

Recreational Boating as an Existing Use

The White River has one of the longest uninterrupted kayak runs on a major river in New England and is known nationally for this fact. From Stockbridge to Bethel, the river is considered a classic Vermont whitewater run. The first three miles from Stockbridge contains intermittent Class II rapids. The last three miles to Bethel are quickwater. From Bethel to the Connecticut River, the river is mostly quickwater, but there are a variety of short drops and narrows and Class II rapids.

The first portion of the First Branch below Chelsea is Class II with a low Class III segment, and is a nice whitewater run. The next segment downstream contains a mile of interesting ledges, followed by a nice touring section.

The Third Branch of the White River is boatable from Roxbury to Randolph. Whitewater boating also takes place on the Hancock Branch, from its confluence with the Robbins Branch to the White River. The Hancock Branch is hydrologically distinguished by being the smallest stream in the state known to be used as a whitewater run. It is a Class II run with some Class III spots, lots of rocks and current.

A number of locations are good whitewater boating stretches in the basin. The White River main stem is used extensively for flat water canoeing and kayaking by the several local outfitter businesses as well as the general public. All sites listed on Table A.2 are rated significant for boating (DEC, 1989) or were otherwise brought to DEC's attention. Many canoe access areas and dam portages have been established on the main stem. Anyone boating these reaches should carefully scout routes before launching.

Table A.2 . Waters used for recreational boating in the basin

Location	Documentation	Rating (DEC, 1989)	Characteristics that support use	Put in	Take out
Hancock Branch (3 miles)	Vermont's White Water Rivers	Important	No dams, good water quality, Class II-III rapids	Road to Texas Falls	Not specified
White River Mainstem Stockbridge to Bethel (11 miles)	AMC River Guide, Vermont's White Water Rivers	Highly Important	No dams, good water quality, quick water through Class II rapids	Rt.14 or Rt. 100	Rt. 107 Bridge

Location	Documentation	Rating (DEC, 1989)	Characteristics that support use	Put in	Take out
White River Mainstem Bethel to Connecticut River (25 miles)	Vermont's White Water Rivers	Highly Important	No dams, good water quality, quick water though Class II rapids	Rt. 107 Bridge	Bridges at White River Junction
First Branch Chelsea to Tunbridge (9 miles)	AMC River Guide, Vermont's White Water Rivers	Important	good water quality, Class II-III rapids	Lower Rt. 110 bridge from side road with permission	Before sawmill dam when river is near Rt. 110