

## Monatiquot River

*~.5-mile short wooded trail along river*

### Access

Trail access is behind Shaw's off Pearl St. The trail starts at the bridge that crosses between Pearl St. Plaza and Horizon Plaza, off John Mahar Highway, and ends shortly before the stone railroad bridge behind the plazas.

### Overview

The Monatiquot River begins where the Farm and Cochato Rivers join at the Braintree Municipal Golf Course, and then meanders through the town before emptying into the tidal Fore River near the Quincy Avenue bridge.

### Trails

The Monatiquot River Nature Walk is a short but scenic trail that runs along the river bank past granite bedrock. Visitors can see and hear the river during any season. The trail begins down a short flight of stairs and crosses a boardwalk. Red maples, red and white oaks, and gray birches dominate the tree layer. Invasive plants such as glossy buckthorn are in the understory, but natives like greenbriar, blueberry and witch hazel can be found.

### History

Historically, the Monatiquot River was of vital importance to residents for its fisheries and for the hydropower it supplied for industry, including for iron works, mills and factories, as well as for recreation. River herring and rainbow smelt were abundant in the past, but have dwindled as their seasonal migration upstream has been hindered by dam and other obstructions. Efforts to remove these could significantly increase numbers. The river also supports water-dependent species such as turtles and muskrats.

