

Joanne McGee, Northfield, MA.

Although I am a member of the Northfield Open Space Committee, I am writing this letter as an individual and as a kayaker.

The number of canoe and kayak paddlers is really increasing in Northfield, but the conditions on our very own Connecticut River don't help us to get on the river. Currently we share access with power boats at the Pauchaug Boat Ramp, an area which is frequently silted in with mud. Paddlers must drag kayaks to the river across an expanse of sand and mud which is often occupied by illegal vehicles.

I would like to propose a new access spot restricted to canoes and kayaks at the Bennett Brook Wildlife Management Area on the west side of the river. Silt does not build up here, and there is ample parking. Canoes and kayaks will not disturb the wildlife in the area.

If Bennett Brook is not feasible, I would be interested in working with First Light to find an additional location on the Connecticut River in Northfield.