

2019-2021 Visitors' Guide
Skowhegan, Maine

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Waterlilies, Coburn Park. Photo by Maria Landry.

**Skowhegan, Maine
Official Visitors' Guide
VisitSkowhegan.com**

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Please note: While every effort has been made to ensure the information in this guide is correct as of the date of publication, no guarantee is made as to the guide's accuracy or completeness.

Welcome to Skowhegan

Centrally located along the sparkling Kennebec River, Skowhegan offers both urban and rural delights.

Interested in hiking, swimming, tubing, or snowshoeing? You can find all of this and more in Skowhegan. Passionate about plays, art, or history? Skowhegan boasts those things too. Looking for bowling, movies, or other fun activities to do with the kids? How about local food experiences like apple-picking at one of the best orchards in New England or touring a craft brewery? You guessed it—we offer all of that as well.

Whether you're a local or a visitor, Skowhegan has something for everyone and more than a few hidden gems.



*Kennebec River in downtown Skowhegan
Photo by Maria Landry*

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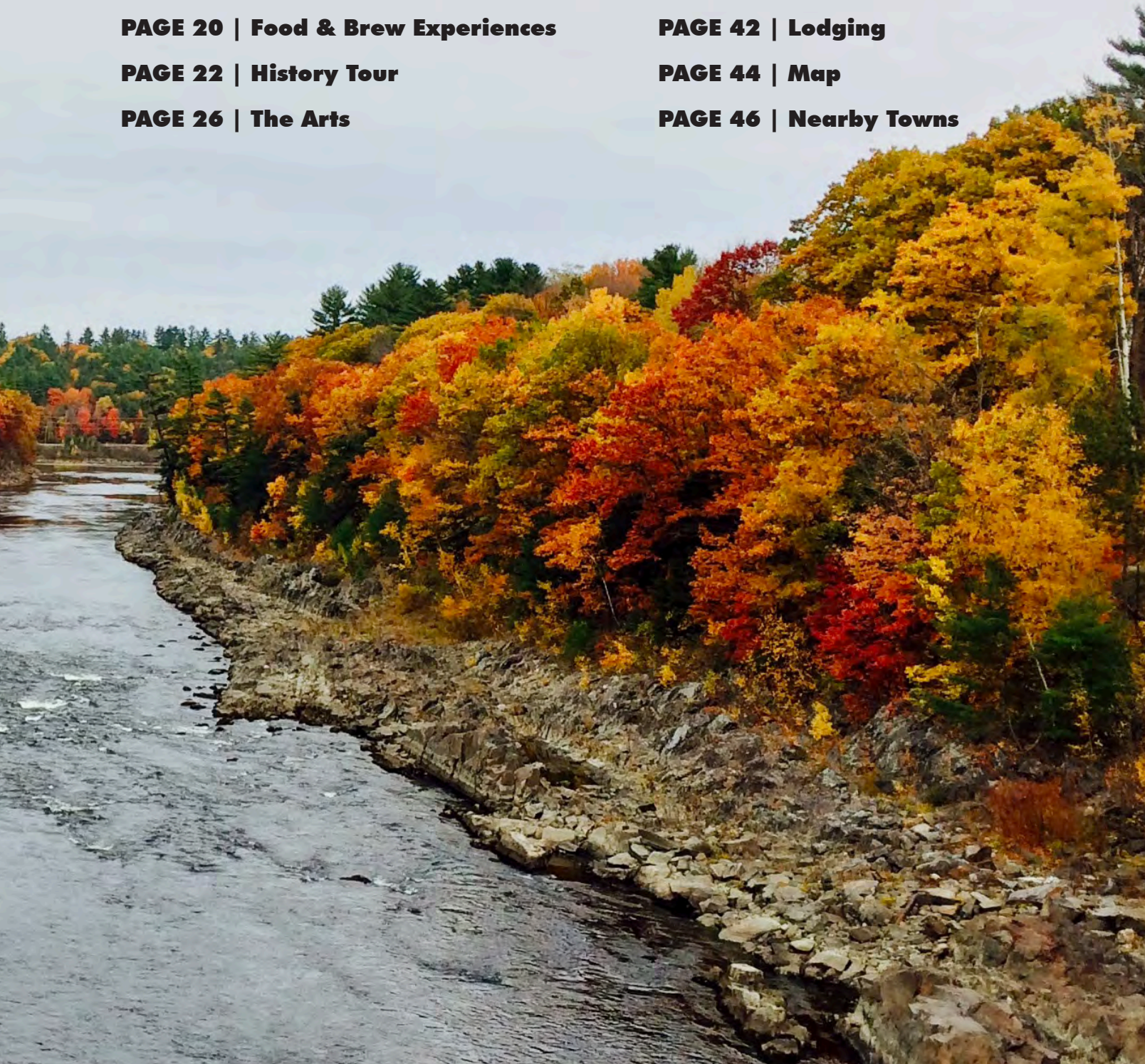
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Did you know?



*Guinness World Record in the making,
June 2018, by Jonathan Wheaton*

Quirky Skowhegan Facts

Skowhegan holds the Guinness World Record for the Most People Moose Calling Simultaneously.

You may have heard that Maine is famous for its moose, but did you know that we hold a record? It was set on June 9, 2018, when 1,054 people participated in the world record attempt during the Skowhegan Moose Festival, an event celebrating our outdoor heritage.

Our town was an important filming location for the Golden Globe-winning miniseries *Empire Falls*.

Starring Ed Harris and Paul Newman, the miniseries was based on Richard Russo's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. The Empire Grill restaurant seen in the movie closed in 2010 and is now M. Thai, an authentic Thai restaurant in the heart of downtown.

Skowhegan is the seat of Somerset County, the largest maple producer in the United States, with an astounding 1.73 million maple taps.

Join us for Maple Fest, held every year on the fourth weekend in March, to celebrate!

The Strand Cinema was featured on an episode of the Travel Channel's *Most Terrifying Places in America* in 2018.

First opened in 1929, the downtown cinema has long been thought to be haunted. Visit to take in a movie, the theater's historic charms ... and perhaps an encounter with a ghost.

John Travolta's signature is on a dressing room wall at Lakewood Theater.

In its heyday, Lakewood featured a who's who of performers, including Travolta, Mama Cass Elliot, and the legendary Humphrey Bogart.

Skowhegan is home to the world's tallest Native American, a 62-foot wood sculpture.

Crafted by renowned Maine artist Bernard Langlais, the sculpture was erected in 1969. The name Skowhegan ("a place to watch") was bestowed by the area's original inhabitants, the Abenaki.

Dating to 1818, the Skowhegan State Fair is the nation's oldest consecutively running agricultural fair.

It reaches so far back into history that Skowhegan was part of Massachusetts when the fair first took place! (Maine didn't become a state until 1820.)

Skijor Skowhegan is the only equestrian skijoring race in the Northeast.

The first annual Skijor Skowhegan took place in 2019. The event is a thrilling team-trial race with a horse and rider pulling a snowboarder or alpine skier down a 1,000-foot track of gates and jumps.

Smithsonian Magazine named Skowhegan one of the 20 Best Small Towns to Visit in 2018.

Smithsonian noted that "there's something about small towns that ignites our imaginations." We're glad you're visiting and hope our small town does that for you!

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Nestled in the scenic Kennebec River Valley, Skowhegan is an up-and-coming town with a vibrant history—from the Native Americans who were the original inhabitants, to the 19th- and 20th-century river drivers who annually drove logs down the Kennebec, to the evolving community of makers, doers, and innovators who, like those before them, genuinely love life in Central Maine.

Settled in 1773 and famously traversed by Benedict Arnold in 1775, Skowhegan continues to be a crossroads as well as the gateway to the Maine woods. It is nationally known as the home of Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman to serve in both houses of the U.S. Congress. It is also the home of the Skowhegan State Fair, the nation's oldest consecutively running agricultural fair.

Downtown Skowhegan is watched over by the world's tallest Native American, a 62-foot wooden sculpture crafted by renowned Maine artist Bernard Langlais and "dedicated to the Maine Indians, the first people to use these lands in peaceful ways." A destination on the Langlais Art Trail, Skowhegan hosts 21 smaller Langlais artworks as well.



Skowhegan's *Story*

Skowhegan has become an agricultural food hub, featuring a year-round farmers' market, organic grain purveyor Maine Grains, the Kneading Conference and Maine Artisan Bread Fair, two craft breweries, one of New England's best orchards, numerous farms, a CSA, and restaurants that serve local harvest. It's also the seat of Somerset County—the nation's leading maple syrup producer.

Throughout the town's history, the Kennebec River has been Skowhegan's lifeblood. After the final log drive, in 1976, some river drivers turned to whitewater rafting to continue their way of life on the river. Now Skowhegan annually hosts River Fest to celebrate recreation and life on the Kennebec—and the town's future plans include the creation of the Run of River Whitewater Recreation Area, with features including a whitewater park, four-season trail system, and riverfront promenade.

Add in new events—like Somerset SnowFest, AgriCulture, and the Skowhegan Craft Brew Fest—to complement old traditions, and it's easy to see that Skowhegan is a place to watch.



*Dam on the Kennebec in Skowhegan
Photo by Jonathan Wheaton*

Family Fun

5
for \$5
or less!

1) Central Maine Family Fun

414 Madison Ave., Skowhegan,
207-474-1223

Enjoy bowling, billiards, and an arcade, plus grab a bite at the attached T&B's Out-Back Tavern. *\$1 bowling per game per person on Wednesdays, summer only*



2) L.C. Bates Museum

14 Easler Rd., Hinckley,
207-238-4250

This museum features natural and local history, Native American collections, rocks, minerals, and fossils, plus extensive nature trails. *\$3 for adults, \$1 for youth under 18*



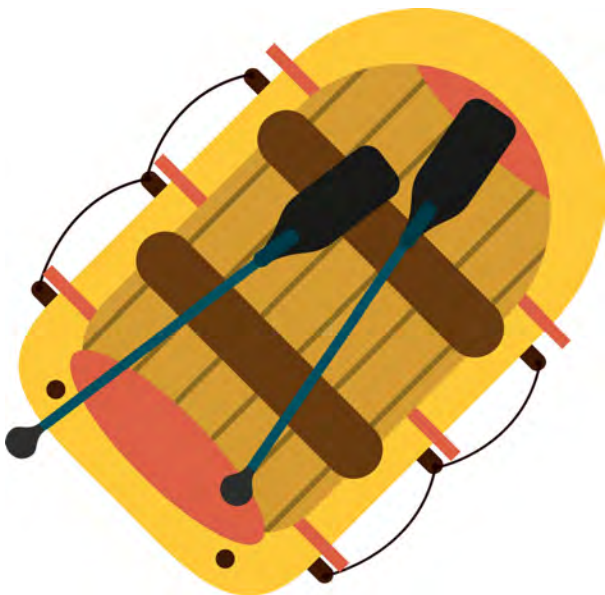
3) Hight Pond

Accessible from Prospect St., Skowhegan

Stocked with brook trout, kids will learn to love fishing at this small reservoir. *Free*

4) Skowhegan River Fest

Celebrate recreation and life on the river at this multi-day event in August. Activities include a glow-stick river run, raft rides, kids' activities, fireworks, and more. See more events on page 34. *Free*



5) Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park

221 Lakewood Rd., Madison,
207-474-7353

Enjoy ponds stocked with trout, a 60'x100' pool, bouncy houses, horseshoe pits, gem mining, and more! *\$5 for a half-day*





Gifford's Mini Golf

307 Madison Ave.,
Skowhegan, 207-474-6238

Kids and grown-ups alike will have fun practicing their short game—and indulging in a scoop (or more!) of Gifford's award-winning ice cream.



Lake George Regional Park

Route 2, Skowhegan/Canaan
207-474-1292

This four-season park offers a serene lake for swimming, fishing, and boating; two beaches; and trails for hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.



Skowhegan Drive-In

201 Waterville Rd.,
Skowhegan, 207-474-9277

Originally opened in 1954—and named the coolest drive-in in the state in 2017—the Skowhegan Drive-In is a nostalgic landmark in the region.



The Strand Cinema

19 Court St., Skowhegan,
207-474-3451

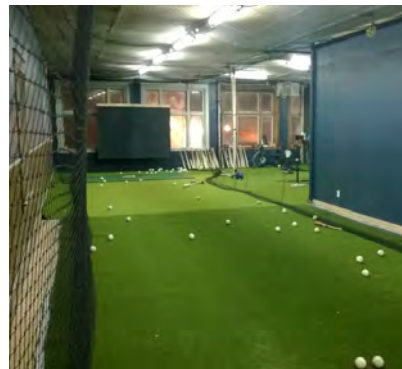
The Strand opened in 1929 and was fully restored in 2004. With delicious popcorn, stadium seating, a nostalgic feel, and a legend of a haunting, there's lots to love about this downtown cinema.



Eaton Mountain

89 Lambert Rd.,
Skowhegan, 207-474-2666

Eaton Mountain is a small, family-oriented winter resort offering skiing and tubing. Grab the kids and get ready for a fun and invigorating winter adventure!



River Run Batting Cage, LaCasse Bats

4 Madison Ave.,
Skowhegan, 207-431-1507

This 70-foot batting cage has two hitting stations, the Iron Mike pitching machine, a mound for live pitching, and an L-screen. Sample wood bats are available.



Hidden Valley

8 Hidden Valley Ln.,
Cornville, 207-474-3014

Located in neighboring Cornville, this equestrian center offers boarding, lessons, overnight girls' camps, and coed day camps.



Roy's Water Park

469 Main St., Madison,
207-399-4392

Look no further for a fun spot to cool down on a hot summer day. With seven inflatable water slides, a snack bar, and picnic tables, there's plenty of fun and relaxation for all.

Calling All Kids!

Get in on the Act

The Skowhegan area offers theater opportunities specifically for kids. If you have a budding thespian, don't miss the **Lakewood Young Performers Camp**. Located in neighboring Madison at historic Lakewood Theater—the nation's oldest summer theater—this day camp



is open to youth ages 5-18 who want to learn from professionals. Every camper performs in costume and makeup with a set before an audience. Campers receive instruction in acting, improvisation, movement, stage makeup, costuming, set construction, voice, dance, and auditioning—as well as learning the importance of working together as a team. LakewoodTheater.org

Focusing on students in grades K-8, **Midge's Theatre Arts Studio** in downtown Skowhegan offers experience in all aspects of the theater, including acting, dancing, singing, properties, sets, and

costuming. Sessions culminate in high-quality stage performances. Whether your child already has experience or would like to try something new, Midge's studio offers a great opportunity for kids to get creative, have fun, and experience the arts. [Facebook.com/MidgesTheatreArtsStudio](https://www.facebook.com/MidgesTheatreArtsStudio)

More on the arts, page 26.

LAKEWOOD THEATRE



All the World's a Playground

- Amanda Berry Playground (66 Hathaway St., Skowhegan)
- Bloomfield School Playground (140 Academy Cir., Skowhegan)
- Margaret Chase Smith School Playground (40 Heselton St., Skowhegan)
- North Elementary School Playground (33 Jewett St., Skowhegan)
- Skowhegan Community Center Playground (39 Poulin Dr., Skowhegan)
- Canaan Elementary School Playground (178 Main St., Canaan)
- Main Street Park and Playground (Main St., Madison)
- Mill Stream Elementary School Playground (26 Mercer Rd., Norridgewock)
- Oosoola Park (Route 2, Norridgewock)

The *Great* Outdoors

Trails

Whether you want a vigorous hike, leisurely walk, or picturesque snowshoeing expedition, Skowhegan has you covered.

The **Debe Park River Walk** runs along the Kennebec from Mt. Pleasant Street to the end of Joyce Street, where it connects with **River's Edge Bike Park**, a canoe portage site, and the **Philbrick Trails**, a nature refuge in the heart of town perfect for walking or snowshoeing.

The **Heselton Street Trail** is a short trail through a white pine forest. Access it from just after the Margaret Chase Smith School or from Memorial Field at the end of East Maple Street.

Behind the Marti Stevens Learning Center (195 West Front St.), the serene **Marti Stevens Trail** veers down to the Kennebec and follows it upstream, providing beautiful river views.

In addition to a peaceful lake perfect for boating, swimming, and fishing, **Lake George Regional Park** (Route 2, Skowhegan/Canaan line) offers a robust network of four-season trails. For a vigorous hike, try the steeper trails on the West Side. The East Side offers flatter trails perfect for a woody walk.

The **Yankee Woodlot Trail** (7 County Dr.) contains a bounty of plant species and the Trail of Thoughts, featuring quotes by famous poets and philosophers. Nearby, new mountain bike trails were recently added to the trail system at **Coburn Woods**, with parking available a mile north of the Skowhegan Fairgrounds on Russell Road.



*Good-Will Hinckley Trails,
by Maria Landry*



*Debe Park River Walk,
by Maria Landry*

Just beyond Skowhegan, Madison's **Historic Pines Trail** is an easy riverside walk featuring the 1833 Father Rasle Monument. The trail has access for canoeing and kayaking, plus a fly-fishing spot offering the best wade-in trout fishing in the area. Take Route 201A to Father Rasle Road; the trailhead is 3 miles on the left.

Lakewood Golf Course Ski and Snowshoe Trails (803 Lakewood Rd., Madison) provide well-groomed winter-wonderland fun. The trailhead is located at the corner of Route 201 and Golf Course Road.

Old Canada Road Scenic Byway

Drive any or all of the 78 miles of gorgeous water, mountain, and forest views along Route 201 from nearby Solon to the Canadian border. Stop at quaint villages along the way for a meal, overnight stay, or guiding services for all sorts of outdoor recreation.



Behind the L.C. Bates Museum at **Good Will-Hinckley** (14 Easler Rd., Hinckley), discover four-season nature trails and historic stone monuments.

Venture to nearby Canaan to experience **Chase Hill** (Chase Hill Rd.), a 755-foot peak with a fire tower overlooking the area. The half-mile hike to the tower provides pretty views.

Golf

Lakewood Golf Course (803 Lakewood Rd., Madison) is an 18-hole course nestled among white pines and mountain views. Built in the early 1920s, the original nine has a classic links feel. The back nine, designed by Phil Wogan, is a parkland course cut out of the Maine woods. Relish the amazing scenery and what *Golf Digest* has called "great holes that are challenging and lots of fun to play."

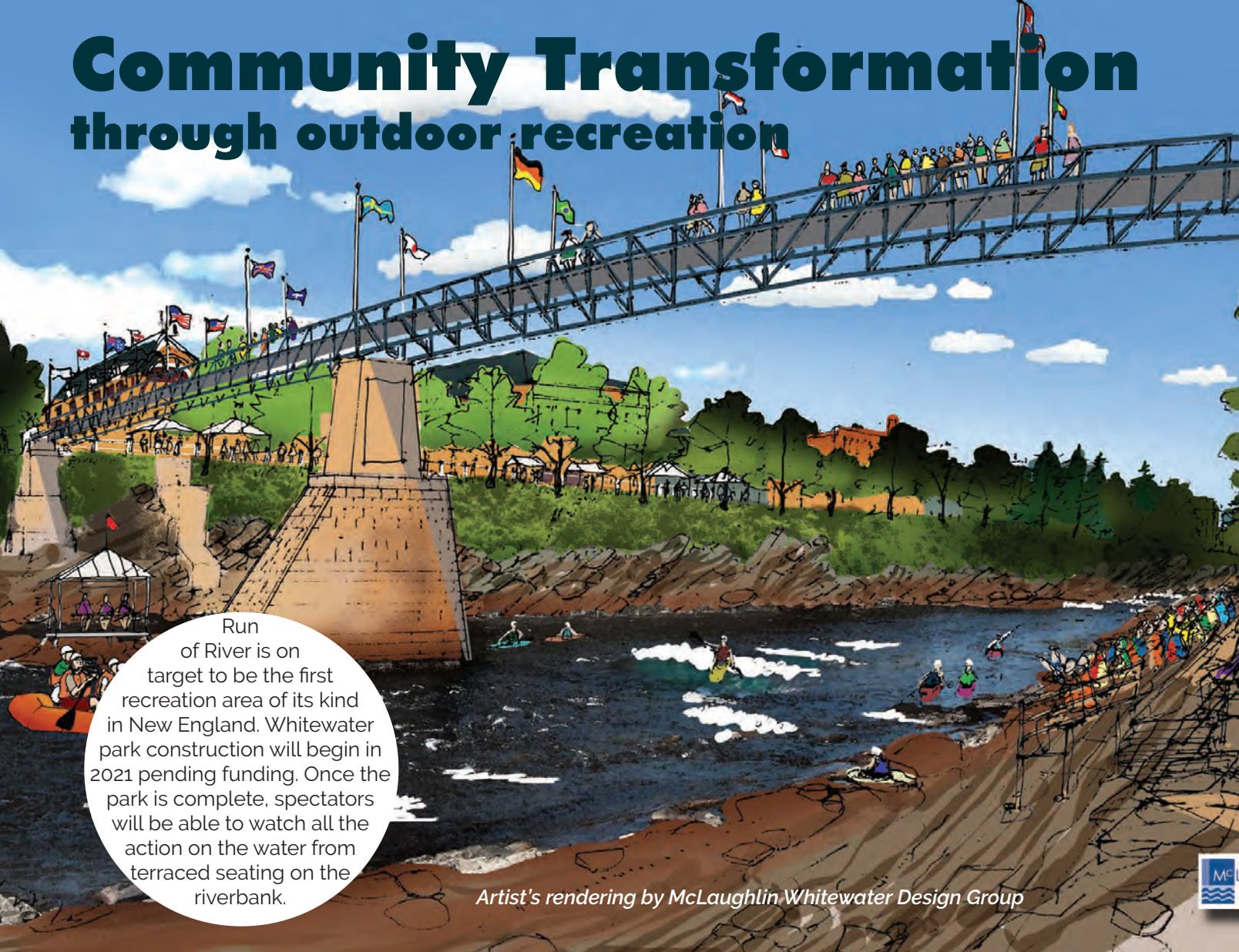
Loon's Cove (942 Waterville Rd., Skowhegan) is a nine-hole course with the Kennebec River on one side, large and small hills throughout, and a pond to cross. Enjoy the relaxed ambiance and picturesque beauty.

Carved through the Maine woods, the nine-hole **Diadema Golf Club** (419 New Portland Rd., North Anson) requires course management and careful approach on every hole. Diadema also features a driving range, a putting green, a pro shop, and a restaurant.



Lakewood Golf Course, by Brandie Burrill

Community Transformation through outdoor recreation



Run of River is on target to be the first recreation area of its kind in New England. Whitewater park construction will begin in 2021 pending funding. Once the park is complete, spectators will be able to watch all the action on the water from terraced seating on the riverbank.

Artist's rendering by McLaughlin Whitewater Design Group



Local students on the Kennebec in Skowhegan
Photo courtesy Somerset Career & Technical Center

Local youth will have opportunities to volunteer at paddling events, help with trail maintenance, and learn outdoor recreation skills and swiftwater rescue techniques.





Not every town boasts a major river in its downtown, a 100-plus-year-old park with 100-plus species of trees and shrubs, a small ski mountain with big potential, a regional park featuring sand beaches on a pristine lake, and vast acres of woods, fields, and trails.

To capitalize on all those natural assets and ensure Skowhegan's brightest future, community leaders are digging in on two major projects related to outdoor recreation: the **Skowhegan AmeriCorps Outdoor Recreation Program**—which will provide free outdoor recreation activities, trainings, and gear to borrow for community members—and the **Run of River Whitewater Recreation Area** in and around the Kennebec River Gorge downtown. Run of River will include a whitewater park for paddling, surfing, tubing, bodyboarding, stand-up paddle boarding, and more, as well as a riverfront promenade and an estimated 50 miles of four-season trails on 300 acres, all accessible via downtown.

Learn more at SkowheganTransformation.org.

*Stillwater River T-wave in Orono, Maine,
by Taylor Walker*

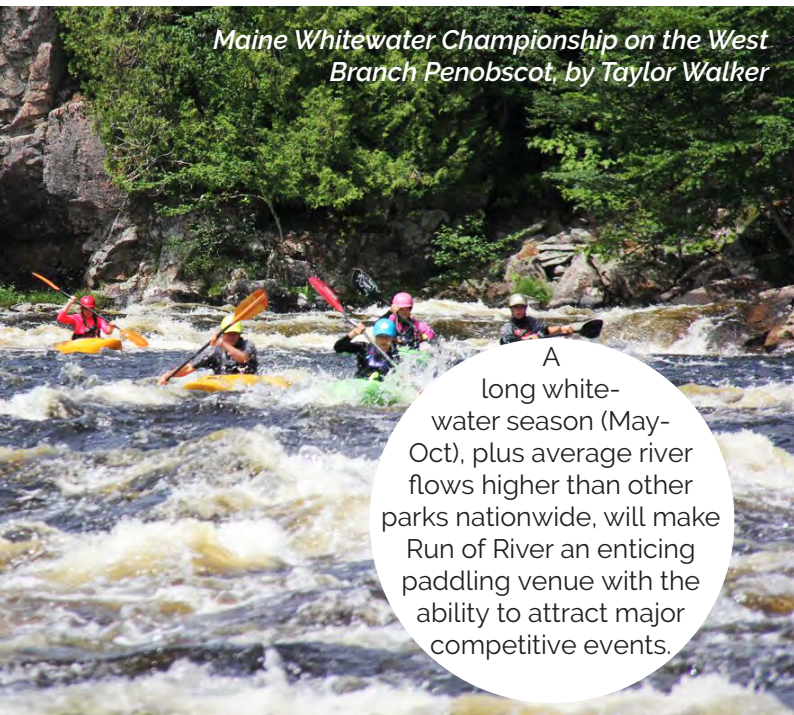
Calling all adventurers! Once Run of River is built, spend an afternoon paddling on three quality whitewater features, then pull out on shore, change out of your wetsuit downtown, and walk to the nearby pub for a bite to eat and a local craft brew.



Laughlin Whitewater
A Division of Merrick & Company

*Maine Whitewater Championship on the West
Branch Penobscot, by Taylor Walker*

A long white-water season (May-Oct), plus average river flows higher than other parks nationwide, will make Run of River an enticing paddling venue with the ability to attract major competitive events.



Skowhegan is open all winter! There's nothing like exploring the snow-filled woods on snowshoes or skis. Run of River will add a robust network of trails to those already available.



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Even More *Outdoor* Adventures



Left: As of summer 2019, Dead River Expeditions in The Forks (an hour north of Skowhegan) has a Skowhegan location. **Down River Expeditions** is on North Avenue and features kayak, stand-up paddle board, and mountain bike rentals.

Above: If you stay inside all winter, you're missing out! Experience the joy of snow with an afternoon of tubing at **Eaton Mountain**, Skowhegan's little hill with big potential.

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Farms & Orchards

Cayford Orchards

99 Hilton Hill Rd., Skowhegan, 207-474-5200

Named one of the best orchards in New England three years running, Cayford Orchards is a sixth-generation family farm with 1,200 trees on 18 acres. Featuring 57 different fruit varieties, Cayford specializes in heirloom apples but also grows other fruit including berries, peaches, and pears.

North Star Orchards

97 Orchard Rd., Madison, 207-696-5109

Surrounded by woodland, North Star Orchards includes 35 acres of apple trees, a cider mill, and a farm store. Go on a crisp fall day and pick your own bounty of apples or purchase a bag from the store.

Sites Farm

98 Joaquin Rd., Athens, 207-654-2063

Situated on 250 acres of beautiful rolling hills, open berry fields, and pastures, Sites Farm offers pick-your-own strawberries and highbush blueberries during the summer. They also have pre-picked berries for purchase.

Smith's U-Pick Blueberries

162 Ward Hill Rd., Norridgewock, 207-431-2056

Make some memories picking—and eating!—juicy blueberries at this nearby farm.

Tessiers Farm

337 Malbons Mill Rd., Skowhegan, 207-474-6380 or tessiers@tessiersfarm.com

Tessiers is a family farm specializing in poultry and rabbit, and farm animals are kid-friendly and raised naturally. Their farm store features meats, dairy products, jams, fresh roasted coffees, tea, honey, and maple syrup.



Bigelow Brewing Company

473 Bigelow Hill Rd., Skowhegan, 207-399-6262

Housed in a remodeled horse barn, Bigelow is a small family-owned startup offering brews with flavors as unique as their names, which include Lying Bastard and Dementia Dog. Fridays and Saturdays feature live music and wood-fired pizza.

Oak Pond Brewing Company

101 Oak Pond Rd., Skowhegan, 207-474-3233

Opened in 1996 as the first brewery in Skowhegan in 115 years, Oak Pond produces old-world-style aged lagers and ales. Visit the brewery (housed in a converted chicken barn) to sample current offerings, take a tour, or pick up some fresh beer or brewery swag.

**The Bankery**

87 Water St., Skowhegan, 207-474-BAKE

This circa-1864 former bank is a charming artisan bakery and custom cake shop where everything is made from scratch. Check out the antique bank memorabilia and attached Skowhegan Fleuriste, a flower and gift shop.

Crooked Face Creamery

42 Court St., Skowhegan, 207-858-5096

Find handmade artisan cheeses including herbed ricotta, smoked ricotta, and Gouda-style. Located in the Somerset Grist Mill along with Maine Grains (see below).

Maine Grains

42 Court St., Skowhegan, 207-474-8001

Located in a former county jail, Maine Grains manufactures locally grown, organic grains using a traditional stone-milling process. They also have a dry goods shop selling flours, oats, kitchen tools, and more. Want a tour of the facility? Look for the schedule on MaineGrains.com.

Skowhegan Farmers' Market

42 Court St. (May-Oct.) or 144 Madison Ave. (Nov.-April), 207-474-6380

This year-round market is renowned as one of the best in the state. Spend a relaxing Saturday perusing seasonal fruits and veggies, naturally raised meats, milk, eggs, cheese, baked goods, coffee, maple syrup, honey, soap, flowers, and more.

Smith Brothers Maple

52 Rowe Rd., Skowhegan, 207-474-3491

Maine Maple Products

449 Lakewood Rd., Madison, 800-310-3803

If you love maple, stop by one of these spots for a jug of syrup, maple candy, maple sugar, and more!



Kids playing at the Skowhegan Farmers' Market

Skowhegan History Tour

History buffs won't want to miss these eight historic spots in Skowhegan:

1. Coburn Park

Water St. (approximately 0.5 miles east of downtown)

Donated to the town in 1885 by former Governor Abner Coburn, Coburn Park features more than 100 species of trees and shrubs, a waterlily pond with a fountain, walking paths, a gazebo, and a number of markers illustrating the town's heritage. Enjoy the serenity of this in-town oasis, or check out one of the many concerts held in the park on Sunday afternoons in the summer.

2. Skowhegan Veterans' Park

248 Water St.

This downtown park pays tribute to local veterans dating back to the Revolutionary War. Visit this little park to remember our fallen heroes—and all veterans who have served our country.

3. Skowhegan Municipal Building

225 Water St.

This building, which includes an opera house on the third floor, was designed by John Calvin Stevens (1855-1940), a prolific and innovative architect who designed more than 1,000 buildings in Maine.



Coburn Park

4. Flat Iron District

Water St.

Architecture enthusiasts won't want to miss the downtown Flat Iron District encompassing 38 architecturally and/or historically significant buildings, most dating from 1880 to 1910. While you're there, you might stop for lunch at the Old Mill Pub, housed in a (you guessed it) former mill.

5. Arnold Trail Park

Weston Ave., Skowhegan Island

In 1775 Col. Benedict Arnold led more than 1,100 men across Skowhegan Falls and Skowhegan Island on their way to Quebec in an ultimately ill-fated attempt to capture the British fortress there. In 1912 a marker commemorating this journey was placed on the island by the Daughters of the American Revolution.



Flat Iron District



Swinging Bridge

6. Swinging Bridge

Connecting Arnold Trail Park to Alder St.

Previous bridges at this location date to the late 1800s, and the current Swinging Bridge has been delighting locals and visitors since 1936.

7. Skowhegan History House

66 Elm St. *(open seasonally late May to mid-October)*

Built in 1839, this Greek revival cottage is replete with antiques, furnishings, and other items of everyday life in Skowhegan during the mid-1800s. A 1936 addition showcases several collections including early newspapers and the Alexander Crawford Jr. Civil War Collection. Don't miss the ornamental heirloom gardens featuring old-fashioned plants that would have been available to New England gardeners in the mid-1800s.



Skowhegan History House

8. Margaret Chase Smith Library & Museum

56 Norridgewock Ave.

This library and museum is devoted to preserving the legacy of Skowhegan native Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman to serve in both houses of the U.S. Congress and the first woman to be placed in nomination for President of the United States at a major party's convention.



It houses political papers, documents, honors, photographs, and memorabilia from Smith's 32-year congressional career.

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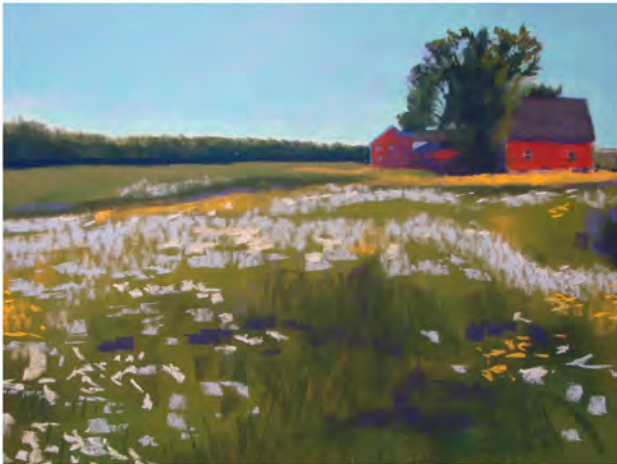
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and June 20, 2020 9-5**

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at Pinnacle Studio in Canaan

see website for directions-also see work at

River Roads Gallery in Skowhegan

www.kathleenperelkaartist.com



Producing 9 plays and musicals from
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for your dining pleasure

www.lakewoodtheater.org

(207) 474-7176 Madison, ME



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Monday - Friday 10-4 & Saturday 9-2



Above: Theater-goers at Lakewood, nestled on Wesserunsett Lake. **Top left:** Barry Norling metal sculpture celebrating the local shoe industry; mural by Milton Christianson. **Middle left:** One of the South Solon Meeting House's many frescoes. **Bottom left:** Langlais mermaid sculpture by the river.

The Arts



Skowhegan features more than 20 artworks by renowned Maine artist Bernard Langlais (see next page for Langlais Art Trail map), several additional pieces of public art, and the Central Maine Artists Gallery. Ten minutes away in neighboring Madison you'll find Lakewood Theater, one of America's oldest and most famous summer theaters, and Somerset Abbey, an 1892 church turned event venue. Less than 20 minutes away is the South Solon Meeting House, a Gothic Revival church featuring magnificent floor-to-ceiling frescoes.

For theater opportunities for kids, see page 12.

Langlais in Skowhegan

All but *Girl with Tail*, *Animal Crackers*, and *Blue Bird* were untitled by the artist. All other titles are descriptive names.

1. Skowhegan Free Public Library, 9 Elm St.

- Panther, 1967, reworked 1976-77, wood
- Horse, ca. 1972, lathe wood and paint
- *Blue Bird*, 1976, wood and paint on wood
- Cow and Barn, ca. 1974, wood and paint
- *Animal Crackers*, 1969, wood and paint on wood
- Skating Rink, wood on aluminum

2. Langlais Park, between High and Leavitt streets

- Skowhegan Indian, 1969, wood
- Playground Group, ca. 1972, wood

3. Main Street Skowhegan Office, 48 Court St.

- Bull and Bear, ca. 1973, wood and paint on wood
- Four Wolves, wood and paint on wood

4. Somerset Grist Mill (outside), 42 Court St.

- Sitting Woman, ca. 1973, wood

5. Skowhegan Area Chamber of Commerce, 23 Commercial St.

- Bear (unfinished), 1975-76, wood on wood
- Indian (model), 1967, wood on concrete

6. Municipal Parking Lot, Commercial St.

- Woman on Pole, ca. 1975, wood on metal

7. Renaissance Building Passageway, 60 Water St.

- Jungle Relief, ca. 1972, wood and paint

8. Riverfront Parking Lot

- *Girl with Tail* (Mermaid) ca. 1974, wood, paint, and rope

9. Skowhegan Municipal Building, 225 Water St.

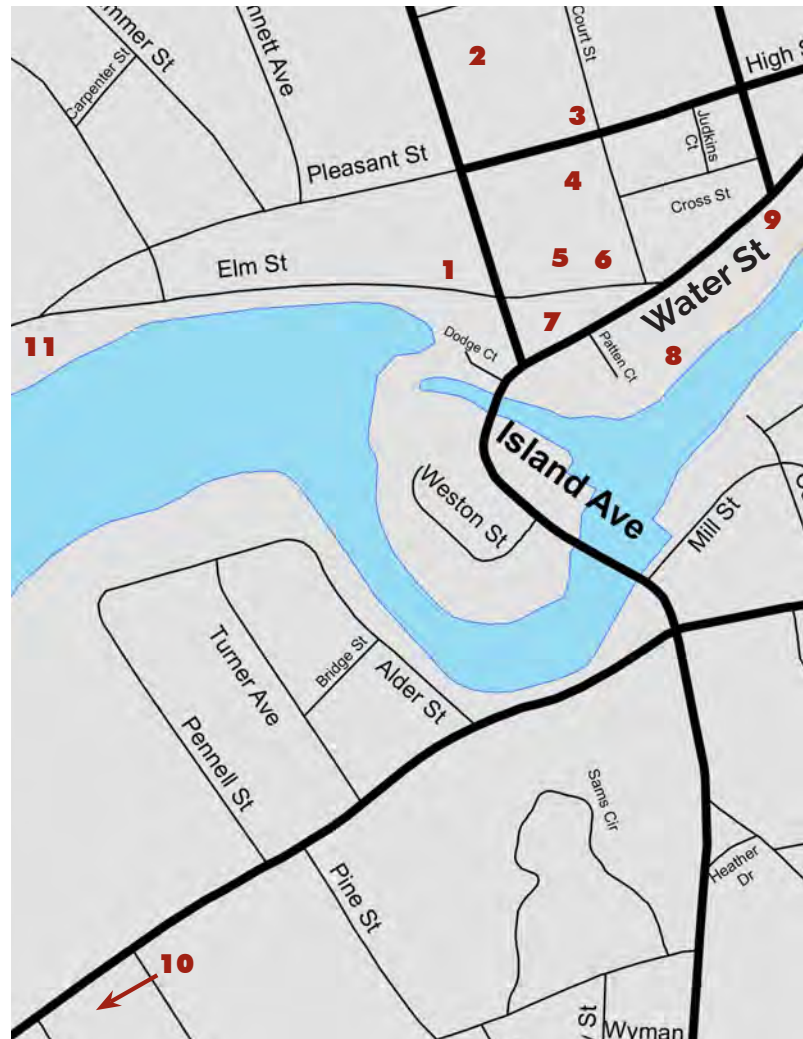
- Indian, 1967-68, wood (working model for Skowhegan Indian)
- Balancing Dogs (unfinished), 1977, wood on concrete
- Playground Animal Group, 1970s, wood

10. Skowhegan Community Center, 39 Poulin Dr.

- Basketball Player, ca. 1970, wood and paint
- Football/Scrimmage, 1969-70, wood and paint on concrete

11. Skowhegan History House, 66 Elm St.

- Indian (on Shelf), 1967, wood, paint, metal, fabric on wood (seasonal June to mid-October; on view at Main Street Skowhegan (#3 on map) mid-October to May)



— A WHIMSICAL ART WALK —

After the Georges River Land Trust and Colby College, Skowhegan has the most Bernard Langlais sculptures in Maine.

Both a student and a teacher at the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture in his lifetime, Bernard “Blackie” Langlais (1921-1977) was a prolific Maine artist known for his impressionistic folk-art style and oversized sculptures made from scrap wood and found objects.

In addition to Langlais's iconic 62-foot Skowhegan Indian sculpture—erected in 1969 and dedicated to “the Maine Indians, the first people to use these lands in peaceful ways”—

Skowhegan has on view 21 other pieces, offering a rare opportunity to experience a critical mass of Langlais artworks in one area.

Most of the artworks are within walking distance of each other, but those at the Skowhegan Community Center and Skowhegan History House are best reached by car.

Another sculpture, Mule, is on loan to Sugarloaf's Bill & Joan Alford Competition Center in Carrabassett Valley, just over an hour away.

Basketball Player, on view outside the Skowhegan Community Center, 39 Poulin Drive. Photo by Maria Landry.



Retail Therapy

For a comprehensive list of Skowhegan shopping opportunities, see VisitSkowhegan.com.



River Roads Artisans Gallery

Home Décor and Gifts

No matter your style, Skowhegan has you covered. Stroll downtown for cards and gifts at **Lynette's**, handmade home goods at **Crafty Creations**, and Stonewall Kitchen products plus locally produced cards, candles, and more at the **Skowhegan Fleuriste**. From May to December, **River Roads Artisans Gallery** offers handmade pottery, jewelry, paintings, blown glass, and more. Hit the **Maine Grains Dry Goods Store** in the Somerset Grist Mill for organic flours and oats plus other kitchen essentials. Head out of downtown to find cute prim décor at **1890 Primitives** (North Ave.), Maine-made flags and other textiles at **Maine Stitching Specialties** (Dane Ave.), and plants, flowers, and gifts at **Boynton's Greenhouse** (Madison Ave.).



Russakoff Jewelers

Apparel and Accessories

Looking to score a deal? Try **Madlyn's** or **Skills Thrift Store** downtown. Want something eclectic? Also downtown, **Maja's** offers clothing plus body jewelry and more. If you need athletic garb to hit Skowhegan's many trails, don't miss the **New Balance Factory Store** on Walnut Street. **Griffin's** on Madison Avenue also offers sportswear, plus other attire, kids' clothes, and footwear. You can find shoes—or get a favorite pair repaired—at **LaCasse's** on Water Street. If you're looking for that perfect piece of jewelry for a night out, try **Russakoff Jewelers**, a downtown staple for more than 100 years.

Kids and Pets

Stop by **Shelley's Toy Box** on Water Street for new and like-new brand-name children's clothes, toys, baby gear, and furnishings. You can also find kids' clothes at **Madlyn's** and **Griffin's** (see Apparel and Accessories, opposite page). If your children have four paws, swing up Madison Avenue to **Campbell's True Value**, where pets are welcome inside to choose treats or pick out a new collar. The **Dog Not Gone Factory Store** on Dane Avenue offers insect-repelling apparel for pets and people.



Dog Not Gone tick-repelling vest

Antiques

Interested in vintage and unique wares? You won't want to miss the variety of rarities, collectibles, and other antiques at **Hilltop Antiques** and **Red Roof Relics**, both on Water Street. For even more options, venture just outside of town to **Soll's Antiques** on Route 2 in Canaan or 15 minutes south on Route 201 to the expansive **Fairfield Antiques Mall**.



Crafts, Games, and Sporting Goods

If you're feeling crafty, check out **Happyknits** in the Somerset Grist Mill downtown or the **Fabric Garden** just outside of town on Route 201 in Madison. Going quintessential Maine? Try **Labonville** on Madison Avenue for fishing, hunting, and other outdoor apparel and accoutrements. Also on Madison Avenue, you can grab a custom bat for your favorite slugger at **LaCasse Bats** or a board, card, or video game at **3D Games**.



Happyknits



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Orrin Fitzgerald
Jessica Stromme



66 Water Street
Skowhegan, Maine


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1890 Find us on Facebook 219 North Ave.,
PRIMITIVES under 1890 Primitives Skowhegan, Maine
10-5, Wed.-Sat.



Somerset Sports & Fitness
6 Commerce Dr. (Route 201),
Skowhegan | 207-474-2224
rfgh.net/Community/
SomersetSportsFitness


A Redington-Fairview General Hospital affiliate, this fitness facility promotes wellness by providing a non-intimidating atmosphere for all fitness levels.

Maja's
Live, Laugh, Love

Judy Libby
Owner

75 Water St.
Skowhegan, Me. 04976
(207) 474-9330

Check us out on
Facebook @ Maja's




Hours: Tues-Sat, 10 am-6 pm



Rehab & Fitness Services
57 Fairview Ave., Skowhegan
207-474-7000
rfgh.net/Services/
RehabFitnessServices

A Redington-Fairview General Hospital department, Rehab & Fitness offers in- and out-patient rehabilitative services and aquatics-based fitness programs in therapy pools.

MARGARET CHASE SMITH LIBRARY



A congressional research library and museum displaying memorabilia from the life and political career of one of the twentieth century's most influential leaders.

Open Mon. thru Fri. 10-4
56 Norridgewock Avenue ~ Skowhegan, ME 04976 ~ (207) 474-7133
www.mcslibrary.org



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&
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and Formalwear



CAKES, PASTRIES
& FRESH FLOWERS



The Bankery is housed in a converted bank in Skowhegan's historic Flat Iron District and features organic coffee, fine pastries, and artistically designed cakes.

87 Water Street, Skowhegan • 207-474-BAKE (2253) • thebankery.com

Adjacent to the Bankery, **Skowhegan Fleuriste and Formalwear** offers fresh-cut flowers, unique Maine-made gifts and gourmet foods, and locally crafted cards.

93 Water Street, Skowhegan • 207-474-6256 • skowheganfleuriste.com



Annual Events

See VisitSkowhegan.com for a comprehensive list and more details.



Skijor Skowhegan
at Somerset SnowFest February



AgriCulture June



Ice-Fishing Derby
at Somerset SnowFest February



Kneading Conference
and Artisan Bread Fair July



Maple Festival March



Dinner in the Park August



River Fest August



Skowhegan State Fair August



Open Studio Tour August



Holiday Stroll December



New Balance Tent Sale August



Skowhegan Craft Brew Festival Labor Day Weekend

SKOWHEGAN CRAFT BREW FESTIVAL



Annually on the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend

Maine-crafted libations, farm-to-table fare, and
live music in the streets of Skowhegan

SKOWHEGANCRAFTBREWFEEST.COM



Bigelow Brewing strives to make beer from our community, using local ingredients to feel a sense of ownership of where we live. It is important that every beer Bigelow Brewing produces is made with malts that are grown in Maine.



Join us every Friday and Saturday for a delicious cold brew and wood fired pizza. Come take a brewery tour or sit back and relax while listening to live music with your friends.

473 Bigelow Hill Rd, Skowhegan, Maine
bigelowbrewing.com
bigelowbrewing@gmail.com
207-431-7265



Welcome to Skowhegan



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MADISON | NORRIDGEWOCK | RANGELEY | SKOWHEGAN

800.303.9511 • Skowhegan.com

A Place of Plenty



From foods grown on local farms to pub fare overlooking the Kennebec, Skowhegan offers a host of dining, snacking, and imbibing options to satisfy any palate. *Photo courtesy Lakewood Inn Restaurant*

Pizza & Sandwiches

Al's Pizza

A local staple for nearly 50 years, serving pizza, salads, sandwiches, and more
20 Waterville Rd., Skowhegan, 207-474-3100

Angelo's Pizzeria

Homemade pizza, pasta, subs, and more
60 Waterville Rd., Skowhegan, 207-474-7900

Damon's Quick Stop

Pizza, sandwiches, snacks, and more
191 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-2512

Kel-Mat Café

Sandwiches, wraps, salads, and soups
147 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-0200

Chinese Cuisine

Mei Lee Garden

381 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-8307

New Garden

6 Main St., Skowhegan, 207-474-8831

Pak Lee

252 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-3775

Skow Town Slice Bar

Pizza, burgers, sandwiches, salads, and more
213 North Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-6500

Snack Shack

Fried foods, sandwiches, salads, and soups
100 Waterville Rd., Skowhegan, 207-474-0550

West Front Market

General store serving pizza, sandwiches, baked goods, gluten-free fare, and more
68 West Front St., Skowhegan, 207-474-5013

Nightlife

Bloomfield's Tavern

Delicious drinks and music
40 Water St., Skowhegan, 207-474-8844

SouthSide Tavern

Sports bar, lounge, and soul food
1 Waterville Rd., Skowhegan, 207-474-6073

Restaurants

122 Corson

Farm-to-table restaurant with views of the foothills
122 Corson Rd., Mercer, 207-587-2019

Alice's Restaurant

Homemade breakfast and brunch
101 North Ave., Skowhegan, 207-858-4448

Good & Plenty 2

Family-style diner
59 Lakewood Rd., Madison, 207-858-0875

Heritage House Restaurant

Fine dining in a 19th-century house
182 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-5100

Ken's Family Restaurant

Family fare
411 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-3120

Lakewood Inn Restaurant

Seasonal venue, local ingredients
76 Theater Road, Madison, 207-858-4403

M. Thai

Authentic Thai cuisine
105 Water St., Skowhegan, 207-474-5064

The Miller's Table at Maine Grains

Farm-to-table restaurant
42 Court St., Skowhegan

Old Mill Pub

Pub fare overlooking the Kennebec
39 Water St., Skowhegan, 207-474-6627

T&B's Out-Back Tavern

Restaurant and sports bar
414 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-1223

Whit's End Grill & Bar

Grill with varied menu and full bar
123 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-9448

*Whoopie pie at
the Bankery*



Sweet Spots

The Bankery

From-scratch bakery in converted bank featuring pastries, breads, custom cakes, and more
87 Water St., Skowhegan, 207-474-2253

Gifford's Ice Cream

Award-winning ice cream (and a mini golf course!)
crafted at a local family-owned creamery
307 Madison Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-2257

The Ice Cream Shoppe

Old-fashioned ice cream parlor serving both hard and soft serve
209 North Ave., Skowhegan, 207-474-3300

Island Dairy Treat

Hard and soft serve, frozen yogurt, and gluten-free ice cream on the river island
23 Island Ave., Skowhegan, 207-431-2624

Chains

Looking for something familiar?

Try **Burger King**, **KFC/Taco Bell**, **McDonald's**, **Pizza Hut**, or the locally owned **Subway** franchise, all on Madison Avenue.

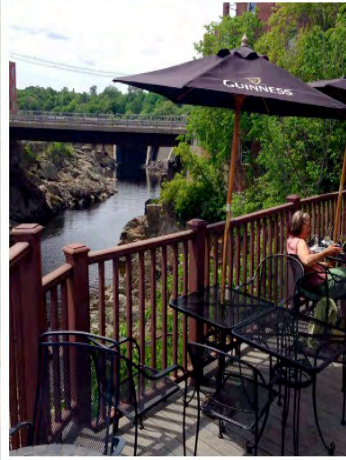
Don't forget to satisfy your coffee craving at locally owned **Dunkin' Donuts**, with locations on Madison Avenue, downtown on Water Street, and in nearby Canaan, Madison, and Norridgewock.

*Slab sandwich on homemade
bread at the Miller's Table*



Goburn Park is a beloved downtown spot for walking, picnicking, listening to live music on Sunday afternoons, and just relaxing. Here it is amid the lush colors of August. *Photo by Maria Landry*





Golf Course
 Built in the 1920s, this beautiful course offers amazing scenery and Maine's only Par 6.

Winter Trails
 Don't miss the groomed trails for Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, and fat biking!

803 Lakewood Rd., Madison
 207-474-5955
lakewoodgolfmaine.com

Old Mill Pub

39 WATER STREET, SKOWHEGAN, MAINE
 (207) 474-6627

RIVERSIDE DINING ~ LIVE MUSIC
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Timeline Growth Rule

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www.skowheganwoodenrule.com

Ultra-local foods are the norm in Skowhegan. Pick berries or apples, select hand-crafted ricotta at the local cheesery, try what might be the most delicious scone you've ever tasted at our from-scratch artisan bakery, tour the grist mill, browse the farmers' market, or indulge in a local craft beer at one of our breweries. Learn more on pages 20-21. *Photo by Jonathan Wheaton*

River Roads
 ARTISANS GALLERY
 75 Water St. Skowhegan, Maine 04976
www.riverroadsgallery.com



Zzz

**Want to be as relaxed as this cat? (Who doesn't?)
Read on to find your perfect place to rest.**

Whether you're looking for a rustic campground stay, a peaceful lakeside sojourn, or a home-like night's rest in a comfortable motel, the Skowhegan area has it covered.

The Belmont Hotel

Clean, quiet, affordable accommodations
273 Madison Ave., Skowhegan
1-800-235-6669

Breezy Acres Motel

12-unit motel combining small-resort activities with
down-home comfort
315 Waterville Rd., Skowhegan
207-474-2703

Canaan Motel

Clean, comfortable motel featuring a pool, hot tub, and
picnic area
205 Main St., Rte. 2, Canaan
207-474-3600

Colony House Inn

Serene lakeside accommodations at historic Lakewood
68 Beach Rd., Madison
207-474-6599

Country Cottage Lodging

Spacious furnished cottage-apartments in the country
169 Hilton Hill Rd., Canaan
207-474-9820

Kyes Motel

Quiet country motel on 14 acres on the Kennebec
137 W. Front St., Skowhegan
800-981-1355

The Pinewood Motel

Comfortable, clean motel featuring a pool and hot tub as
well as proximity to two connecting rivers
395 Canaan Rd., Skowhegan
207-474-7155

Silverton Sporting Ranch

Private one- and two-bedroom cabins nestled in 400
wooded acres
51 Webb Rd., Canaan
207-399-3647

Skowhegan/Kennebec Valley KOA

Family vacation setting on 83 acres with RV and tent
camping sites, cabins, many amenities, and activities
18 Cabin Rd., Canaan
207-474-2858
800-562-7571

Towne Motel

Convenient fine lodging, personal service, and extra-
large pool
172 Madison Ave., Skowhegan
207-474-5151
800-843-4405

Two Rivers Campground

Campground on the banks of the Kennebec River and
Wesserunsett Stream, offering myriad amenities
327 Canaan Rd., Skowhegan
207-474-6482

Whispering Pines Motel

Clean, comfortable rooms, reasonable rates, and a
relaxing atmosphere
821 Waterville Rd., Skowhegan
207-474-2287

Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park

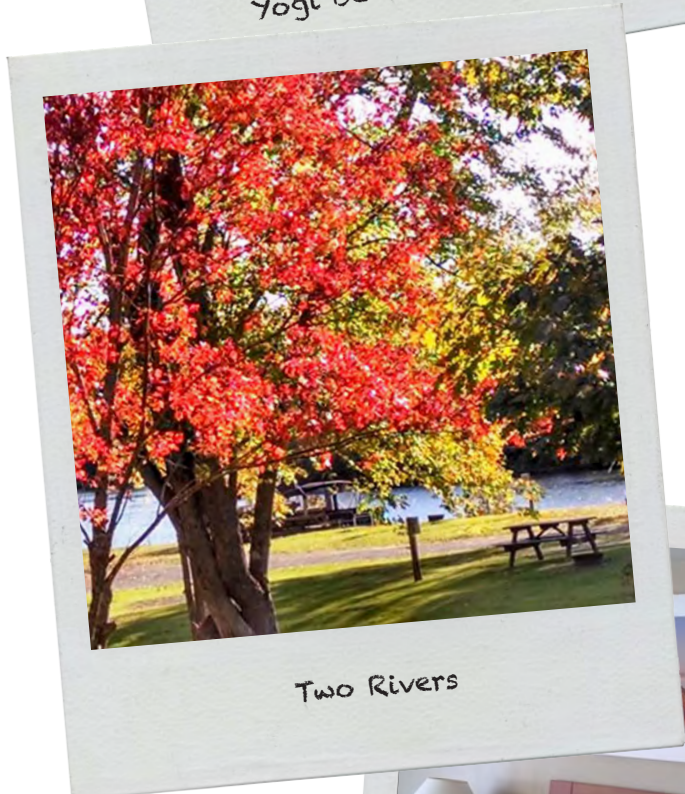
Yogi-themed campground/RV park with many amenities
on 35 wooded acres—you can even sleep in a treehouse!
221 Lakewood Rd., Madison
207-474-7353



Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park



Colony House Inn



Two Rivers



Kyes Motel



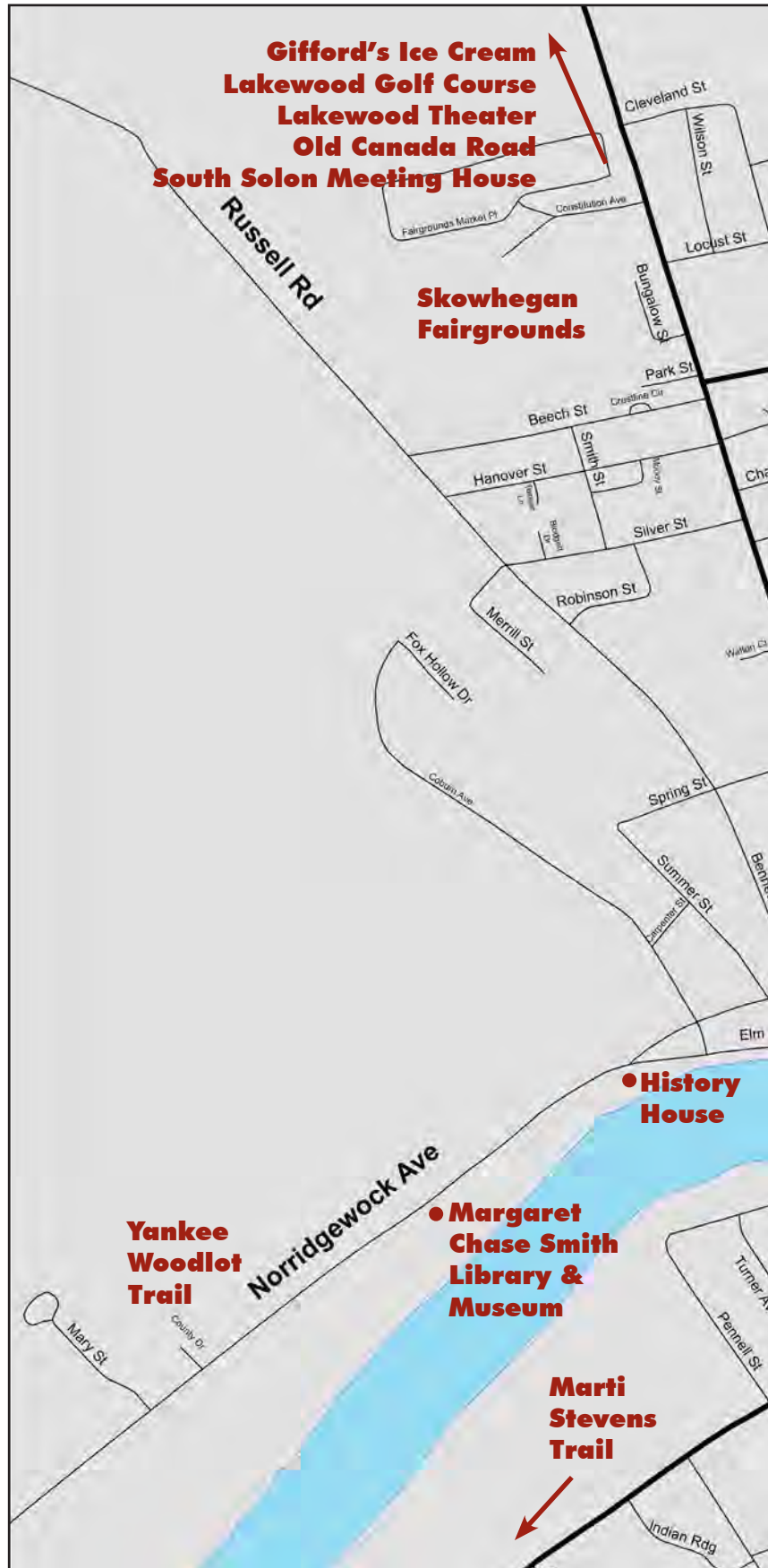
Towne Motel

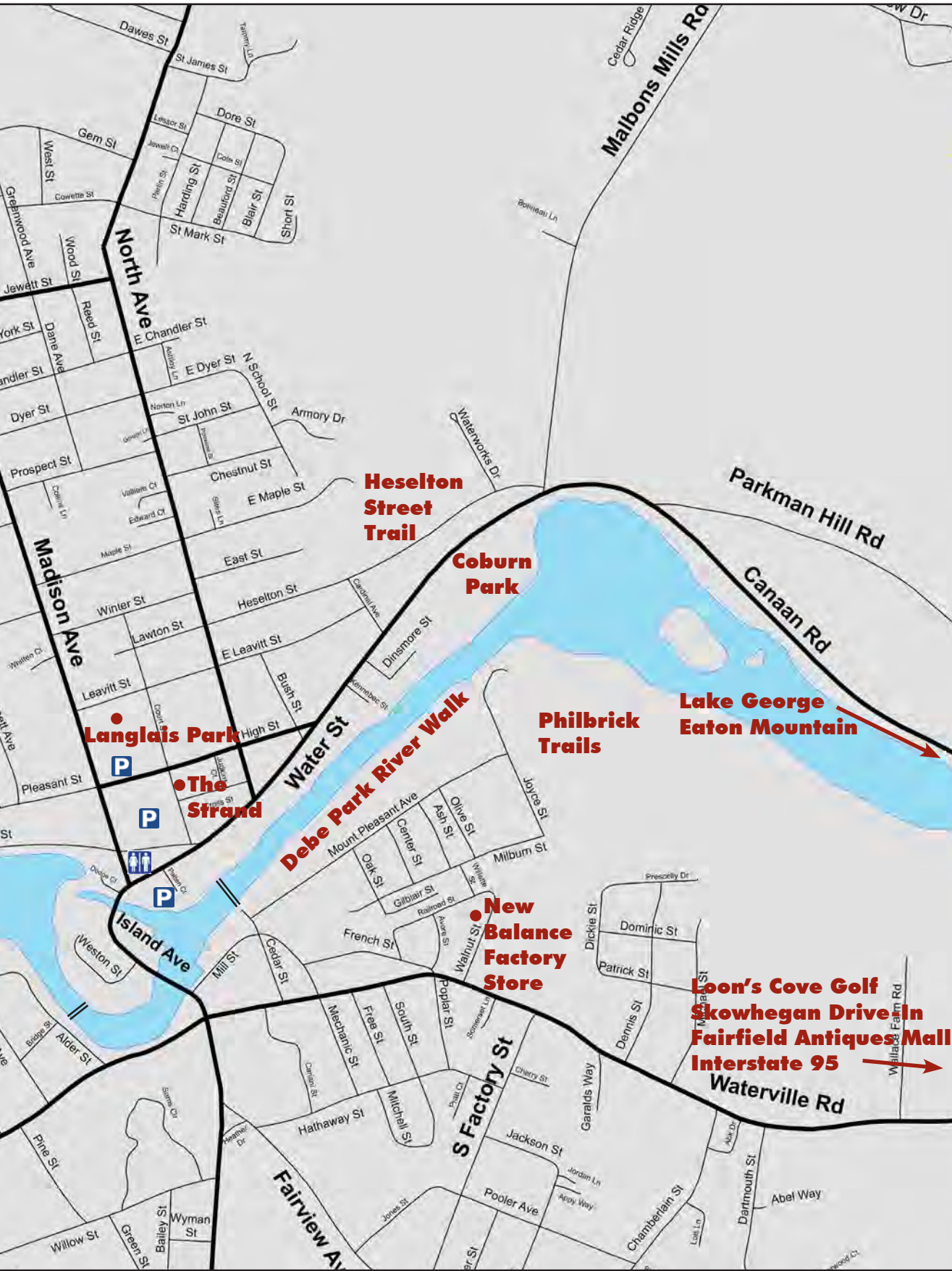
Mapping

downtown Skowhegan and beyond

Can we help you find something? Here are some notable landmarks, venues, trails, and more.

For more info, be sure to check out VisitSkowhegan.com.





Heselton Street Trail

Coburn Park

Langlais Park
The Strand

Water St
Debe Park River Walk

Philbrick Trails

Lake George Eaton Mountain

New Balance Factory Store

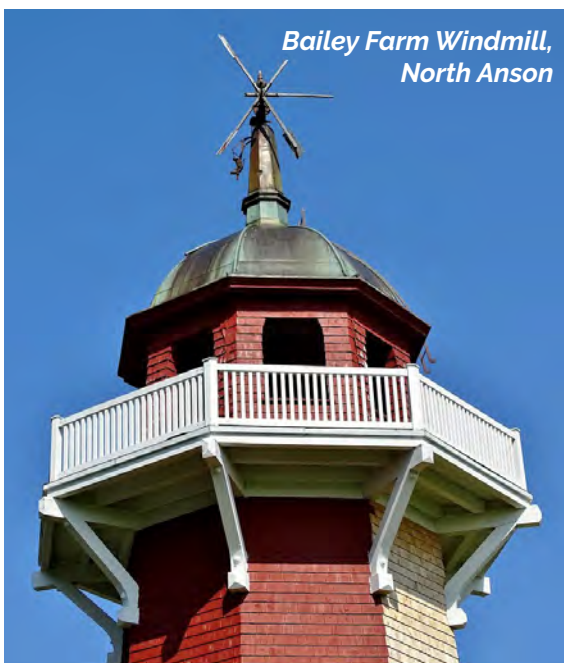
Loon's Cove Golf Skowhegan Drive In Fairfield Antiques Mall Interstate 95

Local Charm

Nearby small towns offer additional experiences to make your visit to the Skowhegan area even richer.

Anson

North Anson's Temples Historic District—a collection of Greek Revival houses built between 1844 and 1858 on Madison Street—is on the National Register of Historic Places. So too is the 1905 Bailey Farm Windmill. The quaint Stewart Public Library dates to 1913, and Diadema Golf Club is not to be missed (see page 15).



*Bailey Farm Windmill,
North Anson*

Athens

The tiny town of Athens is replete with history, including the Grange Hall, the circa-1846 Somerset Academy, and the spired Baptist church, constructed in the 1830s and featuring a stained-glass window donated by the Grand Army of the Republic and a bell that was installed in 1865. Agriculture is also abundant—Blessed Maine Herb Farm gives free tours by appointment, and Sites Farm offers strawberries and highbush blueberries (see page 20).

Canaan

The town of Canaan has antiquing, camping, guided hunting, sport-shooting, and a trail system that connects to many other regional and statewide trails. Lake George (see page 11) is nestled on Canaan's border with Skowhegan, and Sibley Pond is an idyllic spot for fishing and boating. Built in 1898, the Canaan Farmers Hall hosts events including contra dances and musical performances.

Cornville

Formed in 1798 as a farming community, Cornville is still dotted with farms, including some that raise organic meat and grow organic vegetables. Barker Pond off Route 43 is a great spot to catch largemouth and smallmouth bass, white and yellow perch, hornpout, and chain pickerel.

Embden

Located amid the Kennebec and Carrabassett rivers, Embden is rich in natural beauty. The town has seven bodies of water highlighted by the pristine Embden Pond, rated among the best in the state. Indian and Fowl Meadow Islands have distinctive flora, and migrant waterfowl rest there near evidence of old logging drives.

Madison

Madison is a classic small town featuring beautiful Somerset Abbey, a former church that's now a performance venue; Lakewood Theater, the nation's longest-running summer theater (see page 27); historic Lakewood Golf Course (see page 15); and recreational activities including whitewater thrills at the Madison Wave and hiking and fishing along the Historic Pines Trail (see page 14).

Mercer

Mercer is a rural town with agricultural destinations Sandy River Apples and Blue Ribbon Farm, which features farm-to-table restaurant 122 Corson (see page 39). A 371-acre bog with a diversity of wetland types, the Mercer Bog Wildlife Management Area is open for public uses such as canoeing, kayaking, hunting, and fishing.



Madison Wave, by Taylor Walker

Norridgewock

With a name that means "people of the still water between the rapids," Norridgewock was originally inhabited by the Abenaki, Native Americans who cultivated the land and fished the Kennebec. Today a rainbow-arched bridge spans the river, the Norridgewock Historical Society & Museum provides retrospectives of local heritage, and the town continues a long, proud manufacturing history with its New Balance Shoe Factory.

Smithfield

A small community nestled between two ponds, Smithfield is a serene place to relax and play. The ponds provide opportunities for year-round activities including fishing, boating, swimming, skating, snowmobiling, ice-fishing, and cross-country skiing. Incorporated on Feb. 29, 1840, Smithfield is Maine's only leap-year town.

Solon

As the origin of the Old Canada Road Scenic Byway (see page 15) and the home of the historic South Solon Meeting House with its vibrant and elaborate frescoes (see page 26), Solon showcases some compelling visual delights. Solon is also a recreational paradise with plentiful opportunities for fishing, canoeing, kayaking, white-water rafting, swimming, hiking, hunting, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing.



*Downtown Skowhegan and beyond
Photo by Sam Horine*

Historic Skowhegan, Maine, is conveniently located at the junction of Routes 2 and 201 in the scenic Kennebec River Valley.

VisitSkowhegan.com