



Essex National Heritage Area Trails & Sails

Ipswich Open Space Program & Ipswich River Watershed Association

Estuary Kayak-Walking Tour

On Friday September 15, 2017 from 8:30am to 2pm, the Town of Ipswich Open Space Program and Ipswich River Watershed Association will co-host a Trails & Sails event as part of the Essex National Heritage Area’s annual celebration of the natural, cultural, and historic features of Essex County. The Estuary Kayak-Open Space Walking Tour will take place along the Ipswich River and Eagle Hill River tidal estuaries, stopping along the way to walk at three of the Town’s premier conservation properties.

The tour will begin at the Ipswich Town Wharf, kayaking ½ mile downstream to Nichols Field, and stopping to walk the ½ mile trail loop. We’ll then continue paddling toward Plum Island Sound for approximately 3 miles, stopping at Clark Beach and walking roundtrip approximately 1.4 miles to the Clark Pond Overlook on Great Neck Conservation Area, where we’ll stop for a lunch break. We’ll get back in our kayaks and paddle around Great Neck toward the Eagle Hill River for approximately 2.3 miles, stopping to walk for approximately ½ mile along the Strawberry Hill trail. Finally, we’ll kayak ½ mile back to Eagle Hill landing to take the kayaks out, and get passenger transportation back to Town Wharf to get cars. The total kayak distance is approximately 6.3 miles, and walking distance approximately 2.4 miles.

Kayak experience is required, and participants must have their own kayaks, paddles and lifejackets. The trip will take place during outgoing tide through the tidal estuary, and will require strong kayaking skills to paddle around Little Neck at the mouth of the Ipswich River. Appropriate weather dependent clothing and shoes, for kayaking and easy walking are necessary. Participants must bring their own water, beverages, snacks and/or lunch. The event is free and space is limited to 20 participants. Registration is required. Contact Beth O’Connor, Open Space Administrator to reserve a spot at betho@ipswich-ma.gov or 978-356-6607 x3. This event is weather dependent, and end time is approximate based on kayaking and walking distances to be covered during the tour.

