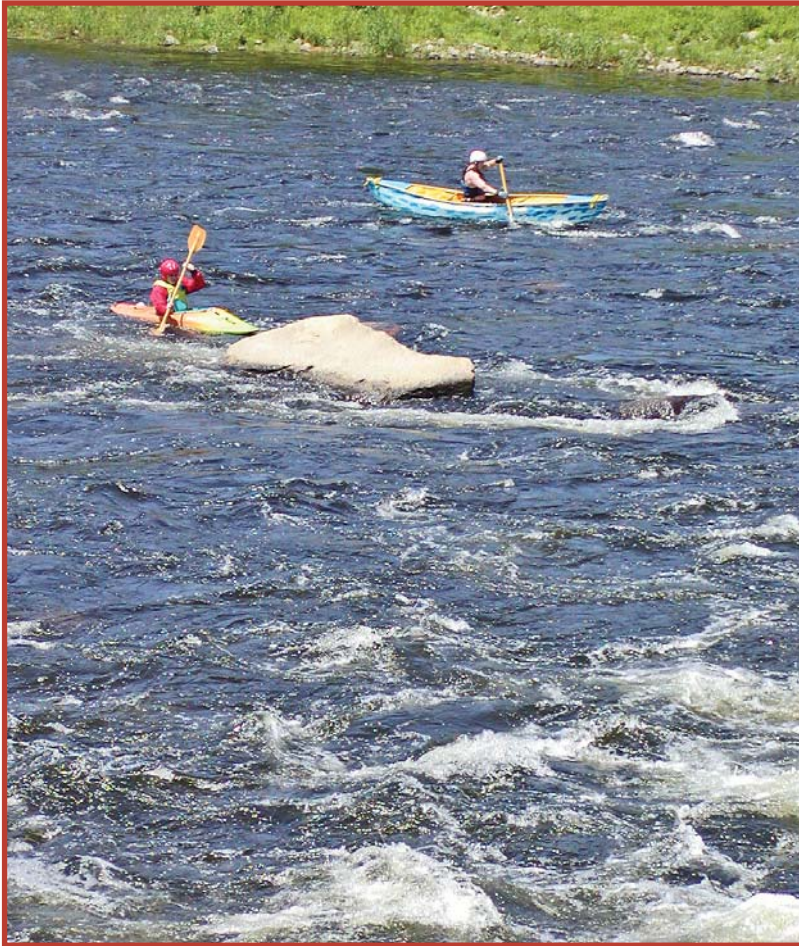


50 Fun Things To Do



Whether you like the challenge of rock-climbing, the peace of kayaking in the river or the fun of a strawberry festival, the Greater Nashua area has it all. Here we list 50 Fun Things to Do, but that's really just a start. The fact is, there are hundreds and hundreds of fun things to do within a short ride of Nashua. Check out our list, and then start one of your own.

1. Play a Round of Golf.
2. Gather the Fruits of Their Labors.
3. Discover the Charm of Nashua's Downtown.
4. Shop for Bargains at a Flea Market.
5. Treat Yourself to Ice Cream.
6. Enjoy All That Nature Offers.
7. Go for a Swim.
8. Enjoy "Old Home Days," a Celebration Born in N.H.
9. Walk in Fields of Lupines.
10. Get a Kick Out of Phantoms Soccer.
11. Spend the Day at Greeley Park.
12. Take a Walk Through Mines Falls Park.
13. Tap to the Beat of a Town Concert.
14. Catch a Nashua Pride Game.
15. Go Indoor Rock Climbing.
16. Visit a Covered Bridge.
17. Play a Game of Pool.
18. Get a Rise Out of a Hot Air Balloon.
19. Take a Winter Stroll.
20. Celebrate the Strawberry Harvest Season.
21. See a Concert in the Park.
22. Visit the Nashua Historical Society.
23. See the Budweiser Clydesdales.
24. Attend a Fair or Exposition.
25. Celebrate the Child in You.
26. Savor a Taste of Downtown Nashua.
27. Canoe and Kayak Down a River.
28. Dine at an Outdoor Café.
29. Visit Canobie Lake Park.
30. Go to the Auto Races.
31. Visit the Big Bad Wolf.
32. Go See a Movie.
33. Tour Ponemah Bog.
34. Learn Some N.H. History.
35. Reach for the Stars.
36. See the Salmon Travel up the River.
37. Explore a 4000-year-old Mystery.
38. Take the Kids (and Adults) Sledding.
39. Ride on a Classic Merry-Go-Round.
40. Go to the Symphony.
41. Learn About Local History.
42. Visit the Robert Frost Farm.
43. Visit Frye's Mill.
44. Visit the Abbot-Spalding House.
45. Visit Stonyfield Farm Yogurt Factory.
46. Visit the National Fish Hatchery.
47. Carve a Pumpkin.
48. Experience the Hollis Town Band.
49. Visit Parker's Maple Barn.
50. Shop 'til You Drop.

A publication by

GREATER NASHUA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THE CHAMBER



PHOTO BY WENDY WOOD

1. Play a Round of Golf.

A number of public golf courses are located within an easy drive of the Nashua area. You can find many miniature golf courses in Southern New Hampshire as well, ones that will challenge the entire family. Contact the New Hampshire Golf Association at 623-0396 for more information.

2. Gather the Fruits of Their Labors.

The Southern New Hampshire countryside is dotted with many farms that open their fields and orchards each growing season and offer visitors the opportunity to pick their own fruits and vegetables fresh from the vine... or tree... or stalk. Popular “pick-your-own” garden spots are open for discovery on a spring, summer, or fall day. Call the Department of Agriculture at 271-3551 or visit NHFarms.com for suggestions.

3. Discover the Charm of Nashua's Downtown.

Downtown Nashua is rich in history and unique among cities in northern New England. By looking closely, visitors can see that much of the early-to-mid-century architecture remains true to its original form. Explore the social and industrial history of the city during historical walking tours conducted on Thursday evenings throughout the

summer. With an emphasis on architecture, the tour takes participants along side roads, the riverfront, Main Street, and the surrounding neighborhoods. The one-hour tour begins at 6:30 p.m. Call the Nashua Parks and Recreation

4. Shop for Bargains at a Flea Market.

There's something intriguing about shopping at a flea market as you go from booth to booth, searching out hidden treasures. One of the most popular flea market locations is on Route 122 in Hollis. Within a short stretch of road, dozens of vendors set up shop to show their wares to potential buyers. Three different owners manage the outdoor market. It is open Sundays from 7:00 a.m. - 2 p.m., from the first Sunday in April through the first Sunday in November (in good weather). The market offers anything and everything in merchandise, including antiques, collectibles and other miscellaneous items. Call 465-7813 for information.

5. Treat Yourself to Ice Cream.

New Englanders are known for their love of ice cream. While visiting the Nashua area, join local residents at many of the popular roadside locations in the area for cool, frosty treats in warm weather.

6. Enjoy All That Nature Offers.

Beaver Brook Association, with main offices located at 117 Ridge Road in Hollis, offers 30 miles of hiking trails throughout 1,700 acres of forest, wetlands, and fields in both Hollis and Brookline. Additional facilities are located at the Burns Farm in Milford, which includes 200 acres with trails throughout three unique habitats. Over 400 species of plants, more than 40 mammals, and 130 species of birds are represented. The trails are open daily, free of charge. Beaver Brook Association offers a variety of educational programs and special events throughout the summer. Call 465-7787 for complete information, or visit beaverbrook.org.

7. Go for a Swim.

There's no better way to cool off on a hot summer day than with a quick swim. The City of Nashua has three pools available during the summer. These pools are Centennial Pool, Rotary Pool, and Crown Hill Pool. In addition, local residents can also enjoy a summer afternoon at Silver Lake State Beach, located in Hollis. For more information, contact the Nashua Parks and Recreation Department at 589-3370.

8. Enjoy Old Home Days, a Celebration Born in New Hampshire.

Visitors and natives alike share the history and heritage of small town New England at a number of “Old Home Days” and community celebrations scheduled during the summer months. The first Old Home Days were designed to draw folks back home from their explorations out West. They are still a good excuse to find out what's happening in your neighboring villages. The

towns of Brookline, Litchfield, Hudson, Londonderry and Hollis have scheduled festivities.

9. Walk in Fields of Lupines.

Greet summer's approach with the annual Fields of Lupine Festival in Franconia Notch. Stroll through a 12-acre field of lupine flowers and experience picturesque small, historic New Hampshire towns in June. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 823-5661.

10. Get a Kick Out of Phantoms Soccer.

The Phantoms, a U.S. Division Pro Soccer League team, are now in their eighth year of play in the Southern New Hampshire area. The Lady Phantoms are celebrating their third season this summer. This season, Southern New Hampshire can see them play at Keene State College in Keene, Southern New Hampshire University, and Souhegan High School in Amherst. For advance tickets and other information, call 578-



11. Spend the Day at Greeley Park.

Nashua residents have long appreciated the varied opportunities offered at Greeley Park, located in the north end of the city. The park, which straddles Concord Street, has a full range of playing fields, including the 24-station Warren Hall Memorial horseshoe pits, tennis courts, and softball fields. The Greeley Park Band Shell is home to many of the free activities. The park also offers a network of jogging, walking and hiking trails, playground and wading pools, and acres of green grass for picnicking and enjoying the warm summer weather. In snowy weather, you can cross-country ski or snowshoe. No trails are cut and maintained, so you're on your own.

PHOTO BY WENDY WOOD

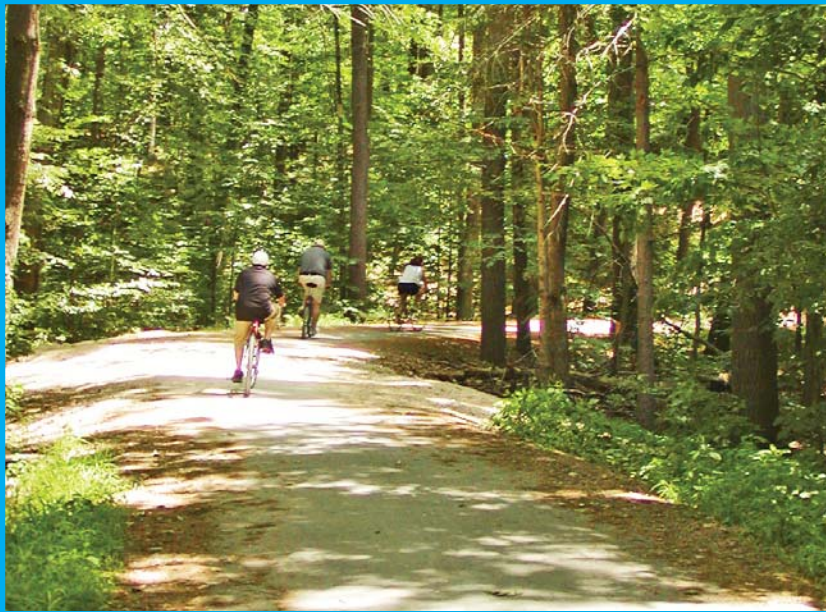


PHOTO BY WENDY WOOD

12. Take a Walk or Ride in Mines Falls Park.

Located in the heart of Nashua, the 325-acre Mines Falls Park includes wetlands, forests, open fields, and the Nashua River canal. The park provides numerous opportunities for walking, jogging, fishing, boating, cross-country skiing, and other organized activities. Call 589-3370 for more detailed information.

5588 for. Youth soccer clinics also are provided by Phantoms players throughout the summer. Call 578-5588 for more information on soccer camps.

13. Tap to the Beat of a Town Concert.

Music rings out from bandstands and village greens located in the communities surrounding Greater Nashua all summer long. Towns with summer concerts include: Nashua (589-3370), Merrimack (882-1046), Hollis (465-2064), Milford (673-3403), and Amherst (673-6041).

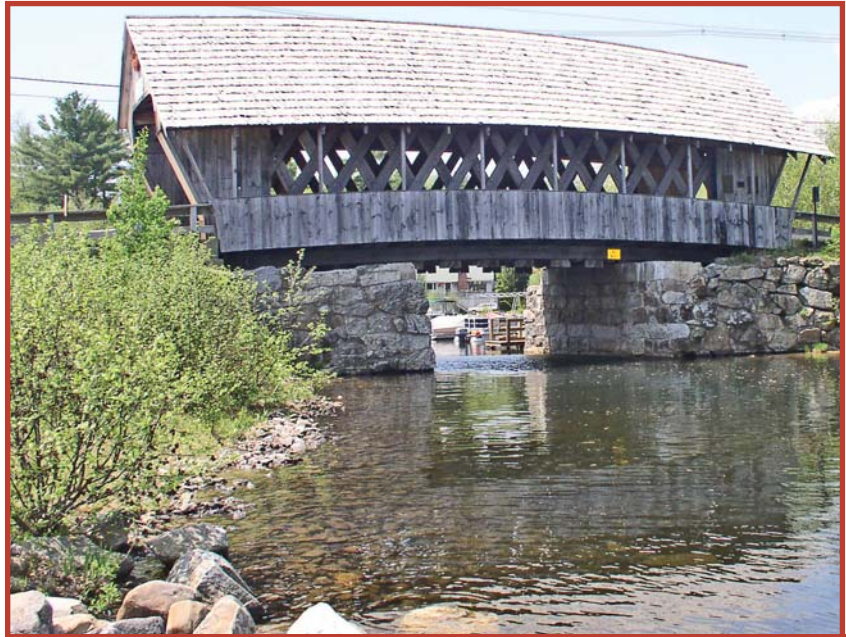
14. Catch a Nashua Pride Game.

Starting with the first pitch of the 2003 season, enjoy a completely renovated and updated Holman Stadium. New seats, concessions, luxury sky boxes and restroom facilities have made the historic ballpark into the "Pride" of Southern New Hampshire. Watch the 2000 Atlantic League champs in their current season, with home games that

provide "N.H.'s Best Family Night Out," according to *New Hampshire Magazine*. Grab tickets to games throughout the summer at 1-888-9-GO-PRIDE, and cheer on the independent league players.

15. Go Indoor Rock Climbing.

If you are in the mood to go climb a mountain but don't want to travel a great distance, check out Boulder Morty's, the region's only indoor rock climbing facility. Located in Nashua's downtown on Otterson Street, Boulder Morty's offers a variety of climbing services for the beginner to the expert. If you are looking to get into this exciting sport, the staff offers classes and clinics to get you going. Also featured is a unique ice climbing wall that simulates the feel and texture of climbing on actual ice in a completely climate-controlled environment. For information about classes or to reserve a time to climb call 886-6789.



16. Visit a Covered Bridge.

In New England, the covered bridge was more than just a way to cross a river. Many covered bridges served as meeting places where community meetings and social gatherings were held. New Hampshire features more than 40 of these historic structures. For more information please visit www.coveredbridgesite.com/nhcblinks.html

PHOTO BY WENDY WOOD



PHOTO BY WENDY WOOD

17. Play a Game of Pool.

On those hot summer days when you want to get out of the heat, head to Boston Billiards on Northeastern Boulevard to escape the heat and enjoy a game of billiards. With more than 30 tables available there is never a wait, even on the hottest days. For more information call 595-2121.

18. Get a Rise Out of a Hot Air Balloon.

There's nothing more beautiful than the sight of hot air balloons floating on the horizon in the early morning or evening hours. Southern New Hampshire is fortunate to host three major hot air balloon events during the summer months: High Hopes Balloon Festival in June; Hillsborough Balloon Fest & Fair in July; and Pittsfield Balloon Festival in August.

19. Take a Winter Stroll.

Walk down Main Street and experience live entertainment, music, costumes and performances during the Winter Holiday Stroll on Sat., November 27, 2004 (5 p.m. to 10 p.m.). Stores open their doors to kick off the holiday season with these festive events, ending in the tree lighting ceremony. Call 577-8084, Carol Coppenbarger, or visit nashuadowntown.com.

20. Celebrate the

Strawberry Harvest Season.

Strawberry festivals always are a popular early summer tradition. Local communities host these fun festivals in June. The annual Hollis Strawberry Festival includes a Hollis Town Band concert. Strawberry “goodies” are served by members the Hollis Women’s Club and Hollis Town Band. Crafts, face painting, and pony rides also are offered at the nearby Hollis Town Ring. For Hollis information call 465-2064.

21. See a Concert in the Park.

All summer long, the Parks and Recreation Department hosts popular area bands and vocalists to perform at the Greeley Park Band Shell. Free of charge. Call 589-3370 for information on performers and schedules.

22. Visit the Nashua Historical Society.

Located in the Florence Hyde Speare Memorial Building at 5 Abbot Street in



23. See the Budweiser Clydesdales.

Take a cool journey through a brewing tradition as rich as the picturesque New Hampshire countryside. Visitors to the Merrimack brewery are shown the century-old natural process of brewing, including a visit to the cold cellars where the fermentation takes place. You’ll also enjoy an up-close visit with the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales. Located on 221 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack. Open year-round. Call 595-1202 for information, or visit budweisertours.com.

PHOTO BY WENDY WOOD



PHOTO BY WENDY WOOD

24. Attend a Fair or Exposition.

A trip to New Hampshire during the summer months is not complete without a visit to one of the state's many fairs and expositions. Fun for the whole family, these fairs combine the strong rural tradition of New Hampshire with great midway-style entertainment. Each fair has its own flavor and traditions, but every fair will offer great food, animal exhibits, music and much more. Fairs run from the end of July through October. For fairs nearest to the Nashua region visit the Hillsboro County Agricultural Fair in New Boston during the weekend of September 10-12 or the Deerfield Fair during the weekend of September 30- October 3. For directions to these two fairs visit nhfairs.com/hillsboro and deerfieldfair.com. For a complete schedule of New Hampshire fairs visit www.nhfairs.com

Nashua, this window into the past features changing theme rooms that bring alive scenes from another era. Visitors can learn about Nashua's origins as a mill town in the 1800s, and view artifacts left behind by the region's earlier inhabitants, several tribes of the Algonquin group. For more information call 883-0015.

25. Celebrate the Child in You.

The New Ipswich Children's Fair first was held during the Civil War in 1861. The event was held in the fall and the children brought the best of the har-

vest. The produce was auctioned off and the proceeds used to help destitute families of Civil War soldiers. In recent years, events include a children's area, auction, barbecue, and other fun things. The fair is held on the grounds of the Congregational Church, located on Main Street in New Ipswich. Call 878-1327 for details.

26. Savor a Taste of Downtown Nashua.

Sample luscious foods by area restaurants and chefs during the Taste of Nashua event in June. Over 800 people show up for this Destination Downtown event, making it a delicious evening on Main Street (the first Wednesday in June). Please call Phil Scontsas for more information, 882-3281.

27. Canoe or Kayak Down a River.

The Merrimack River Watershed Council offers a series of free trips down southern New Hampshire rivers from April to



28. Dine at an Outdoor Cafè.

During warm weather, a number of restaurants in downtown Nashua feature outdoor, café-style dining. Enjoy the atmosphere of an active downtown area and the flavor of your choice at a variety of different restaurants.

PHOTO BY WENDY WOOD

Guide to Choice Shopping, Dining & Hospitality

Match color-coded lists and regions to discover the very best in the Nashua region.

Exit 1

Barmakian Jewelers

300 Daniel Webster Hwy. S.
888-7800

BJ's Wholesale Club

8 Sexton Avenue
888-9900

Borders Books

281 Daniel Webster Hwy. S. South
888-9152

Cassandra's

221 Daniel Webster Hwy. S.
888-3300

Daddy's Junky Music Stores

293 Daniel Webster Hwy. S.
888-1160

Dream Kitchens, Inc

139 Daniel Webster Hwy. S.
891-2916

Fun World

200 Daniel Webster Hwy. S.
888-1940

IncrediBrew

112 Daniel Webster Hwy. S.
891-2477

Jordan's Furniture

327 Daniel Webster Hwy. S.
888-8989

Long Horn Steak House

5 Harold Drive
888-9600

Lui Lui Pasta & Pizza

259 Daniel Webster Hwy. S.
888-2588

Red Roof Inn

77 Spitbrook Road
888-1893

Sheraton Nashua Hotel

1 Tara Blvd
888-9970

Staples

252 Daniel Webster Hwy. S.
897-6600

Starbucks Coffee

266 Daniel Webster Hwy. S.
891-0022

Weathervane Seafood Restaurant

174 Daniel Webster Hwy. S.
891-1776

Outback Steakhouse

440 Middlesex Road
978-649-8700

Pheasant Lane Mall

310 Daniel Webster Hwy. S.
888-0005



Exit 6

Christmas Tree Shops

10 Coliseum Avenue
Nashua Mall
889-9001

Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse

328 Nashua Mall
882-4070

You You Restaurant

150 Broad Street
882-8337

Goodale's Bike Shop

14B Broad Street
882-2111

L.L. Bean Factory Store

258 Daniel Webster Hwy. S.
888-3264

Exit 10

Residence Inn by Marriott

246 Daniel Webster Hwy. N.
424-8100

Exit 2

T-Bones Great American Eatery

77 Lowell Road
882-6677

Exit 4

Boston Billiard Club

55 Northeastern Blvd.
595-2121

Motel 6

2 Progress Avenue
889-4151

Holiday Inn

Northeastern Blvd.
888-1551

Exit 8

Applebees Neighborhood Grill & Bar

379 Amherst St.
886-9292

Bank Village Gift Baskets

141 Route 101A, Heritage Place,
Amherst 889-7726

Charman's Restaurant

537 Amherst Street
883-4052

Chen Yang Li Restaurant

337 Amherst Street
883-6800

Comfort Inn

10 St. Laurent Street
883-7700

Country Tavern Restaurant

452 Amherst Street
889-5871

Crowne Plaza Hotel

2 Somerset Parkway
886-1200

Fletcher's Appliance

531 Amherst Street
889-4146

Frederick's Pastries

109 Route 101A Amherst St
882-7725

Marriott Nashua

2200 Southwood Drive
880-9100

Mikata Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar

647 Amherst St.
889-6666

The Ground Round

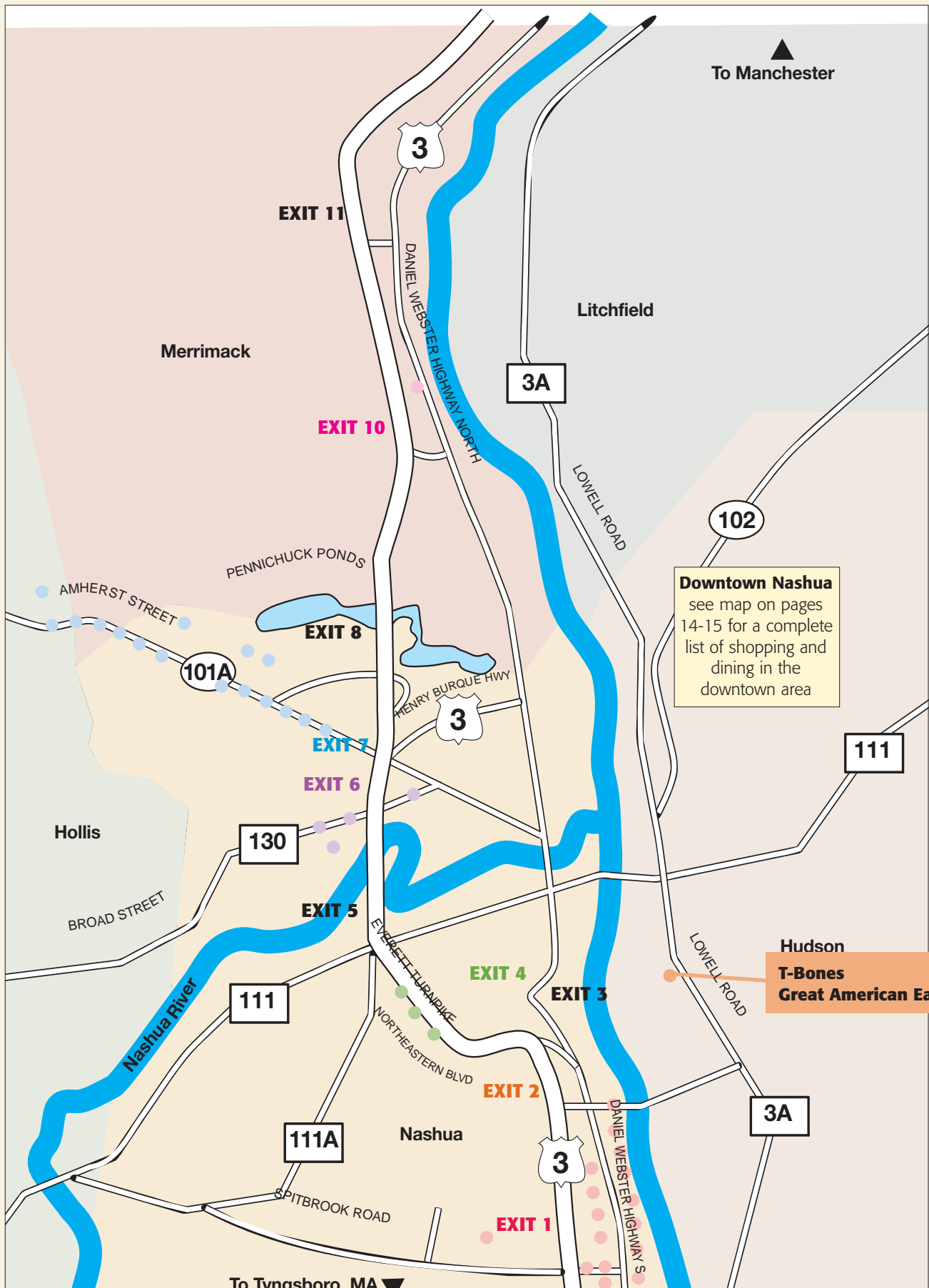
407 Amherst Street
882-4780

Staples

225 Amherst Street
880-1428

Texas Roadhouse

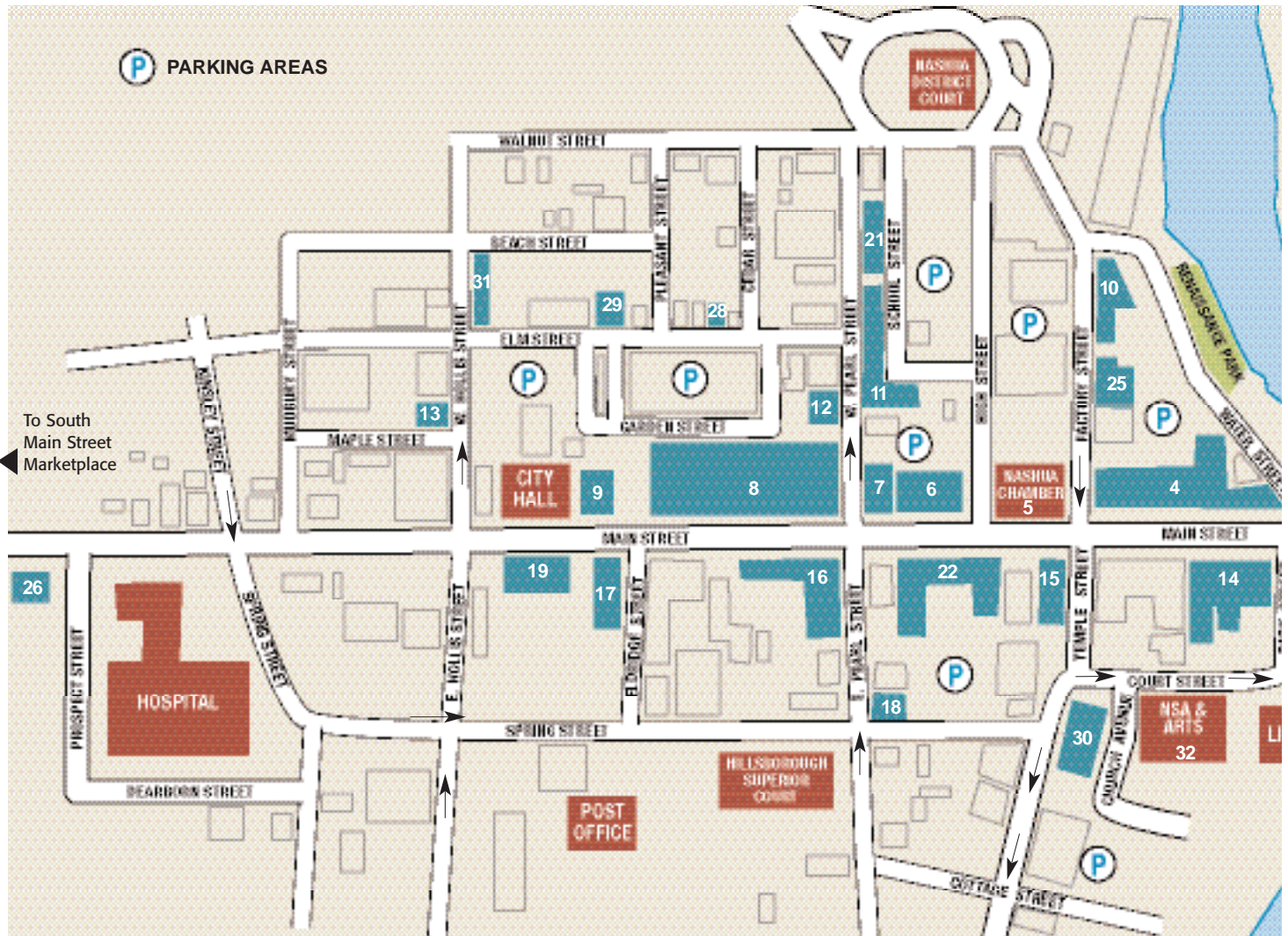
580 Amherst Street
595-7319



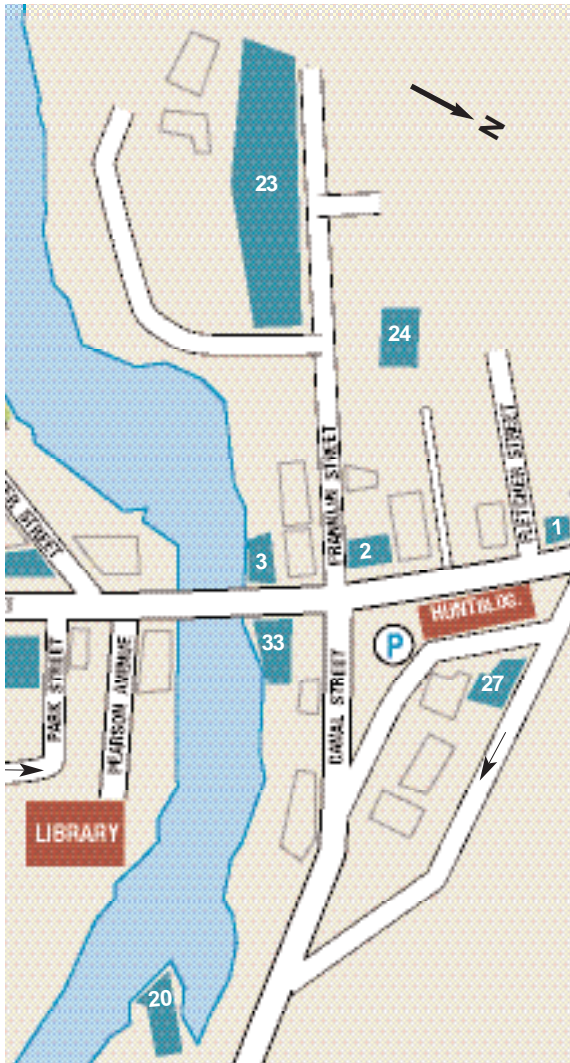
Downtown Nashua
 see map on pages
 14-15 for a complete
 list of shopping and
 dining in the
 downtown area

**Hudson
 T-Bones
 Great American Eatery**

Downtown Shopping and Dining Guide



DOWNTOWN AREA BUSINESSES ARE DESIGNATED ON THE MAP BELOW BY BUILDING NUMBER.



- Building 1**
Collins Flowers, Inc.
9 Main Street
882-2723
- Building 2**
SPLASH By Masi
33 Main Street
594-3107
- Just Lights**
33 Main Street
578-9482
- Building 3**
B & S Locksmith
53 Main Street
882-8725
- Building 4**
Alpha Graphics
97 Main Street
595-1444
- San Francisco Kitchen**
133 Main Street
886-8833
- Absolutely New Hampshire**
113 Main Street
880-3039
- Cooking Matters**
97 Main Street
880-6200
- Building 5**
Cookies By Design
143 Main Street
595-5422
- Fleet Bank**
157 Main Street
882-5000
- Building 6**
Scentsas Fine Jewelry & Home Décor
169 Main Street
882-3281
- Martha's Exchange**
185 Main Street
883-8781
- Building 7**
Bank of New Hampshire
191 Main Street
577-5032
- Building 8**
Alec's Shoe Store
201 Main Street
882-6811
- Surf Restaurant**
207 Main Street
595-9293
- Narcissus II Hair Designs**
213 Main Street
883-6060
- Beckonings**
221 Main Street
882-9500
- Sovereign Bank**
223 Main Street
889-2123
- BlackBird**
221 Main Street
880-0110
- Building 9**
Persian Rug Galleries
227 Main Street
882-5604
- Building 10**
Avery's Furniture
59 Factory Street
882-1931
- Building 11**
Bilancia Gallery and Framing
85 West Pearl Street
881-5500
- Burque Jewelers**
89 West Pearl Street
883-7981
- City Room Cafe**
105 West Pearl Street
882-5016
- Building 12**
Fortin-Gage Ltd.
86 West Pearl Street
882-3371
- Building 13**
Chicken 'N Chips
12 West Hollis Street
889-2001
- Building 14**
Tout Le Monde Interiors
100 Main Street
889-8299
- Bippity Boppity Baby**
86 Main Street
886-3282
- Building 15**
Ocean National Bank
146 Main Street
594-8715
- Building 16**
Villa Banca Restaurant
194 Main Street
598-0500
- Design Wares**
206 Main Street
882-5535
- Michael Timothy's Restaurant**
212 Main Street
595-9334
- Manhattan on Pearl**
East Pearl Street
377-0354
- Building 17**
Coronis Cleaners
222 Main Street
883-5594
- Building 18**
Crosby Bakery
51 East Pearl Street
882-1851
- Building 19**
Citizens Bank
238 Main Street
594-7710
- At South Main Street Marketplace**
Palmers Cleaners
300 Main Street
889-7922
- Southern NH Bank & Trust**
295 Main Street
598-8800
- Building 20**
Margarita's Restaurant
1 Nashua Drive
883-0996
- Building 21**
Nashua Wallpaper and Paint
129 W. Pearl St.
882-9491
- Building 22**
Christian Science Reading Room & Bookstore
168 Main Street
882-3213
- Building 23**
Only Catering
34 Franklin Street
883-0292
- Building 24**
Triangle Credit Union
33 Franklin Street
889-2470
- Building 25**
The Print Factory
15 Factory Street
880-4519
- Building 26**
Life Coping
266-A Main Street
888-3588
- Building 27**
Fody's Great American Tavern
9 Clinton Street
577-9015
- Building 28**
Granit State Credit Union
19 Elm Street
668-2221
- Building 29**
Salon Apryl
27 Elm Street
886-5701
- Building 30**
Lockheed Federal Credit Union
One Indian Head Plaza
882-2258
- Building 31**
Maynard & Lessieur, Inc.
31 W. Hollis Street
883-7739
- Building 32**
Nashua Symphony
6 Court Street
880-7538
- Building 33**
Peddler's Daughter
48 Main Street
*opening fall 2004



PHOTO COURTESY OF CANOBIE LAKE PARK

29. Visit Canobie Lake Park.

For over 90 years, Canobie Lake Park has maintained the highest standards of family entertainment. It is rated one of the 10 most beautiful amusement parks in the country. The park features over 75 rides, games and attractions for the entire family, including four roller coasters, a 24-gauge steam train, and an authentic paddlewheel riverboat. Canobie Lake Park is located off Exit 2 from I-93 in Salem. Free parking. Call 893-3506 for information.

early October. 2003 was the thirteenth season that the council has offered the opportunity to discover and enjoy the beauty of the local rivers in the company of friends. Participants must provide their own equipment, but rentals are available. No registration is required. The trips are organized and run by volunteers working with the Merrimack River Watershed Council. Call 626-8828 for more information or go to www.merrimack.org.

30. Go to the Auto Races.

The New Hampshire International Speedway in Loudon is a major racetrack that is host to many NASCAR races, as well as many other motorcycle and Indy car races. Call 783-4931 for tickets and information. Closer to home in Hudson, you can find all the racing thrills you need every week during the summer at the Hudson Speedway. For race information please call 882-7293.

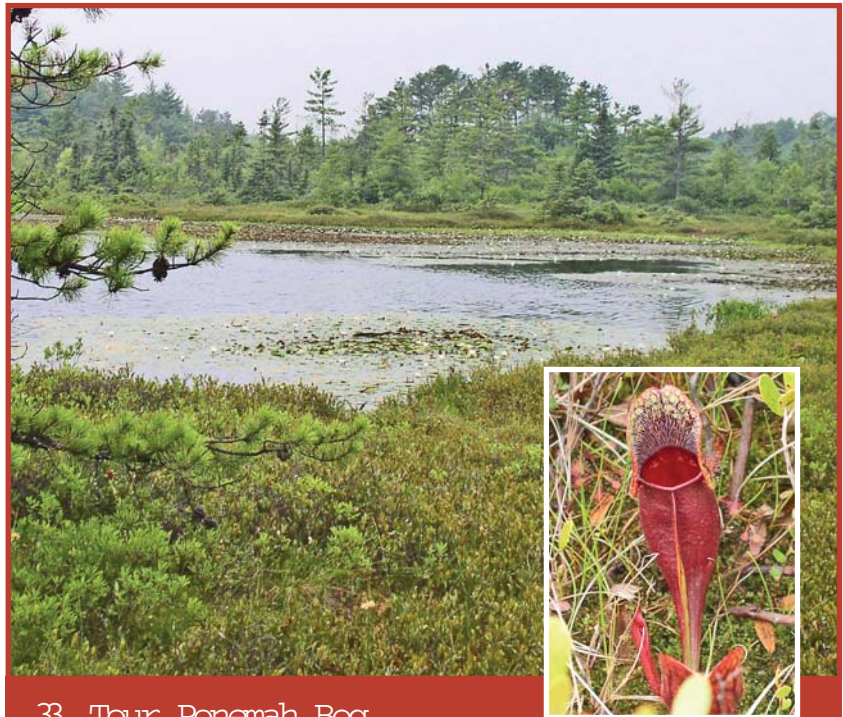
31. Visit the Big Bad Wolf.

For more than 200 years, the quaint little cottage at Pickity Place has graced

the New Hampshire countryside. The 1785 cottage was once used as a model for the illustrations of the children's classic "Little Red Riding Hood." Pickity Place features a restaurant with a gourmet five-course luncheon daily. Dozens of themed herb and perennial gardens dot the landscape. Luncheon reservations are required. Located on Nutting Hill Rd., Mason. To make a reservation call 878-1151.

32. Go See a Movie.

No matter what your choice in feature films, the southern New Hampshire area offers a number of theaters that show both first- and second-run popular movies and vintage flicks. A new theater in Merrimack, The Cinemagic Stadium Theater (423-0240) is state-of-the-art. The area also boasts one of the few remaining outdoor drive-in theaters, located in Milford (673-4090). Wilton's Town Hall Theater features big hits and independent films in a nostalgic setting (654-FILM).



33. Tour Ponemah Bog.

Located in Amherst, just to the west of Nashua, this 100-acre open bog and botanical preserve offers visitors an opportunity to experience a pristine bog environment in southern New Hampshire. Boardwalk and trails are open year round. The bog closes at dusk. For more information, please call 224-9909.

PHOTO BY WENDY WOOD

Holman Stadium - Home of the Nashua Pride



The recent rebirth of historic Holman Stadium (home to New Hampshire's only professional baseball team, the Nashua Pride) into one of the finest minor league stadiums in all of New England mirrors the resurgence of its hometown of Nashua. A public/private partnership between the city and the Nashua Pride baseball organization transformed the 1937 stadium. The \$4.5 million renovation, completed on May 1, 2002, involved the construction of seven new luxury skyboxes, 2,700 new,

more comfortable fan seats, new concession areas, complete refurbishment of both women's and men's bathrooms, and "hidden" upgrades throughout the stadium. Despite the addition of modern "major league" amenities, Holman has lost none of the charm and intimacy of the small-town ballpark and has retained the historic integrity of the stadium. It was begun as a federal Works Progress Administration project during the Great Depression, and was completed thanks to the philanthropy of Frank Holman, who dedicated the stadium "to the youth of Nashua for the promotion and advancement of health, clean athletics, and good sportsmanship." This stadium had the first racially integrated baseball team in the United States. With the arrival in 1946 of African-American baseball players Don Newcombe and Roy Campanella to the Nashua Dodgers, an affiliate of the major leagues' Brooklyn Dodgers, Holman Stadium entered the history books and solidified its role that same year when, in a game against the Lawrence Millionaires, an umpire ejected the Dodgers' G.M., Walter Alston, from the game. Alston handed over managerial duties to Roy Campanella, making Campanella the first African-American to manage a major league-affiliated baseball game. The Dodgers went on to win that game. Over the years this stadium has hosted numerous minor league teams, the Dodgers, the Angels, the Pirates, the Hawks, and now the Nashua Pride, champions of their Atlantic League in 2000.

34. Learn Some N.H. History.

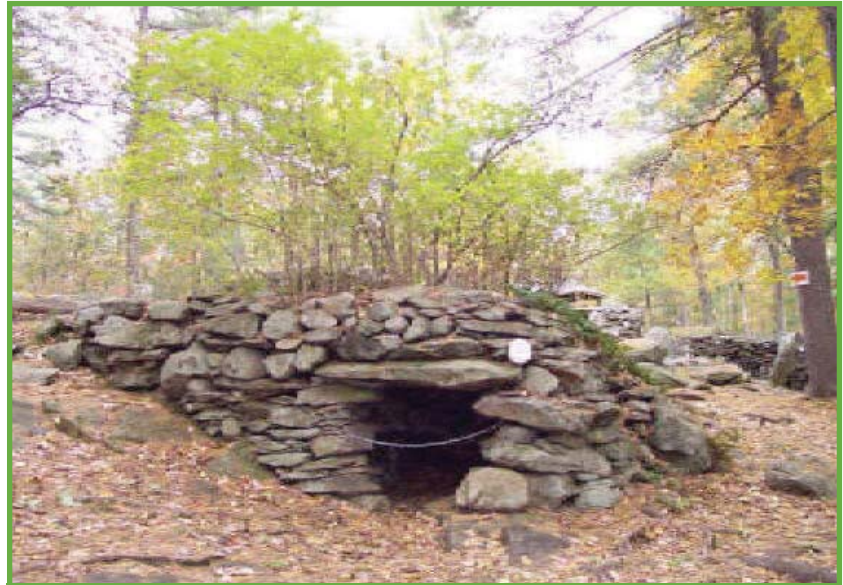
Come face-to-face with the people and places of the past at the Museum of New Hampshire History in Concord. See the world-renowned Concord Coach. Learn about famous New Hampshire figures like President Franklin Pierce, General John Stark, and, of course, Daniel Webster. The art, furniture, documents and objects of everyday life fill this wonderful museum. Located at Exit 14 off I-93; call 226-3189.

35. Reach for the Stars.

Transport yourself to a different dimension in learning at the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium in Concord. Land on Mars to sample its rusty iron surface, or dodge chunks of rock as you fly through the asteroid belt. The Planetarium is located off I-93 at Exit 15E. Call 271-STAR for information.

36. See the Salmon Travel up the River.

Come to the Amoskeag Fishways in



37. Explore a 4000-year-old Mystery.

America's Stonehenge, located in North Salem, is one of the largest and possibly the oldest stone-constructed sites in North America. America's Stonehenge will be open from sunrise to sunset, rain or shine for the annual summer solstice celebration in June when tourists, pagans and other curious types arrive in droves. Call 893-8300 for more information, or visit stonehengeusa.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICA'S STONEHENGE

38. Take the Kids (and Adults) Sledding.

Kids of all ages can enjoy one of winter's great thrills at Roby Park in South Nashua. Recently added snowmaking equipment guarantees snow all winter for those who love the thrill of racing downhill on a sled.



PHOTO BY WENDY WOOD

May and June, located at Exit 6 off Route 293 in Manchester, and go below the surface of the Merrimack River to see migrating fish make their annual journey upstream. Free tours are presented by Public Service Co. of New Hampshire, The Audubon Society, and U.S. and N.H. Fish & Game Departments. Call 626-FISH.

39. Ride on a Classic Merry-Go-Round

Fun for kids of all ages! Fun World, located at 200 DW Highway, has something for everyone. From the beautifully restored merry-go-round to the latest arcade and video games, you will lose yourself in all the fun activities. 888-1940

40. Go to the Symphony.

Cherish the holiday season by attending the Nashua Symphony Orchestra and Choral Society's annual sing-along on December 10

at 8 p.m. Call 595-9156 for tickets and information.

41. Learn About Local History.

The Nashua Historical Society, located in the historic Florence Hyde Speare Memorial Building, provides residents and visitors with information on Nashua's origin, evolution as a mill town and Algonquin artifacts. The Historical Society is located at 5 Abbot Street, adjacent to the junction of Main, Concord and Amherst Streets at the top of Library Hill. The area also boasts a network of other small-town historical societies that are rich in information about their own communities. Contact the individual organizations for more information. Open June-September, Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. Call 432-3091.

42. Visit the Robert Frost Farm.

The farm was the home of poet Robert Frost from 1900-1911. Located in Derry,

just 10 miles east of Nashua, the Frost Farm is a National Historic Landmark, featuring original family pieces and period furnishings. The farm was the source of inspiration for many of Frost's works. The barn features displays of the poet and his writings. Open June-October, Thursday-Monday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 432-3091.

43. Visit Frye's Measure Mill.

Located in Wilton, just 10 miles from Nashua, Frye's Mill offers the visitor a rare opportunity to see the inner workings of a historic New Hampshire mill. The museum shop offers visitors high-quality crafts creatively displayed in an

44. Visit the Abbot-Spalding House.

Situated at 1 Nashville St. in Nashua, is the restored Federal-style home of Daniel Abbot, founder of the Nashua Manufacturing Company, the first cotton mills in Nashua. The house is fully furnished in period pieces and offers visitors an opportunity to step back in time to Nashua's early days. Call 883-0015 for more information.



PHOTO BY WENDY WOOD

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45. Visit Stonyfield Farm Yogurt Factory.

Located in Londonderry, only 20 minutes from downtown Nashua, Stonyfield Farm Yogurt offers fascinating tours of its production facilities and grounds. Considered by many to be one of the country's most socially responsible companies, Stonyfield is also a fun stop. For information about tours and hours of operation call 437-4040.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STONYFIELD FARM

antique setting. For information about admission and hours of operation, please call 654-6581.

46. Visit the National Fish Hatchery.

Nashua is home to the Department of the Interior's National Fish Hatchery. Just off Broad Street next to the Everett Turnpike, the hatchery supplies young salmon for the restocking efforts in the Merrimack River and other New England rivers. The hatchery is open to the public 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. year-round. Tours only available to educational and civic groups. Call 595-0891 for additional information.

47. Carve a Pumpkin.

Help the Keene Pumpkin Festival break the world record for the "most lit jack-o-lanterns at one place at one time." The previous record to beat is 28,952, so bring your carved pumpkins with three-inch votive candles to downtown Keene on October 23rd from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. for this exciting event. Children's parade, trick-or-

Rails-to-Trails

STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN JACOBUS



A group of bicyclists ride past Unkety Brook in Dunstable, Mass., on a portion of the Nashua River Rail Trail that now extends from Ayer, MA, to Groton Road in Nashua.

For more information, please visit these websites:

Nashua River Trail: www.mass.gov/dem/parks/nash.htm

Nashua City Station Railroad History:

www.nashuacitystation.com

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy: www.railtrails.org

treating, fireworks, and many other activities are planned. Call 358-5344 for more information.

48. Experience the Hollis Town Band.

A 60-member concert, pops, parade and Dixieland musical organization, performances are year-round, including the strawberry and apple festivals on the Hollis Town Square. For information about public performances please call 465-2540.

49. Visit Parker's Maple Barn.

Take a step back in time when you enjoy a meal at Parker's Maple Barn, only 20 minutes from Nashua in Mason. This popular restaurant offers more than great pancakes: Enjoy wooded trails on 20 scenic brookside acres and learn how to make authentic maple syrup in the maple sugaring barn. Call 878-2308.



50. Stop til You Drop.

The Pheasant Lane Mall, south Nashua just off of the Everett Turnpike, features 125 stores and restaurants that offer the serious shopper nearly everything they desire. With anchor stores, like Macy's, Filene's and Sears, as well as a wide range of specialty stores this mall features all the convenience and selection that you need to make the Pheasant Lane Mall your one-stop shopping experience. For more information about mall activities and promotions call the management office at 888-2331 or visit online at www.pheasantlane.com

PHOTO BY WENDY WOOD

Coming to the northern terminus of the Nashua River Rail Trail, a Massachusetts couple couldn't help but wonder why it seemed to end in the middle of nowhere, more or less. "Where are we?" the man asked. The couple had hauled their bicycles by car to Ayer, Mass., to ride the 11-mile trail, they said. Having reached the end of the line, they were game for a few more miles. They were surprised to find themselves in New Hampshire, and being unfamiliar with the Nashua area, they opted to turn around. You can't get lost on a rail trail.

Had the couple come a few weeks earlier, their ride would have ended in Dunstable, Mass., but Nashua extended the trail by a quarter mile to reach Route 111A this summer.

The original Worcester & Nashua Railroad didn't end at the old Hollis Depot station in southwest Nashua, but the tracks north of there long ago were erased by a sandpit (now a golf course) and subdivisions. The old line from Nashua south to Ayer remained clear, however, and several years ago, the state of Massachusetts cleared and paved an 11-mile trail. It's become a hit.

According to Danny O'Brien, bikeway and rail trail planner for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, in the early 1980s, state officials contacted railroad companies, and asked what lines they might abandon in the next few decades. The railroads obliged, and planners noted which lines might make good trails. The state paved a 10-foot-wide path along the entire trail, and cleared an adjacent swath for horses from Groton to the state line. The project also included parking areas, markers at road crossings, and replacing the bridge over Unkety Brook and an underpass in Groton. We've never tried to gauge the effect of the trail on the communities through which it passes, but it seems positive.

Parking areas along the trail fill up fast when the weather's fair. Out on the trail, you will find in-line skaters, bicyclists, parents pushing strollers, joggers, dog walkers, horse riders and just people out for a stroll.

Farther south, the trail passes through the village of East Pepperell, which grew up around the train station that still stands there. Amenities there include a large parking area, vending machines, a restaurant and ice cream stand and, sometimes, a hot dog cart. Continuing south, the trail hugs the Nashua River, then passes within two blocks of downtown Groton and ends in downtown Ayer, within easy walking or riding distance of the town's commuter rail station.

By Andrew Wolfe, Nashua Telegraph

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