

The **Neponset River** forms Boston's southern border with Quincy and Milton. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) owns much of the shoreline as the Neponset River Reservation. The **Neponset Trail** will eventually connect Castle Island in South Boston to the Blue Hills in Milton along the river.

**Neponset River Greenway Council** was convened by the Boston Natural Areas Fund (later Network) in 1992, with members from the neighborhoods of Boston and Milton along the Neponset River. We have met on the first Wednesday of every month to focus community support on the Neponset River, its parks, and construction and maintenance of the Neponset Trail. We have operated since April 2015 as a separate organization.

**2001: Pope John Paul II Park**, next to the Southeast Expressway on the estuary of the river, which contains 1/4-mile of the Trail, opened on May 1.

**2002: Neponset Trail Phase I**, on an abandoned railway line between Port Norfolk in Dorchester and Central Ave. in Milton, had to be cleared of contaminated soil which was found along much of the railroad right of way. Construction was complete by January

**2002: Neponset Trail** along the salt marsh upstream from Granite Ave. in Dorchester was paved with a permeable pavement resembling crushed stone and completed during the second week of October 2002.

**2006: Neponset Trail** traffic light where the trail crosses Granite Ave., was completed in the fall of 2006. By 2015, the permeable pavement turned out not to be and was replaced by asphalt, which actually drains pretty well.

**2006: Neponset Trail** from Mattapan to the Neponset Valley Parkway plans completed in June.

**2008: Neponset River Esplanade** announced by Governor Patrick on Earth Day from Mattapan Square to Paul's Bridge.

**2009: Neponset Trail Phase II** construction started from the Martini Shell to Mattapan between the Truman Parkway and the Neponset River in the fall

**2012: Neponset Trail Phase II** opened between Martini Shell and Mattapan Square.

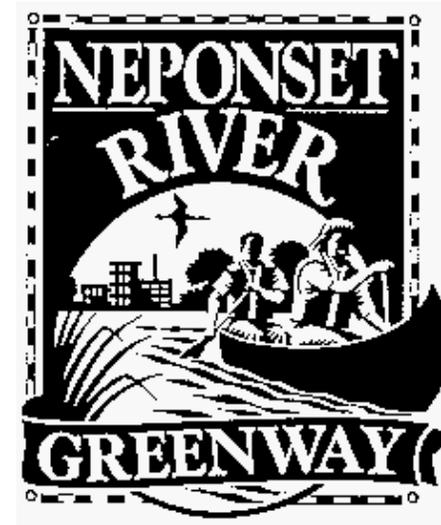
**2015: Neponset Trail Phase II** completed along the river all the way to the Neponset Valley Parkway in Readville at the southern edge of Boston and the marsh section paved, with an opening ceremony by the Department of Conservation and Recreation in August.

**2016: Neponset Trail Phase III** construction of this 1.3-mile segment begun between Mattapan Square and Central Ave. in Milton with bridges over the Neponset River and the Ashmont-Mattapan trolley tracks. **Port Norfolk Park** informally opened in August.

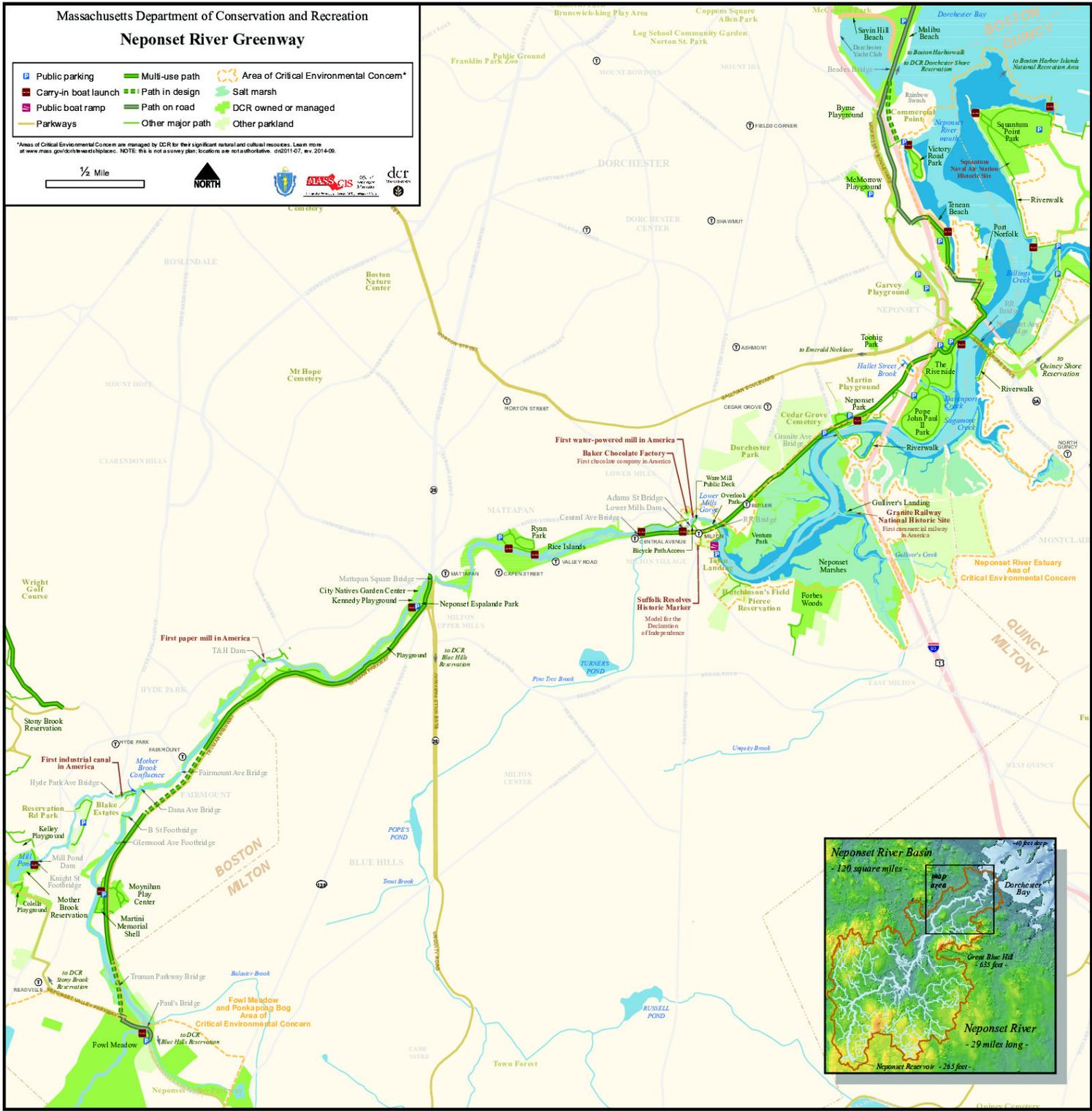
**2017: Neponset Trail Phase III** opened in May, with the Harvest River Bridge becoming the symbol of the Trail. A formal opening remains to be scheduled. **Port Norfolk Park** formally opened in May, though.

**2018:** There are five more segments of the trail left to build!

**For more information, go to <http://www.neponsetgreenway.org>**



*Neponset Trail Harvest River Bridge over the Neponset River*



Volunteer-built trail bridge (December 1997)



Neponset Trail and Baker Chocolate Factory from Eliot St.



Mattapan Yard from Canopy Bridge (May 2017)