

QUINEBAUG RIVER WATER TRAIL



*A National Recreation Trail
and Watchable Wildlife Area*



EAST BRIMFIELD SECTION



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When can I visit the trail?

The trail is open daily, year-round, from sunrise to sunset.

Can I camp along the trail?

Overnight camping is prohibited on project lands.

Can I have a campfire at the rest stops?

No, open fires are not allowed.

Are there trash barrels at any of the rest stops or launch areas?

No, please carry out all litter when you leave.

Can we fish along the trail?

Yes! The Quinebaug River and East Brimfield Reservoir are open for fishing. A MA state fishing license is required.

Is hunting allowed near the trail?

Hunting is allowed on project lands during the proper season. A MA state license is required.

OTHER RULES APPLICABLE TO THE USE OF THE AREA ARE CONTAINED IN TITLE 36, U.S. CODE, COPIES OF WHICH ARE POSTED. EXTRA COPIES ARE AVAILABLE. PLEASE OBSERVE ALL POSTED SIGNS.

For assistance or information, please write or call the East Brimfield Lake office.

24 Riverview Ave.

Fiskdale (Sturbridge), MA, 01518.

Tel: (508) 347-3705.

Or visit our web site:

<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreati/ebhome>

This nationally designated National Recreational Trail along the Quinebaug River, is a flat water course with no portages, approximately 5.5 miles in length. The Quinebaug River flows out of the north end of Holland Pond (Lake Siog) and meanders northerly into East Brimfield Lake. This canoe trail is a delightful way to spend the day during any season.

Free parking is available at the canoe trail launch area on Pond Bridge Rd. in Holland, and at the East Brimfield Boat Ramp off Rt. 20 on the Brimfield/Sturbridge Town Line. To get to the canoe trail launch from Rt. 20, take the Holland/E. Brimfield, follow 3 miles to Morse Rd. in Holland. Turn right, onto Morse Rd. and follow the canoe symbols signs to the launch area.

The Quinebaug River Canoe Trail provides excellent examples of a riverine environment and the geological developments in the valley. As the river carries you through the valley carved by glaciers, note the varied wetland and upland vegetation. Look and listen for the many wildlife inhabitants including turtles, blue heron, geese, ducks, red fox, deer, turkeys, hawks, and many varied song birds. Bald Eagles have also been sited, usually in late winter and early spring. When you look closely along the edge of the river in the summer, you may see some remains of fresh water mussels. This is a sure sign of an otter.

This section of the river is recognized as a site in the National Watchable Wildlife Program, a nationwide partnership of public and private agencies designed to increase public support for preserving wildlife habitat by encouraging people to enjoy wildlife viewing firsthand.

Paddling down the river, turn your attention to some historical developments. The wood posts you pass by are from the Grand Trunk RR. No trains ever passed on his line, as the primary supporter of the project died alongside his gold bullion in the sinking of the Titanic. The cement abutments belonged to the Springfield Trolley line, which ran from Springfield to Southbridge until 1938. You will also observe past agricultural operations, and farm animals grazing in the fields. Except for exceedingly cold winters, the river is open year-round. Each changing season offers the canoeist and wildlife observer, excellent opportunities to enjoy everything from wildflowers to spectacular fall color arrays in this beautiful environment.

The trail was designated as part of the National Trails System by the Department of the Interior in 2007.

Travel time along the river should take around 3 hours. The three designated rest areas along the river provide an opportunity to stop and pull out. At these rest areas no facilities are provided. Camping and fires are prohibited, so please leave only "paddle prints" along the trail. During the summer season, swimming and picnicking are available at Lake Siog Park, on the south end of Holland Pond, and a portable restroom is available at the Long Pond Boat Ramp.

River flow levels vary during the course of the year. Please watch for floating debris, obstructions, and other conditions which may affect safe passage.

WATER SAFETY TIPS

Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket while on board your canoe or kayak.

Water levels along the trail vary due to flood control operations. Use caution in unfamiliar conditions.

The river is generally shallow. Never dive from your canoe or from any of the bridges over the trail.

Be careful not to overload your canoe or kayak.

When canoeing in East Brimfield Reservoir or Holland Pond, there will be larger boats around you. Stay alert and be sure you are visible to them.

For more information on water and boating safety, contact the East Brimfield Lake project office.

