

## Little Known Facts About the Weir River Estuary

Native Americans hunted and fished the Weir River Estuary for thousands of years. The Plymouth Colony began trading with the local Native Americans as early as 1621.

Here in the estuary, you will find undisturbed salt marshes and a unique habitat that supports over 100 different species of migratory and breeding birds.

These waters are nurseries for many species of fish. In the 1880s, Hull was well known for its smelt fishery and the Weir River supported one of the largest smelt runs in the state.

The estuary is among the most productive shellfish habitats in Boston Harbor. Soft shell clams, blue mussels, and American oysters can be found along the tidal flats. Recreational shellfishing, however, is prohibited.

The entire estuary is designated by the state as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) (visit [www.mass.gov/dem/programs/acec](http://www.mass.gov/dem/programs/acec)) and a No Wake Zone. We encourage you to join the Weir River Watershed Association and help keep the Weir River estuary...

*Forever Wild.*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Weir River Estuary Park Committee: (781) 925.5665

Weir River Watershed Association: [www.weirriver.org](http://www.weirriver.org)

Straits Pond Watershed Association: (781) 383.6043

Hull Land Conservation Trust: [www.hulllandconservationtrust.org](http://www.hulllandconservationtrust.org)

Hull Lifesaving Museum: [www.hulllifesavingmuseum.org](http://www.hulllifesavingmuseum.org)

Boat Pumpout Service: (781) 925.0316

### FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY

Hull Harbor Master: (781) 925.3435  
VHF-CH 16

Cover Photo: Mike Gildesgame



**H**

**THE CLARION NANTASKET BEACH  
RESORT HOTEL AND SPA**

781 925-4500  
[www.nantasketbeachhotel.com](http://www.nantasketbeachhotel.com)

**Hull's Own World-Class Resort**

**Proud supporters of the  
Weir River Watershed Association**

Photo: S. Thomson



**H**

**The Sand Dollar Spa**

After a long day's paddle...  
Treat yourself to a massage!

**The Sand Dollar Spa**

In the Clarion Nantasket Beach Resort and Spa  
Massage, Facial, Nail Care and More  
781-925-6654  
[www.nantasketbeachhotel.com](http://www.nantasketbeachhotel.com)



**J**

**Jake's Seafoods Restaurant & Market**  
Steamboat Wharf 781-925-1024  
[www.jakesseafoods.com](http://www.jakesseafoods.com)



**D**

**Bill Sarni  
Decoy Maker on the Weir**

Handcarved shorebirds,  
waterfowl & fish  
Visit Bill in his timber-framed  
studio on the Weir  
10 Powers Lane, Hingham  
[www.wdsdecoys.com](http://www.wdsdecoys.com)  
781-749-2315  
[wdsarni@verizon.net](mailto:wdsarni@verizon.net)



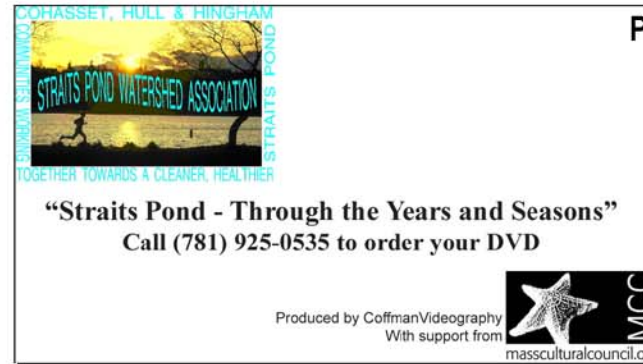
**LET'S GO  
KAYAKING!**

Explore Boston's best kayaking destination.

Where the Weir River meets the bay--the perfect place to play. Single and tandem recreational kayaks, complete outfitting, instruction. Book a guided Eco Tour. Beginners and groups welcome!  
Open every day 9:30-5:00, Wednesday evenings, and by appointment. On Steamboat Wharf in Hull.

**NANTASKET KAYAKS**  
781-962-4899  
[nantasketkayaks.com](http://nantasketkayaks.com)

**K**




**H**

**COHASSET, HULL & HINGHAM  
STRAITS POND WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

TOGETHER TOWARDS A CLEANER, HEALTHIER

**P**

**"Straits Pond - Through the Years and Seasons"**  
Call (781) 925-0535 to order your DVD

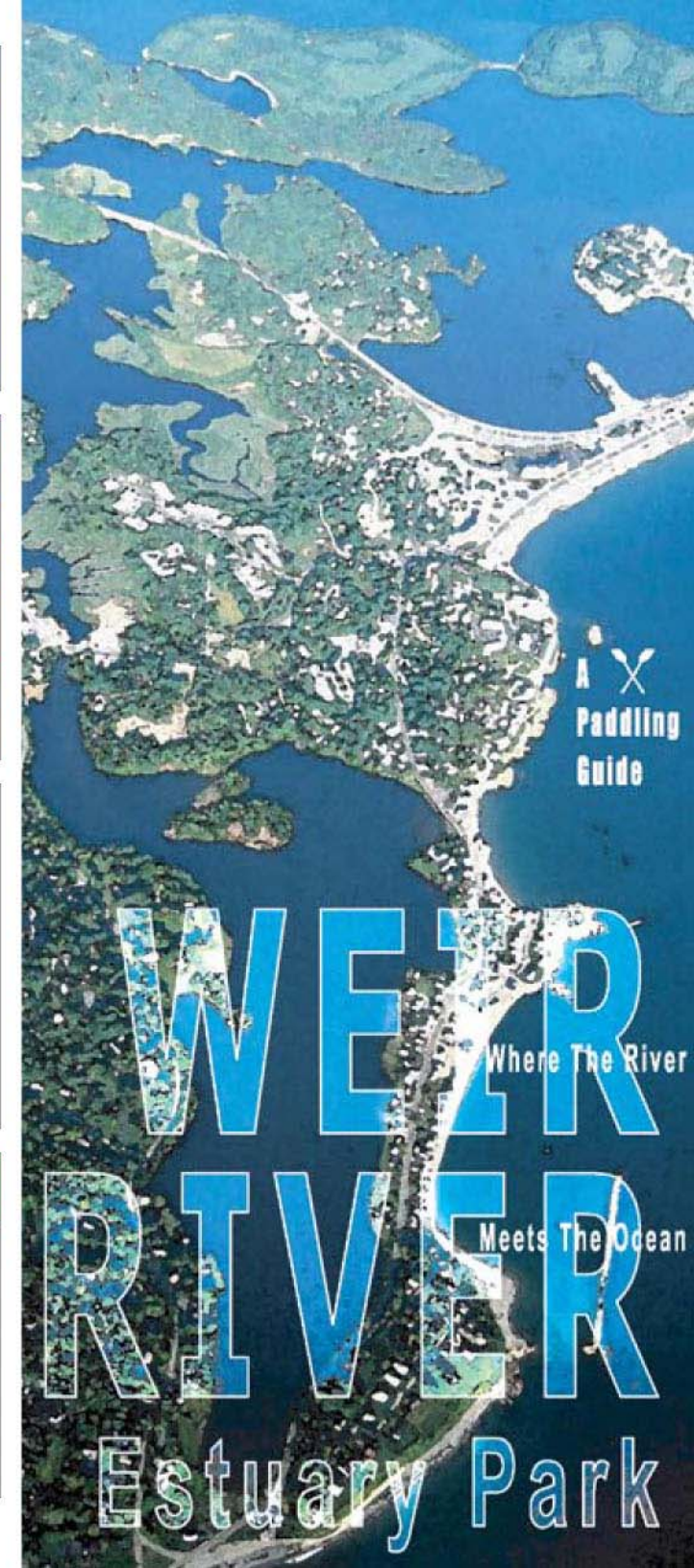
Produced by CoffmanVideography  
With support from  
 **MCC**  
[massculturalcouncil.org](http://massculturalcouncil.org)



**Paragon Carousel** On the beach across from Steamboat Wharf **C**

**Enjoy the old-fashioned fun.  
Experience the magic of this  
carousel treasure.**

Birthdays and special events  
our specialty. Delicious ice cream  
at Carousel Creamery. Open daily  
Memorial Day to Labor Day.  
Open spring and fall weekends.  
**781.925.0472**  
[www.paragoncarousel.com](http://www.paragoncarousel.com)



# Weir River Estuary Park



## Points of Interest

Publication of this brochure was made possible through funding from the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation administers the ACEC program. Base map data made available by MassGIS.

## Map Key

**1. STEAMBOAT WHARF.** Historic site for steamships bringing summer tourists from Boston to Hull. Deep water access at low tide. The **CAROUSEL** across the street from pier is the last remaining attraction from Hull's by-gone Paragon Park.

**2. WORLD'S END.** Owned and managed by The Trustees of Reservations, World's End forms the western boundary of the estuary. Archeologists have uncovered Native American artifacts dating over 8,000 years old. It was one of the proposed sites for the United Nations. The highest point of land, Planters Hill, is a drumlin formed over 14,000 years ago when the glaciers from the last Ice Age receded. There are scenic gravel beaches and rocky outcrops.

**3. THE NARROWS.** Use caution here as the currents can be strong. Work your way through the narrows by staying close to shore, and be aware of submerged rocks.

**4. WEIR WOODS.** Features a number of popular hiking trails. Stone walls at the edge of woods date back to the area's use by early Hull proprietors.

**5. PORTERS COVE.** Popular fishing spot for Striped Bass.

**6. WEIR RIVER ESTUARY CENTER.** Located on George Washington Blvd. The building is currently being used as an educational center and will feature estuary access. The water route under the bridge follows an ancient fault line that separates granite on the Hingham side from volcanic rock on the Hull side.

**7. WEIR RIVER CHANNEL.** The Weir River enters the estuary from the south. Portage is required over an abandoned fish weir during 2 hours on either side of low tide. Foundry Pond once supported a bog ore iron works. A stone-lined sluiceway lies below the Foundry Pond dam and a fish ladder for herring is on the opposite side. At Rockland Street, the Stodder family built ships in the 18th century.

**8. OSPREY NEST.** Looking up to the telephone poles, an osprey nest is visible. Nesting pairs raise their young here each summer. Please do not disturb the nest. Power lines mark the old railroad bed for the first electric train in America.

**9. INNER ESTUARY.** In the 1600s, Lyford's Lyking was the site of a herring fish weir (trap). It's how the Weir River got its name.

**10. WEST CORNER.** At West Corner, named for the old West Grocery store that once stood there, a tide gate separates Straits Pond from the rest of the estuary. Portage over highway is necessary. Use **CAUTION** as currents become strong and dangerous. Historically, the strait was used to power a grist mill. Records show that Hull's founding fathers met at the grist mill to send three representatives to the Boston Tea Party.

**11. STRAITS POND.** At 92 acres in size, the pond is home to many pairs of Mute Swans that feed on Widgeon Grass. The Straits Pond Watershed Association is a faithful steward of the pond, working to restore its ecological health.

**PLEASE NOTE**

No Wake Zone (less than 5 mi/hr)  
No beaching other than at designated access areas.  
Please respect private property.

**Map Key**

Area of Critical Environmental Concern Boundary

- Points of Interest
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Boat Access
- Kayak Rental
- Handicap Access
- Boat Pumpout
- Bicycling
- Hiking
- Bird Watching
- Geologic Feature
- Use Caution
- Fishing
- Interpretive Center
- Portage Required

- 1. Nantasket Pier
- 2. World's End
- 3. The Narrows
- 4. Weir Woods
- 5. Porters Cove
- 6. Weir River Estuary Center
- 7. Weir River Channel
- 8. Osprey Nest
- 9. Inner Estuary
- 10. West Corner
- 11. Straits Pond

- C** Carousel
- D** Decoys
- H** Hotel & Spa
- J** Jake's
- K** Kayaks
- P** Straits Pond

