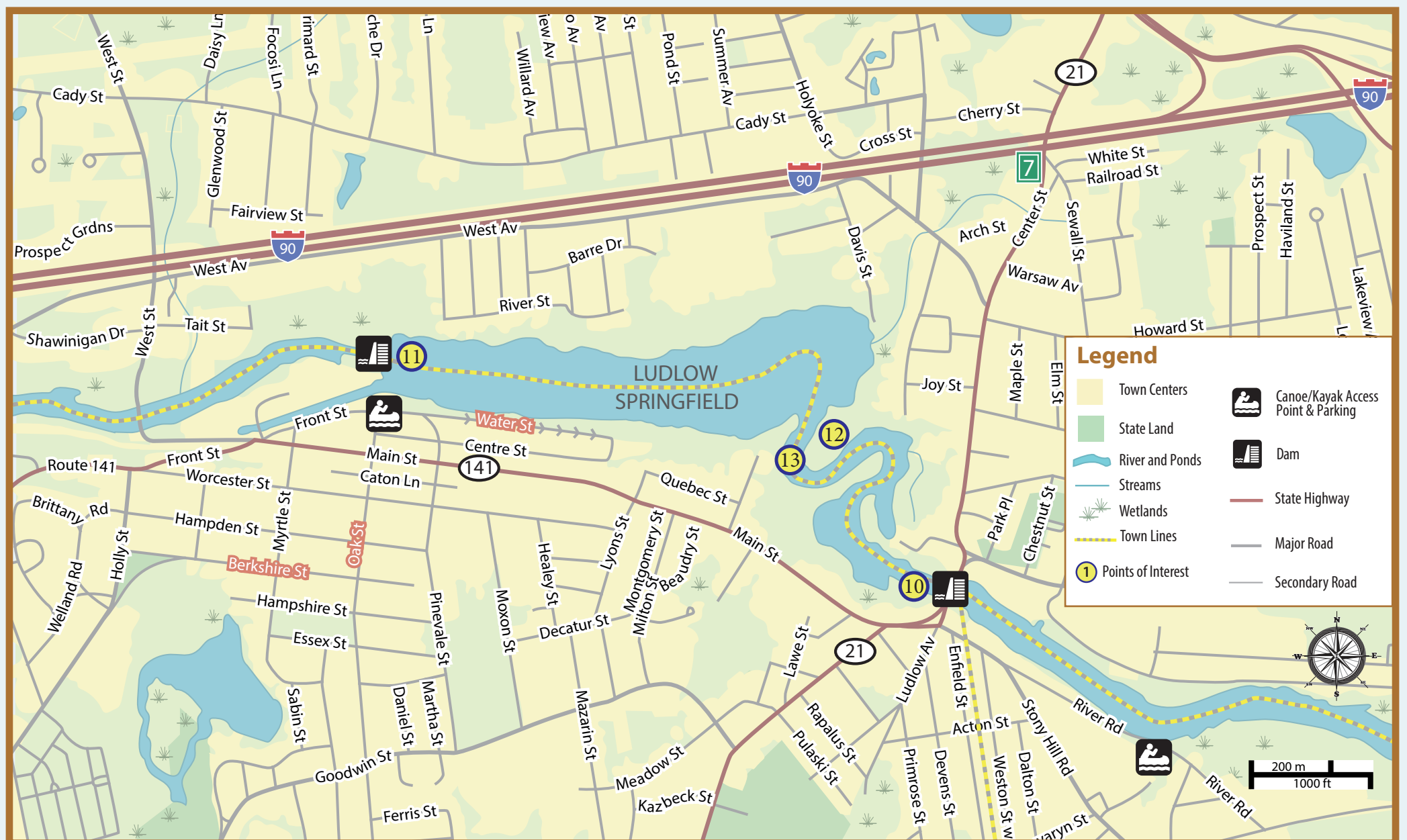


Indian Orchard - Indian Leap

BLUE TRAIL SEGMENT



10 The Wallamanumps Falls is a Nipmuck word meaning “red cliffs” or “red steep rocks”. The falls dropped 42 feet prior to the building of the first dam in the late 1700s.

11  The access for the Indian Orchard Mills impoundment is on Water St, a small one-way road off Oak St. The Mills here were first built in the 1840s and made textiles till the mid/late 1900s.

12 The Indian Leap section of the river is characterized by steep cliffs that frame the river. The legend of this area says that in 1675, during the King Phillip’s war, after attacking Springfield, some Indians camped the night near this area. A day or so later, they were confronted by a large group of settlers and they retreated towards the cliffs. Seeing no other escape, Chief Roaring Thunder had his group “leap” into the river below (there was no impoundment then) where some likely perished, perhaps some escaped.



13 Two railroad bridges crossed at the leap in more modern times, they had spectacular iron frames. The river winds upstream past the base of the power plant then up to the dam. The current can be quick, but if the paddler is strong, and careful, you may get a glimpse of the base of Wallamanumps Falls.

The Chicopee River: Flowing from tributaries (Ware, Swift, Quaboag) that meet in Three Rivers / Palmer, the river flows some 18 miles and drops some 250 feet till it meets the Connecticut River. Named from an Algonquian/Nipmuc term meaning “place of violent waters”, likely referring to the many waterfalls in the lower river, the river was a lifeline for the many local Native Americans. Later, these waterfalls would be replaced by 7 dams along the river’s length and power the area’s local industrial growth.

River Etiquette: The impoundment above the Indian Orchard Dam is flat water to Indian Leap, and a bit quicker above until the power plant outflow is reached. Paddlers should be careful of the current and on the lookout for downed trees, rocks and other obstacles that can pose hazards. Enjoy your trip and be respectful of other paddlers. Please respect private property and avoid trespassing and littering. Enjoy wildlife quietly and from a safe distance.

Wearing a life jacket is recommended--and required September through May.

Visit C4R web site for more river & trail information:
www.c4rivers.org