



FRENCH RIVER LOG

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Number 2

Welcome to this Extra Edition of the French River Log, the newsletter of the French River Connection. You are receiving this because at some point you gave us your email address, and we have been sending you announcements and meeting minutes. There is information about how to unsubscribe at the end of this newsletter.

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French River Park is funded

On July 8, the offices of state legislators Moore and Kujawski announced funding for French River Park in Webster through the Community Development Block Grant program. This funding has enabled us to kick off final design and bid package preparation, and should mean that shovels can go in the ground this year. Time will tell if completion must wait until spring.

[Features of the 1.66 acre park](#) include accessible walking paths, picnic tables and benches, site lighting, a canoe/kayak launch, and water and power to support community events. There will be 23 parking spaces, and a bike rack. The shoreline will be stabilized and rain gardens installed for stormwater management. Plantings will consist of indigenous species appropriate to the river corridor. The Park is an element of the proposed Webster Riverwalk, which in turn is a section of the French River Greenway.

A year from now, at the most, this should all be completed for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

The Perryville Trace Makes the List

The Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism has announced a list of "1000 Greatest Places in Massachusetts", as determined by an appointed commission. Among their selections is our own Perryville Trace, located at the French River bridge on Perryville Road in Webster. The bridge is currently closed for construction, but the Trace is open. Visitors may have to make their way around construction vehicles.

Dam Trail Race Gets Sponsored

This year for the first time we have sought sponsors for the Dam Trail Race to be held August 7 at Hodges Village. It's actually two races of approximately 5 and 11 miles, run concurrently. Hometown Bank, North Oxford Mills, Wilson Language Training, Industrial Packaging Supply, and Central Massachusetts Podiatry, with \$250 donations, have joined Polar Beverages as sponsors. There will be cash prizes for the overall male and female winners of each race, and special prizes for the top finishers from the French River watershed. Age group and random draw prizes will consist of baked goods, Dick's Sporting Goods gift certificates, and other items.

Thanks to all who have volunteered to help keep this a first class event.

Leovich Landing

With all permitting done and a grant from The Last Green Valley in hand, work on this project is about to start in earnest, with the launch scheduled for completion in August and the parking lot and other items scheduled to be done by the end of September. Most of that work will be done as an Eagle project by Oxford Troop 147. Watch for requests for assistance or work days.

Discussions with National Grid have been launched with the goal of securing a license to make a public trail from Dudley Road to Charlton Street in Oxford. Of course, a bridge over the Little River will be needed at some point, but without it, a walk from either direction to the river is still pleasant.

Wal-Mart Supports Tree Protection

On June 16, we received a \$500 donation from Wal-Mart to support our program of protecting trees from beavers. More than 100 trees have been protected this year.

Thompson River Clean-up Day Cancelled

The town of Thompson has cancelled their July 24 river clean-up day in which we had planned to participate.

Bike Raffle

There is still time to get in on the bike raffle which will be drawn at the Dam Trail Race. Approximately 300 tickets have been sold. We are raffling off a men's or women's Specialized Carmel 700 bicycle donated by [Southbridge Bicycles](#).

Tickets are \$5.00 or three for \$10.00 .

[Visit our website](#) to learn more about the bike and purchase tickets. Unrestricted funds from events like this allow our work to continue.

French River Day

Our annual picnic is scheduled for September 18, from 3 to 6pm at a site to be determined. Watch for announcements.

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