adjacent to the Orange Town Forest and other protected land. It provides a valuable link in the [North Pond Ridge Trail](#) and the larger [Chestnut Hill Trail](#) system. Recreation, forestry, and scientific and educational activities are the management goals of the [New England Forestry Foundation](#) for this land. The facilities and activities available include: *hiking, horseback-riding, hunting, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing.*

Website: <http://www.northquabbinwoods.org/entries/109>

Hosmer Woods

The Hosmer Woods consists of two parcels donated by two different families, the 187-acre Hosmer Woods and the 49-acre Webb Forest. The New England Forestry Foundation's (NEFF) actively manages this area and the forest is

dominated by wonderful stands of white pine. The haul roads through the parcels serve as inviting trails for visitors. The facilities and activities include: *hiking, horseback-riding, hunting, mountain biking and cross-country skiing*. Website: <http://www.northquabbinwoods.org/entries/141>

Memorial Park and Orange Peace Statue

The Orange Peace Statue was designated as the official peace statue of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1998. The statue is located in Memorial Park on the banks of the Millers River in the center of the Town of Orange. The 12-foot bronze sculpture was created by Joseph Pollia in 1934 as a memorial to veterans of World War I. It depicts a weary doughboy with one arm around a young schoolboy. A plaque on the base carries the inscription “It Shall Not Be Again” against a shrouded figure of grief. Thirteen stars honor Orange veterans who died in the war. The facilities and activities include: *picnicking*.

Website: <http://www.orangetowngreen.com/statue.htm>

Orange Riverfront Park

The Orange Riverfront Park is located on the southern bank of the Millers River on East River Street in downtown Orange, the park consists of .72 acres and provides access to the river for canoes and kayaks via a concrete boat ramp. Paddlers can travel the approximately 6 miles to the Alan Rich Environmental Park in Athol and a bike trail is also planned to begin at the site and run along existing roadways to Athol. Catch and

release fishing is also allowed (the Millers River is a Class B waterway). Pathways and benches provide places to enjoy views of the river and of the native vegetation planted throughout the park. The park incorporates Low Impact Design (LID) elements such as rain gardens, swales, and soil amendments to treat all stormwater runoff on the site, eliminating the historic flow of stormwater directly into the river. Subsequent phases of construction will add a building for use as a canoe/kayak rental facility and a system of handicapped accessible docks with an overlook and a gazebo. The facilities and activities available include: *picnicking, kayak and canoe access to the Millers River*. Website: http://www.frcog.org/services/natural_res/natres_riverfront.php

Orange Wildlife Management Area

The Orange Wildlife Management Area covers more than 1,500 acres of land including a beautiful beaver pond of about 80 acres on North Main Street. The area includes mixed hardwood and softwoods forests, brushy fields, open fields, several small streams and wetland areas. Deer, bear turkey, coyote, beaver, raccoon, woodcock and various non-game species visit or make their homes within the area. The property is owned by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The facilities and activities include: *fishing, hiking, hunting, and camping by permit from MDFW*.

Website: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/maps/wma/valleywma/orangewma.pdf>

Tully Mountain

Tully Mountain is the focal point of the Tully Trail and of the Tully Mountain Wildlife Management Area. The mountain rises 1,163 feet above sea level and appears dramatically above the relatively flat land around it. It is of geological interest. From the northwest the effect of the glaciers can be seen on the smooth northern face of the mountain, while the southern face is much more irregular by deposited debris. There is a 1 ½ mile loop trail that leads to outcrops near the summit. From this trail there are views of the surrounding land, water bodies and distant mountains. Tully Mountain is also home to diverse plant and animal habitats. The area is owned by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The facilities and activities include: *hiking, hunting, and camping by permit from MDFW*. Website: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/maps/wma/valleywma/tullymountainwma.pdf>

Tully Mountain Wildlife Management Area

This scenic and ecologically diverse 1,200 acre area encompasses Tully Mountain itself. There are 3,000 feet of frontage on the West Branch of the Tully River and one of its tributaries (Collar Brook). The area also includes Tully Meadow, where beavers have turned parts of the river into a rich wetland. The area is ecologically diverse with at least 13 habitat types, including various kinds of forests, swamps, seeps, talus slopes, and open bedrock slabs. The river is stocked with trout and the old fields with pheasant. In addition, deer, bear, bobcat, coyote, turkey, raccoons,

snakes, and woodcock inhabit the area. The 22-mile Tully Trail traverses forested sections of the Wildlife Management Area and follows the public road along the meadow. A long-term plan includes relocating the trail off-road, a project that will require a lengthy footbridge across Collar Brook. The property is owned by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The facilities and activities include: *fishing, hiking, hunting, rock climbing*. Website: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/maps/wma/valleywma/tullymountainwma.pdf>

Wendell

Hidden Valley Memorial Forest

Hidden Valley was the vacation and research camp of Dr. Arthur Cronquist, who made immense contributions to the study of New England's flora. The 66-acre forest area is tucked within the larger Wendell State Forest. It has spectacular rock cliffs and a diverse forest. A spur trail to the left of a dedication plaque on a rock leads to the seasonal Lynne's Falls, named for Cronquist's daughter. A blue-blazed loop trail merges with the white-blazed MMM Trail and both travel along the easterly side of Lyon's Brook together for quite a distance. The area provides evidence of forest change caused by the 1938 hurricane, a 1980 outbreak of gypsy moths, and a 1998 selective timber cut. A 20-minute spur trail off this loop leads to Jerusalem Hill and its wonderful vista. The facilities and activities include: *hiking and cross-country skiing*.

Millers River Wildlife Management Area

The Millers River Wildlife Management Area is 66 acres and a vital link in the mosaic of protected lands in the North Quabbin region. The area provides access to more than a mile of shoreline along the [Millers River](#) and to the abutting [Wendell State Forest](#). The property is owned by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The facilities and activities include: *fishing and hiking*.

Website: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/maps/wma/valleywma/millersriverwma.pdf>

Wendell Wildlife Management Area

The terrain of the 588-acre Wendell Wildlife Management Area includes gently sloping hills, flat lands and wooded seeps that form the headwaters of Plympton Brook. The area is wooded with primarily hardwoods, some stands of conifers and mountain laurels in the understory. Deer, bear, raccoon, gray squirrel, fisher, turkey, ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, and numerous non-game species inhabit the area. It is owned by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW). The facilities and activities include: *Fishing, hiking, hunting, and camping by permit from MDFW*.

Website: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/maps/wma/valleywma/wendellwma.pdf>

Erving

Rose Ledge

Rose Ledge is owned by FirstLight Power Resources and is part of the trail system at the Northfield Mountain Environmental and

Recreation Center. It is a popular destination for rock climbers. It is accessible from a spur off the Rose Ledge Trail, a loop that is frequently used for hiking and snowshoeing. The facilities and activities include: *hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, wildlife viewing, and hunting*.

Website: http://www.firstlightpower.com/northfield/brochures/Trail_map.pdf

Gill

Barton Cove Campground

Barton Cove is owned by FirstLight Power Resources. It is situated on a beautiful rocky peninsula jutting into the Connecticut River in Gill. A scenic one-mile nature trail along a rocky ridge overlooks the river and passes an abandoned dinosaur footprint quarry. Rental canoes and kayaks are available, as is an upriver boat shuttle to three drop-off points that let visitors paddle for between three hours and two days. Bald Eagles nest on an island in the cove (FirstLight Power maintains a webcam of the eagle nest. Web link is below.). Nearby is the Northfield Mountain Environmental and Recreation Center which has other recreational opportunities. All of these facilities are owned by FirstLight Power as part of its federal license for a pumped-storage hydroelectric plant at Northfield Mountain. The facilities and activities available include: *picnicking, restrooms, campground for tenting, hiking, kayaking/canoeing, mountain biking, canoe and kayak rentals*.

Website: <http://www.firstlightpower.com/northfield/camping.asp>

Eagle nest webcam: <http://>

eagles.firstlightpower.com/eagles/live/default.asp#

Montague

Unity Park

Unity Park in Turners Falls in Montague is owned by FirstLight Power Resources. The day use park features picnic tables overlooking the Connecticut River and the Turners Falls Dam. Additionally, the Canalside Trail bike path winds through the park. Access and parking for the public viewing facilities at the Turners Falls Fishway, a “fish ladder” which allows fish to get past the dam, is located at Unity Park. Every spring, usually in late April, Anadromous fish, including the American shad, sea lamprey and Atlantic salmon, migrate upstream in the Connecticut River from their ocean homes to spawn. Anadromous (ah-‘nad-rah-mus) means the fish are born in fresh water, mature in the ocean and return to the fresh water rivers of their birth to spawn. On their way, they overcome dams, falls and fishways to reach their destination. During this migration, which ends in about mid-June, the fish-viewing facility at Turners Falls is open to the public. The facilities and activities available include: *picnicking, fishing, fish viewing, bird watching, and biking.*

Greenfield

Greenfield Energy Park

The Greenfield Energy Park is located on Miles Street in downtown Greenfield. The park was constructed to offer a pleasant and safe location suitable for picnicking, public concerts or other community gatherings. The park also contains educationally oriented displays that provide

information about sustainable energy. The park is 1¼ acres and is owned by the Town of Greenfield. It was built in partnership with the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA). The facilities and activities include: *picnicking, public events such as concerts, and educational displays.*

Website: <http://www.nesea.org/park/>

Poet’s Seat Tower and Ridge Trail

The Poet’s Seat Tower is the stone tower that was erected in 1912 at the site where Greenfield’s poet, Frederick Goddard Tuckerman, was inspired. The tower is located in Rocky Mountain Park on the top of Rocky Mountain, a 500-foot high volcanic ridge. The climb to the top of the tower is three stories. From the top of the tower there is a spectacular almost 360-degree view of the Pioneer Valley. The original wooden tower was constructed in 1879, but was later deemed unsafe and torn down. In 1912 a stronger, sandstone observation tower was erected. The tower is accessible on foot or automobile.

In addition to the tower itself, there is a system of trails in Rocky Mountain Park which stretches between Mountain Road (to the South) and Stone Farm Lane (to the North). Highland Park runs south from Mountain Road to Sachem Head. Many of these trails are suitable for cross-country skiing in the winter. In addition, the Ridge Trail runs down the top of the rocky ridge. This trail is a continuation of the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail that travels from Sugarloaf in South Deerfield. Parallel trails on both sides of the

ridge, provide a woodlands experience. The facilities and activities include: *picnicking, observation tower, hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking,* and wildlife viewing.

Website: http://www.townofgreenfield.org/general_files/visiting_greenfield.php

Highland Pond

Highland Pond is a spring-fed pond. In the winter, there is ice skating on the pond. The area includes 19 miles of hiking and cross-country ski trail, clay tennis courts and a playground. There is a scenic view of the western hills from Sachem's Head, and the Bear's Den is a rock cave formation both located in Highland Park. The facilities and activities include: *picnicking, ice skating, tennis, cross-country skiing and hiking.*

Website: http://www.townofgreenfield.org/general_files/visiting_greenfield.php

GTD Griswold Conservation Area

The GTD Griswold Conservation Area is located on Lampback Road in Greenfield. The area consists of 200 acres of conservation land. The facilities and activities include: *hiking, mountain biking, bird watching and nature study.*

Hiking Trails

Athol

Thousand-Acre Swamp

Thousand-Acre Swamp is a wetland that is fed by Thousand-Acre Brook, a dammed former reservoir. Today part of the swamp lies in

Athol's [Bearsden Conservation Area](#). It is accessible from the main trailhead on Bearsden Road (the recommended access point) or from South Royalston Road (where parking is limited to on-street where houses end). The swamp extends to Phillipston's [Red Apple Farm](#), where there is ample parking. At the farm there is a ¾-mile semi-loop trail that includes interpretive posts and is open year-round.

Website: <http://www.northquabbinwoods.org/entries/157>

Orange

Chestnut Hill Trail System

Chestnut Hill Trail is a 3.25 mile yellow-blazed loop through an open hemlock forest and other woodlands. The trail begins at the end of Gidney Road and travels west near Coolidge Swamp through Orange State Forest. From the southwest corner of the loop, where the trail turns sharply east, a spur to the west leads to a bridge over the picturesque Whetstone Brook and into Wendell State Forest. The main trail climbs and descends along the flank of Chestnut Ridge, skirts Seeds of Solidarity Farm, and ends with the last leg along Gidney Road. The nearby North Pond Ridge Trail and the Bullard Farm Loop are also part of the Chestnut Hill Trail system. Website: <http://www.northquabbinwoods.org/entries/267>

North Pond Ridge Trail

The 1½-mile North Pond Ridge Trail begins in the Fittz Family Memorial Forest in Orange. This trail connects with the white-blazed Bullard Farm Loop and the Chestnut Hill Trail system.

***Athol, Royalston,
Warwick, & Orange, MA
Tully Trail***

The 22-mile Tully Trail is the result of cooperation among government agencies, private organizations, land trusts, individual landowners, and volunteers. The trail travels through diverse landscapes which include forests, wetlands, lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, waterfalls, swamps, marshes, bogs, ridgelines and hilltops. From the trail, there are views of valleys and distant hills. The trail loops around Tully Mountain. The trailhead is located at Tully Lake Campground located on Route 32 in Royalston, where parking, restrooms, and tent sites are available. Sections of the trail are easy or moderate while other sections require strenuous effort. The trail is marked by rectangular yellow blazes and the blue-and-white Tully Trail logo. The Tully Trail also connects in the north to the white-blazed Metacomet Monadnock Mattabesett (MMM) Trail. A trail shelter at the eastern junction of the two trails is available on a first-come basis. A section of the Tully Trail is also used as part of a more advanced six-mile mountain bike loop around Long Pond. The access to this mountain biking trail is located at the Tully Lake Campground. Website: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/maps/wma/valleywma/tullymountainwma.pdf>

***Wendell
Hidden Valley Memorial Forest
and Loop Trails***

Within the Hidden Valley Memorial Forest there are several loop trails. There is a blue-blazed loop trail, which for a section shares the path with the Metacomet Monadnock Mattabesett (MMM) Trail and skirts Lyons Brooks. A 20-minute spur trail off this loop leads to Jerusalem Hill. There is also a spur trail that leads to the seasonal Lynne's Falls.

Website: <http://www.northquabbinwoods.org/entries/136>

***Wendell and Erving
Metacomet Monadnock
Mattabesett Trail***

The Metacomet Monadnock Mattabesett (MMM) Trail is a long distance multi-state trail that travels from the Long Island Sound in Connecticut to Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire. The Massachusetts section of the trail travels through the Connecticut River Valley and crosses the Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway in the towns of Wendell and Erving.

Website: <http://www.amcberkshire.org/mmtrail>

***Erving
Erving Castle/Hermit's Cave***

From 1867 to 1899, the Erving Castle was the home of John Smith, a native of Scotland, who by an interesting path lived as a hermit at this location. The site is a fascinating and strenuous place to visit. It is located on the slope of Hermit's Mountain in Erving State Forest. It is accessible from the Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett (MMM) Trail. A sign on Mountain Road directs hikers to

follow a 1.6 mile blue-blazed spur trail that descends a steep grade to the cave site and its remnant stonework and gardens. The spur trail reconnects with the MMM Trail.

Website: <http://www.northquabbinwoods.org/entries/62>

Greenfield

Ridge Trail (a continuation of the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail)

The Ridge Trail is a system of trails on Rocky Mountain (located near the Poets Seat Tower) that stretches between Mountain Road (to the South) and Stone Farm Lane (to the North). Highland Park runs south from Mountain Road to Sachem Head. Many of these trails are suitable for cross-country skiing in the winter. In addition, the Ridge Trail travels along the top of the rocky ridge. This trail is a continuation of the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail, which travels from Sugarloaf in South Deerfield. Parallel trails on both sides of the ridge, provide a woodlands experience.

Camping

Athol

Millers River Wildlife Management Area

The Millers River Wildlife Management Area is owned by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MDFW). Camping is available by permit of MDFW. See additional description of the facility earlier in this chapter. Website: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/>

Orange

Orange Wildlife Management Area

The Orange Wildlife Management Area is owned by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MDFW). Camping is permitted by permit of MDFW. See additional description of the facility earlier in this chapter.

Website: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/maps/wma/valleywma/orangewma.pdf>

Tully Mountain

The area is owned by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW). Camping is permitted by permit of MDFW. See additional description of the facility earlier in this chapter.

Website: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/maps/wma/valleywma/tullymountainwma.pdf>

Wendell

Wendell Wildlife Management Area

The Wendell Wildlife Management Area is owned by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW). Camping is permitted by permit of MDFW. See additional description of the facility earlier in this chapter.

Website: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/maps/wma/valleywma/millersriverwma.pdf>

Erving

Erving State Forest

The Erving State Forest has camping facilities at Laurel Lake that include toilet facilities and showers. The rates are affordable. The State Park campsites are

popular and are often sold out on weekends. See additional description of the facility earlier in this chapter.

Gill

Barton Cove Campground

Barton Cove is located on a rocky peninsula jutting into the Connecticut River. It has a picnic area, bathrooms, tent camping, and minimal automobile access. There is a nature trail that meanders along a scenic rocky ridge overlooking the river. In addition, there is a public boat ramp a half-mile downstream. There are also a number of interesting geological and natural features at the site including an abandoned dinosaur footprint quarry, unusual rock formations, and a multitude of ferns and wildflowers. Canoes and kayaks can be rented on an hourly or daily basis. Also, riverboat rides depart from nearby Northfield Mountain during summer and early fall. Each campsite provides a picnic table, hibachi and fireplace. Showers are available near the ranger station, and there are two group sites available for larger groups interested in camping together. Two sites suitable for pop-up trailers or class C camper vans are also available. The sites have no utility hookups. Barton Cove Campground is open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

Website: <http://www.firstlightpower.com/northfield/camping.asp>

Whitewater Rafting, Canoeing, Kayaking

Access to the Millers River

Athol

There is car-top boat access to the Millers River at the Alan E. Rich Environmental Park.

Orange

There is car-top boat access to the Millers River at Riverfront Park.

Erving

There are launches for kayaking, canoeing and fishing located at the Erving Treatment plant just west of Erving Center. Avid (more advanced) kayak and canoe enthusiasts prefer the whitewater rapids located on the “Farley Flats”.

Access to the Connecticut River

Gill

FirstLight Power Resources offers rental canoes and kayaks at Barton Cove Campground. From this location it is possible to paddle in the scenic Connecticut River and view the stunning French King Gorge north of the cove.

Rentals are available from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Rentals are available by the hour, the day, or longer.

The Barton Cove Campground also offers a weekend canoe shuttle service. The shuttle service will also transport personal canoes. It is highly recommended that reservations are made. The shuttle service offers three drop off points for trips ranging from three hours to two days. Website:

<http://www.firstlightpower.com/northfield/>

Also, there is a public boat ramp at Barton Cove.

Cross-Country Skiing

As noted earlier in this chapter, cross-country skiing is allowed in many of the recreational and conservation areas detailed in this section of the report. It is an excellent way to experience the beauty of the Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway region. The following is a list where cross-country skiing trails are located. These facilities are further detailed earlier in this chapter.

- Bearsden Conservation Area, Athol
- Skyfields Arboretum, Athol
- Chestnut Hill Trail System, Orange
- Fittz Family Memorial Forest, Orange
- Hosmer Woods, Orange
- North Pond Ridge Trail, Orange
- Hidden Valley Memorial Forest, Wendell
- Wendell State Forest, Wendell
- Erving State Forest, Erving
- Erving Castle/ Hermit's Cave, Erving
- Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center, Erving and Northfield
- Highland Pond, Greenfield
- Ridge Trail, Greenfield

Golfing

There are a number of golf facilities located within close vicinity of the Byway. Although these golf

courses are not located within the project area they located within the towns that are included in the study area and therefore have been included in this inventory.

- Ellinwood Country Club. An 18 hole semi-private golf course located in Athol (<http://www.ellinwoodcc.com/>).
- Oakridge Golf Club. An 18 hole public golf course located in Gill.
- Thomas Memorial Golf and Country Club. A 9 hole municipal golf course in Turners Falls, Montague
- Country Club of Greenfield. An 18 hole semi-private golf club located in Greenfield (<http://www.countryclubofgreenfield.net/>).
- Meadows Golf Course. A 9 hole public golf course located in Greenfield.

Hunting and Fishing

Hunting and fishing are allowed in some of the recreational and conservation areas detailed in this chapter of the report. The following are list of where hunting and fishing are allowed. These facilities are further detailed earlier in this chapter.

- Bearsden Conservation Area, Athol (hunting and fishing)
- Cass Meadow River Wildlife Management Area, Athol (fishing permitted)
- Millers River Wildlife Management Area (1), Athol (hunting and fishing permitted)
- Thousand-Acre Swamp, Athol (fishing)
- Chestnut Hill Trail System,

- Orange (hunting and fishing permitted)
- Fittz Family Memorial Forest, Orange (hunting permitted)
- Hosmer Woods, Orange (hunting permitted)
- North Pond Ridge Trail, Orange (hunting permitted)
- Orange Wildlife Management Area, Orange (hunting and fishing permitted)
- Tully Mountain Wildlife Management Area, Orange (hunting and fishing permitted)
- Millers River Wildlife Management Area, Wendell (fishing permitted)
- Wendell Wildlife Management Area, Wendell (hunting and fishing permitted)
- Wendell State Forest, Wendell (hunting and fishing permitted)
- Erving State Forest, Erving (hunting and fishing permitted)
- Northfield Mountain, Erving and Northfield (hunting permitted)

Farm Stands

- Seeds of Solidarity Farm, Orange (<http://www.seedsofsolidarity.org/>).
- Diemand Farm, Wendell. Eggs, meat, compost and hay.
- Brook's Bend Farm, Montague. Honey, eggs, dairy, flowers, nursery, wool, and meat.
- Old Depot Gardens, Montague. Vegetables, nursery and flowers.
- Bostrom Farm, Greenfield. Dairy, eggs, fruit, compost, flowers, vegetable starts, berry plants and hay.
- Glenbrook Gardens, Greenfield. Cutting gardens, herb/cut flower bouquets, dried flowers and grasses, arrangements, wreaths and herb crafts, and daylilies.
- Common Wealth CSA, Greenfield. A cooperative CSA of four farmers providing a wide variety of organic vegetables, greens, roots, herbs, berries, melons and other products. Farms include Shoestring Farm, Red Fire Farm, Graceland and The Benson Place.

Pick-your-own Farms, Farm Stands, Agri-tourism, and Farmers Markets

There are a number of farms that offer opportunities to pick fruits during various seasons in the Franklin County section of the byway. Berry and fruit picking are popular family outdoor activities.

Pick Your Own Farms

Johnson's Farm, Orange. Johnson's Farm offers farm products and maple syrup. Also offers breakfast, lunch, dinner, and ice cream for eating in or take-out.

Agri-tourism

Seeds of Solidarity Education Center, Inc. (<http://www.seedsofsolidarity.org/>). Seeds of Solidarity consists of two entities: The Seeds of Solidarity Farm and the Seeds of Solidarity Education Center Inc., a nonprofit 501c(3) organization. Both Seeds of Solidarity Farm and Seeds of Solidarity Education Center bring to life the connection between environmental and social justice issues through practice

and education. The goal of the farm is to supply restaurants, coops and markets, demonstrating intensive food production through soil building, season extension in the Northeast, and renewable fuel and energy for farm and home. Seeds of Solidarity Education Center provides people of all ages with the inspiration and practical tools to use renewable energy and grow food in their communities through several education initiatives.

Farmers Markets

- In Orange from May 31st to September 27th on Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Butterfield Park on East River Street.
- In Turners Falls, Montague from May 9th to October 31st on Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. next to Peskeomskut Park at 6th Street and Avenue A.
- In Greenfield from May through October on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Court Square in the road next to the Town Common and Town Hall.

Bicycling

Bicycling on Roads

Road bicycling is an issue of much concern in the rural areas of the Scenic Byway. While bicycling is not recommended on the Route 2 portions of the Mohawk Trail East, there may be more suitable routes for road cycle touring that intersect the Scenic Byway and provide opportunities to explore the region by bicycle.

Millers River Greenway (Athol and Orange)

The towns of Orange and Athol have identified the development of a bikeway/greenway along the Millers River as a priority, and have taken the initial steps towards completing a design. In 2000, an initial feasibility study and route assessment was completed for a potential off-road bicycle facility. Initially, the proposed project was to create a greenway along the Millers River connecting Orange and Athol. However, after an assessment of the right-of-way and environmental impacts, this concept was determined to be infeasible and the idea of an on-road bicycle facility was established. Another feasibility study was then prepared. That report included descriptions of the existing conditions and traffic volumes on the roads that were being considered as a part of the bicycle route, the potential bicycle route alternatives for the proposed on-road bicycle facility connecting Orange and Athol, an analysis of the alternatives, and a recommended route.

During 2004 and 2005, the FRCOG worked with the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC), the Town of Athol and the Town of Orange to complete additional conceptual design work for the Millers River Greenway in the two towns. Further analysis of the on-road route that had been recommended as a result of the feasibility study was completed. A revised route was developed which included much of the on-road route identified in the 2000 study, but also incorporates an off-road bicycle path section in Athol.

The proposed route is approximately 4 miles beginning at the

Riverfront Park. The route continues east on East River Street to its intersection with Daniel Shays Highway. The route then turns north and follows Daniel Shays Highway to an abandoned road that is located just south of the intersection of Daniel Shays Highway and Route 2A. The proposed route travels along this abandoned road (Procter Avenue) and then through land that is publicly owned. The route reconnects with residential neighborhood streets (Jones Street, South Street and onto Canal Street) and then terminates in Athol at the Alan E. Rich Millers River Environmental Park, which opened in the summer of 2006. The design of the Millers River Greenway is still conceptual, though it appears to be feasible. The off-road section utilizes land that is almost entirely publicly owned. There is one location where a crossing of the Millers River would be necessary.

At this time, the Town of Athol is consulting with MassHighway and the Federal Highway Administration to determine if previously awarded Transportation Enhancement funding can be redirected to fund the design of the proposed path. It is anticipated that the subsequent stage of the design will be completed in the next few years.

Franklin County Bikeway (Greenfield, Montague, Erving and Gill)

The FRCOG has been working to implement a regional bikeway system that is centered along the Connecticut River, which includes both shared roadway and bicycle path facilities. This bikeway system is called the Franklin County Bikeway and includes routes in the

towns of Greenfield, Montague, Gill and Erving along the Scenic Byway. At this time, much of the Franklin County Bikeway is actively being constructed, or has recently been completed. The remaining work will be completed within the next two years. The six segments of the Franklin County Bikeway are in varying stages of design, construction and completion. Four of these six segments (the Canalside Trail, the Riverside Greenway, the Northfield Connector and Phase IV) travel near or intersect the Scenic Byway. In addition, the East Mineral Road Bridge is located within the Byway project area.

The northern terminus of the **Canalside Trail** is at Unity Park in the Turners Falls section of Montague located within the project area. The entire Canalside Trail is located in the towns of Montague and Deerfield. The Canalside Trail connects the Great Falls Discovery Center and Unity Park in the Village of Turners Falls in Montague, to McClelland Farm Road (located off of River Road) in northeast Deerfield. This section of the bikeway is a 3.27-mile off-road bicycle path which travels along an approximately 10-foot wide grass and dirt path adjacent to the Connecticut River Canal in Turners Falls and along an abandoned rail corridor (including a railroad bridge over the confluence of the Deerfield and Connecticut Rivers) in Deerfield and Montague City.

The **Great Falls Discovery Center** is considered to be the start and terminus of the Franklin County Bikeway loop. The Discovery Center is a visitors' center and conservation education facility for the 410-mile Silvio O.

Conte Fish and Wildlife Refuge that was developed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Riverside Greenway is in Greenfield and is part of the Franklin County Bikeway and is located within close proximity of the Byway in Greenfield. Completed in the fall of 2004, the Riverside Greenway is a one-mile long off-road bike-path located in the Town of Greenfield. This path connects a densely populated residential area with a heavily used public recreation facility. It also connects to nearby Greenfield Community College and downtown Greenfield. The path is owned and maintained by the Town of Greenfield, and includes a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the Green River.

Phase IV of the Franklin County Bikeway is comprised of a number of shared roadway connections that link the Canalside Trail, the Northfield Connector and the Riverside Greenway. These shared roadway facilities are located in the towns of Bernardston, Deerfield, Greenfield, Gill and Montague.

In addition, the **East Mineral Road Bridge** in Montague and Erving has been redesigned and reconstructed for use as a bicycle and pedestrian bridge. The reconstruction was completed in the summer of 2005. The bridge, a former motor vehicle bridge, crosses the Millers River from East Mineral Road in Montague to Dorsey Road in Erving, and provides an important link in the Franklin County Bikeway network. This link makes it possible to move the bikeway off of Route 2 and onto less heavily traveled

roads, while still providing access to the Connecticut River, as well as the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center, and downtown Northfield.

The **Northfield Connector** is located in the towns of Northfield and Erving. It is approximately 11 miles of shared roadway that provides a non-motorized link from Montague to the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center, and downtown Northfield. Northfield Mountain, owned by FirstLight Power Resources, is both a large regional employer (hydroelectric power plant pumped storage facility) and a significant regional recreation destination. Similarly, downtown Northfield is a thriving, traditional village center. The Northfield Connector is located entirely on existing roads. It does not require land acquisition, design, engineering, or construction. The connector includes roadway signage that clearly indicates the bikeway route and alerts motorists to the roads multiple use.

Mountain Bicycling

Mountain biking is permitted on many of the roads and trails within Erving State Forest and Wendell State Forest. Some of these areas offer rugged terrain that requires more experience, skill and conditioning levels. The following is a list of places where mountain biking is permitted. These facilities are further detailed earlier in this chapter.

- Bearsden Conservation Area, Athol
- Tully Trail, Athol and Orange
- Chestnut Hill Trail System, Orange

- Fitz Family Memorial Forest, Orange
- Hosmer Woods, Orange
- North Pond Ridge Trail, Orange
- Wendell State Forest, Wendell
- Erving State Forest, Erving
- Rose Ledge, Erving
- Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center, Erving and Northfield
- Barton Cove Campground, Gill
- GTD Griswold Conservation Area, Greenfield
- Poet's Seat, Ridge Trail, Greenfield

Rock Climbing

The following is a list where rock climbing is permitted. These facilities are further detailed earlier in this chapter.

Orange

Tully Mountain Wildlife Management Area

Tully Mountain Wildlife Management Area is owned by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The area consists of a scenic and ecologically diverse 1,200 acre area.

Erving

Farley Ledges

The Farley Ledges, owned by FirstLight Power Resources, are considered by some to be the “crown jewel” of rock climbing in Massachusetts. Farley Ledges includes both moderate and highly difficult climbing features. The parking area and part of the trail that accesses the Ledges were purchased in 2007 by the Massachusetts Climbing Coalition in an effort to ensure access to the

area. The Ledges are often closed between early March and mid-July due to peregrine falcons nesting there.

Rose Ledge

Rose Ledge is part of the trail system at the Northfield Mountain Environmental and Recreation Center. It is a popular destination for rock climbers. It is accessible from a spur off the Rose Ledge Trail, a loop that is frequently used for hiking and snowshoeing.

Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling is permitted at the following locations. These facilities are further detailed earlier in this chapter.

- Bearsden Conservation Area, Athol
- Wendell State Forest, Wendell
- Erving State Forest, Erving

Eco-Tourism

The natural and cultural resources in the region provide many benefits to the residents and visitors of the region. Local businesspeople and economic development practitioners are extending efforts to particular niches of the tourism industry, such as agri-tourism, eco-tourism, and cultural tourism related to artists and craftspeople. Offerings such as farm stands, maple sugar houses serving pancakes, and other forms of interactive experiences are growing in the agricultural industry. By offering value-added products for sale and visitor activities, many farms have increased the number of customers and their profit margins while

diversifying their revenues. Eco-tourism activities include outdoor recreation such as rafting and skiing as well as education related opportunities, like guided nature hikes. Efforts are underway in the North Quabbin region to encourage this type of tourism. Business activities that rely on natural resources help to preserve these assets and the region's rural character.

Geocaching

Geocaching is an outdoor treasure-hunting game in which the participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers (called "geocaches" or "caches") anywhere in the world. A typical cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook and "treasure," usually toys or trinkets of little value. Today, well over 440,000 geocaches are registered on various websites devoted to the sport. Geocaches are currently placed in 222 countries around the world and on all seven continents, including Antarctica.

The Great Northern Tier Geocaching Tournament is held annually throughout Franklin County. Expert and amateur geocachers, individuals, and families are all invited to join the hunt for "caches" hidden throughout Franklin County's forests, parks, farms and cultural sites using a hand-held GPS (Global Positioning System) receiver and a list of coordinates. Camp Keewanee in Greenfield is the home base, and there are over 60 new caches around Franklin County. As part of the tournament classes have also been offered on GPS use.

Universal Access (handicapped accessibility to recreational areas)

DEM's Universal Access Program is dedicated to providing outdoor recreation opportunities in Massachusetts State Parks for visitors of all abilities. Accessibility to the State Parks and Forests is achieved through site improvements, specialized adaptive recreation equipment, and accessible recreation programs. Universal access has been made available to beaches, swimming, fishing, boating, camping, cycling, hiking, picnicking and vistas throughout the Commonwealth. There are a number of facilities located in the Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway region that provide universal access to certain recreational activities.

Local Open Space and Recreation Plans

All of the towns within the Byway study area have completed Open Space and Recreation Plans within the past five years. The purpose of completing an Open Space and Recreation Plan is to provide an accurate and thorough basis for decision-making involving the current and future open space and recreation needs of the residents of the particular town in which the plan is being completed. The most updated plan brings together and builds upon the planning efforts of the past. These plans generally identify the most important community and natural resources needs in the Town and recommend

the steps necessary to satisfy these needs or protect the resources. The following includes a brief summary of the goals or recommendations of these plans that directly relate to the Byway study area.

Athol

Athol is currently developing an Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Orange

Open Space and Recreation Plan (March 2002)

Orange will complete a revision of its Open Space and Recreation Plan in 2009.

Wendell

Open Space and Recreation Plan (April 2002)

The Wendell Open Space and Recreation Plan was established with input received from a 2001 Open Space and Recreation Survey that was mailed to every household in the town. The following recommendations were identified that relate to the Byway area:

Prioritize Town sponsored land protection projects that conserve forestland, drinking water, streams and ponds, open fields, scenic views, wildlife habitat, wetlands and farmland.

Take advantage of the Town's right-of-first refusal with Chapter 61 parcels or assigning the right to a third party.

Coordinate with regional and state land protection efforts, in and around Wendell, to ensure the continued conservation of important natural, recreational and open space resources.

Accept land and easement donations and facilitate the local investment of land protection

funding by private land trust and state agencies.

Develop multi-user (walking, hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing) trail systems that tie into existing ones, which can be accessed from publicly owned land or private lands with trail easements.

Promote and help to protect historically significant landscapes.

Erving

Open Space and Recreation Plan (June 2002)

An Open Space and Recreation Survey was mailed to all of the residents of the Town which provided input during the process of developing this plan. In addition, six public meetings of the Open Space Planning Committee were held during the process including a public forum. The following recommendations were identified as a result of the plan:

- Prioritize Town sponsored land protection projects that conserve forestland, drinking water, streams and ponds, open fields, scenic views, wildlife habitat, wetlands and farmland.
- Take advantage of the Town's right-of-first refusal with Chapter 61 parcels or assigning the right to a third party.
- Coordinate with regional and state land protection efforts, in and around Erving, to ensure the continued conservation of important natural, recreational and open space resources.
- Improve access to parks and open space by the physically handicapped, the elderly, and children by coordinating with

- all relevant Town boards and committees.
- Support the Recreation Commission to be more effective in providing needed recreational facilities and programming for all of Erving’s residents especially teens.
 - Develop multi-user (walking, hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing) trail systems that tie into existing ones, which can be accessed from publicly owned land or private lands with trail easements.
 - Identify, promote and help protect historically significant areas and landscapes, such as cemeteries.
 - Seek to permanently protect from development all lands that contain unusual plant communities and rare and endangered species habitat.

***Gill
Open Space and Recreation Plan
(2005)***

The Town worked with the Mount Grace Land Trust, the Gill Conservation Commission, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and a team of graduate students from UMass. The following recommendations were identified as a result of the plan:

- Be responsive to the needs of farm and forest landowners and other agricultural businesses in town. Consider ways that the town might support agricultural operations as they would other commercial or industrial businesses in town.
- Encourage the Town of Gill to accept more donated conservation land and conservation restrictions from willing landowners that protect valued “natural and cultural resources”.
- Encourage landowners to consider donating their land to the Town of Gill for the conservation of “natural and cultural” resources.
- Explore revisions to Gill’s zoning bylaw that would result in greater protection of valued “natural and cultural resources” and, which could also help to ensure that any land development provides benefits that reflect the town’s natural resource conservation goals.
- Promote existing and future recreational facilities and services by developing a guide to facilities, programs, and trail systems in the town.
- Support the development of multi-use and limited-use trail systems, which can be accessed from publicly owned land or private lands with permission.
- Identify recreational needs of residents of all ages and develop new programs and facilities as appropriate.
- Explore opportunities to partner with local, regional and statewide land conservation organizations and agencies to better leverage limited town dollars and volunteer hours towards the conservation of priority resource areas.
- Explore the opportunities for partnering with the open space committees of surrounding towns on land conservation projects that protect landscape-scale resources like contiguous forests, aquifers, core habitat areas, and trail systems.

Montague

Open Space and Recreation Plan (2003)

An Open Space and Recreation Survey was mailed to all of the residents of the Montague which provided input during the process of developing this plan. In addition, public meetings were held in each of the five villages of Montague. The following recommendations were identified as a result of the plan:

- Encourage permanent protection of large blocks of contiguous forest and establishment of corridors between existing protected forest parcels.
- Encourage permanent protection of land along the banks of the Connecticut, Sawmill and Millers Rivers and support ecological restoration efforts in these watersheds.
- Purchase conservation restrictions from willing private landowners in Montague.
- Encourage state agencies and non-profit conservation organizations like land trusts to purchase open space.
- Promote cleanup and redevelopment of abandoned and underutilized industrial and commercial properties.
- Participate in region-wide land use planning efforts to ensure protection of the resources Montague shares with other communities.
- Use private and town funding to leverage bigger investments in protecting open space and supporting local farm businesses.
- Enhance the public visibility of agricultural businesses in Montague and promote purchase of local farm and forest products.
- Promote conservation of valuable agricultural soils and permanent protection of farmland through the APR program, consistent with the plans and desires of landowners.
- Encourage the investment of federal, state, municipal and private dollars for the purpose of maintaining and developing recreational facilities in Montague.
- Support the implementation of the Franklin County Bikeway a significant portion of which is located in Montague.
- Promote ongoing maintenance and expansion of recreational areas and programs provided by Northeast Utilities [now FirstLight Power Resources] under its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission License, including but not limited to parks, the Canalside Trail and boat access to the Connecticut River.
- Maintain all existing recreational facilities including trails.
- Explore cost-effective methods for developing safe bike routes between village centers and areas of interest.
- Develop additional recreational programming for children
- Assess the adequacy of existing recreational opportunities for senior citizens and consider the development of new programs and facilities if found to be necessary.
- Seek to secure trail easements from private landowners for passive recreational activities including hiking, jogging, nature observation and cross-

- country skiing.
- Educate Montague residents about existing areas of protected open space and promote use of those lands that provide public access for recreation.
- Promote Montague's historic and rural character and outdoor recreation opportunities to tourists.

Greenfield

Open Space and Recreation Plan (2006)

This plan was developed with input gathered through an Open Space and Recreation Survey that was distributed through the local newspaper. Five thousand six hundred (5,600) surveys were distributed and 423 were returned (7.5% response rate). In addition to open meetings of the Open Space Committee through the process, a public hearing was also held as an opportunity for residents to give feedback on the plan. The following recommendations were identified as a result of the plan:

- Enhance existing recreation facilities, including infrastructure, drainage, access (pedestrian, vehicular, handicapped and parking) and security.

- Protect, preserve and enhance conservation areas
- Protect and preserve important agricultural lands
- Preserve and protect "sacred places" such as historic places, farms, agricultural and scenic resources.
- Develop and implement a public awareness campaign aimed at informing residents and schools of open space opportunities.
- Use both public and private funding to protect, preserve and enhance open space.
- Coordinate with federal, state, regional and local entities to maximize protection of joint resources.
- Promote the creation of an inter-connected hiking trail system.
- Incorporate river corridors and watersheds into the concept of Open Space Connections.
- Promote the creation of "green space" along public ways and within neighborhoods.

TABLE OF ACTIVITIES AT OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

<i>Wildlife Watching</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓			
<i>Swimming</i>												✓	✓
<i>Snowmobiling</i>			✓										
<i>Rock Climbing</i>			✓										
<i>Recreation Fields</i>												✓	
<i>Picnic Area</i>		✓	✓								✓	✓	✓
<i>Pick you own</i>													
<i>Hunting</i>			✓				✓						
<i>Horseback Riding</i>			✓								✓		
<i>Hiking/Snowshoeing</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
<i>Golfing</i>					✓								
<i>Fishing</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓	✓
<i>Farm Stands</i>													
<i>Farmers Markets</i>													
<i>Cross-Country Skiing</i>			✓	✓				✓			✓		✓
<i>Canoeing/Kayaking</i>		✓		✓									✓
<i>Camping</i>			✓				✓						
<i>Boat Ramp</i>		✓											✓
<i>Biking – Road</i>							✓				✓	✓	✓
<i>Biking – Mountain</i>			✓							✓	✓		
Athol													
Alan E. Rich Environmental Park													
Bearsden Conservation Area													
Cass Meadow Wildlife Area													
Ellinwood Country Club													
Millers River Greenway													
Millers River Wildlife Management Area													
Skyfields Arboretum													
Thousand-Acre Swamp													
Tully Trail													
New England Equestrian Center													
Silver Lake Park													
Lake Ellis													

TABLE OF ACTIVITIES AT OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

	<i>Biking – Mountain</i>	<i>Biking – Road</i>	<i>Boat Ramp</i>	<i>Camping</i>	<i>Canoeing/Kayaking</i>	<i>Cross-Country Ski-</i>	<i>Farmers Markets</i>	<i>Farm Stands</i>	<i>Fishing</i>	<i>Golfing</i>	<i>Hiking/Snowshoeing</i>	<i>Horseback Riding</i>	<i>Hunting</i>	<i>Pick you own</i>	<i>Picnic Area</i>	<i>Recreation Fields</i>	<i>Rock Climbing</i>	<i>Snowmobiling</i>	<i>Swimming</i>	<i>Wildlife Watching</i>
Orange																				
Battle-Dorrance Memorial Forest	✓					✓					✓		✓							
Chestnut Hill Trail System	✓					✓			✓		✓		✓							✓
Farley Ledges																	✓			
Fritz Family Memorial	✓					✓					✓	✓	✓							
Hosmer Woods	✓					✓					✓	✓	✓							
Johnson’s Farm														✓						
Memorial Park and															✓					
Millers River Green-		✓																		
North Pond Ridge Trail	✓					✓					✓									✓
Orange Farmers Market							✓													
Orange Riverfront Park			✓												✓					
Orange Wildlife Man-				✓					✓		✓		✓							
Seeds of Solidarity																				
Tully Mountain*				✓				✓			✓		✓							✓
Tully Mountain Wildlife Management Area									✓		✓		✓				✓			
Tully Trail											✓									✓

TABLE OF ACTIVITIES AT OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

	<i>Wildlife Watching</i>	<i>Swimming</i>	<i>Snowmobiling</i>	<i>Rock Climbing</i>	<i>Recreation Fields</i>	<i>Picnic Area</i>	<i>Pick you own</i>	<i>Hunting</i>	<i>Horseback Riding</i>	<i>Hiking/Snowshoeing</i>	<i>Golfing</i>	<i>Fishing</i>	<i>Farm Stands</i>	<i>Farmers Markets</i>	<i>Cross-Country Skiing</i>	<i>Canoeing/Kayaking</i>	<i>Camping</i>	<i>Boat Ramp</i>	<i>Biking – Road</i>	<i>Biking – Mountain</i>	
Erving																					
Erving State Forest	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓			✓
Erving Castle/Her-										✓											
Erving Center Boat																		✓			
Farley Flats ⁺																					
Franklin County Bike-												✓								✓	
Rose Ledge										✓											✓
Gill																					
Barton Cove+												✓					✓				✓
Franklin County Bikeway																				✓	
Gill Public Boat Ramp																					✓
Oakridge Golf Club												✓									

⁺ By permit of MDFW

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Issues

Below are concerns that were discussed during the Corridor Management Plan development process:

- There is a concern that many visitors to the Byway area are unaware of the wide array of recreational resources that exist in the Byway area.
- There is a need to provide information on the recreational resources for visitors to the area.
- The maintenance of the existing facilities is a concern.

Recommendations

- Compile, publish and distribute a comprehensive guide or pamphlet with information on the recreational opportunities in the Byway towns.
- In coordination with guide sign projects for other Byways (such as the Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway West, Connecticut River Scenic Farm Byway, and Route 122 Byway), develop a system of directional signs for recreational and other points of interest within the Byway region.
- Develop a website with information on the recreational opportunities in the Byway towns that also links with tourism websites and websites for area towns, organizations, and events. The Mohawk Trail East Byway website would be developed in coordination with the promotional campaign underway for all the western Massachusetts byways and creation of web sites for the other byways.
- Coordinate with regional, state and non-profit land protection efforts to ensure the continued conservation of important natural, recreational, scenic, and open space resources.
- Encourage towns to prioritize land for open space, and natural, cultural, and scenic resource protection and for recreation purposes.
- Seek to acquire conservation restrictions, agricultural preservation restrictions or land from willing property owners for the protection of recreational and natural resources within the Byway region through existing programs and grant sources.
- Educate landowners and communities about the Chapter 61, Chapter 61A, and Chapter 61B Programs for temporary land protection, and about other land conservation programs and funding sources.
- Improve access to parks and recreational areas within the Byway region for the physically handicapped, elderly, and children.
- Develop and maintain multi-use and limited-use trails to provide access to natural, scenic and recreational areas where appropriate.
- Link the Byway with community development and preservation by utilizing resources such as eco-tourism, heritage tourism, and the marketing of local products.
- Enhance the public visibility of agricultural and forestry businesses in the Byway region and promote the purchase of local farm and forest products.
- Encourage the investment of federal, state, municipal and private dollars for the purpose of developing, maintaining, and expanding recreational areas, facilities and programs within the Byway region.
- Develop safe bike routes within the Byway towns that connect the village centers and places of interest.
- Seek to secure trail easements from willing landowners for passive recreational activities including hiking, jogging, nature observation and cross-country skiing.
- Identify and develop additional access points for recreational use of the Connecticut, Millers and Green Rivers.
 - Develop roadside pull-off areas to enhance access to outdoor recreation opportunities.