

WHY FISH NH?

Just step outside to find scenic fishing here in wild New Hampshire—we've got great fishing around every corner:

- ◆ 12,000 miles of river and streams.
- ◆ 975 lakes and ponds.
- ◆ Fishing for bass, trout, salmon, pike, walleye, pickerel, perch and more.
- ◆ Record big fish—and some wily wild fish too!
- ◆ Scenic vistas and wildlife abound.
- ◆ Nearly a million trout stocked each year—just for you!



Learn more about fishing
in New Hampshire at
www.fishnh.com/fishing



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New Hampshire Fish and Game
Connecting you to life outdoors™

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Your purchase of fishing tackle and motorboat fuels, along with license sales, helps fund sport fish restoration and management in New Hampshire



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

Fish NH!

Manchester/Nashua Region



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Shoreline Fishing Guide

fishnh.com

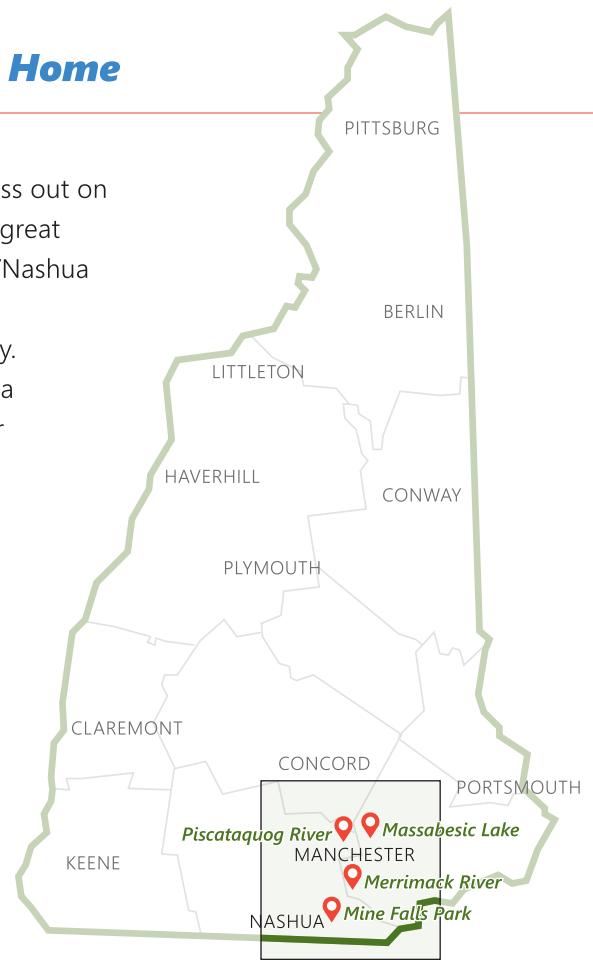
Manchester/Nashua: Great Fishing Close to Home

Remember how much fun you used to have going fishing? Don't miss out on the good times this year! Get outdoors and take advantage of the great fishing available at the many scenic rivers and lakes of the Manchester/Nashua region.

Fishing is a great way to relax and reconnect with friends and family. Children under 16 don't need a license to fish, so bring them along for a day of fresh air, activity, and family fun. Whether you fish for an hour or picnic and stay the day, you'll enjoy the fun and challenge of fishing — right around the corner from home.

Look inside for just a few of the many places to try shoreline fishing near you:

- 📍 Massabesic Lake, Manchester
- 📍 More fishing spots in Manchester and Nashua
- 📍 Piscataquog River, Manchester
- 📍 Mine Falls Park, Nashua



Catch and Release

Fishing for fun, not food? Make sure you practice "catch-and-release." A fish that is properly handled will have the best chance for survival.

Here's how:

- Use barbless hooks or hooks with pinched barbs.
- Land the fish quickly, so it does not become exhausted or stressed.
- Release the fish while it's still in the water.



- To remove the hook, gently back it out of the fish's mouth. You can use pliers for this.
- Never remove a deeply swallowed hook from the fish's throat or stomach—instead, cut the leader and leave the hook in the fish. It will eventually work free or rust away.



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New Hampshire Fish

Use this handy guide to choose the best baits and to see what kind of fish you've caught.

Baits to Use

Natural Baits

Worms and crawlers



Grasshoppers and crickets



Crayfish



Minnows



Hellgrammites



Dough ball and corn



Artificial Baits

Flies (wet, dry, streamers)



Jigs and curl tail grubs



Spoons



Crank baits



In-line spinner baits



Topwater baits (popper)



Artificial putty baits



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Fish Identification Chart

Bluegill



Largemouth Bass



Pumpkinseed Sunfish



Smallmouth Bass



Black Crappie



White Perch



Bullhead (horned pout)



Yellow Perch



Chain Pickerel



Carp



Match Your Bait to Your Catch

FISH ILLUSTRATIONS © DUANE RAVER/USFWS



What to Bring

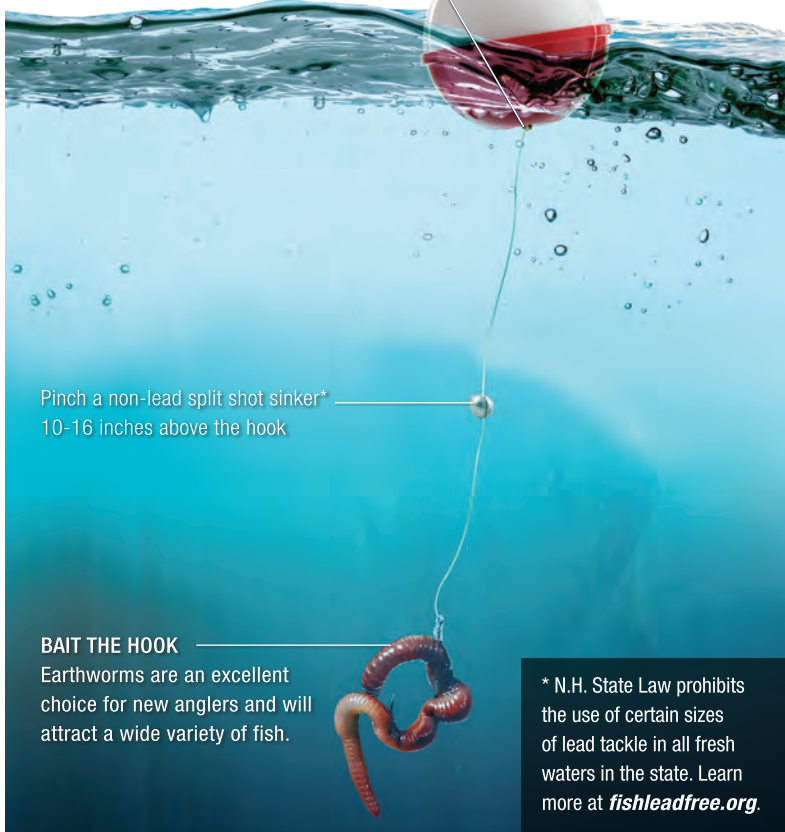
Make a fun day even better by taking along the right gear. You'll want to have:

- Fishing rods with spin-casting reels
- A tackle box with hooks, bobbers, non-lead sinkers, artificial baits, and a pair of pliers
- The *N.H. Freshwater Fishing Digest*
- A cooler with ice for storing your catch
- Binoculars for bird watching

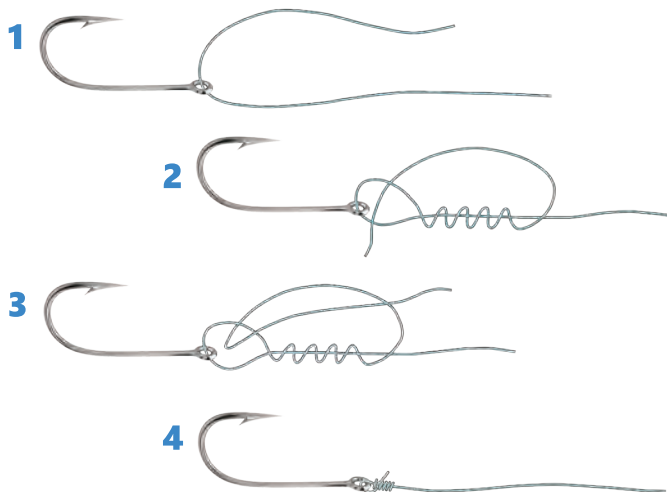
Keep your family comfortable while they're fishing, and they'll ask to come with you again. Have them dress for the weather, and be ready for whatever the day might bring. Keep the bug spray handy, as well as a simple first aid kit, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hats. Pack plenty of snacks and drinks, too—but keep in mind that some fishing sites have many users. To help keep these places clean and safe, bring along a small trash bag and carry out everything you bring in.

Basic Clip-on Bobber Rig

Using the clips at the top and bottom, snap a bobber onto your line at a height matching the depth of the water you are fishing.



Clinch Knot



Baiting the Hook

Worms can be purchased at bait shops, sporting goods retailers, and gas stations. You can also go to your compost pile and dig up your own!

Poke the worm onto the hook in loops or...



Mine Falls Park

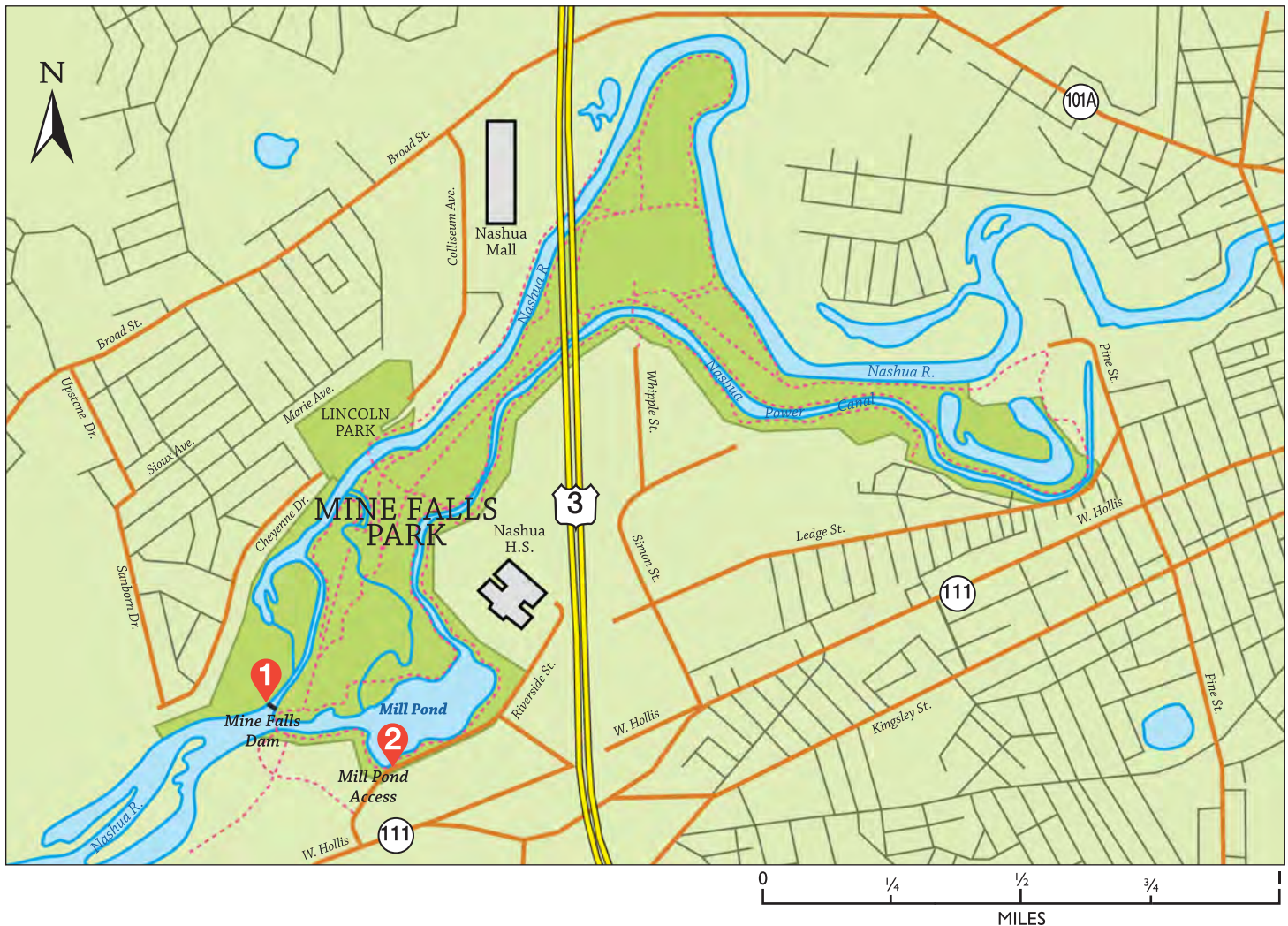
Just minutes from downtown Nashua, Mine Falls Park's network of trails follows the Nashua River, offering rewarding fishing opportunities along the way.

1. Nashua River — From below Mine Falls Dam to downtown, you'll find several miles of trails and excellent fishing access to the river. This area gives anglers the ideal opportunity to cast their lines for abundant smallmouth bass, bluegills, largemouth bass, and carp. Explore the possibilities of the beautiful Nashua River!

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2. Mill Pond — Enjoy easy shoreline access and great fishing for largemouth bass, bluegills, and yellow perch.



Massabesic Lake

The jewel of greater Manchester, Massabesic Lake boasts numerous areas for fishing access, offering the shorebank angler the best fishing around. Gravel fire roads follow the shoreline. Note that this lake is the main water supply for the area, so special regulations apply; no wading or swimming are allowed. Try one of these areas for fishing and family activities:

- 1. Front Park** — Take Exit 1 off Route 101. Head south on Bypass 28 through the traffic circle, and you'll find a large park with plenty of shoreline access. The best fishing is at the south end of the park, near a drainage culvert.
- 2. Deer Neck Bridge** — Further south on Bypass 28, try fishing the narrow channel that connects the two sides of Massabesic Lake — and be sure to save some time for exploring the nearby walking trails.
- 3. Clair's Landing** — In the Village of Auburn on Route 121, you'll find a spot that's a great pick for a family outing, offering excellent fishing and additional fishing sites along the shore.



All you need to start fishing is a local fishing hole, a simple rig; and a good buddy.



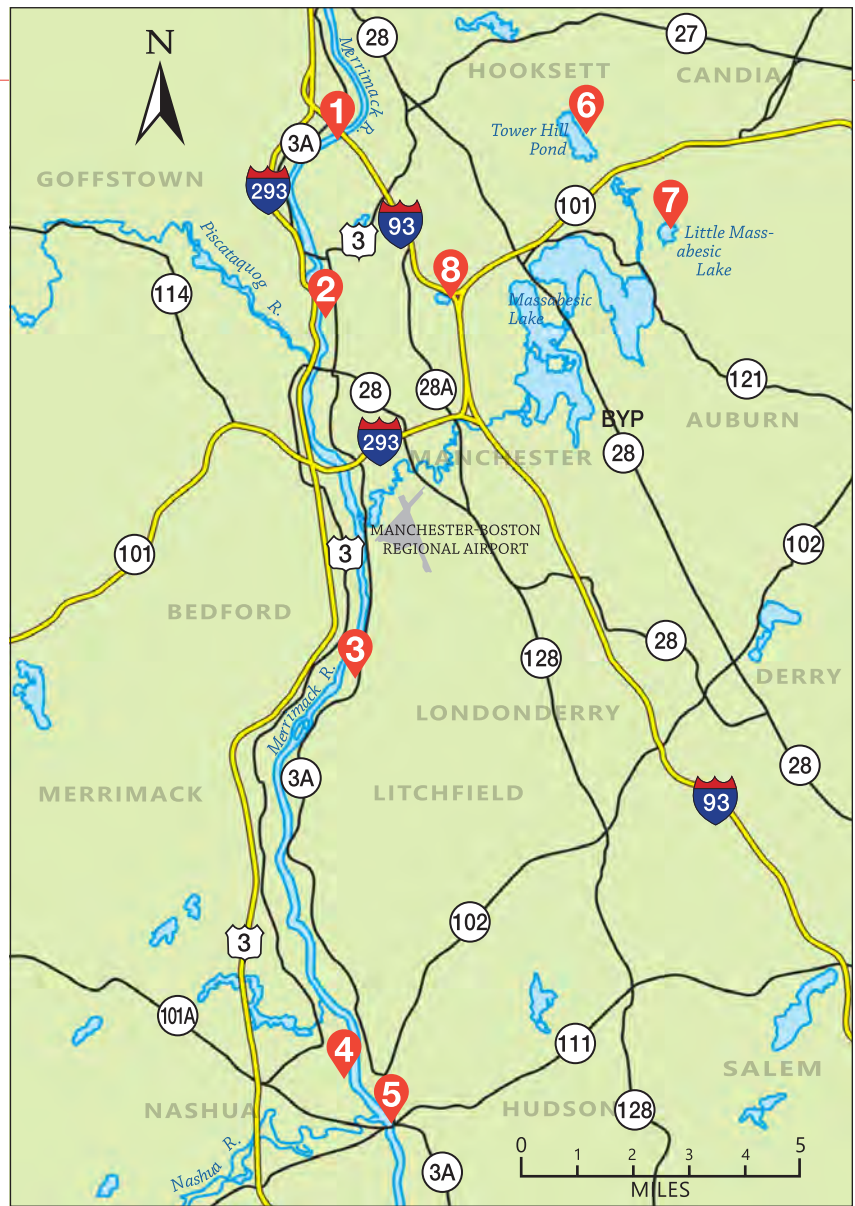
Fish the Merrimack River!

The Merrimack offers endless opportunities for anglers in south-central New Hampshire. Try some of these great fishing spots in Manchester and Nashua:

- 1. Below the Amoskeag Bridge, Manchester** — Additional shorebank access to the Merrimack.
- 2. Arms Park (Riverfront Park), Manchester** — Easy access to some great smallmouth bass fishing.
- 3. Moore's Falls Conservation Area, Litchfield** — A good fishing spot near the city with that "out of the way" feel. Find the river access about 2.5 miles south of the airport on Route 3A. Look for a brown kiosk with space for parking.
- 4. Greely Park, Nashua** — Plenty of fine spots to fish the Merrimack River, plus a nearby boat launch.
- 5. Taylor Falls Bridge, Nashua** — Access the Merrimack River here and near the bridges on Route 111 to fish for smallmouth and largemouth bass and carp.

Local Ponds in the Manchester Area

Here anglers can catch perch, chain pickerel, sunfish, bass, and more. *Tower Hill Pond* (6) in Candia is another local favorite; this pond is part of Manchester Water Works and, like Massabesic Lake, is a protected water supply. You can also try *Little Massabesic* (7) in Auburn or *Stevens Pond* (8) off Bridge Street in Manchester.



Piscataquog River

The Piscataquog has become popular with anglers in the Manchester area. Fishing for trout is at its best in spring and early summer, while the water is still cool.

1. Kelley Street Bridge — The upper part of the river below the bridge is a good place to start out trout fishing. As you work your way downstream to the Merrimack, the river changes to a warmwater fishery, where smallmouth and largemouth bass and other fish are plentiful.

2-3. Piscataquog River Park — The park's growing trail system on both sides of the river provides dozens of places to cast your line, right in the



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middle of good fishing for both cold and warmwater fish. The park entrance on the east side of the river, off *Koehler Street* (2), has a boat launch. Or, park on the west side off *Precourt Street* (3) for access to riverside walking trails.

