

BOATING IN BOSTON

Nahanton Park

BOATHOUSE

- MASSACHUSETTS -

PADDLING MAP

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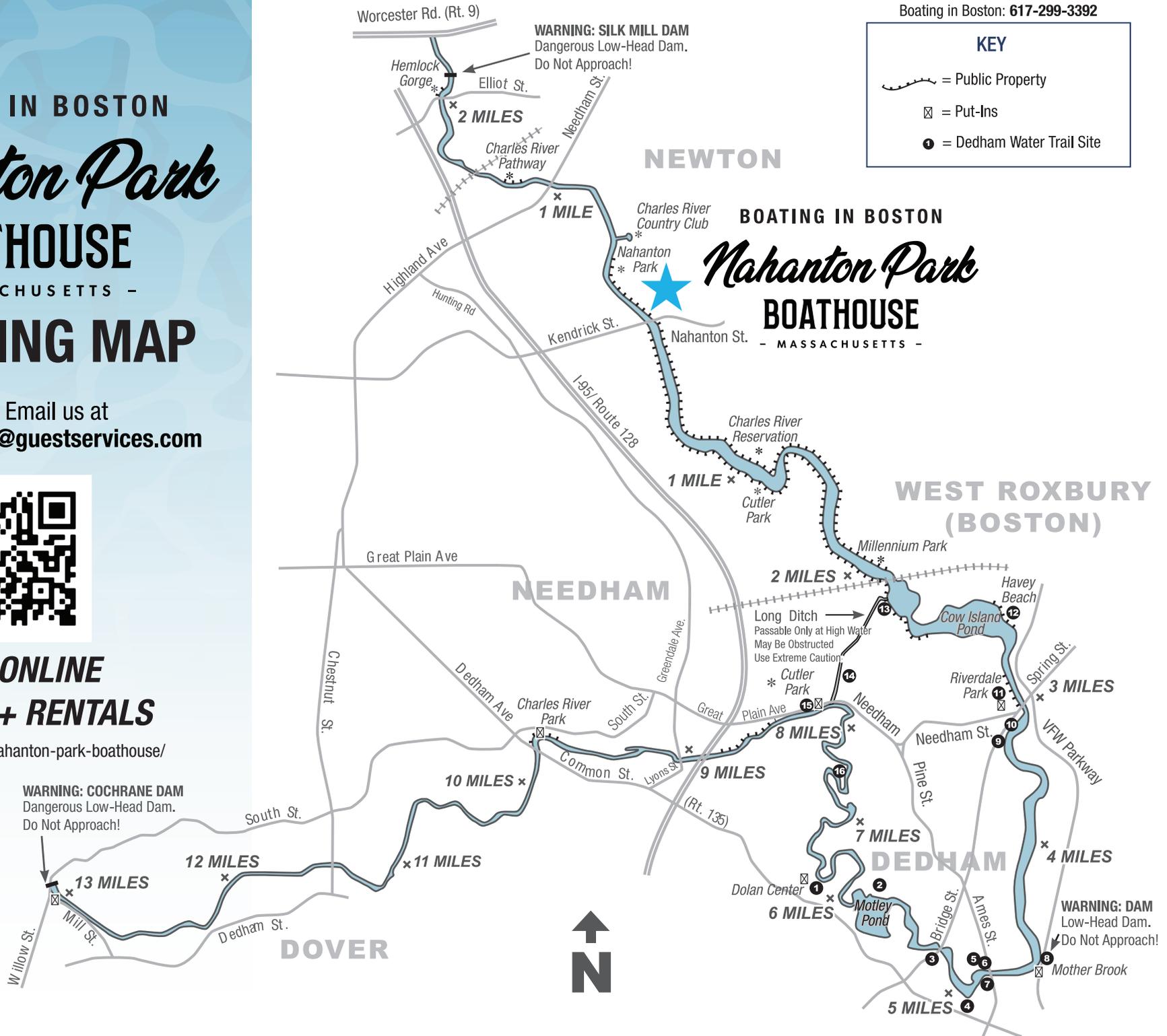
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KEY

- = Public Property
- = Put-Ins
- = Dedham Water Trail Site



DEDHAM WATER TRAIL MAP*

The goal of the Water Trail is to attract visitors to the Charles and create an educational and lasting experience that would in turn create environmental stewards of the river. There are currently 5 public launch sites along the Water Trail of which several are adjacent to the many acres of Dedham's parks and conservation lands.

The following are significant historic and ecological points on the Dedham Water Trail. Each point of interest is marked with a corresponding numbered trail sign along the river.

1 DOLAN CENTER LAUNCH, 269 COMMON STREET

This Town of Dedham public canoe and kayak launch connects to the walking trails at Whitcomb Woods and Wilson Mountain.

Hand-carry launch for those willing to carry their boats from the parking lot to the water.

2 RIVERDALE CASTLE AT NOBLE & GREENOUGH SCHOOL

This private school dates from 1888 when the first building, the Castle, was built. Noble & Greenough has an active crew team that races on the Charles.

3 BRIDGE STREET PASS

Site of the first cart bridge erected over the Charles River in 1644.

4 TOWN LANDING LAUNCH

Originally called Bullard's Landing Place, Town Landing is a short walk from Dedham Square, where you can explore a vital and thriving downtown, full of great shops and restaurants with casual dining. Walkable and charming, a visit to Dedham Square by canoe or kayak is a unique feature of the water trail, one not to be missed!

5 POWDER HOUSE

The Old Powder House was built in 1766 and stored military supplies through the period of the American Revolution and into the 1840s.

6 DEDHAM BOAT CLUB

Former site of the Dedham Boat Club, which existed from 1874 until 1935.

7 THE KEY

Landing place of the first settlers of the Dedham Plantation in 1636.

8 MOTHER BROOK LAUNCH

Created in 1637, Mother Brook, also known as Mill Creek, is believed to be the first man-made canal in the United States and the course for the first water-driven, broad, powered loom in the world. It was used as a swimming beach from the late 1800s to the 1940s.

There is a hand-carry launch with a dirt parking lot along Route 1 adjacent to the dam at the mouth of Mother Brook.

Warning: Use Caution around this potentially dangerous low-head dam.

9 MOSELEY'S ON THE CHARLES

Built in 1905, one of the oldest surviving dance halls in the country where boaters would anchor in the evenings and listen to live music.

10 OLD IRISH ALEHOUSE/WATERFORD'S RESTAURANT

The original building as it stands today was home to three different canoe clubs throughout the early to mid-1900s. This restaurant served local patrons for over 100 years and was recently renovated into Waterford's Restaurant.

11 MARIE LOUISE KEHOE PARK (RIVERDALE PARK)

A recreational hub of the river in the early 1900s, Riverdale had several boathouses, canoe clubs, liveries for canoe rentals, and a carousel with a steam organ known as a calliope. Until World War II, hundreds of spectators would line the river to watch weekend boating competitions between area boat clubs.

12 HAVEY BEACH

This beach was a popular spot for summer fun close to a half-century ago. The original boathouse, now owned by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, is stillstanding, and future use is currently being evaluated.

13 LONG DITCH MOUTH

Long Ditch was dug in 1653 by early Dedham settlers in an attempt to drain Broad Meadows for cattle grazing. This end of the ditch is just south of the MBTA Commuter Railroad Bridge, and can be difficult to locate.

14 LONG DITCH

Most of Long Ditch is passable most of the year, though it is narrow and shallow.

Caution: Depending on the water level, you may encounter rapids or a rocky portage at the western (Great Plain Ave) end of Long Ditch.

15 NEEDHAM STREET LAUNCH

This public launch connects Dedham's conservation land with walking trails located at Newton's Cutler Park and Dedham's Pine Island Reserve. There is a small parking lot and a muddy launch on the river's edge.

16 NEWBRIDGE ON THE CHARLES TIE-UP

The tie-up at NewBridge on the Charles allows access to forested walking trails.

The Dedham Water Trail received grant funding through the Recreational Trails Program. The Recreational Trails Program is a national program through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and administered on the state level by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The Water Trail has also received tremendous support from the community with in-kind donations from Hebrew Senior Life, DiMella Shaffer Architects, Legacy Place, L.L. Bean, New Balance, Troop 1 Islington, and Bill Hartigan Photography. Financial donations from the following organizations were critical to the completion of this project: the Dedham Land Trust, Dedham Savings, Whole Foods Market, the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, and a local family foundation.

Special thanks to Dedham's Department of Public Works and Parks and Recreation Department.

**The Dedham Water Trail information included on this map was provided by Dedham Trails. Boating in Boston has included it for your benefit and makes no judgment as to its accuracy.*

Thanks to Dedham Trails!