

**TOWN MEETING 2023
ARTICLE 19 FAC -5**

**NASON'S LANDING ACCESSIBLE
KAYAK LAUNCH ON
SHAWSHEEN RIVER**



General Requirement

Title II of the ADA requires state/local governments to give people with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from all of their programs, services, and activities. State/local governments can't deny people with disabilities the chance to participate or make them participate in different programs than available to others.

State and Local Governments

Title II Applies to State/Local Programs

General Requirement

Specific Requirements

Making Reasonable Modifications

Communicating Effectively with People with Disabilities

Access to Programs and Services in Existing Facilities

Ticket Sales and Testing Accommodations


New Construction and Alterations

[Print this page](#)

Title II Applies to State/Local Programs

Examples of state/local service, programs, or activities that need to comply with the ADA include:

- Public education (schools)
- [Public Transportation](#)
- [Recreation](#)
- Health care
- Social services
- Courts
- Voting
- Emergency services
- Offices where people go to:
 - Renew licenses
 - Apply for food stamps
 - Pay their taxes
 - Attend town meetings
 - Serve on boards and commissions
 - Conduct other government business

 An official website of the United States government



ADA.gov

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

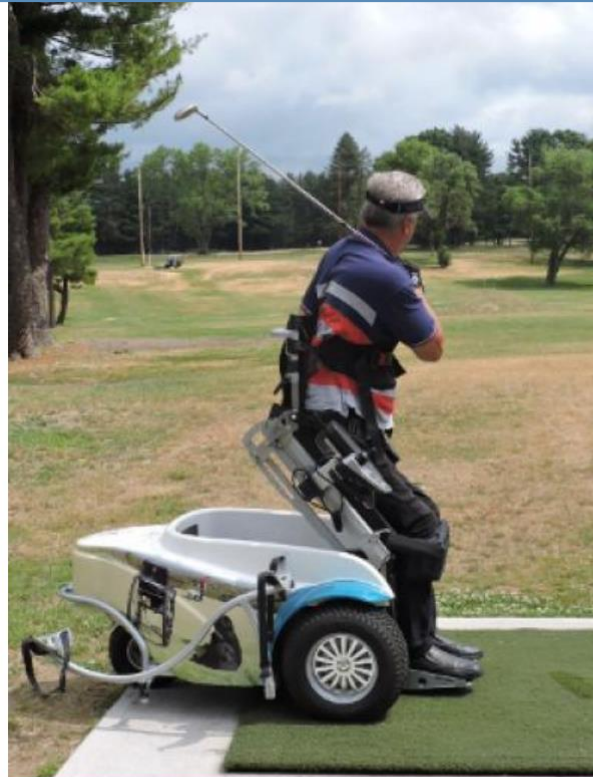
Public places

There are requirements for all places that are open to the public (e.g. restaurants, hotels, doctor's offices, stores, schools, recreational facilities and libraries) to provide equal access to goods and services. Public places cannot discriminate based on disability, and must make reasonable changes to allow a person with a disability full and equal access to all of the activities, programs and services they offer. Learn more about [disability rights in public places](#).

Universal Access Program

Mass.gov

Massachusetts Office on
Disability (MOD)



Accessible recreation opportunities →



Adaptive program schedule →



Volunteering with the Universal Access Program →



Accessible hiking trails →
















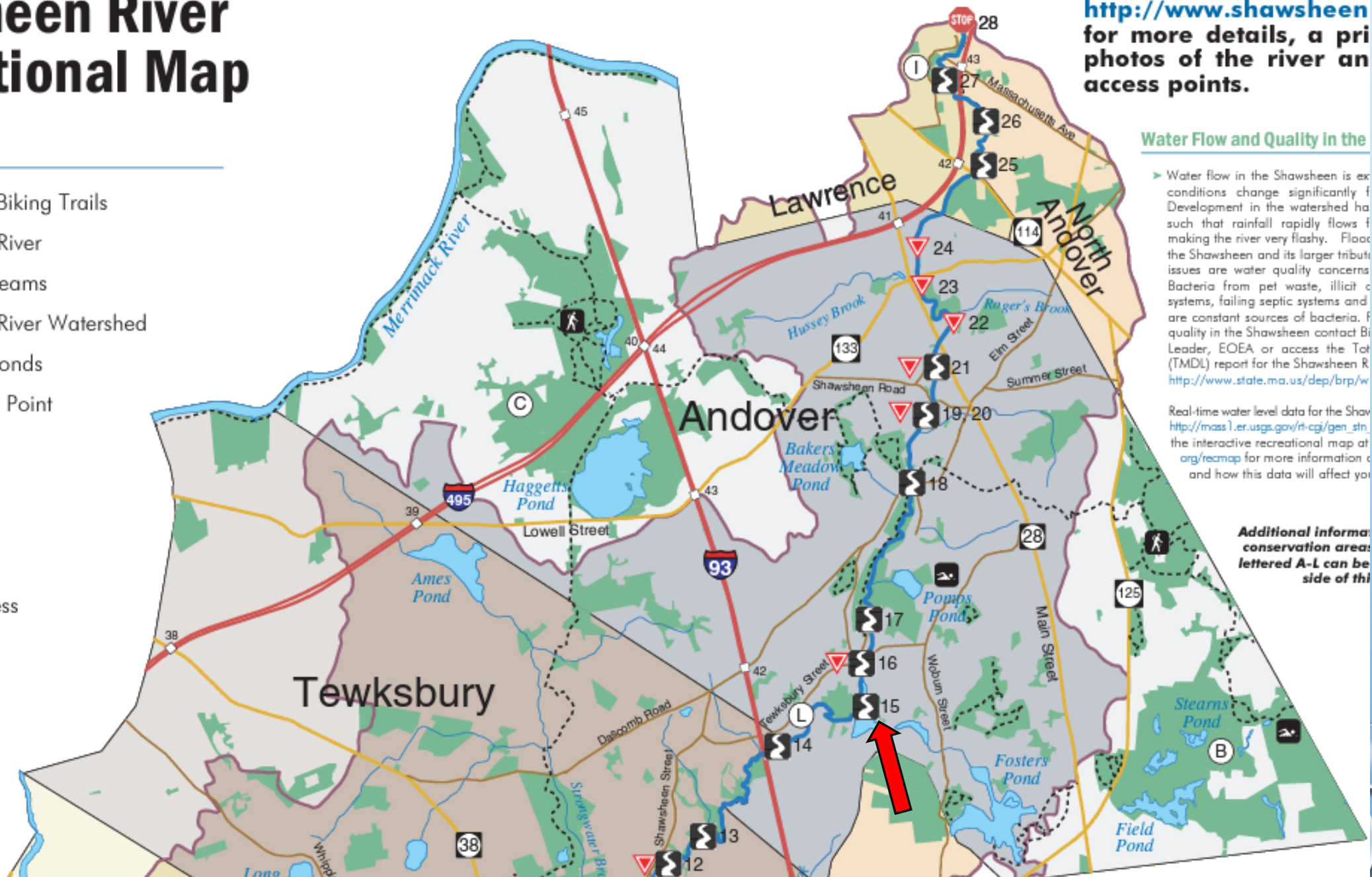
Donate to the Universal Access Program →



Shawsheen River Recreational Map

Legend:

-  Hiking and Biking Trails
-  Shawsheen River
-  Tributary Streams
-  Shawsheen River Watershed
-  Lakes and Ponds
-  River Access Point
-  Hazard
-  Bike Trail
-  Hiking Trail
-  Swimming
-  Canoe Access
-  Fishing
-  Portage



Water Flow and Quality in the

Water flow in the Shawsheen is extremely variable. Conditions change significantly from season to season. Development in the watershed has increased over the years, making the river very flashy. Floods in the Shawsheen and its larger tributaries are a major concern. Bacteria from pet waste, illicit dumpsites, failing septic systems and other sources are constant sources of bacteria. For more information on water quality in the Shawsheen contact Bill Leader, EEOA or access the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report for the Shawsheen River at <http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/waterquality/>

Real-time water level data for the Shawsheen River is available at http://mass1.er.usgs.gov/rt-cgi/gen_stn.cgi?stn=15. You can also access the interactive recreational map at <http://www.shawsheen.org/recremap> for more information on the map and how this data will affect you.

Additional information on conservation areas lettered A-L can be found on the side of this map.

The Process of Selecting a Location for an Accessible Kayak Launch:

- Conservation Agent Bob Douglas and Commission on Disability Chair Justin Coppola visited 25+ possible sites over several months in 2022. Site tours often included representatives of Andover Trails, the Conservation Commission, Town of Andover personnel, and other stakeholders.
- Two locations on the Shawsheen River were selected for further evaluation and professional study: Nason's Landing and Shawsheen Pines.
- PARE Corporation was hired to perform an independent analysis of two Shawsheen River locations for conceptual plan, cost analysis, and feasibility.

The Result:

- Nasan's Landing was selected for accessible kayak launch due to:
 - Lowest cost
 - Protection from currents at the dock
 - Gradual slope of surrounding land
 - Proximity to summer channel
 - Easy access for construction and equipment
 - Easier maintenance
- Shawsheen Pines volunteer led plan for erosion control and stairway construction was supported and Massachusetts Architectural Access Board variance was obtained.

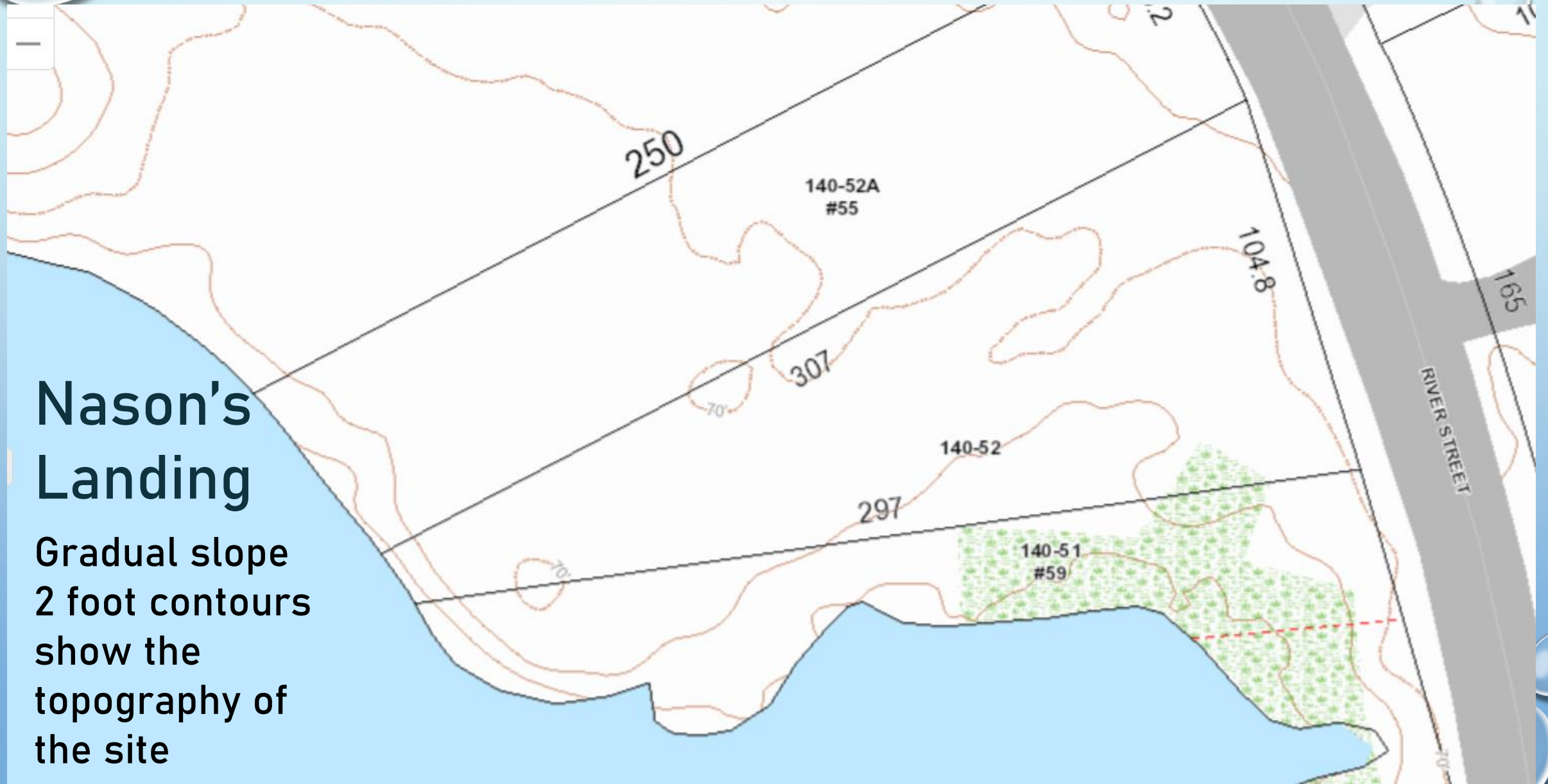
Nason's Landing

Protection from currents



Nason's Landing

Gradual slope
2 foot contours
show the
topography of
the site



Nason's Landing

Summer channel travels in path highlighted here by GIS and through Nason's Landing proposed kayak launch site



Nason's Landing

PARE Corporation's proposed design



FAQ's

Question: There is talk of the privately owned Ballardvale Dam possibly being removed at some point. Would there be enough water flow to support the Nason's Landing site as a viable option if this happens?

Answer: Yes. While there is not a clear answer on the future of the Ballardvale Dam, 2017 GIS and aerial imagery data shows that the deepest part of the river's channel is adjacent to the proposed ADA accessible boat launch at Nason's Landing. Furthermore, detailed bathymetry (water depth) data was collected in the impoundment upstream of the Ballardvale Dam for an independent report completed by the engineering and river restoration firm Inter-Fluve. This data collection supports the channel location as stated above and allowed Inter-Fluve to reach this conclusion about the river's channel upstream of the dam if the dam was removed:

5.3. Ballardvale Dam: Dam removal will not significantly alter the channel planform more than what is shown in Figure 3 (current scenario), but water levels will decrease slightly over current. However, this is a low gradient wetland stream channel, and the resulting channel should have a narrow and deep cross-section, and thus an adequate depth for canoeing and kayaking except during unusually dry periods.

Question: Wouldn't Shawsheen Pines be a better location for an ADA accessible launch?

Answer: No. Shawsheen Pines would not only be more expensive to construct, but would also be a less safe experience for those that require an ADA accessible launch because of the steeper slopes leading to the water's edge and swifter river flows at this location. More than 25 river front site visits were conducted with Town Officials and members of the Andover Commission on Disability. Nason's Landing was the clear first choice for grading and accessibility.

Question: Will an ADA accessible boat launch lead to more localized flooding in the area?

Answer: No. This project will go through the same permitting process as any other Conservation Commission filing. It will be designed to comply with any and all compensatory flood storage requirements. In addition, the limited parking being created will not be pavement.

Question: I am worried about cars entering and exiting the proposed boat launch off River Street. Is it not too steep?

Answer: Facilities and Andover Police would design the project to ensure entrance / egress will be graded appropriately and proper site lines are created and maintained. This would also eliminate the dangerous on-street parking that currently occurs on River Street for those accessing the Shawsheen River. Currently only two roadside parking spaces are available for river access at Nason's Landing. Creating parking off the roadway as part of this project would help increase driver and pedestrian safety on River Street.

WHAT A YES VOTE MEANS

- PARE CORP TO DEVELOP CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS
- CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF INTENT AND PUBLIC HEARINGS
 - CHAPTER 91 WATERWAYS LICENSE APPLICATION
 - EVALUATE FOR OTHER APPLICABLE PERMITS
- BIDDING AND CONSTRUCTION SUMMER 2024 (UPDATE-CONSTRUCTION COST TO BE PRESENTED AT TOWN MEETING 2024)