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Learn More about Partnership Wild and Scenic River Designation for the York River

In November, voters in York and Eliot will be asked to decide whether to pursue a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In Kittery and South Berwick, the town councils will be asked to decide.

The York River Study Committee consists of volunteers appointed by the four York River watershed towns of York, Kittery, Eliot and South Berwick. The committee has been studying and evaluating river designation eligibility for almost three years, and it developed a York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The plan is a voluntary guide documenting the many important values of the river: its rich history, diverse habitats, clean water, commercially-important working waterfront, scenic qualities, and recreational activities. It identifies opportunities and includes recommendations to preserve the health and beauty of the river so that it will continue to be a source of community pride well into the future.

The York River Study Committee recommends that residents in York and Eliot vote in support of endorsing designation and accepting the Stewardship Plan. The designation and the Stewardship Plan are complementary. A locally-approved plan must be in place and there must be community support for the U.S. Congress to consider a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River.

Prior to voting, the York River Study Committee invites all community residents to learn more about the work the committee has undertaken to help inform and create the plan, as well as the many benefits this designation could bring to our communities. Listed below are some opportunities:

- Read the Stewardship Plan and other information on the committee's website: www.YorkRiverMaine.org
- Attend or watch the September 13 Eliot Select Board meeting, starting at 5:30 p.m. for a brief update.
- Attend a public presentation at Atlantic Design Center/Eldredge Lumber, 627 US Route 1, York at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 15.
- Visit the Study Committee's table at York Village Marketfest on Saturday, September 22.
- Attend an upcoming Study Committee monthly meeting to ask questions: Tuesday, September 25 or Tuesday, October 23. Both meetings start at 5:30 p.m. at Grant House, 200 US Route 1, York.
- Visit the Study Committee's table at Eliot Festival Day on Saturday, September 29.

These and other events are posted on the York River Study website calendar. For additional information or questions, email or call the York River Study Coordinator: jh.yorkriver@gmail.com or 207-641-9122.