

# Appendix 1: York River Study Act

## York River Study Act – A Portion of the *Carl Levin and Howard P. Buck McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015*<sup>1</sup>

128 STAT. 3848 PUBLIC LAW 113–291—DEC. 19, 2014

PL 113—291 (Excerpt)

*SEC. 3074. STUDIES OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS.*(a) *DESIGNATION FOR STUDY.*—Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (141), as added by section 3041(e), the following: “(142) BEAVER, CHIPUXET, QUEEN, WOOD, AND PAWCATUCK RIVERS, RHODE ISLAND AND CONNECTICUT.—The following segments: “(A) The approximately 10-mile segment of the Beaver River from the headwaters in Exeter, Rhode Island, to the confluence with the Pawcatuck River. “(B) The approximately 5-mile segment of the Chipuxet River from Hundred Acre Pond to the outlet into Worden Pond. “(C) The approximately 10-mile segment of the upper Queen River from the headwaters to the Usquepaugh Dam in South Kingstown, Rhode Island, including all tributaries of the upper Queen River. “(D) The approximately 5-mile segment of the lower Queen (Usquepaugh) River from the Usquepaugh Dam to the confluence with the Pawcatuck River. “(E) The approximately 11-mile segment of the upper Wood River from the headwaters to Skunk Hill Road in Richmond and Hopkinton, Rhode Island, including all tributaries of the upper Wood River. “(F) The approximately 10-mile segment of the lower Wood River from Skunk Hill Road to the confluence with the Pawcatuck River. “(G) The approximately 28-mile segment of the Pawcatuck River from Worden Pond to Nooseneck Hill Road (Rhode Island Rte 3) in Hopkinton and Westerly, Rhode Island. “(H) The approximately 7-mile segment of the lower Pawcatuck River from Nooseneck Hill Road to Pawcatuck Rock, Stonington, Connecticut, and Westerly, Rhode Island. “(143) NASHUA RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS. The following segments: “(A) The approximately 19-mile segment of the mainstem of the Nashua River from the confluence with the North and South Nashua Rivers in Lancaster, Massachusetts, north to the Massachusetts-New Hampshire State line, excluding the approximately 4.8-mile segment of the mainstem of the Nashua River from the Route 119 bridge in Groton, Massachusetts, downstream to the confluence with the Nissitissit River in Pepperell, Massachusetts. “(B) The 10-mile segment of the Squannacook River from the headwaters at Ash Swamp downstream to the confluence with the Nashua River in the towns of Shirley and Ayer, Massachusetts. “(C) The 3.5-mile segment of the Nissitissit River from the Massachusetts-New Hampshire State line downstream to the confluence with the Nashua River in Pepperell, Massachusetts. “(144) YORK RIVER, MAINE.—The segment of the York River that flows 11.25 miles from the headwaters of the York River at York Pond to the mouth of the river at York Harbor, and any associated tributaries.”. (b) *STUDY AND REPORT.*—Section 5(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(b)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (20), as added by section 3041(e), the following: “(21) BEAVER, CHIPUXET, QUEEN, WOOD, AND PAWCATUCK RIVERS, RHODE ISLAND AND CONNECTICUT; NASHUA RIVER,

<sup>1</sup> Only pertinent section included here.

*MASSACHUSETTS; YORK RIVER, MAINE.—“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this paragraph, the Secretary of the Interior shall—“(i) complete each of the studies described in paragraphs (142), (143), and (144) of subsection (a); and“(ii) submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes the results of each of the studies.“(B) REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—In 83 assessing the potential additions to the wild and scenic river system, the report submitted under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall—“(i) determine the effect of the designation on—“(I) existing commercial and recreational activities, such as hunting, fishing, trapping, recreational shooting, motor boat use, and bridge construction;“(II) the authorization, construction, operation, maintenance, or improvement of energy production, transmission, or other infrastructure; and“(III) the authority of State and local governments to manage the activities described in subclauses (I) and (II);“(ii) identify any authorities that, in a case in which an area studied under paragraph (142), (143), or (144) of subsection (a) is designated under this Act—“(I) would authorize or require the Secretary of the Interior—“(aa) to influence local land use decisions, such as zoning; or“(bb) to place restrictions on non-Federal land if designated under this Act; and“(II) the Secretary of the Interior may use to condemn property; and“(iii) identify any private property located in an area studied under paragraph (142), (143), or (144) of subsection (a).”*

# Appendix 2: Record of Endorsements and Support for Wild and Scenic Designation

## Municipal Endorsements

Eliot vote – voting results documented in letter from Town Clerk

York vote – voting results certified by Town Clerk and letter from Town Manager

Kittery Town Council resolution adoption – copy of signed resolution

South Berwick Town Council resolution adoption – copy of signed resolution

## Letters of Support

### Individuals

State Representative Lydia Blume  
State Representative Patty Hymanson  
State Representative Michele Meyer  
State Senator Mark Lawrence  
Emerson Baker  
David Burdick  
Scott Eldredge  
David Gittins  
Edward Little

## Entities and Organizations

Eliot Conservation Commission  
Eliot Historical Society  
Eliot Select Board  
Eliot Town Manager  
Friends of York River  
Great Works Regional Land Trust  
Kittery Conservation Commission (memo to Town Council)  
Kittery Land Trust  
Kittery Planning Board (memo to Town Council)  
Kittery Water District  
Maine Coast Heritage Trust  
Old York Historical Society  
Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge  
South Berwick Conservation Commission  
Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission  
Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve  
York Country Club  
York Harbor Board  
York Land Trust  
York Lobstermen’s Association  
York Parks and Recreation Department  
York Planning Board  
York Rotary  
York Shellfish Commission

## Municipal Endorsements

### TOWN OF ELIOT

INCORPORATED 1810

1333 STATE ROAD  
ELIOT, MAINE 03903  
207-439-1813

December 20, 2018

Jennifer Hunter, Coordinator  
York River Study

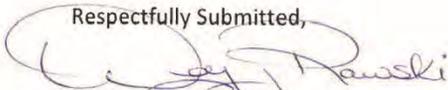
Please accept this letter as official notification of the Town of Eliot, Maine's election results for Article Ten of the November 6, 2018 Town Special Election & Referendum Municipal Warrant; *"Shall the Town endorse the York River Study Committee's recommendation to seek Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation, by the U.S. Congress for the York River and its major tributaries with the understanding that such designation would not involve National Park Service ownership or management of lands, and further, accept the committee's York River Watershed Stewardship Plan?"*.

The results were as follows:

<b>Yes</b>	<b>2,501</b>
No	933
Blank	<u>307</u>
<b>Total Votes Cast</b>	<b>3,741</b>

By majority vote, the Town of Eliot supported the endorsement of the York River Study Committee's recommendation to seek Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation.

Respectfully Submitted,



Wendy J. Rawski, Town Clerk  
Town of Eliot, Maine

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF THE OFFICIAL RESULTS OF THE STATE AND LOCAL ELECTION THAT WAS HELD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2018.

ATTEST: *Mary-Anne Szeniawski*  
 MARY-ANNE SZENIAWSKI, TOWN CLERK

**SPECIMEN BALLOT**  
**GENERAL REFERENDUM**  
**TOWN OF YORK**  
**NOVEMBER 6, 2018**

7859 VOTES CAST

*Mary-Anne Szeniawski*  
 Town Clerk

**Instructions to Voters**

- ◆ Fill in the oval next to your Yes or No choice, like this: ●
- ◆ To have your vote count, do not erase or cross out your choice.
- ◆ If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

<p>TOWN OF YORK                  District                  Name of Candidate                  Vote for ONE</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Barry G. Davis</b></p> <p>5780</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>..... Write-In</p>	<p><b>TWO:</b> Shall the Town endorse the York River Study Committee's recommendation to seek Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries with the understanding that designation would not involve National Park Service ownership or management of lands, and further, accept the committee's York River Watershed Stewardship Plan?</p> <p><b>Statement of Fact:</b> The York River Wild and Scenic Study, which was authorized by the US Congress, evaluated the York River for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System under its "Partnership" river model. The York River Study Committee believes a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation would provide key financial resources, technical assistance, and a local structure to best enable implementation of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The Stewardship Plan is a non-regulatory guidance document that recommends strategies to preserve important historic, cultural, economic and natural resources in the York River watershed consistent with goals in towns' comprehensive plans.</p> <p>Community support for designation and acceptance of the Stewardship Plan is a prerequisite to Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation. However, such endorsement does not commit the Town to provide any financial resources. Funding to implement the Stewardship Plan is anticipated to come from annual Congressional appropriations through the National Park Service's Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program if the York River is designated. There is no land ownership or management by the National Park Service, and there are no required changes to local ordinances with a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation.</p> <p>Board of Selectmen recommends approval (3-2)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES 4765</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO 2797</p>	<p><b>THREE:</b> The Town hereby ordains to amend the <b>Business Directional Sign Ordinance</b>.</p> <p><b>Statement of Fact:</b> The purpose of this new Ordinance is to prohibit off-site business directional signs at the ends of, and along the length of Short Sands Road. Short Sands Road is the approved name for the new road in York Beach, which had been known informally in the past as the Connector Road and the York Beach Parkway. This prohibition would be retroactive to the date of the first public hearing on this amendment to prevent any applications prior to the public vote.</p> <p>Board of Selectmen recommends approval (5-0)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES 5895</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO 1589</p> <p><b>FOUR:</b> The Town hereby ordains to adopt a new <b>Ordinance Establishing Fire Protection Zones</b>.</p> <p><b>Statement of Fact:</b> The purpose of this new Ordinance is to ensure the voters set the boundaries of the service areas of the York Beach Fire Department and the York Village Fire Department.</p> <p>Board of Selectmen recommends approval (5-0)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES 6718</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO 781</p>
<p><b>PLEASE VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT</b></p> <p>Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01</p>		



**PARTNERSHIP WILD AND SCENIC RIVER  
YORK RIVER  
RESOLUTION**

Kittery Town Council Resolution endorsing Designation of the York River and its major tributaries as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 USC 1271-1287) and further, endorsing the York River Study Committee's proposed York River Watershed Stewardship Plan.

**Whereas**, the York River is an iconic feature of our region with unique biological, historical, and economic features; and

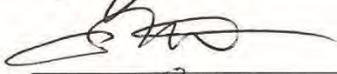
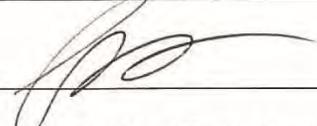
**Whereas**, the locally-appointed York River Study Committee's three-year study of the York River watershed documents the importance of the York River's features to our region;

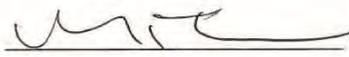
**Whereas**, the York River and its tributaries require long-term protection best accomplished through coordinated oversight by the four watershed communities (Kittery, Eliot, South Berwick, and York) with representatives appointed by those communities; and

**Whereas**, designation does not include any federal acquisition or management of lands; public access on private lands; any changes in land use regulation unless approved by each community; nor any financial obligation on the watershed communities;

**Now, therefore**, be it resolved that the Kittery Town Council supports designation of the York River and its major tributaries as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and further, the adoption of the York River Study Committee's proposed York River Watershed Stewardship Plan.

Adopted by the Kittery Town Council on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth J. Remond

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Johnson  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ack



## Town of South Berwick

180 MAIN STREET  
SOUTH BERWICK, MAINE 03908-1535  
TEL. 207-384-3300  
FAX: 207-384-3303

**Resolution:**

South Berwick Town Council Resolution endorsing the Designation of the York River and its major tributaries as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 USC 1271-1287) and further, endorsing the York River Study Committee's proposed York River Watershed Stewardship Plan

At the December 11, 2018 meeting of the South Berwick Town Council, the following resolution was adopted.

Whereas the York River is an iconic feature of our region with unique biological, historical, and economic features;

Whereas, the locally-appointed York River Study Committee's three-year study of the York River watershed documents the importance of the York River's features to our region;

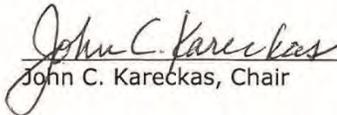
Whereas the York River and its tributaries require long-term protection best accomplished through coordinated oversight by the four watershed communities (Kittery, Eliot, South Berwick, and York) with representatives appointed by those communities;

And

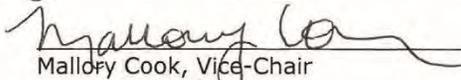
Whereas, designation does not include any federal acquisition or management of lands; public access on private lands; no changes in land use regulation unless approved by each community; nor any financial obligation on the watershed communities,

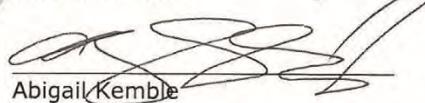
Now, therefore, be it resolved that the South Berwick Town Council supports designation of the York River and its major tributaries as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and further, the adoption of the York River Study Committee's proposed York River Watershed Stewardship Plan.

Adopted on the 11th day of December 2018.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John C. Kareckas, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Russell H. Abell

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mallorey Cook, Vice-Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Abigail Kemble

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John James

## Letters of Support - Individuals



**Lydia Blume**

PO Box 1738

York Beach, ME 03910

Phone: (207) 363-9235

[lydia.blume@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:lydia.blume@legislature.maine.gov)

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: (207) 287-4469

December 17, 2018

Charles Ott, Chair  
York River Study Committee  
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve  
342 Laudholm Farm Road  
Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Chuck:

Next month I will begin my third term in Maine's House of Representatives serving on behalf of coastal York. The York River bisects District 3. I have come to know it well, as a resident, as an environmental activist, and a legislator focused on the welfare of my district and the whole of Maine's extensive, scenic, economically critical and endangered coast.

As the founder and leader of the legislature's Coastal Caucus and a member of the Marine Resources Committee, I am pleased to support including the York River in the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program, and to endorse the visionary stewardship plan put forward by your committee. Only coordinated efforts at the local, state and national levels can help our maritime regions weather changes in climate, sea rise and development.

The entirety of York's fishing industry is based in House District 3, largely in the York River. Economically, ecologically and culturally, what happens to the York River has a major impact on our fishermen and the wholesalers they supply. The river's future is their future. Happily, Wild & Scenic designation is supported by York commercial fishing interests. I am pleased to join them in endorsing this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lydia C. Blume".

Lydia Blume

District 3: Part of York



**Patricia Hymanson**

34 High Pine Road  
York, ME 03909  
Residence: (207) 363-8353

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: (207) 287-4469

December 17, 2018

Charles Ott, Chair  
York River Study Committee  
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve  
342 Laudholm Farm Road  
Wells, Maine 04090

My legislative district, District 4, encompasses a large portion of the York River watershed. I have lived here for over 30 years, practicing medicine, raising a family, enjoying the wildlife in the woods and fields and along the river, volunteering for community organizations and now serving in the Maine House of Representatives. I love this rural area anchored by the river. I am pleased to support designating the York River as a component in the national Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program.

The stewardship plan your committee developed will do much for the York River, bringing together the four towns in the watershed, helping to coordinate planning for the preservation and best use of the river and its tributaries. This is a pristine yet fragile ecosystem that deserves special recognition and care.

I am heartened by the strong votes of approval the stewardship plan and Wild and Scenic designation have received in the four towns. I trust our representatives in Washington will do all possible to successfully move approval of designation through Congress.

If I may be of further assistance in your efforts, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Hymanson".

District 4    Ogunquit, Sanford (part), Wells (part) and York (part)

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**Michele Meyer**  
58 Odiorne Lane  
Eliot, ME 03903  
Residence: (207) 438-9197  
Michele.Meyer@legislature.maine.gov

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1400  
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

January 7, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott, Chair  
York River Study Committee  
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve  
342 Laudholm Farm Rd  
Wells, ME 04090

Dear Mr. Ott:

As the District 2 Maine House Representative (Eliot, parts of Kittery and South Berwick) and a resident of Eliot, I am in strong support of designating the York River and its major tributaries as a federal Partnership Wild and Scenic River. Opening the door to potential federal funds for ongoing study of this important natural resource, the designation will help the communities I represent to protect and enjoy the many river-related resources in the York River watershed.

I am very pleased that the designation and local stewardship plan have received strong endorsements throughout the watershed communities, with 63 percent and 73 percent voter approval in York and Eliot respectively. I support the York River Study Committee's request of our Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such an action would have long-lasting benefits for our river and watershed communities.

If I may be of any further assistance to the valuable efforts of the York River Study Committee, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele Meyer".

Michele Meyer  
State Representative

District 2 Eliot, Kittery (part) and South Berwick (part)

Printed on recycled paper

*129th Legislature*  
*Senate of*  
*Maine*  
*Senate District 35*

*Senator Mark W. Lawrence*  
*3 State House Station*  
*Augusta, ME 04333-0003*  
*(207) 287-1515*

December 18, 2018

Charles Ott, Chair  
York River Study Committee  
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve  
342 Laudholm Farm Road  
Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Mr. Ott:

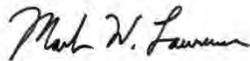
My state senate district encompasses the whole of the York River watershed. I have lived my entire life here. I love this area, bound by the sea and Piscataqua River, south and west, and bisected by the York River. Thus, it is a pleasure to endorse designating the York River as a component in the national Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program.

The stewardship planning document developed by your committee presents positive ways to coordinate efforts to preserve, protect and enhance the York River, bringing together the four towns in the watershed. Balancing competing priorities—ecological, commercial and recreational—is a tall order, but one that has the best chance of success through a locally appointed advisory committee serving under the aegis of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Partnership Program.

Voters in York and Eliot, along with town councils in South Berwick and Kittery have endorsed the stewardship plan and Wild and Scenic designation. With this showing of support within the watershed by all four communities, I believe our representatives in Congress will take note and support legislation adding the York River to the national program.

Thank you for moving this important initiative forward.

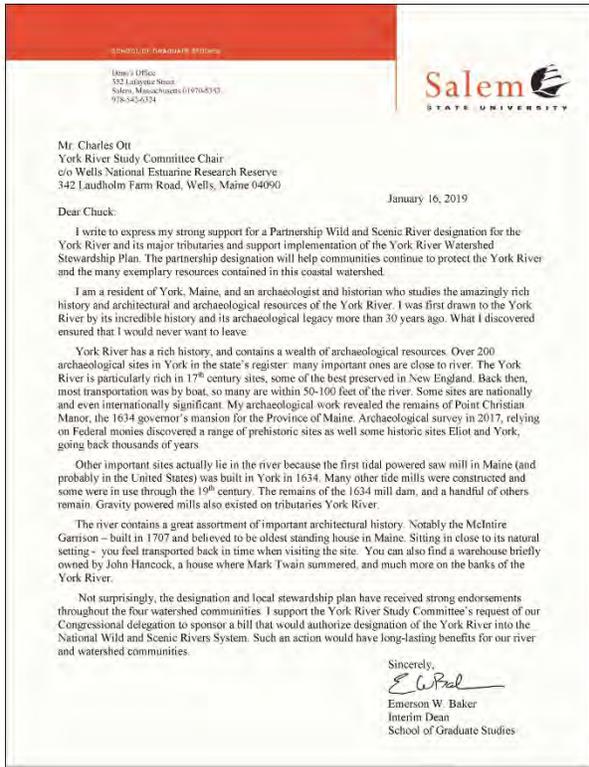
All good wishes,



Mark W. Lawrence

*Fax: (207) 287-1585 \* TTY (207) 287-1583 \* Message Service 1-800-423-6900 \* Website: legislature.maine.gov/senate*

## Appendix 2: Record of Endorsements and Support



Appendix 2: Record of Endorsements and Support

David W. Gittins  
85 Bog Road  
York, Maine 03909

January 16, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott  
York River Study Committee Chair  
c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve  
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Chuck,

I would like to express my support for a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation of the York River and its tributaries and implementation of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The designation will help not only York with the many benefits directly affecting our river, but also those neighboring towns within the common watershed.

As you know, I am a native of York and have been a saltwater flyfishing guide here for over 35 years. Over that period, I have seen several changes in landscape, habitat, and numbers and diversity of fish species here. Many of those observations are negative. I look forward to the resource and advisory benefits that will come from participation in this program.

Thank you for your commitment and hard work leading us through the study phase. I look forward to seeing you on the river!

Regards,  
  
David W. Gittins

EDWARD W. LITTLE  
11 MEETING HOUSE LANE  
YORK, MAINE 03909

January 25, 2019

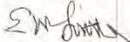
Mr. Charles Ott  
York River Study Committee Chair  
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve  
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Mr. Ott:

Our residence is beside tidal Barrell Pond, and overlooks the Wiggley Bridge and York River. My wife and I have lived here for twenty five years and we have enjoyed the beauty of the river and its environs ecologically and culturally. This largely pristine river is truly the jewel of York. As a private citizen, and formerly as a member of the Board of Selectmen, I have worked to protect the York River.

And it needs protection. The river is constantly at risk from over-development and over use, and from the impact of climate change. I view including the York River in the national Wild & Scenic Rivers Partnership Program to be one of the most important ways to provide a forum and resources dedicated to the river's long-term health.

Thank you and your committee for spearheading efforts to make designation a reality.

Sincerely,  
  
Edward W. Little

## Letters of Support - Organizations

**FRIENDS OF THE YORK RIVER**  
33 Barrell Lane  
York, Maine 03909

17 December 2018

Mr. Charles Ott  
York River Study Committee Chair  
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve  
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

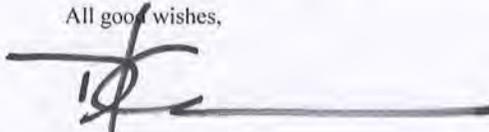
Dear Chuck:

It is my privilege to write on behalf of the Friends of the York River, endorsing the Stewardship Plan completed by your committee last summer. And further, now that designation has gained overwhelming support from voters and local government in the four towns in the York River watershed, The Friends wholeheartedly endorse adding the York River to the national Wild & Scenic Rivers Partnership Program.

Consideration of this possibility was initiated a decade ago, through the agency of the Friends. It is gratifying that such a long-term effort is now coming to fruition. Congratulations are due to Carol Donnelly, you and others for a remarkable and enduring sense of commitment, clear-eyed analysis of the ecological and historic resources to be protected, unwavering sensitivity to community values and community needs, and for the ability to transform vision, scientific data, patterns of use and local ordinances into a realistic management plan.

As the plan your committee crafted amply and ably documents, the York River is in superb condition yet under threat. Inclusion of our river into the national program will provide a comprehensive and well-funded approach to safeguarding the river through the coordinated efforts of York, Kittery, South Berwick and Eliot. May Maine's congressional delegation take up this opportunity to protect a rich and valued resource for generations to come.

All good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Chase", is written over a horizontal line.

David Chase



January 29, 2019

Charles Ott, Chair  
York River Study Committee  
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve  
342 Laudholm Farm Road  
Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Mr. Ott:

Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) strongly supports designation of the York River and its tributaries as a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, and implementation of the Stewardship Plan. Such designation will provide needed protection for the resource while supporting and reinforcing ongoing long-running local efforts to preserve this remarkably intact river, its watershed, coastal marshes, and ecosystem.

This river is a conservation priority for Maine. In 2005 MCHT selected it as a focus area and, since then, we have invested more than a million dollars in conservation there. MCHT also has a cooperative agreement with local land trusts to provide additional funding and services over the coming years.

MCHT has studied the York River marsh system as part of our coastwide analysis of salt marsh migration and sea level rise. The York River's coastal marsh system is not only large for the state of Maine, but unlike many other marshes, it is likely to be resilient to sea level rise – according to our modeling, even increasing in size, if allowed to do so. We are acting on this knowledge and together with our local partners have completed or have underway multiple conservation projects whose purpose is to 'allow the marsh to migrate' onto undeveloped land that we are conserving.

There is a strong support from conservation partners and town residents, and this support will help the York River Stewardship Plan move forward. The river, once designated, will benefit from the ten-partner Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative, of which MCHT is a founding member. This twenty-year collaboration, together with its predecessors, has protected thousands of acres in the York River watershed and adjacent watershed. MtA2C has long been engaged with the York River study and provides a ready-made vehicle for cooperative conservation across multiple towns in the watershed.

Local citizen support for the river's conservation is perhaps best demonstrated by votes to spend town funds on conservation purchases and easements. We have tracked these votes in southern Maine for almost twenty years. Southern Maine communities, with York in the lead, have spent more than \$4 million on conservation purchases since 2000. Recently, warrant articles in southern Maine for spending or allocating town funds for conservation have passed by margins ranging from 60% to 83%, a testimony to the strength of support for conservation in the region.

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1 Bowdoin Mill Island, Suite 201 • Topsham, Maine 04086 • Telephone (207) 729-7366 • Fax (207) 729-6863 • [www.mcht.org](http://www.mcht.org)  
Mount Desert Island Office • Telephone (207) 244-5100 • Aldermerc Farm, Rockport • Telephone (207) 236-2739

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Finally, MCHT believes that designation will provide a valuable tool to local communities, one they can use to choose their own future. Rather than weakening local control, designation will in fact provide local communities with a tool that helps them have more control over their own destiny.

Please support designation of the York River and its tributaries, and implementation of the Stewardship Plan.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. T. Glidden', written over a horizontal line.

William T. Glidden  
President



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge  
321 Port Road  
Wells, ME 04090

February 25, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott  
York River Study Committee Chair  
c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve  
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Chuck:

As a National Wildlife Refuge, Rachel Carson NWR is committed to conserving estuaries and rivers and the riparian habitat that borders them. The riverine salt marshes along the York River serve as essential habitat for many species of fish and wildlife including the saltmarsh sparrow. The saltmarsh sparrow is a salt marsh obligate that is currently experiencing steep population declines. The York River's riverine marsh system serves as critical refugia from the threats of sea-level rise and promotes successful reproduction of many rare and declining species.

The York River and watershed provide a variety of recreational opportunities for the community in addition to supporting healthy populations of smelt, herring, eel, lobster, and flounder. The watershed has a diversity of ecological communities including numerous freshwater wetlands and mixed hardwood forests. The Wild and Scenic designation of the York River would allow for recreational use and smart stewardship to continue side by side.

If a Wild and Scenic designation of York River occurs, it would ensure that stewardship and protection of this special river continues in perpetuity. In addition, Rachel Carson NWR strongly supports the implementation of the community-driven York River Watershed Stewardship Plan.

Sincerely,

**RYAN**  
**KLEINERT**

Digitally signed by  
RYAN KLEINERT  
Date: 2019.02.26  
15:26:03 -05'00'

Ryan Kleinert  
Acting Refuge Manager



*Serving the Municipalities of Southwestern Maine For Over 50 years*

---

January 8, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott  
York River Study Committee Chair  
c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve  
342 Laudholm Farm Road  
Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Chuck:

On behalf of the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC), I would like to add our enthusiastic support to the Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries and support implementation of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The partnership designation will help communities, including the four within our planning district boundaries, continue to protect the York River and the many exemplary resources contained in this coastal watershed.

SMPDC has been engaged with this project for a number of years, including an assessment of natural and cultural resource features and land use threats within the watershed. We came to realize first-hand how important the York River is to our region's character, quality of life, and economy. Within the most rapidly growing part of the state, the river's natural and historic resources have regional and national significance. Its clean water supports many recreational uses and provides healthy habitats for fish, birds, and other species. The working waterfront is important to the economy and cultural landscape. Watershed lands protect regional drinking water supplies. The local Stewardship Plan includes many options for a future stewardship committee and others to study, discuss, and implement to help protect these many watershed resources. SMPDC helped develop many of these options and they present an array of non-regulatory and land use recommendations that the towns may work on both jointly and individually.

SMPDC is very pleased that the designation and local stewardship plan have received strong endorsements throughout the four watershed communities, all of whom with which we have a strong working relationship. We support the York River Study Committee's request of our Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such an action would have long-lasting benefits for our river and watershed communities.

Sincerely,

Paul Schumacher  
Executive Director

---

110 Main Street, Suite 1400, Saco, ME 04072  
207.571-7065 Voice • 207.571-7068 Fax



wellsreserve

## Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

Research • Education • Stewardship

December 27, 2018

Charles A. Ott  
Chair, York River Study Committee  
29 Emus Way  
York ME 03909

Dear Chuck:

As a National Estuarine Research Reserve, our organization is all about estuaries and rivers and the land that borders them. We have worked with communities and groups to study and protect rivers from those that flow into the Piscataqua River that separates Maine and New Hampshire to the river systems of Casco Bay. We have been very active in the York River watershed for 20 years in habitat restoration, fisheries research, assessments of clean water, and land conservation.

While all rivers and estuaries interest us, some rise above others. And in southern Maine the York River is a standout. It is for this reason that we became engaged with citizens of York, Eliot, Kittery, and South Berwick to explore the National Park Service Partnership Wild and Scenic Program, to work on the York River Stewardship Plan as a member of the Study Committee, and to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service that helped fund the study.

On behalf of the Wells Reserve, I am expressing our strong support for the Partnership Wild and Scenic designation of the York River and its major tributaries. We further support the implementation of the community-driven York River Stewardship Plan.

The York River, along with Mt. Agamenticus, is one of southern Maine's defining features. Its waters are clean and flow to the sea in large part unencumbered from their origins high in the watershed at York Pond. The watershed has a diversity of habitats and ecological communities – extensive salt marshes, a mix of forest types and countless freshwater wetlands. Fish and wildlife abound.

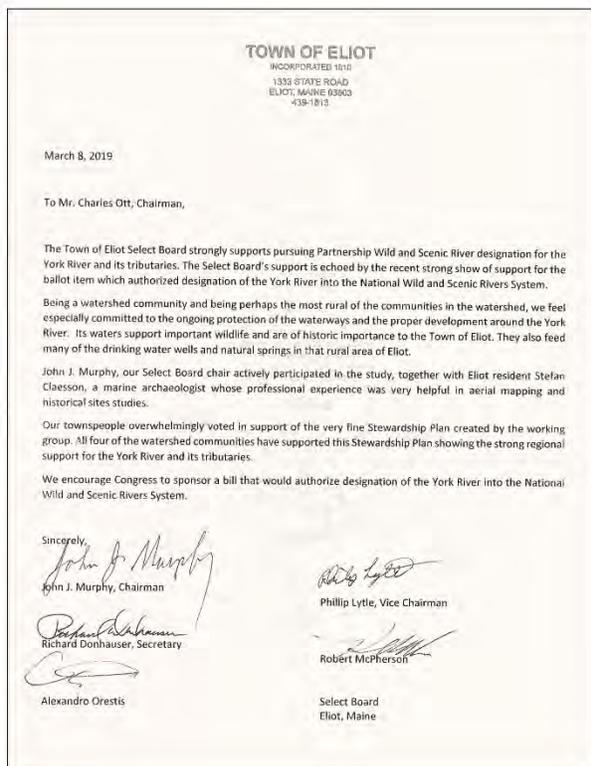
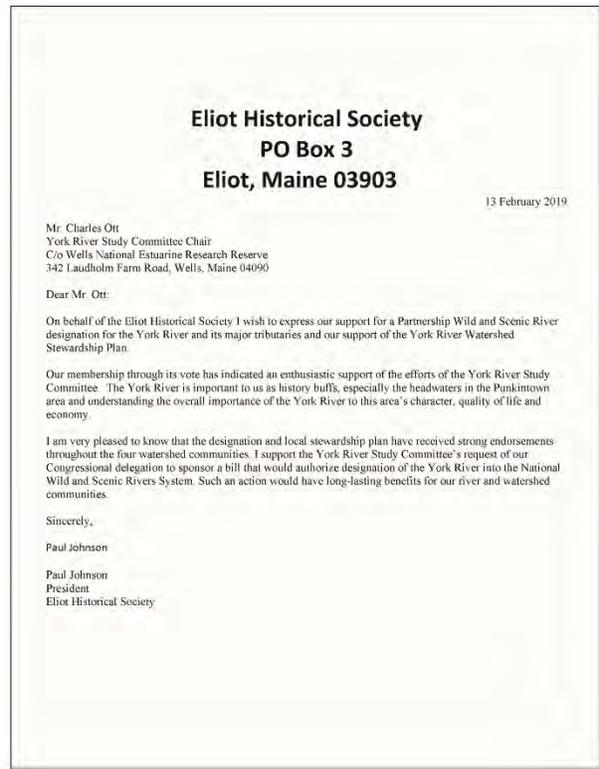
But it is not just its natural values that make it special: The York River is a resource appreciated and used by people for hundreds of years – from Native Americans on through the periods of European settlement, when the river served as a vital transportation link and source of industry. The beautiful historic buildings and the remnants of old granite dams found today along the river testify to the historic value of the York River. The river is still valued and is used today. It is important culturally and economically to the communities.

The Partnership Wild and Scenic designation is a rare opportunity to ensure the proper care and use of the river for many generations to come. We support the sponsorship of a bill by the Maine Congressional delegation, and I hope that it will pass in the upcoming Congress.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Dest  
Executive Director

## Appendix 2: Record of Endorsements and Support





**GREAT WORKS**  
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Wells  
Tom Smith

Director Emerita  
Virginia Keasch

Staff  
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Ryan Bonavia  
rbonavia@gwrlt.org

Stewardship Director  
David DeToro  
deto@gwrlt.org

Administration & Membership  
Patti Nichols  
pnichols@gwrlt.org

Office Assistant  
Jana Adams  
jana.adams@gwrlt.org

Outreach Coordinator  
Brenna Coopers  
bcoopers@gwrlt.org

January 7, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott  
York River Study Committee Chair  
c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve  
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Mr. Ott:

Great Works Regional Land Trust enthusiastically supports a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries and support implementation of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The partnership designation will help communities continue to protect the York River and the many exemplary resources contained in this coastal watershed.

York River is so important to our region's character, quality of life, and economy, and it is a treasure for all. Its natural and historic resources have regional and national significance. Its clean water supports many recreational uses and provides healthy habitats for fish, birds, and other species. The working waterfront is important to the economy and cultural landscape. Watershed lands protect regional drinking water supplies. The local Stewardship Plan includes many options for a future stewardship committee and others to study, discuss, and implement to help protect these many watershed resources.

It's significant that the designation and local stewardship plan have received strong endorsements throughout the four watershed communities. Great Works Regional Land Trust supports the York River Study Committee's request of our Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such an action would have long-lasting benefits for our river and watershed communities.

Sincerely,



Tom Gilmore  
President, Board of Directors

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 151, South Berwick, ME 03908  
Office: Beach Plum Farm, 610 Main Street, Ogunquit, ME 03907 info@gwrlt.org  
207-646-3604

Providing innovative options to landowners and communities in the Berwick, Dixit, Ogunquit & Wells since 1986.



**Town of Kittery, Maine**  
**Conservation Commission**  
P.O. Box 808, Kittery, Maine 03904

DATE: October 16, 2018

TO: Ken Lamoni, Town Council, Chair  
Kendra Amaral, Town Manager

FROM: Earledean Wells, Chairman

RE: York River Project

Judy Spiller, Kittery Representative to the York River Project, recently attended a Conservation Commission meeting to present another update on the Project's progress. Judy has kept us well informed throughout each step of the entire process.

During the meeting a motion was made for the Conservation Commission to write a letter endorsing the York River Project to the Kittery Town Council before their December, 2018 meeting when the Council will be deciding whether or not to also endorse this project. The motion was seconded and unanimously voted to agree to send our letter of endorsement and support of this project and to work with other town officials to secure the protection of Kittery's portion of the York River and of our valuable watershed.

Thank you for your kind attention.



**KITTERY LAND TRUST**

February 27, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott  
York River Study Committee Chair  
c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve  
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Mr. Ott:

On behalf of the Kittery Land Trust, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the designation of the York River and its major tributaries as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River and the implementation of the York River Wild and Scenic Stewardship Plan.

Partnership designation will help communities such as Kittery continue to protect the York River and the many exemplary resources contained in this coastal watershed.

York River is so important to our region's character, quality of life, and economy, and is a treasure for all. Its natural and historic resources have regional and national significance. Its clean water supports many recreational uses and provides healthy habitats for fish, birds, and other species. Watershed lands protect regional drinking water supplies. The local Stewardship Plan includes many options for a future stewardship committee and others to study, discuss, and implement to help protect these many watershed resources.

I was very pleased to see that the designation proposal and the local stewardship plan received strong endorsements throughout the four watershed communities. I support the York River Study Committee's request of our Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such an action would have long-lasting benefits for our river and communities.

Sincerely,



Christine Bennett, Executive Director

**Members of the Board of Directors**  
Katie Minton, President Bob Shoppard, Vice President Cynthia Perwick, Secretary  
William Brewster Alan Dearborn Ken Fellows Faith Harrington  
Shara Osborne Melissa Daly Christine Smith

Christine Bennett, Executive Director Cindy Kalliga, Administrative Assistant

Kittery Land Trust, Inc. P.O. Box 487 Kittery, ME 03944-0487 (207) 439-8090 www.kitterylandtrust.org



**TOWN OF KITTERY**  
Planning and Development  
200 Rogers Road, Kittery, ME 03904  
Telephone: 207-475-1307 Fax: 207-439-6806

TO: TOWN COUNCIL

FROM: PLANNING BOARD

SUBJECT: YORK RIVER DESIGNATION AS A PARTNERSHIP WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

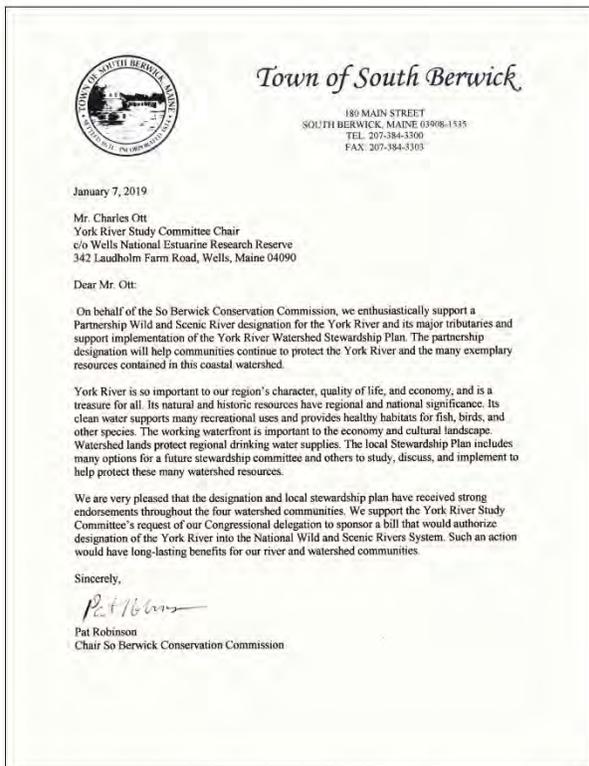
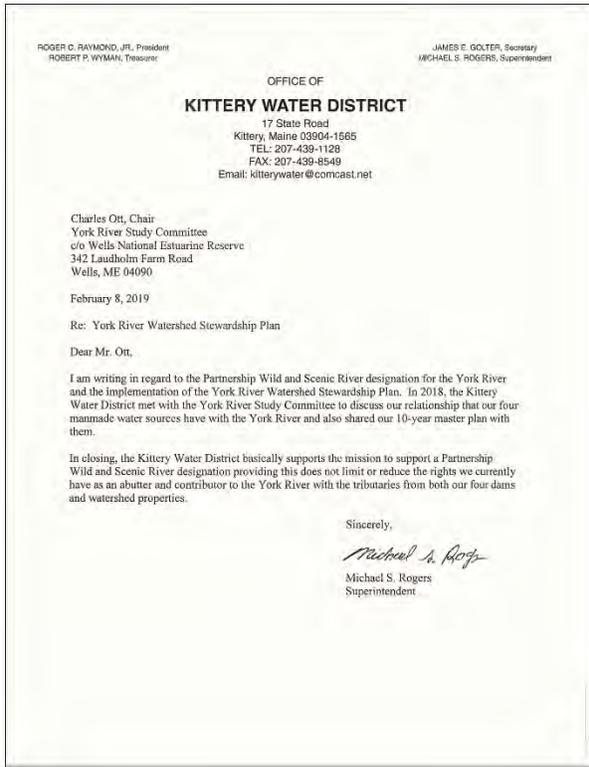
DATE: NOVEMBER 9, 2018

CC: KENDRA AMARAL, TOWN MANAGER; ADAM CAUSEY, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The Kittery Planning Board urges the Kittery Town Council to endorse the designation of the York River and its major tributaries as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River and support the accompanying stewardship plan. We view the York River watershed as vital to our region. The portion of the watershed in Kittery is subject to significant growth pressure and the federal funding accompanying designation could be used to help us evaluate responsible growth there. We do understand that the stewardship committee, required as part of designation and whose membership is appointed by each watershed community's governance body, may recommend measures to protect the river but that any proposed land use changes will still have to be approved by each community's governance body.

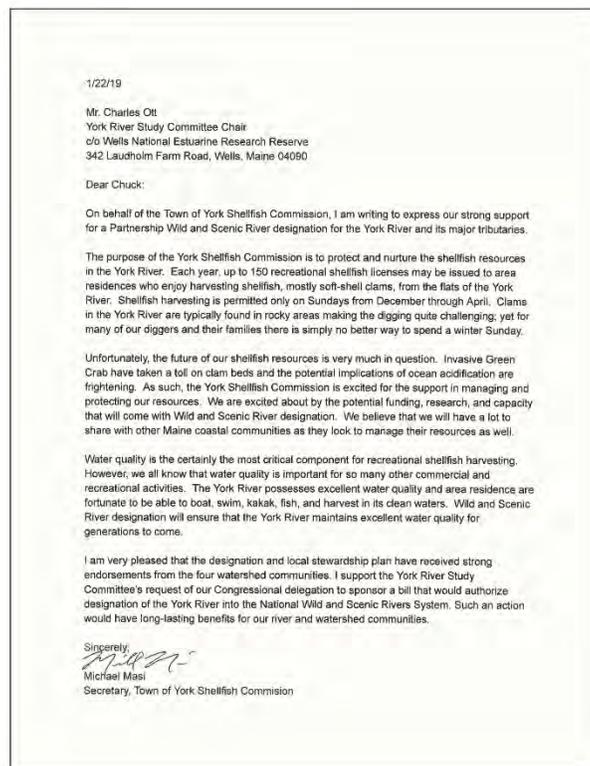
As read and unanimously adopted by the Planning Board on November 8, 2018.

Appendix 2: Record of Endorsements and Support





## Appendix 2: Record of Endorsements and Support



# Appendix 3: Examples of Wild and Scenic Study Outreach and Education

## **York River Study Committee Website**

June 2016 – Present:

*News and updates were regularly added; meeting minutes, notes, presentations, and final project reports were posted for review; events and activities were noted in the online calendar; background information was provided; outreach documents and materials were available; an overview video was on the home page; and a Stewardship Plan development page noted updates and provided access to draft documents. York River Study Committee documents and events were listed on the web-site and continue to be listed.*

## **York River Study Committee Meetings (monthly)**

*(Agenda and minutes available)*

March 2016 – March 2019

## **ORV Subcommittee Meetings and Presentations (monthly meetings)**

*(Meeting notes and presentations available)*

*February 13, 2018: Water Quality and Fish Habitat*

Presentations by Angela Brewer and Robert Mohlar from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection; Jake Aman, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve.

*November 9, 2017: Fish, Wildlife, and Habitats*

Presentations by Jake Aman from the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve; Amanda Shearin and Bill Hancock from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

*August 24, 2017: Cultural and Historic Resources*

Presentations by Gemma Hudgell, Stephen Scharoun, Steven Mallory, Scott Stevens, Tad Baker, Suzanne Petersen, and Dick Lord.

*June 20, 2017: Conservation Lands*

Presentations by Doreen MacGillis and Joe Anderson from the York Land Trust; Scott Lindsay from Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; Tom Gilmore from Great Works Regional Land Trust; Karen Young from Mount Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative; Ward Feurt from the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge (US Fish and Wildlife Service); Keith Fletcher from the Maine Coast Heritage Trust; Kim Richards from the Eliot Conservation Commission.

*May 11, 2017: Watershed Drinking Water Supplies*

Presentations from Karl Honkonen, a Forest Watershed Specialist with the US Forest Service, on Forests, Water and People; Mike Rogers, Superintendent for the Kittery Water District, on Kittery Water District water supplies; Gary Stevens, Resource Protection Manager with the York Water District, on Resource Protection Program.

*April 26, 2017: Working Waterfront and Tidal Water Recreation*

Presentations by Claire Enterline from the Maine Coastal Program on the York working waterfront; Dylan Smith, the Town of York Planning Director, on Town Goals and Priorities for Marine Uses; David Webber, the

## Appendix 3: Outreach and Education Examples

York Harbor Board Chair, and Drew Donovan, Assistant Harbor Master, on York Harbor Priorities and Observations; and Cindy Donnell from the York River Study Committee on York Harbor Use and Economic Value.

### *March 30, 2017: Infrastructure*

Presentations by Alex Abbott from the US Fish and Wildlife Service on Maine Stream Smart Program; Jake Aman from the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve on the Maine Stream Connectivity Work Group and stream crossings; Jim MacCartney from the NPS on eligibility criteria for Wild and Scenic River designation; Judy Gates from the Maine Department of Transportation on Workplan Process and Priorities.

### *March 7, 2017: Water Quality*

Presentations by Teri Dane from the Maine Department of Marine Resources on the Shellfish Sanitation Program; Angela Brewer from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection Marine Unit on Water Quality.

### *January 31, 2017: Saltmarsh and Sea Level Rise*

Presentations by Kristen Puryear from Maine Natural Areas Program; Jeremy Gabrielson from Maine Coast Heritage Trust on Salt Marsh Mapping and Analysis.

## **Media Releases**

October 2018: Speaker Announcement

September 2018: Learn More about Partnership Wild and Scenic River Designation for the York River

June 2018: Draft *York River Watershed Stewardship Plan* Released

December 2017: Designation Recommendation and Upcoming Presentations

June 2017: Public Walking Tours, Watershed Research, and Efforts to Preserve Working Waterfront

## **Final Reports**

*York River Watershed Stewardship Plan* StoryMap by Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve: <https://arcg.is/njfP9>

*An Assessment of Spring Fish Communities in the York River, Maine: Report to the York River Study Committee*; Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, December 2017.

*Architectural Survey of the Upper York River: For the York River Study Committee*; Groundroot Preservation Group, November 2017.

*Archaeological Survey of the York River Headwaters: A Community Approach for Identification and Management*; Northeast Archaeology Research Center, December 2017.

*York River Watershed Study Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Recommendations Report*; Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission and Spatial Alternatives, June 2018.

*York Watershed Build-Out Scenarios*; Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission and Spatial Alternatives, June 2018.

Story Map by Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission and Spatial Alternatives: <http://arcg.is/C1e8O>

## **Information and Outreach Materials**

Letter to York River Watershed Residents (October 2018)

Maritime History Speaker Flyer (October 2018)

Designation Recommendation / Overview (updated September 2018)

Frequently Asked Questions on York Wild and Scenic Study (updated May 2018)

Walking Tours Flyer (July 2017)

Archaeology Survey Flyer (June 2017)

Archaeological and Architectural History Survey for the York River Headwaters, Presentation by Gemma Hudgell, Northeast Archaeology Research Center presented at the Eliot Historical Society monthly meeting (April 10, 2017)

Educational Video on the York River (May 2017)

*A brief educational video overviews the York River watershed and its values, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and directs viewers to the study website for additional information.*

Letter and Map to Landowners in the Historic Resources Survey Area (March 2017)

Overview of the York River Study and the NPS Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program: York River Study Factsheet

Public Input Poster on York River Watershed Resources

Postcard mailing announcing fall 2016 events (September 2016)

York River Study Committee Listening Session: Agenda, Study Committee List and Watershed Map, York River Watershed Report List, & Presentations (June 20, 2016)

### **Community Presentations by the York River Study Committee/Coordinator:**

Presentation to Kittery Town Council, (October 24, 2016 & December 11, 2017)

Presentation to the Eliot Select Board (December 8, 2016 & December 2017)

Presentation to the South Berwick Town Council (November 1, 2016 & November 2017)

Presentation to the York Board of Selectman (October 2016, October 2017, May 2018, & June 2018)

Community Forums (June and October 2016)

Presentation to the South Berwick Conservation Commission (October 2017)

Presentation to the York Harbor Board (December 2017)

Presentation to the York Historic District Commission (June 2018)

Presentation to the Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick and York Planning Boards (May & June 2018)

Presentations to the York Lobsterman's Association, Great Works Regional Land Trust, Eliot Historical Society, York Rotary, and York High School students in three marine science classes.

Presentations at Atlantic Design Center, Eliot Conservation Commission Speaker Series, and Kittery Land Trust Stewardship Committee.

### **Education and Outreach Events**

Watershed Walks (July 2017):

*The Study Committee conducted two different watershed walks to connect citizens to the history and habitats of the York River watershed. Walks were fully subscribed, with over 25 participants for each event.*

Public Participation in Diadromous Fish and Archaeology Surveys (Spring 2017):

*The Study Committee invited hands-on citizen participation in two of the projects it commissioned. York High School students participated in the diadromous fish survey conducted by Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve in spring 2017, and 28 citizen volunteers participated in the June 2017 four-day dig that was part of the archaeological*

## Appendix 3: Outreach and Education Examples

*survey conducted by Northeast Archaeology Research Center. The Study Committee and its contractors for the historic resources surveys met with the Eliot Historical Society at three of its monthly meetings from October 2016 to January 2018 to get input and provide results from the surveys. All landowners in the historic resources survey area were mailed a letter and invited to attend an informational meeting about the surveys.*

Informational Tables at the community events, including York Marketfest, Eliot Festival Days, community markets, and at Eliot and York voting centers (2016-2018)

York River Study Committee Email List:  
*The Study Coordinator maintained an email list with over 300 email addresses. Emails sent generally monthly provided updates on meetings, reports, events, and Stewardship Plan development.*

### **York River Study in the News**

Year in Review: Smooth waters after choppy year for York River, *York Weekly / Seacoast Online*  
(January 1, 2019)

So. Berwick council endorses York River designation, *Portsmouth Herald / Seacoast Online*  
(December 12, 2018)

Kittery supports York River Wild and Scenic designation, *Portsmouth Herald / Seacoast Online*  
(November 27, 2018)

Kittery Town Council hears pitch from York River committee, *Portsmouth Herald / Seacoast Online* (November 16, 2018)

Kittery, South Berwick up next in York River designation, *York Weekly / Seacoast Online* (November 13, 2018)

York River measure passes overwhelmingly, *York Weekly / Seacoast Online*  
(November 6, 2018)

Editorial: YES on 2 for York River's Future, *York Weekly / Seacoast Online*  
(October 30, 2018)

Passions rise on York River wild and scenic ballot measure, *York Weekly / Seacoast Online*  
(October 23, 2018)

Harbor Board endorses stewardship plan, *York Weekly / Seacoast Online*  
(September 18, 2018)

Editorial: 3 selectmen to be lauded for Wild and Scenic River vote, *York Weekly / Seacoast Online*  
(August 28, 2018)

Divided board puts York River plan on ballot in November, *York Weekly / Seacoast Online*  
(August 28, 2018)

Selectmen hold public hearing on York River plan, *York Weekly / Seacoast Online*  
(August 14, 2018)

Hearing Monday on York River plan, *York Weekly / Seacoast Online*  
(August 7, 2018)

Selectmen praise management plan for York River, *York Weekly / Seacoast Online*  
(June 26, 2018)

Study: York River healthy, resilient, *York Weekly / Seacoast Online*  
(June 19, 2018)

York River study work winding down, *York Weekly/Seacoast Online*  
(June 6, 2018)

York River committee seeks KEYS region input, *York Weekly/Seacoast Online*  
(May 11, 2018)

York River Study looks at housing development, *York Weekly/Seacoast Online*

## Appendix 3: Outreach and Education Examples

(April 10, 2018)

York River panel seeks wild and scenic designation, *York Weekly/Seacoast Online* (January 1, 2018)

Movers and Shakers: Stewards of the York River, *York Weekly* (December 27, 2017)

York River and watershed alive and well, *Seacoast Online* (November 12, 2017)

York River committee enters final year of study, *York Weekly/Seacoast Online* (October 16, 2017)

Committee looks at past, present and future of York River, *York Weekly/Seacoast Online* (October 10, 2017)

York River archaeological sites 'pretty amazing', *York Weekly/Seacoast Online* (August 30, 2017)

Understanding York River through walking tours, *York Weekly/Seacoast Online* (July 4, 2017)

Discovering the past one shard at a time, *York Weekly/Seacoast Online* (June 27, 2017)

YHS students study fish species in York River, *York Weekly/Seacoast Online* (May 9, 2017)

York River talks focus on harbor dredge, overuse, *York Weekly/Seacoast Online* (May 1, 2017)

York River study to delve into Eliot's archaeology, *Portsmouth Herald/Seacoast Online* (April 13, 2017)

Two studies of York River soon underway, *York Weekly/Seacoast Online* (January 31, 2017)

Kudos for community connections, *Seacoast Online Editorial* (January 31, 2017)

'Education not regulation' of York River, *Seacoast Online* (October 25, 2016)

York River committee updates residents on its work, *Seacoast Online* (June 20, 2016)

York River watershed worthy of federal study, *Seacoast Online Editorial* (March 29, 2016)

Four-town committee works to preserve York River watershed, *Portsmouth Herald* (March 27, 2016)

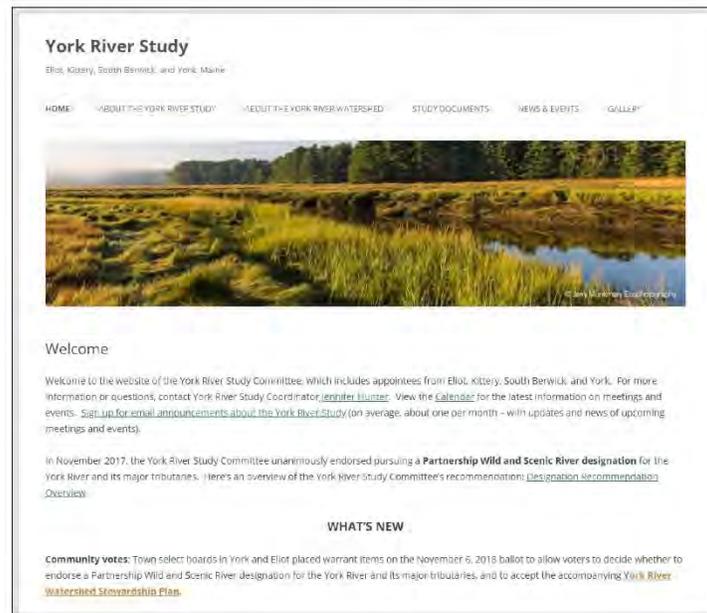
York River study committee starts meeting, *Seacoast Online* (December 1, 2015)

Study begins of York River, 'stunning natural resource,' *Bangor Daily News* (September 2, 2015)

Maine's humble York River moves into spotlight, *Portland Press Herald* (March 10, 2014)

## Appendix 3: Outreach and Education Examples

### York River Study Committee Website



### York River Study Committee Media Releases

**Media Contacts:**  
Jennifer Hunter, York River Study Coordinator  
207-641-9122, [jh.yorkriver@gmail.com](mailto:jh.yorkriver@gmail.com)  
Chuck Ott, York River Study Committee Chair  
207-332-9288, [cott1@maine-rr.com](mailto:cott1@maine-rr.com)

**For Immediate Release: June 18, 2018**

**York River Study Committee  
Draft York River Watershed Stewardship Plan Released**

ELIOT, KITTERY, SOUTH BERWICK & YORK – The York River Study Committee invites feedback on its recently released Draft York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The Stewardship Plan is a voluntary guidance document that provides recommendations and strategies to support the work of communities, conservation organizations, community groups and individuals interested in the long-term protection of the York River and its watershed resources. The York River watershed is the area of land in parts of York, Eliot, Kittery and South Berwick from which water flows to the York River, either directly or first to a tributary stream that eventually flows to the York River.

The Stewardship Plan characterizes the many resources and values that make this watershed special, such as the historic buildings and structures, archaeological heritage, working waterfront, scenic views, wildlife habitat, rare plants and animals, and clean water. The Stewardship Plan identifies wide-ranging stewardship actions that are intended to protect or enhance important resources for current and future generations. To develop the plan, the York River Study Committee reviewed existing watershed reports and data, the four towns' comprehensive plans, other state and regional plans and programs related to watershed resources, and new data from recent studies. In addition, the Study Committee sought extensive input from resource experts, town boards and committees, conservation and preservation groups, state agency representatives, and towns' citizens through many meetings, presentations, and discussions.

The draft Stewardship Plan can be viewed and downloaded from the York River Study website: <http://www.YorkRiverMaine.org>. The York River Study Committee requests comments, questions, corrections, or other feedback on the draft plan by July 6, 2018. Email or call Study Coordinator Jennifer Hunter ([jh.yorkriver@gmail.com](mailto:jh.yorkriver@gmail.com) or 207-641-9122) or come to the June 26 York River Study Committee meeting, 5:30-7:30 pm at the Grant House (200 US Route 1, York) to learn more or provide your input in person to the Study Committee.

Development of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan is a culmination of the three-year York River Wild and Scenic Study to evaluate a possible designation for the York River and its major tributaries into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Later this year, the York River Study Committee will be seeking endorsement from the four watershed towns to pursue a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries. Designation would provide the financial resources, technical assistance, and local administrative structure to help implement recommendations in the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. Information on the York River Wild and Scenic Study is available on the website: <http://www.YorkRiverMaine.org>.

**Media Contact:**  
Jennifer Hunter, York River Study Coordinator  
207-641-9122, [jh.yorkriver@gmail.com](mailto:jh.yorkriver@gmail.com)

**For Immediate Release: September 3, 2018**

**Learn More about Partnership Wild and Scenic River Designation for the York River**

In November, voters in York and Eliot will be asked to decide whether to pursue a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In Kittery and South Berwick, the town councils will be asked to decide.

The York River Study Committee consists of volunteers appointed by the four York River watershed towns of York, Kittery, Eliot and South Berwick. The committee has been studying and evaluating river designation eligibility for almost three years, and it developed a York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The plan is a voluntary guide documenting the many important values of the river: its rich history, diverse habitats, clean water, commercially-important working waterfront, scenic qualities, and recreational activities. It identifies opportunities and includes recommendations to preserve the health and beauty of the river so that it will continue to be a source of community pride well into the future.

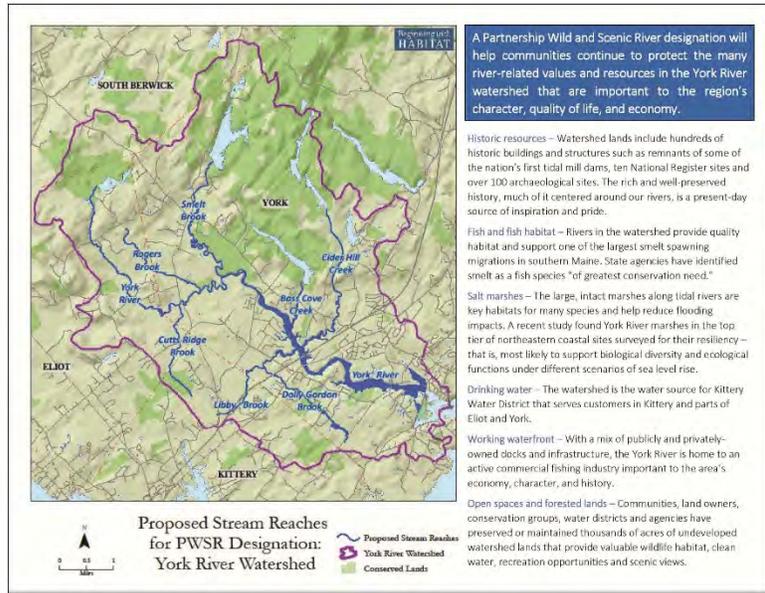
The York River Study Committee recommends that residents in York and Eliot vote in support of endorsing designation and accepting the Stewardship Plan. The designation and the Stewardship Plan are complementary. A locally-approved plan must be in place and there must be community support for the U.S. Congress to consider a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River.

Prior to voting, the York River Study Committee invites all community residents to learn more about the work the committee has undertaken to help inform and create the plan, as well as the many benefits this designation could bring to our communities. Listed below are some opportunities:

- Read the Stewardship Plan and other information on the committee's website: [www.YorkRiverMaine.org](http://www.YorkRiverMaine.org)
- Attend or watch the September 13 Eliot Select Board meeting, starting at 5:30 p.m. for a brief update.
- Attend a public presentation at Atlantic Design Center/Eldredge Lumber, 627 US Route 1, York at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 15.
- Visit the Study Committee's table at York Village Marketfest on Saturday, September 22.
- Attend an upcoming Study Committee monthly meeting to ask questions: Tuesday, September 25 or Tuesday, October 23. Both meetings start at 5:30 p.m. at Grant House, 200 US Route 1, York.
- Visit the Study Committee's table at Eliot Festival Day on Saturday, September 29.

These and other events are posted on the York River Study website calendar. For additional information or questions, email or call the York River Study Coordinator: [jh.yorkriver@gmail.com](mailto:jh.yorkriver@gmail.com) or 207-641-9122.

*Media Release: Proposed Stream Reaches for Partnership Wild and Scenic River Designation (front)*



*Media Release: Proposed Stream Reaches for PWSR Designation (back)*

*Public Walking Tours, Watershed Research, and Efforts to Preserve Working Waterfront*

**PWSR Designation**

The York River Study Committee supports a **Partnership Wild and Scenic River (PWSR)** designation for the York River and its major tributaries (see map on reverse side).

The designation recommendation for York River and its major tributaries mirrors the Committee's overall watershed approach to protecting river-related resources. The interconnections of the lands and rivers collectively contribute to the many values that make this watershed special.

PWSR designation is accompanied by annual funding from the National Park Service to a local watershed committee to carry out its Stewardship Plan. Many local river committees throughout the northeast are successfully implementing their plans under this PWSR model, including the Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee in southern New Hampshire.

A PWSR designation expressly prohibits the National Park Service from owning land or imposing any land use regulations on watershed lands as a result of designation.

**Stewardship Plan**

A stewardship plan is developed based on extensive study of the river's values. The **York River Watershed Stewardship Plan** will characterize the watershed resources, threats and strategies for long-term protection.

The Stewardship Plan will include the watershed's extensive natural resources, cultural and historic resources, economic resources and other values important to community character.

The Stewardship Plan is advisory. It will identify recommendations and actions intended to maintain watershed values and resources for future generations.

A locally approved Stewardship Plan must be in place before a river can be designated as a PWSR in the national system. Each watershed community will decide on whether to adopt the plan.

**Timeline**

- Dec 2014** – US Congress authorizes the York River Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, to evaluate the York River for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
- Dec 2015** – Federal funding provided; local study begins
- Nov 2017** – York River Study Committee endorses designating York River and its major tributaries in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, as a PWSR, subject to communities' approval
- Early 2018** – York River Study Committee, with continued community input, will develop a York River Watershed Stewardship Plan
- Nov & Dec 2018** – Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick and York will vote on adoption of the Stewardship Plan and a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for York River watershed rivers
- 2019** – Depending on outcomes of community votes, additional Congressional action and federal legislation would be required for PWSR designation for the York River and its major tributaries

December 2017 Visit [www.YorkRiverMaine.org](http://www.YorkRiverMaine.org) for more information.

**Learn about the history and habitats of the York River**

**Join York River Study Committee members on a watershed walking tour starting at 4:30 p.m. Pre-registration required.**

**Thursday July 13 — York's working waterfront, past and present**

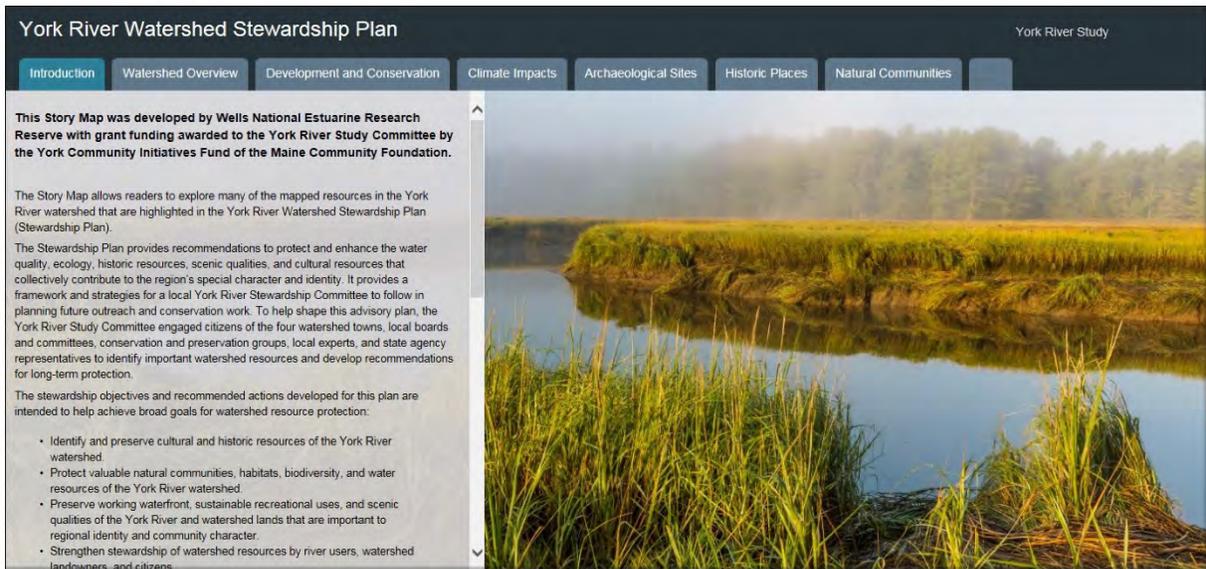
Curator Mary Harding will speak about the history of the George Marshall Store Gallery and the John Hancock Warehouse, two of Old York's properties with early ties to the river. Lobsterman Jeff Donnell will speak about York's commercial fishing operations and working waterfront, including Hancock Wharf and Sewall's Dock. Old York's executive director Joel LeJeune will guide attendees through Steedman Woods, highlighting some early business ventures that altered the banks of the river. **Park at York Golf and Tennis Club**, walk across Lindsay Road, and meet at the George Marshall Store Gallery. The walk covers about a mile along the shoulder of the road and Steedman Woods trails.

**Thursday July 20 — York River habitats at Smelt Brook Preserve**

York Land Trust stewardship director Jae Anderson will discuss the diverse habitats of the preserve, including salt marshes and ongoing efforts to monitor and manage this important habitat in light of sea level rise. A Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve biologist will discuss the recently conducted fish study and what some of the findings tell us about the condition of the York River. **Park at York Land Trust's Highland Farm Preserve**, accessed from Route 91 about 1 mile west of the intersection with Scotland Bridge Road. The walk covers about 1.5 miles on the Smelt Brook Preserve Riverview Trail.

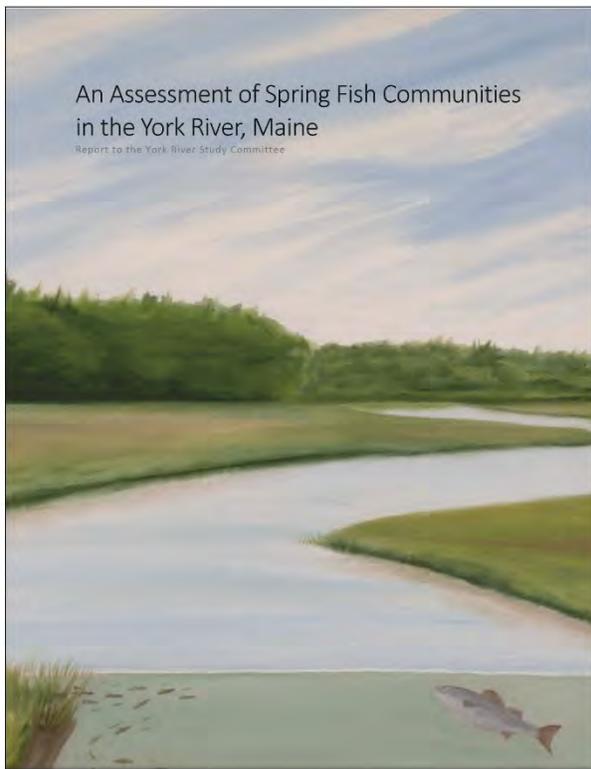
The walks will begin at 4:30 and last up to 90 minutes. The walks are free, but **registration is required** and spaces are limited. Email or call York River Study Coordinator Jennifer Hunter at [jh.yorkriver@gmail.com](mailto:jh.yorkriver@gmail.com) or (207)641-9122 to register. Visit [www.YorkRiverMaine.org](http://www.YorkRiverMaine.org) for more information.

Appendix 3: Outreach and Education Examples

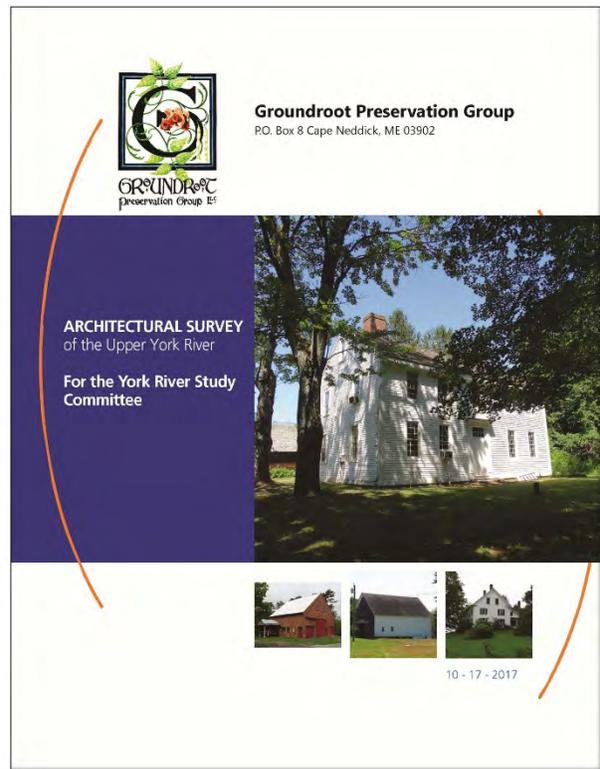


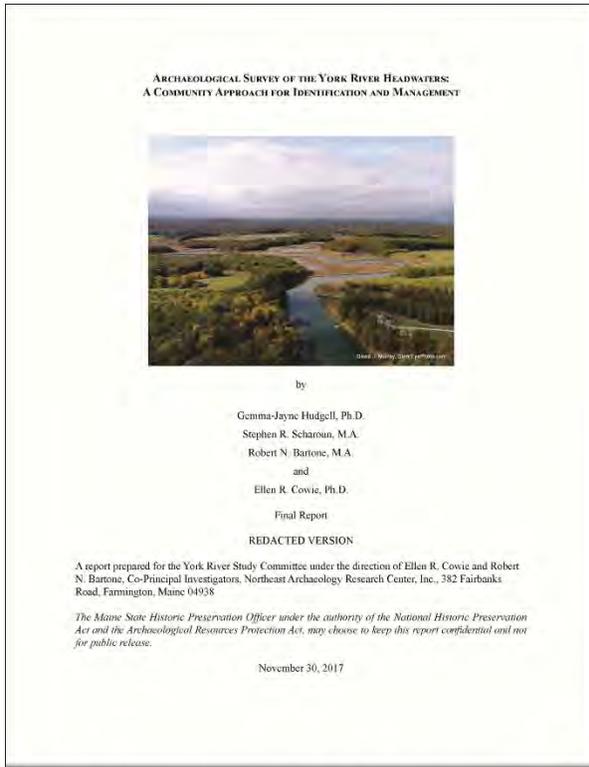
*York River Watershed Stewardship Plan StoryMap  
(online) by Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve*

*An Assessment of Spring Fish  
Communities in the York River*

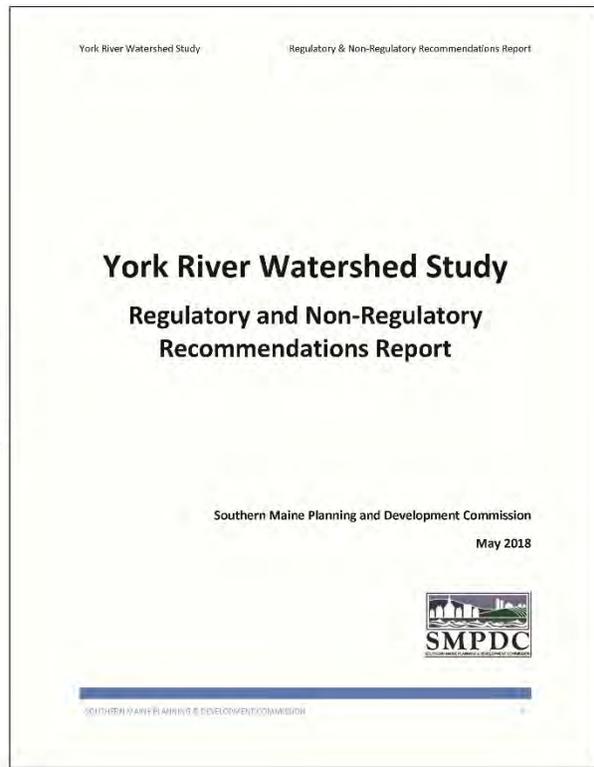


*Architectural Survey of  
the Upper York River*

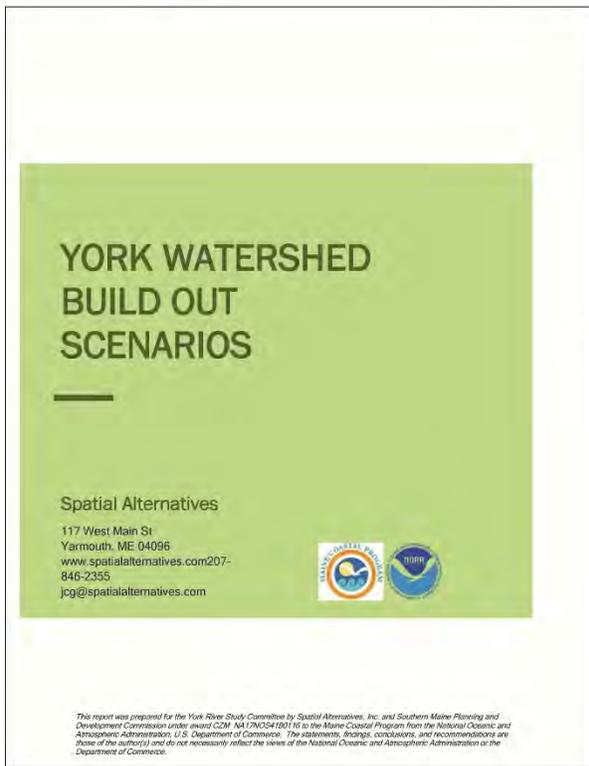




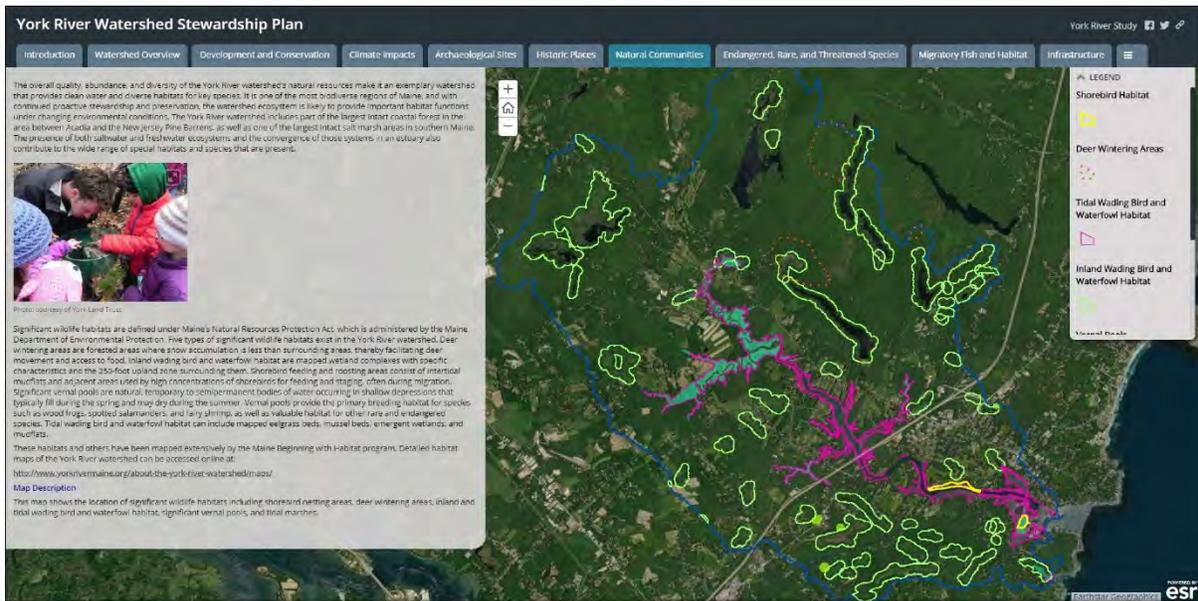
*York River Watershed Study Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Recommendations Report*



*York Watershed Build-Out Scenarios*



## Appendix 3: Outreach and Education Examples



Story Map (online) by Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission and Spatial Alternatives

Letter to Town of York Residents (October 2018)

Maritime History Speaker Flyer (October 2018)

**PROTECT YORK RIVER: IT BELONGS TO ALL OF US**

October 2018

Dear Fellow Citizen,

The **York River Watershed Stewardship Plan** can be found on our website: [www.YorkRiverMaine.org](http://www.YorkRiverMaine.org) – right on the home page. There are also copies at town hall and York Public Library. The plan contains detailed information, confirming the following:

- The York River, with its clean water and exemplary historic, ecological, economic and cultural resources, is **eligible for a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation**.
- The Stewardship Plan is advisory, not regulatory, and it ensures local control.
- The National Park Service may **not** acquire land in the designated area, and the river will **continue to be governed by local ordinances and state law**. The river and surrounding lands will **not** be managed by the National Park Service.
- Designation will bring many opportunities for funding to help implement the plan.
- Designation can enhance property values and **sustain economic activities**.
- The Stewardship Plan identifies threats to the river (e.g., loss of critical habitat, spread of invasive species, overuse, sea level rise, increased population growth and over development) and offers proactive recommendations to address those threats.
- Designation and implementation of the Stewardship Plan will **provide the framework to engage more citizens in river protection**.

This plan has won near universal praise. The York Harbor Board and the York Lobstermen's Association executive committee have endorsed it unanimously.

Designation as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River is a distinction that less than 0.1% of U.S. rivers enjoy. We believe the York River and its citizens are worthy of this honor.

The river is in remarkably good shape because of the engaged citizens who went before us. Now it is our turn! Let's be faithful to their efforts by protecting the river for the generations that follow us.

If you have questions about the Stewardship Plan or the York River Study Committee's recommendation to pursue Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation – **ARTICLE 2 on York's November ballot** for your consideration, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Chuck Ott, Committee Chair, 207-332-9298	Thom Kearns, 508-221-8003
Karen Arseneault, 207-363-7938	Joan LeBlanc, 207-361-1018
Cindy Donnell, 207-337-5558	Mike Masi, 603-969-3395

*The York River Study Committee invites students and community members to this free event to learn about our regional maritime history and relevance to current stewardship opportunities.*

**A Watery Kingdom Transformed**  
*York River and the Piscataqua Region Through Time*

In this richly illustrated talk, Professor Jeff Bolster reconstructs centuries of the human and ecological history of our region. It is a tantalizing tale, from the retreat of the glaciers to Native settlement, English arrival, and the fishing, lumbering, sheep-raising, manufacturing, tourism, and suburbanization that defined this place in different eras. Now, with increasing human population and pressure on local ecosystems, the York River and other waterways face distinctive challenges. With its attention to the backstory, this provocative presentation provides perspective on the issues we face.

**Thursday, October 4, 2018, starting at 6:30 p.m.**  
**York Community Auditorium, York High School, 1 Robert Stevens Drive**  
*Introduction by Michael Masi, marine science teacher and York River Study Committee member*

Professor Jeff Bolster recently retired from the History Department at UNH. A prize-winning author of numerous books and articles, he is best-known locally as editor of *Cross-Grained and Wily Waters: A Guide to the Piscataqua Maritime Region*.

For more information on the York River Wild and Scenic Study:  
[www.YorkRiverMaine.org](http://www.YorkRiverMaine.org)

**Frequently Asked Questions – York River Wild and Scenic Study**  
York River Study Committee, updated May 2018  
[www.YorkRiverMaine.org](http://www.YorkRiverMaine.org)

**What is the York River Wild and Scenic Study?**  
The York River Wild and Scenic Study, which Congress authorized in December 2014, directs the National Park Service (NPS) and a local committee comprised of town-appointed members from the watershed communities to consider whether the York River is eligible and suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. One of the study products will be a locally developed watershed stewardship plan to guide river conservation that communities can voluntarily implement. The study is funded by NPS.

**What is the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System?**  
Under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, enacted by Congress in 1968, a river that possesses **outstandingly remarkable** scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values can be designated into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System to preserve the river and its special values for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. As of December 2014 (the last designation), there are 208 Wild and Scenic Rivers in the National System, totaling 12,709 miles in 40 US states and Puerto Rico. A subset called Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers are designated rivers that flow through privately owned lands, not federally owned lands. Working in partnership with the National Park Service, communities protect their own outstanding river and river-related resources.

**What will the Stewardship Plan include?**  
The Stewardship Plan, prepared by local stakeholders collaborating with regional experts and drawing from extensive community input, will include the entire York River watershed. It will document watershed resources (natural, cultural, historic, recreational and scenic) and water quality; and will identify **voluntarily** locally-determined actions and strategies to protect or enhance resources that are valued by the watershed communities. The watershed stewardship plan will characterize threats and potential impacts to resources and include recommendations to preserve resources for present and future generations.

**What happens when the Study and Stewardship Plan are complete?**  
Each watershed community will consider whether and how to adopt the voluntary, locally-developed watershed stewardship plan. Each watershed community will consider and vote on whether to petition Congress that the York River be designated as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River. The National Park Service, with assistance from the Study Committee, will prepare and submit to Congress a Study Report that presents findings about the qualities making the York River eligible for designation and the level of community support for designation as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Congress may then enact legislation designating the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Regardless of the river designation decision by communities or Congress, the stewardship plan has value as a coordinated plan of action to protect important watershed resources.

**What are the benefits of Wild and Scenic River designation?**

- Provides access to National Park Service funding and expertise to implement a locally-developed watershed stewardship plan
- Provides ongoing capacity and structure to work at a watershed scale
- Helps leverage additional resources to implement the watershed stewardship plan
- Documents the unique values of the river and elevates local awareness of important watershed resources and stewardship opportunities
- Assures local voice in managing resources

**What are some nearby examples of designated Wild and Scenic Rivers?**  
Lamprey River (NH), Sudbury, Assabet and Concord rivers (MA), Upper Missisquoi and Trout rivers (VT). For a complete list, visit [www.rivers.gov](http://www.rivers.gov)

**What is a Partnership Wild and Scenic River?**  
Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers predominantly flow through private, municipal, or state lands, with little or no federal land ownership. Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers are administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service (NPS) in partnership with local governments and non-governmental organizations. Communities protect their Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers and related resources through a collaborative approach, often supported by cooperative agreements with the NPS.

**What are the features of a Partnership Wild and Scenic River?**

- River and land use management continues to be governed by existing local and state laws and regulations, the same as prior to designation
- An advisory stewardship plan, which is locally developed through a participatory process and approved by watershed communities, guides river conservation actions
- No National Park Service (NPS) land ownership or land management is associated with the designation
- Administration is through a local advisory committee consisting of members from the watershed communities, local partner organizations, and state and federal agencies
- Nationally-designated river status, anchored by NPS funding, leverages additional federal, state, local, and private funding to implement the local stewardship plan
- NPS reviews federally-assisted water resource projects to protect the river's outstanding resources

**What doesn't a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation do?**

- Does not put land under federal control
- Does not require public access to private land
- Does not force any changes in local land use decision-making or local ordinances
- Does not create new federal permits or regulations
- Does not change any existing land uses
- Does not prevent access to or use of the river or watershed lands
- Does not affect hunting and fishing laws

**How would designation affect my property if I own land on the river or in the watershed?**  
Local land use and property ownership is unaffected, existing state and local regulations that affect land use and development remain in effect. Regular community processes for adopting, implementing, and enforcing land use ordinances are followed, regardless of river designation and watershed stewardship plan adoption.

**What financial or other obligations are required by supporting river designation?**  
The first step in supporting river designation is development and adoption of a watershed stewardship plan, which includes voluntary recommendations intended to protect or enhance resources and water quality. No financial commitment is required from communities to support river designation or to adopt a stewardship plan. If a river is designated, each town supporting designation would appoint members to serve on a local advisory committee (similar in structure to the current Study Committee) that would coordinate future stewardship plan implementation projects and raise awareness of river issues to help protect river values.

**How does the York River Study, or potential river designation, affect dredging of the York Harbor?**  
The York River Study Committee endorses maintenance dredging of the York Harbor in support of the federal navigation project that dates back to 1885. Designation of the York River into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System would in no way preclude or interfere with maintenance dredging for the existing York Harbor federal navigation project. Dredging is listed as a key action in the Stewardship Plan to support and enhance community-valued commercial and recreational uses of the river.

**How do I find out more information?**  
More information is available on the York River Study Committee's website: [www.YorkRiverMaine.org](http://www.YorkRiverMaine.org). Anyone interested in learning more or providing input is invited to attend monthly Study Committee meetings. Questions and comments can be emailed to the Study Coordinator at [JH.YorkRiver@gmail.com](mailto:JH.YorkRiver@gmail.com).

*Frequently Asked Questions on York Wild and Scenic Study  
(updated May 2018)*

**Be an archaeologist for the day!**

**The York River Study Committee  
and the Northeast Archaeology Research Center**

*Invite You to Join Them for an*

**Archaeological Survey  
of the York River Headwaters**

*Saturday through Tuesday  
June 24<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup> (weather permitting)  
8 am - 4 pm  
Free and Open to the Public*



David J. Murray, Cited4yehot.com

The survey work will focus on locations where it might be possible to find archaeological sites. Activities will include mapping and the excavation of "test pits".

**BRING: sturdy boots, gloves, bug spray, sun hat, water, lunch, and enthusiasm!**

**Location:**  
Various properties along the upper reaches of the York River (above Scotland Bridge), with landowner permission. Particular daily location TBD.

**For more information,**  
call NE ARC 207-860-4032, or email [nearc@nearcarchaeology.com](mailto:nearc@nearcarchaeology.com) web site [www.nearcarchaeology.com](http://www.nearcarchaeology.com) Also find us on Facebook

*Walking Tours Flyer  
(July 2017)*

# Appendix 3: Outreach and Education Examples

## York River Study

### ELIOT, KITTERY, SOUTH BERWICK AND YORK

March 14, 2017

Dear York River watershed landowners,

I am writing to you on behalf of the York River Study Committee (see below) to let you know of an exciting project that will be taking place in your area of the York River watershed. As part of our three-year study to identify and evaluate outstanding values in and around the river, our group has identified cultural resources as an important element of the York River's history. We hired the project team of Northeast Archaeology Research Center, Inc. and Groundroot Preservation Group, LLC to conduct archaeological and architectural history surveys, respectively. The goal is to document and learn more about important prehistoric and historic archaeological sites as well as historic buildings, landscapes, and structures.

An area of about 2,000 acres in parts of Eliot and York along the upper York River and around York Pond has been identified as likely containing important above ground and below ground historical resources. A map of the survey area is shown on the back of this letter. A project team member may contact you seeking permission for access to your property to conduct visual surveys, either from roads and driveways or by walking over your land. The project team will not access any property without landowner permission.

The project team is planning a four-day archaeology dig in June in four to eight locations identified as priorities. We plan to involve five or six community volunteers each day. Community participation is an important element of our study to help build awareness of river-related resources. **We invite you to learn more about the project when we meet to discuss it with the Eliot Historical Society at its April 10, 2017 meeting at 7:00 PM at the Grange Hall, 1412 State Road in Eliot.**

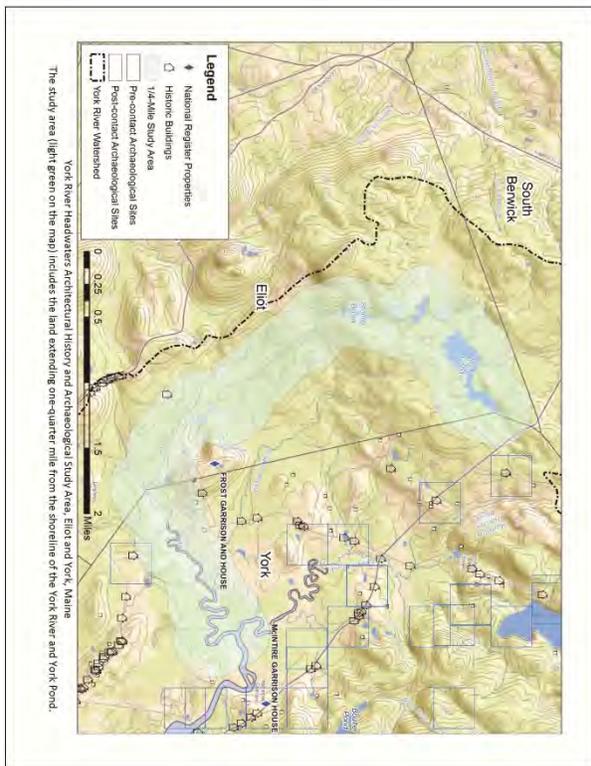
Information gathered from the surveys ultimately will be used by the Study Committee in developing a watershed management plan and evaluating the eligibility of the York River for designation in the national Wild and Scenic River system. Project findings will be shared with the towns and with local historical societies and presented in a public meeting at the conclusion of the project. Historic resources provide valuable insight into our past and can be important to our culture and history at local, state or national levels. We hope you share our enthusiasm for this project to learn more about our local historic resources.

Information about the overall York River Study is enclosed, and additional information is available on the Study Committee's website ([www.YorkRiverMaine.org](http://www.YorkRiverMaine.org)).

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Hunter, York River Study Coordinator  
[jh.yorkriver@gmail.com](mailto:jh.yorkriver@gmail.com) or (207) 641-9122

The York River Study Committee was formed to work with community members from Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick and York to develop a York River watershed management plan and evaluate the suitability of a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the river and its communities. Town-appointed York River Study Committee members include Karen Arsenault, Chedy Donnell, Thom Kearns, Joan LeBlanc, Mike Mas, Charles Ott, and Beth Walter from York; Stefan Claesson and John (Jack) Murphy from Eliot; Judy Spiller from Kittery; and Jean Demetropoulos from South Berwick. Agency members include Jamie Fosburg and Jim McCartney, National Park Service; Paul Dest, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve; David Gardner and Judy Gates, Maine Department of Transportation; and Claire Enterline, Maine Coastal Program.

Archaeology Survey Flyer (June 2017)  
(front and back)



## The York River Study and the National Park Service Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program



In 2009, the locally-based Friends of the York River approached residents, town leaders, businesses and conservation organizations on an exploratory effort to determine if designation as a National Park Service (NPS) Partnership Wild and Scenic River [see back page] could be an effective way to recognize and protect the York River. In December 2014, Congress authorized a study of the York River to determine if its cultural, historic, ecological and recreational resources meet the criteria for designation and if there is local citizen support for river protection and management. The NPS is providing an estimated \$180,000 for the three-year study, to be led by a local study committee, which includes citizen volunteers from the four York River watershed communities. The overarching goal of the study committee is to build long-term community support for protection of the York River watershed.

### YORK RIVER WATERSHED RESOURCES

The watershed is the area of land from which water flows to form a river system. Some of the many outstanding values of the York River watershed, which includes areas of York, Kittery, Eliot, and South Berwick, are its:

- Rich and well-preserved history
- Extensive and varied recreational opportunities
- High water quality for drinking water supplies and for fishing and swimming
- Thriving tourism and local fishing industry
- Extensive conservation lands within the watershed
- Diverse habitats that support important aquatic and watershed species, including rare plants and animals



### YORK RIVER STUDY GOALS

The York River Study provides the structure, expertise, and funding to work together at a watershed scale. The study involves developing a watershed management plan and evaluating the suitability of a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River. The process is voluntary and locally determined. The study committee is seeking community input to identify significant cultural, historic, recreational, economic and natural resources of the York River watershed. A management plan for the York River watershed will identify and document important resources, threats to those resources, and strategies for long-term protection or enhancement of the resources. The study committee is aiming for all four communities to adopt the watershed management plan. As part of the study, the committee also will evaluate if the NPS Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation would be an effective measure for long-term river stewardship. If the York River is eligible and if there is community support for designation, a request to become a Partnership Wild and Scenic River would go back to Congress for authorization.

Visit [www.yorkrivermaine.org](http://www.yorkrivermaine.org) for more information about the York River Study.

York River Study Factsheet  
(front and back)

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PARTNERSHIP WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS PROGRAM

The 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act preserves rivers in their free-flowing condition and protects their immediate environments that possess outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, ecological, historic, and cultural value. The Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program is a subset of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. It helps communities preserve their own river-related resources by creating long-term partnerships between the National Park Service (NPS) and local, regional, and state stakeholders to manage, promote, and protect the river's remarkable values for present and future generations.

The Partnership Wild and Scenic River Program is for rivers that meet the National Wild and Scenic River System criteria and are characterized by historical alterations, extensive private land ownership along the river, and well-established traditions of local governance. This model has a proven track record of effectively creating river protection strategies that bring communities together in protecting, enhancing and managing their local river resources.



With the exception of the Allagash River in Maine, all of the other NPS Wild and Scenic Rivers in New England are designated through the Partnership model. Their common management principles include:

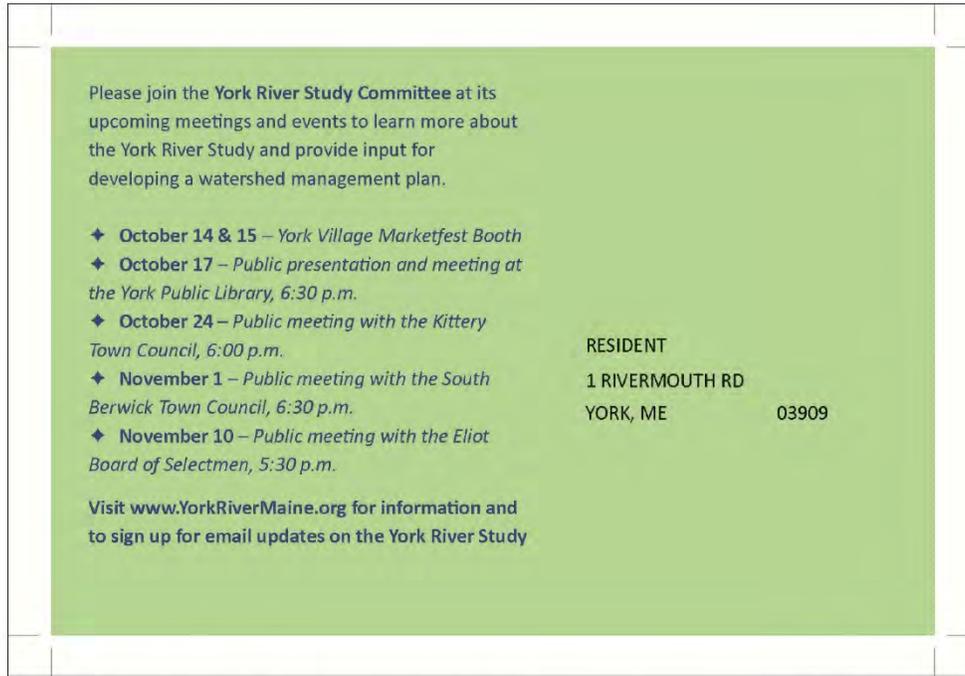
- River and land use management that is regulated through existing local and state authorities, the same as before a designation.
- An advisory management plan, which is locally developed through a participatory process and approved by watershed communities, guides river conservation actions.
- Responsibility for managing and protecting river resources that is shared between the local, state, federal and non-governmental partners on the local advisory committee.
- Reliance on volunteerism as a key to success.
- No NPS ownership or management of land associated with the designation; no NPS Superintendent, law enforcement, or similar elements of traditional federally managed units of the National Park System.
- Nationally-designated river protection, anchored by federal funding, leverages substantial additional state, local, and private funding.

A river designated as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River is required to remain free-flowing (i.e., there can be no new dams or flow obstructions) but no new federal regulations or limits on local land use are associated with designation. Local control still governs land use, subject to existing town and state statutes. The NPS does review federally-assisted water resource projects that would modify the waterway to protect the river and its locally-determined outstanding resources from adverse effects.



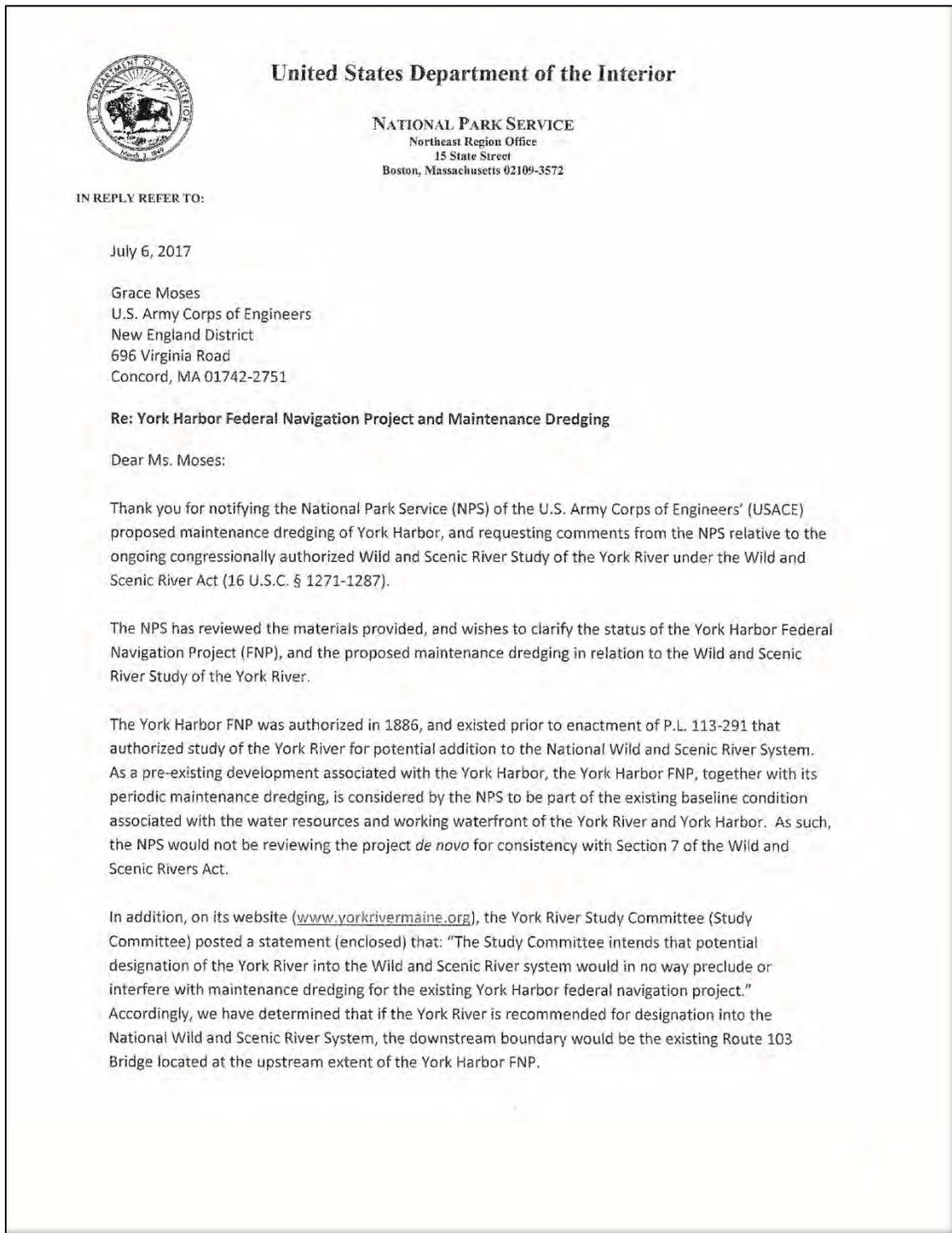
The Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program is notable for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while also recognizing the potential for their appropriate commercial and recreational uses. It encourages river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation in developing goals for river protection and implementing actions for effective river stewardship.

Visit [www.yorkrivermaine.org](http://www.yorkrivermaine.org) for more information about the York River Study.



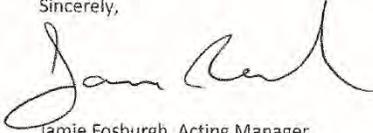
*Postcard Mailing Announcing Fall 2016 Events (September 2016)*

# Appendix 4: Other Wild and Scenic Study Documentation



The NPS appreciates being included in the review and coordination process, and supports the USACE's decision to forego dredging in specified areas due to concern over potential eelgrass impacts. Thank you for keeping the NPS informed as the project proceeds.

Sincerely,



Jamie Fosburgh, Acting Manager  
NER Rivers Program  
15 State Street, Boston, MA 02019

Enclosure (1)

copy: Charles Ott, York River Study Committee Chair  
David P. Webber, York Harbor Board Chairman  
Stephen H. Burns, York Town Manager  
Andrew C. Donovan, Harbor Master

**Frequently Asked Questions – York River Wild and Scenic Study**

York River Study Committee, March 2017

[www.yorkrivermaine.org](http://www.yorkrivermaine.org)

**How does the York River Study, or potential river designation, affect dredging of the York Harbor?**

The York River Study Committee endorses maintenance dredging of the York Harbor in support of the federal navigation project that dates back to 1886. This dredging is necessary to support and enhance community-valued commercial and recreational uses of the river. The Study Committee intends that potential designation of the York River into the Wild and Scenic River system would in no way preclude or interfere with maintenance dredging for the existing York Harbor federal navigation project.