



Magalloway River Explorations

Wentworth Location, Maine

The Magalloway River, which flows out of Aziscohos Lake, offers a variety of paddling opportunities all season long. This area is rich with wildlife; moose, song birds, and waterfowl like American black ducks all call this environment home. Sections of the river are protected as part of the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge.

The Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge Canoe Launch is good starting point both out and back or down river trips. The launch, includes accessible infrastructure improvements, including a gravel access trail, dock, designated parking, and an ADA compliant privy. As a take out downstream (Steamer Diamond launch) is also relatively accessible, this trip is well suited for those with mobility challenges. (see specific description of features below).

The Umbagog NWR Canoe launch is situated on an abandoned river oxbow located off the river. To reach the main channel, head south (right) for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. This section of the Magalloway is quiet water and out and back trips are possible. For those doing out and back trips, make a note of the location of the “exit” to aid navigation on your return trip.

There are several side trips off the river’s main steam. $\frac{3}{4}$ downstream is the outlet to an abandoned oxbow, and another $\frac{1}{2}$ further is the outlet to Sturtevant Pond. Both are worth exploring if you are embarked on an out and back trip.

For those seeking a downriver outing, the best take is the Steamer Diamond access, approximately 10 miles downstream. The refuge is planning to better improve this launch with features to serve users with disabilities. As is, the landing, which is a wide gravel launch, is relatively easy to navigate, although infrastructure is limited. For those making this trip it is worth planning to spend extra time explore the floating bogs on Umbagog Lake at the halfway point of this trip. You are likely to spot eagles here.



Figure 1. The Magalloway River



Figure 2. Umbagog Lake

Umbagog Wildlife Refuge Canoe Access Description

This is a large, improved launch for hand carry users, across from the Refuge Headquarters.

Parking and Facilities

- Designated, paved, ADA parking
- Aquatic invasives wash station (please use if you recently paddled your boats elsewhere)
- ADA compliant toilet facilities adjacent to parking area
- Wayfinding signage at entrance off Route 16

Pathway to Water Access

- The parking is relatively far (under 425' from the boat access). However, there is a temporary parking area a short walk (90') from the launch. The path is a firm, four-foot-wide gravel path that has some grass growing on it. It is relatively level (<5% slope).

Water Access

- The primary launch is a medium sized floating dock accessed by a gangway with handrails. There are bull rails on the edge of the dock.
- At low water, the gangway is quite steep, but is more a gradual grade during summer levels.
- There is also a very steep (20%+) concrete launch adjacent to the docks.

Environmental and Sensory Factors

- This is a quiet, relatively lightly used launch.
- While the Magalloway River is relatively protected, paddlers should be prepared to encounter wind and waves on Umbagog, should they choose to venture that way.
- Wayfinding signage provides directions to the launch from Route 16.
- This is a sunny launch.

Streamer Diamond Launch Description

This is a small, unimproved launch for all boating types about 1.6 miles north of Errol. Plans are in development to improve facilities here.

Parking and Facilities

- Designated, unpaved, parking accessed via a walk along the Route 16 shoulder
- Parking is relatively far (under 445' from the boat access). However, there is an unloading area at the launch.
- No toilet facilities
- No wayfinding signage

Pathway to Water Access

- The path is a firm, wide gravel, gradual road (8% slope). It is possible to temporarily load boats here

Water Access

- The launch is a gradually sloping (8%), gravel launch with somewhat loose stone. The launching area is wide (22').

Environmental and Sensory Factors

- This is a moderately popular launch.
- Route 16 is moderately busy.
- This is a sunny launch.



Figure 3. Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge Canoe Launch Dock



Figure 4. Steep, concrete launch adjacent to dock.



Figure 5. Improved gravel path covered with grass. Aquatic invasives wash station is adjacent.



Figure 6. Umbagog Canoe Launch temporary unloading area



Figure 7. Umbagog Canoe Launch - designated parking and ADA toilet.



Figure 8. Steamer Diamond Launch