

Festival Plaza

Coordinates:

Location: Auburn, Maine. Located behind Festival Plaza (between the Plaza and the river) on Main St. in downtown Auburn.

Owner: City of Auburn

Manager: City of Auburn

Launch facilities:

Prefer use of site for hand carry access. Concrete boat ramp available for launching of hand carry craft. No parking for trailers, and site was installed primarily for emergency water rescue operations.

Miles to downstream access: 1

Parking:

Parking off-site. Two hour parking in lot and parking garage across Main St. from Plaza. Longer term parking in lot approximately 1/3 mile up river past Hilton Garden Inn at Great Falls Plaza.

Amenities:

Festival Plaza

River Walk with benches and other enhancements, connects via Bike/Ped Trestle to Railroad Park in Lewiston and inner city bike route in Lewiston

Nearby restaurants and Hotel

Water conditions:

Moderate current with some shallow sections near railroad trestle downstream.

General Comments:

Paddle upstream to view Great Falls. Strong current for short section near/under bridge but then moderate above bridge. Downstream check out the Lewiston canal outlets on river left.

Site provides easy access to good restaurants in downtowns of both Lewiston and Auburn and a hotel at Great Falls Plaza. There is a series of pedestrian amenities starting at West Pitch Park located upstream of the L/A bridge. Auburn's River walk extends downstream to an old railroad trestle that now provides pedestrian access to Lewiston's expansive Railroad Park, redeveloping mill buildings in Lewiston and downtown Lewiston. If making round trip, paddle upstream on river left (Lewiston side of river).

Museum L/A, dedicated to the history of Lewiston's and Auburn's development around textile mills and shoe shops, is located in and old mill in Lewiston and is planning to relocate to a mill along the river.

Amenities of downtown Lewiston, Maine's second largest city nearby. Restaurants, hotels, and shopping are located in both Lewiston and its twin city of Auburn. The downtown areas along the river feature several parks and walking pathways. Downtown Lewiston features several shops on Lisbon Street carrying native Somali textiles, goods and foods, thanks to a small immigrant population of Somalis. The area also has a developing food and cultural scene worth some additional research.