

Parker River NWR to Offer Two Free Online Film Screenings in March

Officials at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge have announced two free online film screenings that will take place during the month of March:

Beaver Believers

Screening Date & Time: Thursday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m.

The Beaver Believers is an award-winning feature documentary sharing the urgent yet whimsical story of an unlikely cadre of activists - five scientists and a sassy, spicy hairdresser - who share a common vision. They're all working to restore the North American beaver, that most industrious, ingenious, buck-toothed engineer, to the watersheds of the American West. The Beaver Believers encourage us to embrace a new paradigm for managing our western lands, one that seeks to partner with the natural world rather than overpower it. As a keystone species, beaver enrich their ecosystems, creating the biodiversity, complexity, and resiliency our watersheds need to absorb the impacts of climate change. Beavers can show us the way and do much of the work for us, if only we can find the humility to trust the restorative power of nature and our own ability to play a positive role within it. (2018; run time: 64 mins.) Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/133200746>

Preregistration for this program is required, as space is limited. Send an email to parkerriver@fws.gov and write "beaver believers" on the subject line. Please also include your full name. **Registration deadline is Tuesday, March 16.**

The Merrimack: River at Risk

Screening Date & Time: Thursday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a journey on the Merrimack River, from its formation at the confluence of the Pemigewasset and Winnepesaukee Rivers in Franklin, NH to its outlet to the Gulf of Maine in Newburyport, Massachusetts. The Society for the Protection of NH Forests teamed up with conservation photographer and filmmaker Jerry Monkman to explore the central role the Merrimack plays in the past, present and future of our region.

The Merrimack River is the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution in America. Mills in cities such as Manchester and Lowell harnessed the power of the river to become the largest manufacturing plants in the world — and left polluted waters in their wake. Thanks to a series of actions — from the protection of the White Mountains to the Clean Water Act of 1972 — the Merrimack's waters are cleaner and better protected today. Remarkably, more than 80 percent of the Merrimack watershed is still undeveloped and largely forested. Yet, in 2016, it was named one of the most endangered rivers in the U.S. (2020; run time: 55 mins.) Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/435155661>

Following the screening, audience members will have a chance to pose questions to the filmmakers. Preregistration for this program is required, as space is limited. Send an email to parkerriver@fws.gov and write "Merrimack River" on the subject line. Please also include your full name. **Registration deadline is Tuesday, March 23.**

These free monthly online programs are co-sponsored by the refuge and the Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge.