

THE MASCOMA RIVER CONNECTS OUR COMMUNITIES



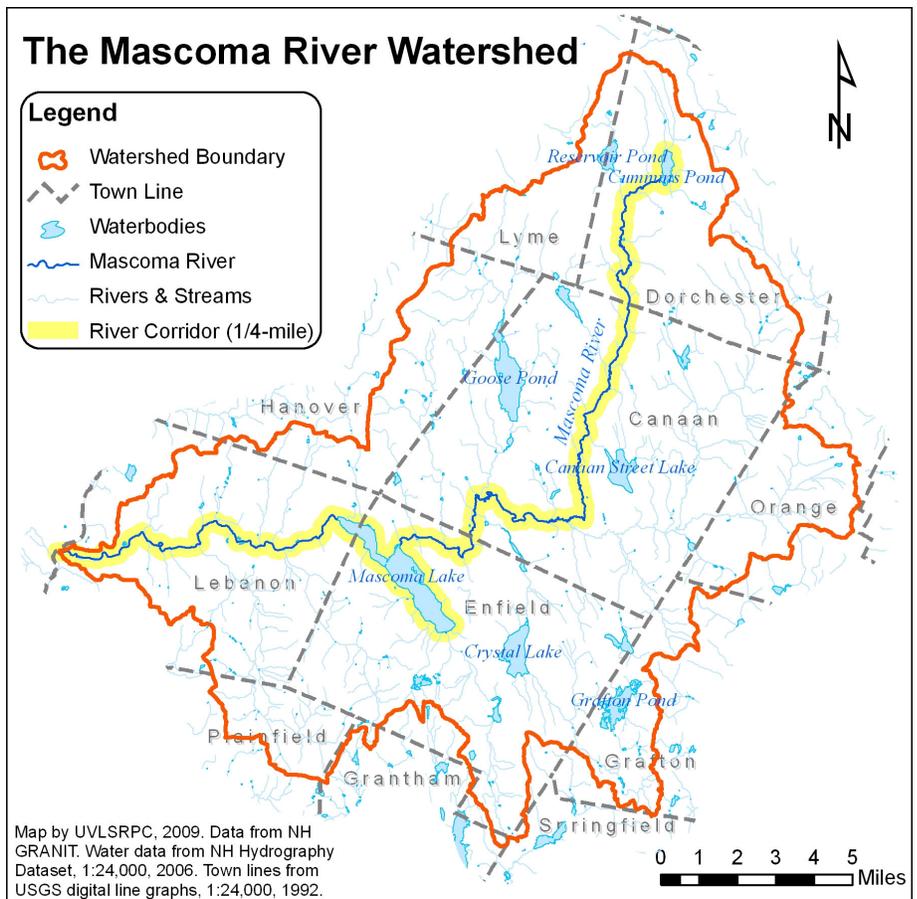
Beginning at Dorchester's Cummins Pond, the Mascoma River flows through Canaan, Enfield, and Lebanon on its way to the Connecticut River 34 miles downstream. From its remote headwaters, the river flows through two state Wildlife Management Areas and extensive forests and wetlands, past a rural landscape dotted with village centers in Canaan and Enfield until it reaches Mascoma Lake. From the lake, the river flows through an urban setting in downtown Lebanon, past homes and mills, until it reaches the West Lebanon commercial area and joins the Connecticut River.

Along its route, the Mascoma River connects the communities of Dorchester, Canaan, Enfield, and Lebanon. Residents in riverfront towns benefit from the shared natural, cultural, historical, and economic resources of the river. Much of the river corridor remains undeveloped and hosts diverse plant communities; many species of wildlife live in and travel through the river and its corridor. The lower 22 miles of the Mascoma River run alongside and under US Route 4, providing scenic views for travelers.

Residents use riverside parks and wildlife areas, the Northern Rail Trail, and river access points for fishing, hunting, whitewater and flatwater paddling, picnicking, birdwatching, walking, biking, snowmobiling, and other recreational pursuits. The old mills and breached dams along the river reveal to today's residents the region's industrial past. The river remains an important economic asset, providing drinking water for the City of Lebanon and energy from two hydroelectric dams.

Once polluted, the Mascoma River is now a river that supports *fishing, swimming, and boating*, thanks to the efforts of engaged citizens over the past several decades.

Today's citizens must continue the work to protect this river to ensure that its resources will provide for future generations.



A CALL TO PROTECT THE MASCOMA RIVER



Photo: MLA

Because the river provides our communities with important resources, citizens representing several communities in the watershed came together to consider the nomination of the Mascoma River for designation into the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. If designated into the program, the Mascoma River would join the sixteen other rivers in over 100 New Hampshire cities and towns already receiving this special recognition and protection.

What is the Rivers Management and Protection Program?

In 1988, the State Legislature authorized the Rivers Management and Protection Program to protect significant river resources for present and future generations. The Program takes a two-tiered approach:

- Protection of water quantity and quality in designated rivers, reinforcing existing state laws
- Recommendations for protecting the river corridor on the local level, which does not supersede municipal authority

How do River Communities Benefit from Designation?

Designation raises public awareness of the river and creates a Local Advisory Committee (LAC) composed of representatives from each riverfront town to discuss human and natural activities in the river corridor. The LAC creates a valuable forum for intermunicipal dialogue, and provides local advisory input to the state permitting process when projects are within the river corridor.

The LAC is also charged with preparing a local river corridor management plan that would help to balance competing uses and interests along the river and protect significant resources.

Designated rivers may also receive priority for funding from the State of New Hampshire for planning, restoration, mitigation, and education work.

What Can I Do to Support the Nomination of the Mascoma River?

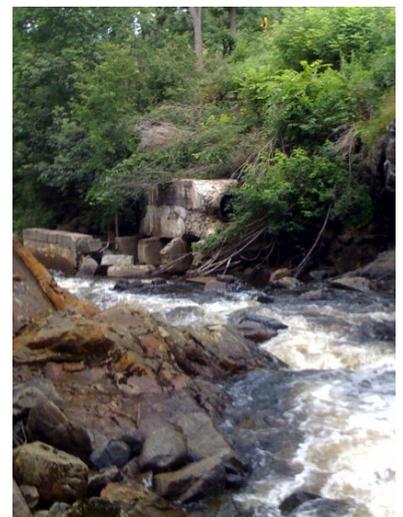
Submit comments about the river's resources ~ Write letters of support ~ Pass this flyer on to your town officials ~ Help to prepare the nomination

For more information, contact the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. UVLSRPC is assisting the Mascoma River Nominating Committee to conduct public outreach and prepare a nomination. Funding provided by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

Photo Credits: Mascoma Lake Association where noted; other photos by UVLSRPC.



Free-flowing section of the Mascoma from Rail Trail bridge



Breached dam ruins and area of rapids near West Canaan



30 Bank St. Lebanon, NH 03766
(603) 448-1680
info@uvlsrpc.org