

Guide
to

BRUNSWICK

Rivers and Coastal Waters

Find out how to:

Get to the water – Public Access Points

Use and Share Our Waters

Keep Our Waters Clean for
Future Generations

Town of Brunswick
Rivers & Coastal Waters Commission
Recreation Commission
Conservation Commission

Spring 2017

Photo by Glen Michaels

2

Guide to
Brunswick
Rivers and
Coastal
Waters

Our Waterways – A Valuable Asset

Consider the uses and benefits of our rivers
and coastal waters:

• Economic

These diverse community businesses depend directly and indirectly on clean oceans and waterways:

- Commercial fishing, shellfish and worm harvesting, and aquaculture development
- Marinas and boat sales and repair services
- Beach and camping facilities
- Visitor services: Lodging and food establishments, real estate rentals and sales, downtown businesses

• Recreation

Clean waters offer locals and visitors a chance to:

- ✓ Swim
- ✓ Boat
- ✓ Fish
- ✓ Explore nature
- ✓ Relax at lovely waterfront spots

• Education

Our rivers, bays, and tidelands serve as outdoor classrooms for:

- Junior high and high school students
- Bowdoin College students
- Research projects to study changes in Casco Bay, green crab infestations, eel grass changes, etc.

For more information about swimming, contact:

Brunswick Parks & Recreation: 725-6656

<http://www.brunswickme.org/departments/parks-recreation/coffin-pond/>

For more information about boat moorings, contact:

Brunswick Harbormaster: 725-6631

<http://www.brunswickme.org/departments/marine-resources-and-harbor-management/>

Get to the water – Public Access Points

Enjoy public water access on the Androscoggin River, New Meadows River, Maquoit Bay, and Middle Bay.

3
Guide to
Brunswick
Rivers and
Coastal
Waters

Below and on the next page are brief summaries of public access points on Brunswick rivers and coastal waters. For more information, go here:

<http://www.brunswickme.org/departments/parks-recreation/parks-facilities/boat-launches/>

Androscoggin River

- **Mill Street Canoe Portage:** River access for hand-carry watercraft. *Located* off Pleasant Street on Mill Street. (**Map W1**)
- **Pejepscot Fishing Park:** River access for hand-carry watercraft only. *Entrance located* on River Road, about 4.5 miles from Pleasant Street (Rte 1). Follow the gravel access road at the Pejepscot Fishing Park sign to the end near the dam. (**Map W2**)
- **Water Street Boat Landings:** Water Street offers 2 public access points. The first is for small watercraft and is also used for river access for ice-fishing. The main landing down the road offers multi-vehicle parking and can accommodate larger trailered watercraft on the ramp into the river. A float system makes access user-friendly. Toilet facilities here. *Both located* on Water Street, just past Industry Road. (**Map W3**)
- **Bay Bridge Landing:** Bay Bridge Landing Wetland Park adjoins Merrymeeting Bay, and features a 3/10-mile perimeter walking path with interpretive signage detailing local habitat, flora, fauna and fisheries. There is also a small gravel-surfaced boat launch location at the site. This park is also utilized in the winter for access to ice fishing in Merrymeeting Bay. *Located* at the end of Bay Bridge Road. (**Map W4**)

4

Guide to
Brunswick
Rivers and
Coastal
Waters

Get to the water – Public Access Points

Continued

New Meadows River

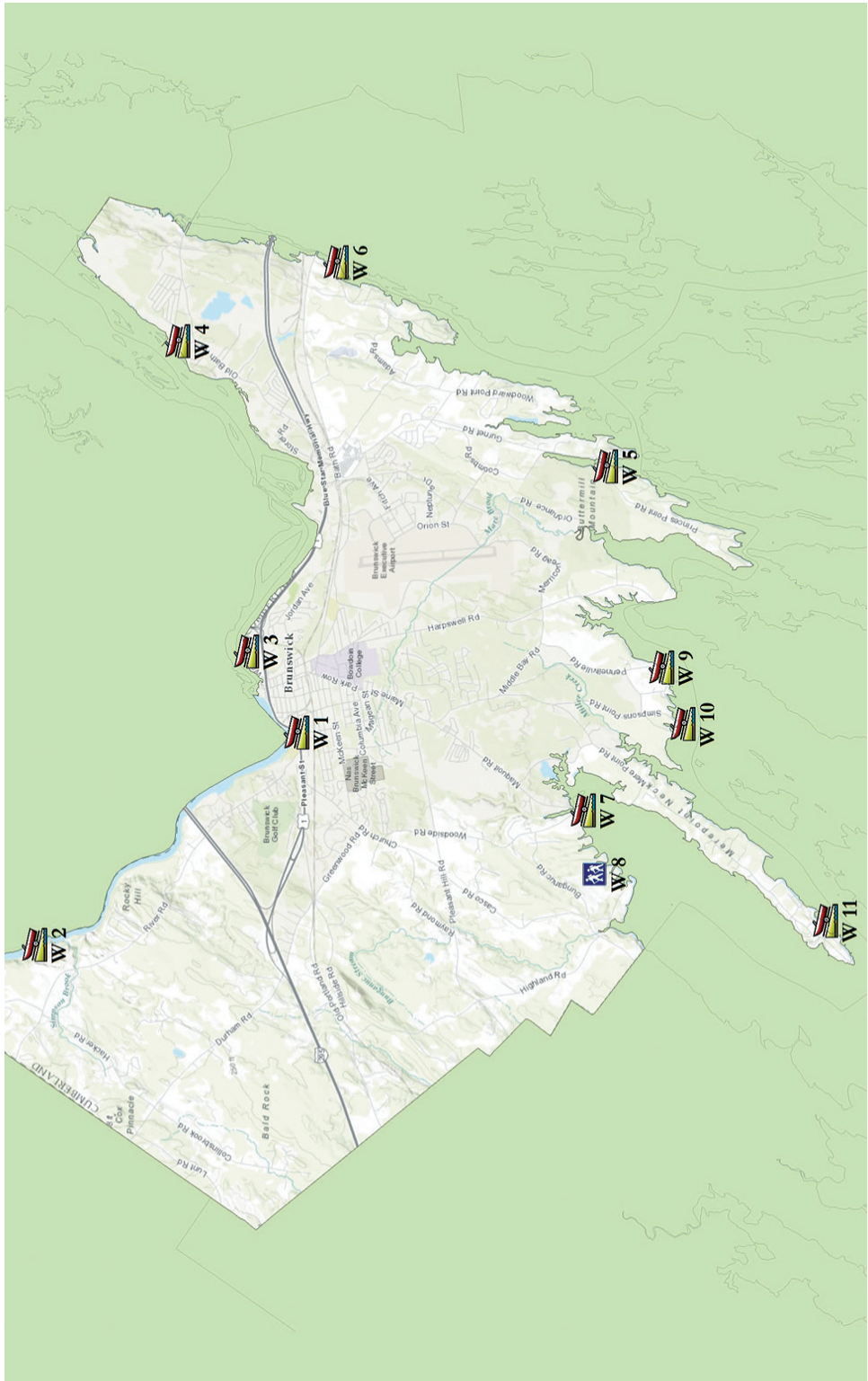
- **Princess Point Landing:** Half-tide boat launch to the New Meadows River, Long Reach, and Harpswell Sound. It also offers access to bank fishing. *Located* on Princess Point Road, 500 feet from Gurnet Road (Route 24). Limited street parking. (**Map W5**)
- **Sawyer Park:** Boat launch facility with dock as well as picnic areas. Offers multi-vehicle parking and toilet facilities. *Located* on Bath Road, just before the boundary with West Bath. (**Map W6**)

Maquoit Bay

- **Wharton Point Landing:** Tidal access to Maquoit Bay with a ramp for boat launching. Tide must be near high for trailered boats. Multi-vehicle parking available. *Located* at Maquoit Landing at the tip of Maquoit Road. (**Map W7**)
- **Maquoit Bay Conservation Land:** A 124-acre park with frontage on Maquoit Bay, this wooded conservation land offers a 6/10 mile trail to a rocky outcrop overlooking the Bay. The park's main entrance is located on Bunganuc Road. Multi-vehicle parking available. (**Map W8**)

Middle Bay

- **Barnes Landing:** Tidal boat launch onto Middle Bay Cove for hand-carry watercraft. Also a spot used by fisherman. *Located* at the southern end of Penneville Road. Parking is extremely limited. (**Map W9**)
- **Simpson's Point Landing:** Tidal boat launch for hand-carried watercraft. Limited street parking facing in one direction. *Located* at the end of Simpson's Point Road. (**Map W10**)
- **Mere Point Boat Launch:** Major boat launch facility, providing all-tide, deep water access onto Northern Casco Bay. Toilet facilities and picnic tables here as well. *Located* near the southern tip of Mere Point Road, about 6 miles from the southern end of Maine Street. (**Map W11**)



6

Guide to
Brunswick
Rivers and
Coastal
Waters

YOU affect Brunswick's waters

Household waste, yard waste, and lawn chemicals impact the water quality of our rivers and coastal waters.

Help prevent pollution from storm water run-off!

When it rains or snows, run-off from our streets and yards flows into storm drains, dragging along pet waste, lawn chemicals, litter, spilled oil and gas, etc. This run-off goes **untreated** into our rivers and coastal waters.

Here's how you can help:

- **Pets** – If you have a pet, pick up all waste, even in your own yard. Don't let it run into storm drains. When it reaches our rivers and coastal waters, pet waste kills fish and shellfish.
- **Lawn and garden chemicals** – Use chemicals on your lawn and garden with great care or not at all. They are toxic to kids and pets, and they wash into storm sewers and then our rivers and bays.
- **Washing cars and trucks** – Use the carwash. If you use your driveway, road dirt, soap, and other pollutants run off into storm drains and then into our rivers and bays.
- **Trash** – Don't litter. And don't rake yard waste into the street.
- **Paint and household chemicals** – Take leftover paint or household chemicals to Brunswick Public Works collection day. This is usually scheduled in the fall. Don't dump into drains or storm sewers.

To learn more:

<http://www.brunswickme.org/departments/public-works/>

Or call: 725-6654

Help prevent pollution from treated waste water!

The Brunswick Sewer District asks us to keep certain items OUT of our drains and toilets. Some clog sewer pipes. Others cannot be completely removed from the treated wastewater discharged into the Androscoggin River.

7
Guide to
Brunswick
Rivers and
Coastal
Waters

These items cannot be flushed:

- **Fats, oils, and grease from cooking** – These can clog sewer pipes. Repairs can be costly to homeowners and the District. Pour fats into a container, seal, and place in the trash.
- **Wipes, diapers, and feminine hygiene products** – Even if the package says they can be flushed, put these in the garbage. These products do not break down in the sewer lines. They cling to each other and create masses that block the lines. Repairs increase costs for the entire community.

These substances cannot be completely treated:

- **Motor oils and paints**
- **Pesticides and herbicides**
- **Unused medicine in either pill or liquid form**

The current treatment system uses “friendly” bacteria to break down human waste. But, they cannot digest the items listed above.

- Take leftover paint back to the store where you bought it or to Brunswick Public Works collection day (*see page 6*).
- Take yard chemicals, liquid medicines, and other toxics to the Brunswick Public Works collection day.
- Take unused pills to the Brunswick Police Station. Enter through the front door and place pills in the bin labeled for medicine collection. You can access this bin 24/7.

The only items for the toilet are human waste and toilet paper!

8

Guide to
Brunswick
Rivers and
Coastal
Waters

Attention waterfront property owners:

The community depends on you for asset
and resource protection.

If you own property along our rivers or coast, you own a valuable asset. How you treat this asset affects our entire community. You can protect your investment while protecting shared water resources through smart stewardship.

Take steps to protect your asset:

- **Buffer** – Use berms and swales to direct water run-off into areas where the water has more time to filter down through soil. This reduces pollutants running into rivers and bays. Berms and swales can be designed to water bushes and plants.
- **Plantings** – Use plantings native to your waterfront property, whether fresh or saltwater. Native plantings require less fertilizer, pesticides, and water to thrive.
- **Watering plants and lawn** – Avoid over-watering, especially if you use fertilizer. Too much watering sends chemicals in fertilizer, especially nitrogen, into waterways, causing algae blooms and harming marine life. Over-watering your lawn contributes to weeds, insects, and diseases.
- **Yard chemicals** – Use chemicals on your yard and garden with great care or not at all. Most are toxic to kids and pets, and they wash into our waterways, harming all marine life. Many harm helpful insects and bees as well. If you use yard chemicals, find out which ones cause the least harm and follow directions carefully to apply them.
- **Storm water run-off** – Use rain barrels to capture storm water run-off and use it to water your garden. This way, it gets filtered by soil before running into waterways.
- **Septic system** – If you have a septic system to manage household waste, maintain it to prevent untreated waste from entering waterways.