Outdoor Recreational Resources
C H A P T E R  4

Introduction
The Connecticut River Scenic Byway area has a wealth of outdoor recreational resources. There are activities for all seasons which create diverse opportunities for recreation. During the winter there are opportunities to cross-country ski and snowshoe, while spring provides warmer weather for hiking and biking. Summer is an excellent time to fish and paddle on the Connecticut River, and autumn provides opportunities to view the Byway’s spectacular foliage. This chapter details the outdoor recreational resources along the Byway, and discusses potential issues and concerns that could affect the quality of these resources over time. The chapter concludes with recommendations to protect, maintain, and enhance the Byway’s recreational resources.

Resources located directly on or within a half-mile radius of the Connecticut River Scenic Byway are noted with this roadway symbol. While the Corridor Management Plan focuses on resources that are located within a half mile of the Connecticut River Scenic Byway, this chapter also includes recreational attractions that are outside of the study area boundary, but within the towns along the Byway. The activities at each site are shown in italics.

Resources with recreational access for people of all abilities (universal access) are noted with this symbol. More information on sites with universal access is located on page 25.

State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Other Open Spaces

Multiple Towns along the Byway

Connecticut River Greenway State Park
(Northfield, Sunderland, Hadley, South Hadley, and Hatfield)

The Connecticut River Greenway is one of Massachusetts’ newest State Parks. It connects open spaces, parks, scenic vistas, and archaeological and historic sites along the length of the Connecticut River as it passes through the state. There are more than 12 miles of permanently protected shoreline.
and numerous river access points along the Greenway, including the:

- **Pauchaug Brook** boat launch in Northfield (see Pauchaug Brook Wildlife Management Area listing). *Boating, fishing, and picnicking.*

- **Dirt road ramp** at the end of School Street in Sunderland, Parking is available at the Sunderland Public Library on School Street. *Boating (motorized and non-motorized), boat ramp, fishing, river access.*

- **Gravel boat ramp** and fishing access managed by Mass Department of Fish & Game in Hatfield. Located one mile north of Hatfield Center off of Kellogg Hill Road. Suitable for shallow draft lightweight boats and canoes. Parking for boat trailers.

**New England Trail (Northfield, Erving, Hadley, South Hadley)**

The New England Trail (NET) is a 215-mile hiking trail that travels through 41 communities in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Comprised primarily of the historic Mattabesett, Metacomet, and Monadnock (MMM) Trail system, the NET received its official naming and designation in 2009 as the framework developed by the National Park Service and its partners for trail management and administration. The principal steward for the trail in Massachusetts is the Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

The northern end of the NET starts at the New Hampshire-Massachusetts state border and stretches south through classic New England landscape features, colonial historical landmarks, and many spectacular landscape highlights along the Connecticut River Valley. There are many locations along the Byway that access and intersect with the NET route.

In Northfield parking is available in lots off of Alexander Hill Road and Gulf Road. The Richardson-Zoglar Cabin is located along the trail in Northfield and is available for overnight stays. Reservations are required.

In Hadley and South Hadley, the trail rises and falls along the ridgeline that extends through Mount Holyoke Range and Skinner State Parks. This challenging section of the trail traverses the succession of hills known as the "Seven Sisters" that make up part of the Mount Holyoke Range. The trail can be accessed from the Notch Visitor’s Center on Route 116 or from the entrance to Skinner State Park on Route 47. The Mount Holyoke Outing Club is the Trail Adopter for this section of trail, and owns and operates a fully enclosed cabin just off of Old Mountain Road. The cabin is available for public use. To reserve the cabin, visit the Outing Club’s website: [https://www.mtholyoke.edu/org/outing/](https://www.mtholyoke.edu/org/outing/)


**J.A. Skinner State Park, Hadley, South Hadley**

At the western end of the Mount Holyoke Range, J. A. Skinner State Park involves more than 400 acres of forest on the slopes and summit of Mount Holyoke. The park is owned and managed by MassDCR and has hiking and picnicking and outstanding views of the Connecticut River.
Valley. The park is named after Joseph Allen Skinner, a wealthy businessman who donated the hotel and land to the state in 1940.

The Summit House on Mount Holyoke is a historic landmark that in the second half of the 1800s served as a popular mountain-top hotel. It is open for tours and programs on weekends and holidays from Memorial Day through Columbus Day, offering historical displays and special events. Today visitors can enjoy spectacular, panoramic views of the Connecticut River and Pioneer Valley, and learn about the hotel’s history. The summit is accessible by automobile from May through mid-October from Summit Road off of Route 47 in Hadley, and year-round by walking the road or hiking the trails. Lithia Springs Road provides access to trails around the Lithia Springs Reservoir.

_Birding, hiking, wildlife viewing, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, rock climbing_ • http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-west/skinner-state-park-generic.html • 10 Skinner State Park Road, Hadley • 413-586-0350
Mount Holyoke Range State Park (Hadley, South Hadley)
Mount Holyoke Range State Park is contiguous to Skinner State Park, which together offer more than 3,000 acres of park land and more than 30 miles of marked trails. Managed by MassDCR, Mount Holyoke Range State Park straddles the seven-mile ridge that runs from Hadley to Belchertown. Mostly wooded, the ridge's steep slopes and east-west orientation create a number of forest types, including birch-beech-hemlock on the north side and oak-hickory on the south. Thickets, streams, ponds, and wetlands add to the diversity. The Notch Visitor Center, located on Route 116 in Amherst, is open daily. Displays and interpretive programs are available in season.

Hiking, wildlife viewing, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, hunting • http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-west/mount-holyoke-range-state-park.html • 1500 West Street, Amherst • 413 253-2883

Robert Frost Trail (Montague, Sunderland, Hadley, South Hadley)
The Robert Frost Trail is a 47 mile trail that passes through ten towns on a mixture of state and town conservation lands, state and town roads, and private property. The trail extends from the south side of the Holyoke Range north, crossing through the Mt. Toby State Forest in Sunderland and ending in the Wendell State Forest. The trail is open to hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and other passive activities. Fishing and swimming are possible at locations along the trail. Parking and access to the trail is available at multiple locations. Hiking, wildlife viewing, cross-country skiing, fishing, swimming. https://www.amherstma.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/610

Northfield
Northfield State Forest
A network of trails for hiking and skiing is located in the Northfield State Forest at the end of Alexander Hill Road. Hiking, cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing. http://www.northfield.ma.us/files/OpenSpace/trails/hiking_trails.html • Alexander Hill Road, Northfield

Northfield Town Forest
The Northfield Town Forest is a 150-acre conservation and recreation area with a 2.2 mile loop trail and cliff section. Parking is available at the trailhead off of Gulf Road. Hiking, wildlife viewing. http://www.northfield.ma.us/files/OpenSpace/trails/Town-Forest/town_forest_trail.html • Gulf Road, Northfield

Pauchaug Brook Wildlife Management Area
This 161-acre area, formerly known as Pauchaug Meadow, is a nearly level flood plain of the Connecticut River. It is owned and maintained by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. The Connecticut River forms the western boundary of the area, and it is a good fishing spot. There is ample parking for trailers and vehicles and boat access on a concrete ramp. Pauchaug Brook, which runs through the area, is stocked with trout. Additionally the area is
stocked with pheasant, woodcock, cottontail rabbit, gray squirrel, raccoon, waterfowl and numerous nongame species. **Boating, fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing.**


**Satan’s Kingdom Wildlife Management Area**

Satan’s Kingdom is a very large, 1,305 acres, mostly forested wildlife management area that is owned and maintained by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. The area is located in the northwest corner of Northfield, on the western side of the Connecticut River and also includes land in the town of Bernardston. The area is comprised of several disjointed parcels and the topography is highly variable, ranging from steep and mountain tops to nearly flat, seasonally flooded wooded swamps. A trail on an old forestry road is accessible from Old Vernon Road, and leads to the top of a ridge with a view of the valley. **Birding, hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing.**

[http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dfg/dfw/habitat/maps-wma/valley/satans-kingdom-wma.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dfg/dfw/habitat/maps-wma/valley/satans-kingdom-wma.pdf)  • A 3.2 mile trail on an old forestry road is accessible from Old Vernon Road and Northfield and leads to the top of a ridge with a view of the valley. The Satan’s Kingdom Trail is highlighted on the Northfield website [http://www.northfield.ma.us/files/OpenSpace/trails/Satans-Kingdom/satans_kingdom.html](http://www.northfield.ma.us/files/OpenSpace/trails/Satans-Kingdom/satans_kingdom.html) • Old Vernon Road, Northfield

**Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center**

The Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center is a four-season recreation facility owned and operated by FirstLight Power Resources. Northfield Mountain offers cross country skiing, hiking, rock climbing, and mountain biking on 26 miles of trails; interpretive riverboat cruises and charters on the 44-seat Quinnetukut II; public environmental and recreation programs at the Visitor Center; and school environmental and recreational programs on-site. **Cross country skiing, hiking, mountain biking, boating, rock climbing.**


**King Philip’s Hill**

A bluff overlooking the Connecticut River, King Philip’s Hill, is a former lookout post for Native Americans who lived and fought along the Connecticut River. Hikers on this town-owned parcel enjoy a magnificent view of the river. The trailhead is a short walk from the historical marker. The trail is a short, easy loop. There are several historic trenches visible just back from the edge of the bluff, and several historic informational signs along the trail. King Philip’s Hill is located on the western side of the Connecticut River, from Old Bernardston Road (off of Route 10). **Hiking and picnicking.**

[http://www.northfield.ma.us/files/OpenSpace/trails/KPH/KPH_trail.html](http://www.northfield.ma.us/files/OpenSpace/trails/KPH/KPH_trail.html) • Old Bernardston Road

**Bennett Meadow Wildlife Management Area**

This wildlife management area is owned by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife along the Connecticut River, and is open to the public. There are no maintained trails. A parking
area is located on the south side of Route 10, on the west side of the Connecticut River. *Hiking, hunting, fishing.* Parking is available off of Route 10 on the west side of the Connecticut River in Northfield.

http://www.northfield.ma.us/files/OpenSpace/trails/hiking_trails.html

**Munns Ferry Boat Access Campground**
Munns Ferry in Northfield is a small camping area on the Connecticut River that is accessible only by the water. Four tent sites and an Adirondack shelter are available. Water is not available on site and reservations are required. The site is one of the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center facilities operated by GDF SUEZ Energy North America formerly FirstLight Power. Reservations will be taken beginning the first Wednesday in April. Munns Ferry closes Columbus Day. *Boating, camping.* http://gdfsuezna.com/camping/ • 413-863-9300

**Brush Mountain Conservation Area**
Brush Mountain Conservation Area is a 46-acre, town-owned recreation area with a trail to the top of the mountain that is part of the New England Scenic Trail. The property contains several cellar holes visible from the trail for the historic Calvin Swan home-site. A parking area is located at the trailhead on Gulf Road. *Hiking, wildlife viewing.*

**Mill Brook Wetlands and Trail**
This natural area includes a 1.5 mile wooded loop trail near the center of Northfield Village, just off of the Byway on Holton Street. Parking is at the Northfield Golf Course. *Hiking, wildlife viewing.*
http://northfieldgolfcourse.com/?page_id=49 • 31 Holton Street • 413-498-2432

**Erving**

**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. *Hiking, boating, camping (including shower facilities), picnicking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, swimming, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.* [http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-central/ervin-state-forest.html](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-central/ervin-state-forest.html) • Laurel Lake Road • 978 544-3939 • 978 544-7745 (campground)

**Erving Castle/Hermit’s Cave**
Located within the Erving State Forest, this vigorous hike (3-4 hours round-trip) leads to a natural "castle" formed by a small cave under an overhanging cliff. The cave was inhabited from 1867-1899 by hermit, John Smith, native of Scotland. From a sign on Mountain Road, follow the white-blazed Mattabesett, Metacomet, andMonadnock (M-M-M) Trails (MMM) Trail for 1.6 miles to a blue-blazed spur trail that descends a steep grade to the cave site and its remnant stonework and gardens, and then reconnects with the M-M-M. *Hiking.*
[http://www.northquabbinwoods.org/entries/62](http://www.northquabbinwoods.org/entries/62) • Mountain Road • 978-544-3939
Montague

Montague State Forest
Located to the east of Route 63, the Montague State Forest is comprised of over 600 acres. *Hiking, cross country skiing, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing.*

Great Falls Discovery Center
Located off of the Byway in Turners Falls, the Great Falls Discover Center is housed within a complex of old mill buildings. The Great Falls Discovery Center’s exhibits show the natural, cultural, and industrial history of the Connecticut River watershed. The Center’s four acres includes native plants, butterfly gardens, the Canalside Trail Bikeway and open lawn on the banks of the Connecticut River. Inside the main building, walk-through dioramas show the plants, animals, and landscapes of the 410-mile-long river from its source near the Canadian border to the estuary at the Long Island Sound. The Center is a cooperative program between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. The building and exhibits are fully accessible and are free and open to the public. There are public restrooms available at the building. *Picnicking, wildlife viewing.*

http://greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org/ • 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls • 413-863-3221

Turners Falls Fishway
The Connecticut River provides an opportunity to view an incredible natural phenomenon, when the American shad, sea lamprey and other anadromous (ah-nad-rah-mus) fish swim up the river as they begin their annual spring migration. Anadromous fish are born in freshwater, mature in the ocean and return to freshwater to spawn. The Turners Falls ladders help migrating fish get past the Turners Falls dam. These stair-like ladders consist of a series of rising pools, each pool approximately one foot higher than the last. The fish climb these ladders by swimming from pool to pool. Completed in 1980, the Turners Falls ladders are a series of three ladders located along a 2.5-mile stretch of the river. The Turners Falls ladders are located at the Cabot Hydroelectric Station, the spillway (dam) and the gatehouse. The Turners Falls Fishway is open during the spring migration. Underwater viewing windows offer visitors of all ages a chance to see migratory fish during their upriver journey to spawn. The viewing windows are open Wednesday through Sunday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., from mid-May to June. The admission is free and no reservations are required. *Wildlife viewing.*

http://www.gdfsuezna.com/fishway/ • 15 First Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376 • 800-859-2960

Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area
Located to the west of the Byway in the center of Montague, the Montague Plains is a 1,600 acre, state wildlife refuge and unique ecological area, operated by the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game. The “Plains” are a rare pine barren, which supports habitat for many rare plants and animals. The Montague Plains area is located on a large sand delta that was formed more than 10,000 years ago when melt water streams from the retreating glaciers emptied into Glacial Lake Hitchcock, a huge lake that covered much of the Connecticut River Valley during the glacial period. There is access from multiple roads. *Nature walks, cross country skiing, bird watching, hunting in season (pheasant, deer and small game), mountain biking.*

http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dfg/dfw/habitat/maps-wma/valley/montagueplainswma.pdf • Millers Falls Road, Green Pond Road
Montague Wildlife Management Area
Located east of the Byway off of Chestnut Hill Road, this 1,339 acre area contains mixed terrain varying from gentle to steep slopes, nearly vertical ledges and flat bottom land. A long stretch of Spaulding brook (a wild brook trout stream) is contained within this area. There are also some smaller tributaries of the Sawmill River, a stocked trout water. White-tailed deer, bear, raccoon, gray squirrel, fisher, turkey, ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbit and snowshoe hare, along with numerous non-game species. Hiking, cross country skiing, mountain biking, fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing. http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dfg/dfw/habitat/maps-wma/valley/montaguewma.pdf • Chestnut Hill Road and North Leverett Road.

Unity Park
Located on the banks of the Connecticut River, Unity Park in the village of Turners Falls in Montague is one of the most scenic and popular local parks in the region. The 8.25 acre Town-owned section of the park was recently renovated, and includes a large playground with a water feature in the summer, ball fields, a basketball court, a paved walking path, a butterfly garden, and a picnic area. The section of Unity Park that is on the banks of the Connecticut River is owned by FirstLight Power and has picnic tables, a fish ladder and is the northern terminus of the Canalside Trail Bike Path. Walking, biking, fishing, wildlife viewing, picnicking, playground. • First Street, Turners Falls • 413-863-3216

Sunderland

Mt. Toby State Forest
At more than 1,200 feet in height, Mt. Toby looms over the middle Connecticut River Valley offering panoramic views to those who will make the trek on a moderate hiking trail of about 6 miles. There are shorter hiking trials as well. Mt. Toby features cliffs, caves, waterfalls, wetlands and open fields. Cranberry Pond is a small pond at the foot of Mt Toby and offers opportunities for kayaking. Parking is located off Route 47 about one half mile east on Reservation Road. Birding, hiking, and wildlife viewing. http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-west/connecticut-river-greenway-state-park.html • 413-586-8706 x12

Hadley

Lake Warner Boat Launch, Hadley
Shallow and weedy, Lake Warner has a mean depth of about three feet and a maximum depth of about 10 feet, making the lake most suitable for shallow draft boats. The public launch for paddling and fishing craft is located just off Route 47 at Mount Warner Road. Boating, fishing, birding, and wildlife viewing • Mount Warner Road, Hadley
Lake Warner Wildlife Management Area
This 95-acre tract managed by Mass Fish & Wildlife is on the northeast side of Mount Warner with 825 feet of frontage on Lake Warner and 2,160 feet of frontage on the Mill River. Topography is variable with primarily mixed hardwood with some white pine. This area is not stocked with fish or pheasant, but typically has deer, aquatic furbearers, raccoon, squirrel, turkey, geese and duck. Nearest street is Stockbridge Road. Currently the site is accessible only by water because the state owned right of way is overgrown.

Boating, fishing, birding, and wildlife viewing •
http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/maps-destinations/wildlife-management-areas.html • 413.323.7632

Mount Warner
Just southeast of Lake Warner in North Hadley, Mount Warner is the second highest point in the town of Hadley. It is a resistant rock outcropping, known as a Monadnock, and has long been recognized as a regionally significant landform. It rises above the flat, fertile floodplain of North Hadley from the bed of ancient Lake Hitchcock, the glacial lake that formed during the melting of the last glacial advance. Archaeologists believe that Mount Warner was actually an island amidst the Glacial Lake Hitchcock ten thousand years ago, and may contain evidences of occupation by Native Americans dating back more than six hundred years.

Mount Warner stands amid a 500-acre swath of protected land linking nearby Lake Warner to the Connecticut River. On a portion of Mount Warner owned and managed by The Trustees of the Reservations (TTOR), the Salamander Loop Trail provides a 2-mile circuit that takes hikers through a sloping woodland along old cart paths and wood roads. Parking and the trailhead are located along Mount Warner Road. The TTOR property is open year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset. Allow a minimum of 1.5 hours. See TTOR webpage to download a trail map.

Hiking/snowshoeing, cross country skiing, birding and wildlife viewing •
http://www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/pioneer-valley/mount-warner.html#t1 • Mount Warner Road, Hadley • 413.532.1631
Alexandra Dawson Conservation Area, North Lane, Hadley
This conservation area provides a walking trail on top of part of the Connecticut River dike system with great river views and a fairly level walking surface. There is a pull off along the middle of North Lane and a brief steep climb to the top of the dyke. It is possible to walk a loop going west to end of dike and then using town roads, from Cemetery Road to West Street and back to North Lane.

Hiking, birding, and wildlife viewing • North Lane, Hadley

Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Fort River Division
Along the Fort River in Hadley, a new 1.2-mile fully accessible loop trail provides the opportunity to explore multiple habitats, including grasslands, shrub-lands, mixed forest, and wetlands. The trail includes eight elevated boardwalks and seven different viewing decks and is part of 260 acres along the Fort River protected for grassland bird habitat and now part of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

Hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education, and interpretation • Moody Bridge Road, Hadley

Mass Central Rail Trail - Norwottuck
An 11-mile long pedestrian and bicycle path, the Mass Central Rail Trail – Norwottuck (MCRT - Norwottuck) extends east to west, connecting the communities of Belchertown, Amherst, Hadley, and Northampton. From Northampton to the west, the MCRT – Norwottuck connects to the Manhan Rail Trail in Easthampton and Southampton. In Hadley, the MCRT – Norwottuck crosses Route 47 just north of its intersection with Route 9. Public parking is available at the “Hadley Depot” on Railroad Street in Hadley center, at the Connecticut River Greenway State Park on Damon Road in Northampton, behind the Whole Foods Market on Route 9 in Hadley, and behind the Mountain Farms Mall in Hadley. The path's level terrain provides safe passage for pedestrians, wheelchairs, joggers, skaters, bicyclists, and cross-country skiers of all ages and abilities.

Cycling, hiking, and wildlife viewing. • http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-west/norwottuck-rail-trail.html

J.A. Skinner State Park (Hadley, South Hadley)
See description at beginning of this chapter under "Multiple Towns Along the Byway" heading.

Mount Holyoke Range State Park (Hadley, South Hadley)
See description at beginning of this chapter under "Multiple Towns Along the Byway" heading.
South Hadley

J.A. Skinner State Park (Hadley, South Hadley)
See description at beginning of this chapter under "Multiple Towns Along the Byway" heading.

Mount Holyoke Range State Park (Hadley, South Hadley)
See description at beginning of this chapter under "Multiple Towns Along the Byway" heading.

Bachelor Brook/Stony Brook Conservation Resource Area
The largest and most biologically diverse of the properties managed by the South Hadley Conservation Commission, this 284-acre conservation area lies along the Connecticut River and Bachelor Brook north of Ferry Street. A small portion of the property lies south of Ferry Street, along Stony Brook. Walking trails connect the Town Farm property to Bachelor Brook, Stony Brook, and to the Connecticut River. Among the unique features of this property are two of the best examples in the state of small floodplain forests. Using Scenic Byway funding, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission hired designers to complete plans for the "River to Range," which will link the Connecticut River to the Mount Holyoke Range.

Hiking/snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, fishing, mountain biking, birding and wildlife viewing • http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-west/norwottuck-rail-trail.html

Town Farm Fields
Right along the Byway and adjacent to the Bachelor Brook/Stony Brook Conservation Resource Area, Town Farm Fields is home to several ball fields and a community garden. The property also has picnic tables, a water fountain, and portable toilets.

Picnicking

Mount Holyoke College Trails, South Hadley
At the southern end of the Byway, Mount Holyoke College maintains trails in five areas near the college, including Long Farm Trail; Prospect Hill Trails; Upper and Lower Stony Brook Trail; and Upper Lake Loop.

Hiking/ snow shoeing, cross-country skiing, birding and wildlife viewing • https://www.mtholyoke.edu/mwce/campus_trails
Table 4-1: Boating and Public Boat Access Sites
The following locations, described in the preceding pages of this chapter under the State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Other Open Spaces" section, have boating and public boat access:

- Northfield - Connecticut River access, Pauchaug Brook Wildlife Management Area
- Sunderland - Connecticut River access, dirt road at the end of School Street
- Hatfield - Connecticut River access, Mass Department of Fish & Game boat ramp and fishing access off of Kellogg Hill Road
- Hadley - Lake Warner access, Mass Department of Fish & Game has right of way agreement with Town of Hadley for boat ramp and fishing access

See preceding descriptions on these locations for further information.

Using common sense on the river
When swimming, boating, or fishing on a large river like the Connecticut, it is critically important to know about conditions. A fair-weather weekend following heavy rains can be especially deceptive. The flows of these heavy storms can produce hazardous floating debris, including tree limbs and pieces of dock. Because of the Connecticut River's huge watershed, it can take many days after a heavy storm for water levels to drop back to normal. Check with staff at local marinas for the best current information on river conditions. See list below.

Privately operated boating access sites are also located along the Byway. These include the following:

Sportsman’s Marina Inc. and Boat Rental Co., Hadley
Located on the southwestern side of the Calvin Coolidge Bridge, Sportsman’s Marina has an improved ramp for all boat types that can be use for a fee. The Marina also sells and rents boats. Rentals include kayaks, canoes, pontoon boats, and fishing boats.
http://www.smihadley.com • 1 Russell Street (Route 9) • 413-584-7141

Mitch's Marina, South Hadley
Located along the Byway, Mitch's Marina has an improved boat ramp, docks, and a snack bar in a scenic park-like area between the Byway and the Connecticut River.
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mitchs-Marina/170266936479291 • 2 Mitch's Way • 413-584-7960

Brunelle's Marina, South Hadley
The marina has a paved boat launch for easy access to the river. There is a launch fee and season passes are available. Riverside picnic areas are available all season for the use of all boaters. Visitors may use the marina's guest dock for up to two hours of courtesy mooring. The marina also operates the Lady Bea, a 49 passenger cruise boat, with daily narrated tours of the Connecticut River. The boat is also available for private events.
http://www.brunelles.com • 1 Alvord Street • 413-536-3132
Hatfield (Proposed)

Bashin Beach
Owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as part of the Connecticut River Greenway, this beach and swimming area has few amenities, but is an important recreational facility in Hatfield.

Kellogg Hill Road State Boat Ramp and Fishing Access
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts owns 5.7± acres off of Kellogg Hill Road for use as a public boat ramp and fishing access. This gravel ramp serves as one of the few access points to the Connecticut River from the west bank in this area. It is suitable for smaller boats and parking for boat trailers. Regional as well as local visitors use this area in the three seasons.
Boating, fishing, birding, and wildlife viewing • [http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/fba/access-sites.html](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/fba/access-sites.html) • Kellogg Hill Road, Hatfield

Terry Blunt Watershed and Conservation Area
This town conservation area of approximately 600 acres has a 1-mile long walking trail on the southern portion of the property. Access to the south end of the trail is from Rocks Road and access to the north end of the trail is at Reservoir Road. The unpaved path traverses some of the highest elevations in Hatfield under a high open forest canopy, offering a unique outdoor experience in town.
Hiking/snowshoeing, cross country skiing, birding, and wildlife viewing • Rocks Road and Reservoir Road

Smith Academy Trustees Park
Located at the corner of School and Main Streets behind Town Hall, this small municipal park is undergoing renovation to provide a bandstand and more open space.
Picnicking • Main Street
**Camping**
The following locations which were described in the preceding State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Other Open Spaces section of this chapter have camping:

- Multiple Towns – New England Scenic Trail
- Northfield – Bennett Meadow Wildlife Management Area, Munns Ferry Boat Access Campground
- Erving – Erving State Forest

**Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing**
The following locations which were described in the preceding section of this chapter as having cross-country skiing and snowshoeing access:

- Northfield - Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center
- Erving - Erving State Forest
- Montague - Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area
- Hadley, Mt. Warner
- Hadley/South Hadley, J.A. Skinner State Park
- South Hadley - Mount Holyoke Range State Park
- South Hadley - Bachelor Brook/Stoney Brook Conservation Resource Area
- South Hadley - Ledges Golf Course

Further information on these sites is included in the preceding State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Other Open Spaces descriptions.

**Golfing**

**Northfield**

Northfield Golf Club
A picturesque nine-hole golf course adjacent to the Mill Brook Wetlands, complete with clubhouse. Designed by Alex Findlay, this “links” style nine-hole course was constructed at the turn of the century and opened in 1901; the current layout opened for play in 1912. The Northfield Golf Club is a well designed and carefully maintained mature course. The fairways are narrow and tree-lined, there is excellent variety of holes, and the small, fast greens keep the course interesting and appealing to both skilled golfers and those just learning how to play the game. An in ground pool and pool house are open in the summer to the public with a daily fee.

[http://northfieldgolfcourse.com](http://northfieldgolfcourse.com) • 31 Holton Street • 413-498-2432
Montague

Thomas Memorial Golf and Country Club
A 9 hole municipal golf course in Turners Falls, Montague. 29 Country Club Lane • 413-863-8003

Hadley

Western Massachusetts Family Golf Center
This commercial golf center has a golf driving range, mini golf course, ball park batting, golf simulator, and regular golf clinics.
294 Russell Street/Route 9 • 413-586-2311 • http://wmassfamilygolf.com/

South Hadley

Ledges Golf Club
Owned by the Town of South Hadley and managed by International Golf Maintenance, the 244-acre Ledges Golf Club is an 18-hole course with a 6,500 yard layout. There are magnificent views of the surrounding mountain range, natural wetlands, mature forests and abundant wildlife.
ww.ledgesgc.com • Mulligan Drive • (413) 532-2307

The Orchards
A private 18-hole course created in 1922 from 160 acres of sloping wooded terrain by noted Scottish designer Donald Ross. Membership is by nomination from other members.
http://www.orchardsgolf.com • 18 Silverwood Terrace • (413) 535-2582

Hunting

Hunting is permitted in all of the Massachusetts state forest areas and wildlife management areas along the Byway in accordance with the state’s regulations and permitting requirements. There are twelve different hunting seasons. Detailed information regarding these individual seasons and licensing is available from the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. The following is a list of the locations where hunting is allowed:
• Northfield – Pauchaug Brook Wildlife Management Area, Bennett Meadow Wildlife Management Area
• Erving – Erving State Forest
• Montague – Montague State Forest, Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area, Montague Wildlife Management Area
• Hadley - Lake Warner Wildlife Management Area

http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/licensing/ • 508-389-6300

Fishing

Fishing is a year-round recreational activity in Massachusetts. Fishing access sites along the Byway corridor include the Connecticut River, Pauchaug Brook, Millers River, Sawmilk River, Fort River, and Bachelor Brook. To increase the chances of catching trout, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife stocks several waterways in the region. The following is a list of stocked waterways in the towns along the Connecticut River Scenic Byway Corridor:
• Northfield - Four Mile Brook, Mill Brook, Roaring Brook, Pauchaug Brook
• Erving - Keyup Brook, Laurel Lake, Millers River
• Montague - Goddard Brook, Sawmill River, West Pond, Millers River
• Sunderland - Russellville Brook, Cranberry Pond, Mohawk Brook
• Hatfield - Mill River
• Hadley - Russellville Brook, Fort River, Mill River
• South Hadley - Bachelor Brook

Fishing locations are also indicated in italics in the State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Other Open Spaces section at the beginning of this chapter.
http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/licensing/ • 508-389-6300

Bicycling on Roads and Bike Paths
Bicycle touring is an excellent way to explore the byway area. The Connecticut River Valley area is a premier place for bicycle touring and recreational riding, drawing visitors from all over. The rural character, scenic beauty, and low traffic volumes make the region attractive for bicycling. Sections of the Connecticut River Scenic Byway are part of the Franklin County Bikeway and the Connecticut River Byway Tri-State Bikeway, which connects Greenfield, Massachusetts, Keene, New Hampshire and Brattleboro, Vermont. Nearby alternatives exist for some of the more challenging sections of the byway where higher traffic speeds and limited shoulders make bicycling uncomfortable for less experienced cyclists. This section provides information about cycling on Route 63 and Route 47, and also surrounding routes that might provide bicycle touring opportunities for varying levels.

Northfield, Erving, Montague, and Sunderland, Hadley, South Hadley and Hatfield

Federal Scenic Byway Program funding was awarded in 2012 to develop a print and online bike map of the bicycling resources in the tri-state (Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont) area of the Connecticut River Scenic Byway, and to install wayfinding signs and bicycle racks to enhance bicycling in the region. The project includes route connections between communities such as Northampton, Amherst, and Greenfield, Massachusetts, Keene, New Hampshire, and Brattleboro, Vermont. The project is meant to build upon the growing bicycle touring industry in the region and enhance economic development related to tourism.

The map details the level of difficulty of the routes as “advanced,” “intermediate,” “easier,” and “off road bike trail” routes are identified on the map, as well as bike shops, public parking and restrooms, picnic areas, ice cream stands, and other points of interest. Trailblazing signs will be added to routes along and adjacent to the byway between Greenfield, Brattleboro, and Keene. Maps were completed in 2014 and are available from the FRCOG, area bike shops, and other locations in the CT River valley. Digital versions of the maps may be downloaded from the
FRCOG’s website at [http://frcog.org/program-services/transportation-planning/](http://frcog.org/program-services/transportation-planning/). The routes can also be viewed on Google Earth. A link to the Google Earth maps can be accessed from the FRCOG’s website.

**Northfield, Erving, Montague, and Sunderland**

The Franklin County Bikeway

In Franklin County, a region-wide bicycle network has been defined. The network creates connections within the county as well as connection to neighboring counties and states. Based on these routes, three Franklin County Bikeway maps, *Western Franklin County*, *Central Franklin County*, and *Eastern Franklin County*, were created to show the routes. The recommended routes on the maps are rated as “novice”, “intermediate”, or “advanced” based on their suitability for different level bicycle riders.

The Connecticut River Scenic Byway area is included on the *Central Franklin County* and *Eastern Franklin County* bikeway maps. The *Central Franklin County* map includes the routes that were part of the original 44-mile section of the Franklin County Bikeway that is centered along the Connecticut River. This original part of the bikeway consists of both off-road multi-use trails and shared roadway routes. The off-road trails have already been constructed and the shared roadway routes are marked with Franklin County Bikeway logo signs. The routes included on the Eastern and Western Franklin County Maps have not yet been marked with Franklin County Bikeway logo signs. It is anticipated that signs will be installed on these routes in the future. The maps are available from the FRCOG, area bike shops, the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce in Greenfield, and a variety of other locations. Digital versions of the maps may be downloaded from the FRCOG’s website at [http://frcog.org/program-services/transportation-planning/](http://frcog.org/program-services/transportation-planning/). The routes can also be viewed on Google Earth. A link to the Google Earth maps can be accessed from the FRCOG’s website also.

The following describes the Franklin County Bikeway routes within or near the Byway area:

- **The New Hampshire Connector** (3.4 miles, Advanced) connects from Main Street in Northfield to the Ashuelot and Fort Hill Rail Trails in New Hampshire. These rail trails are not paved, but are constructed of sandy/cinder surfaces. This route has long, steep climbs with no shoulders in some locations, and therefore classified for “advanced” bicyclists.

- **The Northeastern Franklin County Route** (15.5 miles, Advanced) is accessed from Main Street (Route 63) in Northfield, but does not follow the Byway. Instead, the route travels near Mount Grace State Forest in Warwick, and terminates in downtown Orange. This route is classified as “advanced” because the roads are hilly and windy and have little or no shoulder.
• The **Northfield Connector (14 miles, Intermediate/Novice)** is located in Northfield, Erving, and Montague, and follows the Byway from Main Street in Northfield south to where it turns onto Pine Meadow Road. The route travels over the East Mineral Road bridge, a bicycle and pedestrian bridge at the confluence of the Millers and Connecticut Rivers. The route stays parallel to the Byway until Millers Falls Road, where it travels west and connects to the Canalside Trail Bicycle Path at Unity Park in Turners Falls. This route also provides a connection to the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center.

• The **Canalside Trail Bicycle Path (3.27 miles, Novice)** 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 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 path is part of the larger Franklin County Bikeway, a network of on and off-road bicycle routes that connect villages and attractions in Franklin County. Parking is available at Unity Park, the Great Falls Discovery Center, and on McClelland Farm Road in Deerfield. *Biking, walking.* [http://frcog.org/program-services/transportation-planning/] • First Street or 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls

• The **Connecticut River Route (9.4 miles, Novice/Intermediate)** is accessed on Greenfield Road in Montague at the intersection of the Canalside Trail Bike Path. This is a shared roadway route that travels near the Connecticut River along low volume scenic roads in Montague and Sunderland. In Sunderland the route turns onto Route 47 at Falls Road and follows the Byway into the village center.

• **River Road Route northern section in Deerfield and Sunderland (18.7 miles, Intermediate)** begins in Deerfield at the southern end of the Canalside Trail Bike Path at the parking area off of McClelland Farm Road. The route travels south on River Road, crosses the Deerfield-Sunderland Bridge, and connects to the Connecticut River Route at Route 47.

• **River Road Connection into Hampshire County (15 miles, Intermediate)** travels south on River Road from the intersection of Route 116 and River Road, a short distance from the Byway in Sunderland village center. This section of River Road travels into Whately and Hatfield (in Hampshire County). This route provides a link to Hampshire County and Northampton (a regional destination). It is possible to use the parking area at the Mount Sugarloaf State Reservation and cycle east on Route 116 to access either the River Road north or south routes.
• The **Leverett-Amherst Route** *(13.4 miles, Intermediate)* travels from Millers Falls Road through Montague Center, crossing the Byway near the intersection of Routes 64 and 47, and continues on to Leverett Center. This route connects to North Amherst in Hampshire County and the University of Massachusetts campus, the University Connector Bike Path, and the Norwottuck Rail Trail.

• The **Shutesbury Loop** *(20.5 miles, Intermediate)* travels through Montague, Leverett, and Shutebury, connecting at both ends to the Leverett-Amherst Route. The route travels to Lake Wyola State Park, where a beach is open to the public for swimming. Caution should be taken on this route because Shutebury/Leverett Road has high traffic volumes and little to no shoulders.

**Hatfield, Hadley, South Hadley**

• The **River Road - Long Plain Road Loop** *(16 miles, Novice)* stretches through downtown Hatfield's historic districts and beautiful farmland in the Connecticut River's floodplains. Using the parking area at the Mount Sugarloaf State Reservation in Sunderland, cycle east on Route 116 and take River Road south into Hatfield. River Road turns into Main Street and stretches several miles through the town's historic various districts. Turn west on Maple Street and then immediately north onto Prospect Street. Just after intersection with King Street, take right onto Straits Road, which extends into Long Plain Road. Take the route east to Christian Lane and then immediately head north on River Road to complete the loop. It is possible to extend this route from Maple Street or Christian Lane into Haydenville for a much longer ride.

• The **Hadley-Amherst Loop** *(24 miles, Advanced - Intermediate)* starts at the Mass Central Rail Trail - Norwottuck in Hadley. Use the parking area at the Hadley Depot on Railroad Street in Hadley center. Proceed east on the MCRT-Norwottuck to the Byway (Route 47) and then head north. Follow the route for 2 miles and then turn east on Stockwell Road. At intersection of Mt. Warner Road, turn south. Follow the route to go east on Breckenridge Road and north on Roosevelt Road, which turns into Meadow Street. Cross intersection with Route 63 onto Pine Street. Follow Pine Street to T intersection with Henry Street and turn south.

The Connecticut River Scenic Byway is popular with local cyclists as well as a cycling destination. This cyclist arrived from Germany to start his bicycling journey in Vermont. He is shown riding on the Byway in Hadley.
Henry Street turns into North East Street and in turn to South East Street. Follow all the way to Bay Road. Turn east on Bay Road and cross Route 116 to follow West Bay Road all the way to Byway/Route 47. Turn north on Byway and follow until looped back to Mass Central Rail Trail.

**Mountain Biking**

The following locations which were described in the preceding section of this chapter have mountain biking access:

- Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center (Northfield)
- Erving State Forest (Erving)
- Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area (Montague)
- J.A. Skinner State Park, Hadley, South Hadley - note that no mountain biking permitted on New England Trail
- Mount Holyoke Range State Park, Hadley, South Hadley - note that no mountain biking permitted on New England Trail

Further information on these sites is included in the preceding State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Other Open Spaces descriptions.

**Trail Running**

**Western Mass Athletic Club**

The Western Mass Athletic Club primarily caters to area trail runners, and is based out of Adams in Berkshire County. Interested participants can run and hike the rugged terrain surrounding the byway with like-minded group members. This organization hosts running groups, races, as well as snow shoeing events in winter months.

http://runwmac.com/index.html

**Rock Climbing**

**Erving**

**Farley Ledges**

Considered by some the “crown jewel of climbing in Massachusetts,” Farley Ledge includes both moderate and highly difficult challenges on sloping horizontals, small edges, and sweeping features. Group climbs are sometimes offered by the Western Massachusetts Climbers Coalition (WMCC). WMCC owns a 16-car parking area and trail access to the ledge, located just west from Holmes Avenue on Route 2 near a gravel pullout on the cliff side of the street. Additional overflow parking is available on Wells Street located just to the east on Route 2, and across the Millers River on Bridge Street (Farley Road) in the small dirt lot. These overflow lots are on private property and should be used respectfully. The Farley Ledges can be heavily visited on weekends and holidays, and users are urged to obey the rules posted at the kiosk and to respect the land. Users must also respect a peregrine falcon closure period, typically in effect from early

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. http://gdfsuezna.com/recreation/Northfield-Mountain-Nature-Programs/

Hadley, South Hadley
J.A. Skinner State Park
Skinner State Park, owned and managed by MassDCR, has two southeast facing crags that are comprised of basaltic trap rock, the dominant stone of climbing in this area. While most of the trap rock in Massachusetts is highly fractured and unclimbable, some of this "Skinner Stone" is bullet hard and quite challenging. The Western Massachusetts Climbers Coalition notes, "Those familiar with basalt will note the absence of grit or horizontal holds and the corresponding importance of side-pulls, under clings and body position." The two cliffs - a lower tier of hard, bolted routes and upper tier of more moderate top rope problems - top out at 30 feet and yield perhaps 25 routes ranging from 5.8 to 5.13. For more information, see: http://www.climbgneiss.org/index.php/skinner

Swimming
The following locations which were described in the preceding section of this chapter to have swimming:

- Erving State Forest (Erving)
- Bashin Beach, Hatfield

Further information on these sites is included in the preceding State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Other Open Spaces descriptions.

Snowmobiling
There is a network of trails through the Byway area where snowmobilers are allowed. Snowmobile trails along the Byway, and in the region, are seasonal trails. Trails on private property are often governed by written agreements with the property owner stipulating maintenance responsibilities in return for access. Up-to-date information on local snowmobile trails, conditions and purchasing a pass can be obtained from the following organizations:

- Northfield Snowmobile Club • 413-498-0259
- Bernardston, Gill, Leyden Snowmobile Club • http://www.bglsnow.com/
- Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts • www.sledmass.com  • 413-369-8092
- Greater Whately Snowmobile Club • 413-665-3846; 413-397-3637
- Hadley Snowmobile Club • http://sledmass.com/club/hadley-snowmobile-club/ • 413.586.9864; 413-374-6056; or 413-531-1410
Off-Road Vehicles
Off-road vehicles (ORVs) are allowed in a limited number of the state forests and parks in Western Massachusetts, none of which are located in the Byway Corridor Study Area.

Horseback Riding/Horseback Trails and Access Areas
Sites where horseback riding is permitted are noted in italics throughout the preceding State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Other Open Spaces section. Additional horseback riding and horseback trail descriptions follow.

Northfield
Northbrook Stables
Northbrook Stables is located on 18 acres and offers boarding facilities, an indoor arena, and riding trails. http://www.northbrookstables.com/ • 850 Old Wendell Road (1.3 miles east of the Byway) • 413-498-4449

Montague
Ledgewood Farm
Ledgewood Farm is an environmentally conscious equine stabling barn that offers boarding, trainings, and private lessons. An extensive trail network is located adjacent to the farm. http://ledgewoodfarm.weebly.com/ • 76 Old Sunderland Road (0.7 miles west of the Byway) • 617-480-1226

Universal Access
DCR’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. DCR Park Interpreters include visitors with disabilities in nature walks and interpretive programs scheduled seasonally around the state. Assistive listening equipment is available upon request at many parks. Recorded brochures, walks, and tours are also available at some parks. 413 545-5353 voice • 413-577-2200 TTY

For information on recorded indoor and outdoor park tours around Massachusetts for visitors who are blind, contact the Universal Access Office.

In the Connecticut River Scenic Byway region, some recreational resources provide universal access to recreational facilities.

- Erving State Forest is identified in DCR’s universal access brochure as having fully accessible restrooms, interpretive program, picnicking, and swimming.
- The Great Falls Discovery Center, Canalside Trail Bike Path, and Unity Park in Montague are also accessible facilities within the Byway region.
- The Mass Central Rail Trail – Norwottuck provides 11-miles of accessible trail for pedestrians and bicycles path MassDCR's Universal Access Brochure indicates that there are accessible bathrooms, an interpretive program, and trail opportunities on the MCRT – Norwottuck. DCR runs a universal access program in partnership with All Out
Adventures on the Rail Trail, including an accessible cycling program, for people of all ages with disabilities and their family and friend, a program for people with brain injuries, and a program for seniors.

- The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Fort River Division, has a new 1.2-mile fully accessible loop trail that has seven different viewing decks. The trail has won an award from the Stavros Center for Independent Living.

More information about these resources is provided in the preceding section, "State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Other Open Spaces."

**Issues and Recommendations**

**Issues**

- There are very few public restrooms available along the Byway.
- There is a lack of official river access locations to the Connecticut River.
- In several locations along the Byway, bike lanes are not adequate for safe passage.
- There are few “formal” access areas from the Byway to the Connecticut River and surrounding forests. Using Scenic Byway grant funds, PVPC and partner communities developed detailed design plans for four new trails, including the River to Range Trail in South Hadley, the Porter Phelps to Mount Warner Trail, the New England National Scenic Trail (new trailhead), and the Red Rocks Trail in Hadley. There are also completed plans for a new car-top boat access area at Ferry Road in North Hadley. Additional funding is needed to construct and maintain these and other new trails.
- There is a lack of funding to maintain the existing recreational facilities. Bashin Basin in Hatfield, in particular, shows evidence of litter and the lack of sanitary facilities. Hatfield State Boat Ramp and Fishing Access OSRP notes that the parcel is large enough to accommodate further picnic or recreational facilities.
- There is no swimming access in Northfield.

**Recommendations**

- Establish parking, signage, and kiosks at trailheads and recreational areas, where needed.
- Improve access to the New England National Scenic Trail through linked local trail networks.
- Advocate for and seek adequate funding to maintain and operate the existing recreational facilities.
- Seek grant funds to construct new trails, including the River to Range Trail, the Porter Phelps to Mount Warner Trail, the new gateway trail to the New England National Scenic Trail and the Red Rocks Trail, and new CT River boat access areas in Hadley, through state and federal programs such as Recreational Trails Act and Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP).
- Continue to maintain the Western Massachusetts Scenic Byways Website (http://www.bywayswestmass.com/) to ensure it covers all recreational resources described within this chapter.
- Establish and maintain safe bike routes within the byway towns that connect the village centers and places of interest.
• Continue to encourage towns to permanently protect land for open space, and natural, cultural, and scenic resource protection and for recreation purposes.

• Collaborate with land trusts and state conservation agencies to work with willing landowners on 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.

• Improve access to parks and recreational areas within the Byway region for disabled populations, seniors and children.

• Develop and maintain multi-use and limited-use trails to provide access to natural, scenic and recreational areas.

• Link the Byway with community development and preservation efforts by promoting eco-tourism, heritage tourism, and the marketing of local products.

• Use the byway website to enhance the public visibility of agricultural and forestry businesses in the Byway region and promote the purchase of local farm and forest products.

• Create bike lanes in key locations in Hadley, South Hadley, and Hatfield based on recommendations within the Transportation Chapter of this Plan.

• Support plans for a bikeway/walkway along the river from Hatfield to Northampton, at the proposed Northampton boat house.

• 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. Specific locations include:
  o Bashin Basin in Hatfield, which needs improved maintenance and possibly installation of a portable toilet
  o Kellogg Hill Road state boat ramp both in Hatfield where picnic tables could be an important addition
  o Smith Academy Park in Hatfield Center where additional amenities would provide for greater enjoyment of this historic space
  o Lake Warner Wildlife Management Area in Hadley where the only access by land is now overgrown

• Support plans to build a boat ramp on School Street in Sunderland.

• Explore other feasible locations to develop new or improved river access and seek funding for those projects as they develop.

• Continue to enhance development of the Connecticut River Greenway’s Paddlers Trail with development of official river access in towns that are interested and willing. This includes the Ferry Road kayak access site in Hadley mentioned above, as well as access from Hadley Cove and Huntington Road.

• Initiate a promotional campaign on the byway website to market bicycling in the Connecticut River Valley.
# Table 4-2: Connecticut River Scenic Byway Recreational Resources Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multiple Towns Along the Byway</th>
<th>Biking – Mountain</th>
<th>Biking – Road</th>
<th>Birding</th>
<th>Boat Ramp</th>
<th>Camping</th>
<th>Cross-Country Skiing</th>
<th>Fishing</th>
<th>Golfing</th>
<th>Hiking/Snowshoeing</th>
<th>Horseback Riding</th>
<th>Hunting</th>
<th>Picnic Area</th>
<th>Playground</th>
<th>Rock Climbing</th>
<th>Snowmobiling</th>
<th>Swimming</th>
<th>Wildlife Viewing</th>
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<td>Connecticut River Greenway State Park (Northfield, Sunderland, Hatfield, Hadley, South Hadley)</td>
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Chapter 4: Outdoor Recreational Resources 96
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<th>Biking – Mountain</th>
<th>Biking – Road</th>
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Chapter 4: Outdoor Recreational Resources 97
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Chapter 4: Outdoor Recreational Resources 98
Chapter 4: Outdoor Recreational Resources

|                      | Biking – Mountain | Biking – Road | Birding | Boat Ramp | Camping | Cross-Country Skiing | Fishing | Golfing | Hiking/Snowshoeing | Horseback Riding | Hunting | Picnic Area | Playground | Rock Climbing | Snowmobiling | Swimming | Wildlife Viewing |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|---------|----------------------|---------|---------|------------------|-----------------|---------|-------------|------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| Mount Warner         | √                | √            | √       | √         |         |                      |         |         |                  |                 |         |             |            |               |              |           |
| Alexandra Dawson Conservation Area | √ | √ | √ | √ |         |                      |         |         |                  |                 |         |             |            |               |              |           |
| Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Fort River Division | √ | | √ | |         |                      |         |         |                  |                 |         |             |            |               |              |           |
| Mass Central Rail Trail - Norwottuck | √ | √ | | √ | |                      |         |         |                  |                 |         |             |            |               |              |           |
| Sportsman’s Marina Inc. and Boat Rental Co. | | | | | |                      |         |         |                  |                 |         |             |            |               |              |           |
| Western Massachusetts Family Golf Center | | | | | |                      |         |         |                  |                 |         |             |            |               |              |           |
| Russells Brook, Fort River, Mill River | | | | | |                      |         |         |                  |                 |         |             |            |               |              |           |

**South Hadley**

|                      | Biking – Mountain | Biking – Road | Birding | Boat Ramp | Camping | Cross-Country Skiing | Fishing | Golfing | Hiking/Snowshoeing | Horseback Riding | Hunting | Picnic Area | Playground | Rock Climbing | Snowmobiling | Swimming | Wildlife Viewing |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|---------|----------------------|---------|---------|------------------|-----------------|---------|-------------|------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| Bachelor Brook/Stony Brook Conservation Resource Area | √ | | √ | | |                      |         |         |                  |                 |         |             |            |               |              |           |
| Town Farm Fields | | | | | |                      |         |         |                  |                 |         |             |            |               |              |           |
| Mount Holyoke College Trails | √ | √ | | √ | |                      |         |         |                  |                 |         |             |            |               |              |           |
| Mitch’s Marina | | | | | |                      |         |         |                  |                 |         |             |            |               |              |           |
| Brunelle’s Marina | | | | | |                      |         |         |                  |                 |         |             |            |               |              |           |
| Ledges Golf Club | | | | | |                      |         |         |                  |                 |         |             |            |               |              |           |
| Bachelor Brook | | | | | |                      |         |         |                  |                 |         |             |            |               |              |           |