

# Reviving the Spicket River

## *The Spicket River Story*

Spicket River is a valuable natural resource that flows throughout the city of Lawrence. The Ferrous Site (seen in the photos to the right) is the confluence of the Spicket River and the more well-known Merrimack River. It is also where the canal meets the Spicket River at a dam which creates a beautiful waterfall and a home for many interesting plant and animal species. The Ferrous Site and other spots along the Spicket are great places to get in touch with both the wildlife and history of Lawrence.

Many mill buildings stand alongside this river. The river once powered them, but now it quietly flows past these old mill buildings. No longer used to power these mills, the Spicket River now provides a different source of energy to the City of Lawrence. Herons, turtles, fish, and beavers make their home in and along the river. Great views, including a waterfall just above the Ferrous Site, are found along the riverbanks. Community volunteers have restored this river, learning and sharing conservation and leadership skills along the way.

## *Restoring Spicket River*

Our river was once filled with wildlife, and its seemingly endless energy was harnessed to power the mills built along its banks. But historically, people also used rivers as garbage dumps and the river eventually overflowed with pollutants and trash.

Groundwork Lawrence's Green Team, a group of Lawrence high school students training to become environmental stewards and community leaders, holds an annual Spicket River Cleanup. With your help, we can work to restore the Spicket River to its natural beauty once again.



# Groundwork Lawrence

*In addition to our annual Spicket River Cleanup, we also hold other events.*

## *Earth Day*

Each year on Earth Day we work alongside other volunteers to clean the parks, streets, and alleyways around the city. It helps us get to know others in our community who care enough to help. In the end, we have a cleaner community and a great feeling of personal accomplishment.

## *Park Cleanups*

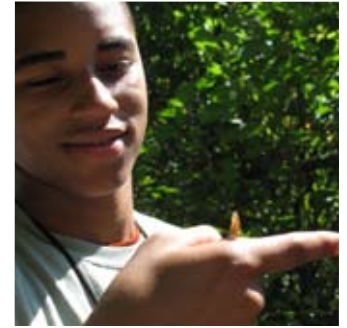
As a Green Team, we participate in various park cleanups throughout the City of Lawrence. It is important to us that our parks stay clean so that people can enjoy them. We all want to provide clean and safe places for both children and adults to play.

## *How You Can Help*

We raise public awareness so more people take care of the river, and the city of Lawrence.

You can

- Volunteer to help at community events which focus on environmental awareness
- Learn how to be stewards of our community and Earth
- Share your knowledge of the environment and teach others how to make personal choices that are better for themselves and the environment
- Donate to support Green Team and other Groundwork Lawrence programs.



# A Field Guide to Wildlife of the Spicket River

## Great Blue Heron



This majestic bird can be found on the Merrimack River.

It is a 3 1/2 ft tall bird with black stripes on it's side, a rusty gray neck, long legs, and a long, yellow bill.

## Dragonfly Sp.



Various species of dragonflies can be found along the Spicket River.

They are between 2-3 inches with large eyes, two sets of transparent wings, and a elongated body.

## Black-capped Chickadee



This is the state bird of Massachusetts.

It is a curious, mostly white bird with a gray back, a black cap on it's head and a black bib under it's bill.

## Short-horned Grasshopper



A variety of species of grasshoppers fall under this general name.

This insect is herbivorous. It ranges in size from 0.2-4.3 inches and many are green and straw-colored to help them blend into their environment.

## Red-tailed Hawk



This is the most common hawk found throughout most of North America.

The coloration varies greatly. Look for a brown band across the belly and a red tail.

## Silver Maple



This tree is native to eastern North America and parts of southeastern Canada.

It can grow 50-80 ft. tall with leaves that are deeply five-lobed.

## American Goldfinch



This social bird is only 4-5 inches. It's color ranges from a dull brown to a brilliant lime-yellow depending on the maturity of the bird and the season.

## Catalpa



This tree is recognized by big, heart-shaped leaves and long, slender fruits that look like bean pods.

It's large leaves provide shelter and shade for many species of birds.

## Painted Turtle



This turtle is commonly found along slow-moving rivers with soft bottoms.

Look for red and yellow stripes along the head, neck, feet, and tail. The adults can grow up to 10 inches.

## River Birch



In New England, the River Birch is primarily found in southern New Hampshire and Northeast Massachusetts.

They can grow up to 80 ft tall and have a dark brown to pinkish brown, scaly bark.

# Groundwork Lawrence Our Mission

“ To bring about the sustained regeneration, improvement and management of the physical environment by developing community-based partnerships which empower people, businesses and organizations to promote environmental, economic and social well-being. ”



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 **Mass Audubon**  
*Protecting the Nature of Massachusetts*

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# Spicket River Greenway

