

Seasonal Dock Management Plan  
The Fenn School  
676 Monument Street  
Concord, MA

This seasonal dock management plan is prepared to outline foreseeable operation, management and maintenance of the seasonal dock and waterfront area on the Concord River on property owned by The Fenn School. The purpose of the seasonal dock is to protect the natural riverbank from pedestrian traffic over the bank to launch and land canoes. The canoe program at the Fenn School (day school students and summer day campers) is a faculty and staff supervised activity to ensure a safe learning environment. The dock and ramp will be used to safely allow students and camper to enter and exit canoes and to obtain water samples under faculty and counselor supervision. Another important purpose of the dock design is to provide another outdoor classroom space to make sure students can connect and engage with their environment, by allowing them access the water.

The measures described herein were developed to identify operations to protect the natural environment of the Concord River, riverbank and nearshore riparian zone. Because the canoe program is a new and evolving program, the information presented herein is based on the school's experience to date plus anticipated means and methods for managing the seasonal dock. Procedures for deploying and retrieving the docks may change as the school staff become more proficient with this operation.

**Seasonal Dock Use Dates:**

April 1 to November 1

**Dock Equipment, Canoes and Storage:**

The proposed waterfront area and dock will include the following elements:

- Three 6-foot by 8-foot segmental floating dock sections (to form the 6-foot by 24-foot floating dock).
- Access to the dock will be provided by one 5-foot wide by 20- to 25-foot long gangway.
- The dock will be held in place in the river by four 1-½ - or 2-inch diameter poles, augered into the river substrate.
- The six canoes in use now are 16-foot (two person) canoes. The program is expected to grow over time to a maximum of up to 22 boats – canoes and possibly kayaks.
- Four timber canoe racks with the capacity to hold six canoes each. These will be located greater than 50 feet from the top of the riverbank, in the vicinity of the existing single canoe rack on-site. Seasonal storage lockers will be co-located with the canoe racks to store personal flotation devices, first aid kit and other necessary supplies.

### **Dock Installation and Retrieval:**

Each dock section weighs approximately 250 pounds. Dock sections will be carried to the riverbank and carried over the bank to float in the river. While along the river's edge the sections will be connected following the manufacturer's directions. It is expected the dock will be held in place along by tying it off to nearby trees. The gangway will be installed to the middle section. The completed floating dock will be positioned in its designated location. Once positioned it will be held in place by augering (screwing) the poles into the river substrate.

Retrieval will involve tying the dock to nearby trees to temporarily hold it in place. The poles will be removed (unscrewed) from the riverbed and the dock will be pulled alongside the riverbank. In this position the gangway will be removed from the dock. Workers will then de-couple the section and remove them from the river one-by-one. Once onshore the three segments, the gangway and poles will be moved to the off-season storage area.

### **Off-Season Storage:**

Dock segments, gangway, poles, and canoes will be stored in the adjacent meadow outside of the 100-foot buffer zone and Riverfront Area. See the attached Figure 1 which depicts the proposed off-season storage area. This location is large enough to store the three segments on the ground with the gangway placed on top plus the four canoe racks loaded with canoes.

### **Access Path and Waterfront Area:**

Access to the canoes and waterfront area by students will be on foot on Fenn property. Fenn School students, campers, faculty, staff, administrators, and trustees, as well as certain other neighbors, have been granted access to our property and the river. A Gator, a small four-wheel vehicle, may be used to provide handicap accessibility to the waterfront and for maintenance. The access path and waterfront area will be mowed regularly to maintain a low turf cover for access to and from the canoe launch area. The path and waterfront will be inspected by faculty / staff at the end of last session of the day and any items (backpacks, sweatshirts, towels, etc.) left behind will be removed and brought to main campus.

The dock will be inspected at least three times per week and any floating debris that collects on the dock will be removed. Trash will be disposed of properly on main campus, and organic matter, e.g. branches, will be moved to the downstream side of the dock so that it can remain in the river system.

### **Boater Safety:**

Students and campers participating in the canoeing program will participate in a safety orientation during their first session. This orientation of:

1. Donning and doffing lifejackets / personal floatation device (PFD)
2. Each student should select and be taught how to select the proper pfd and paddle for their size.
3. Waterfront Safety Rules – rules while on the dock, gangway and shoreline.
4. Parts of boat and nomenclature

5. Boarding and debarking canoes
6. Appropriate movement on the craft - On land students shall demonstrate the three basic canoe strokes and discuss the rules of the river
7. Self-rescue in case of capsize or swamping of the boat
8. Boating "Rules of the Road"

**Canoe Area Rules:**

- Anyone on the ramp, dock or in a canoe/kayak must wear a PFD at all times. No exceptions for any reason.
- Two people to remove and return canoe from the storage rack, carry it on the ramp and on dock.
- An adult must be on the dock before any child is on the dock and there always needs to be an adult on the dock when children are on the dock. And there also needs to be an adult on land.
- Safety is most important. Move slowly and ask questions.
- All canoers must maintain eye contact with each other canoes at all times.
- When preparing to canoe only the faculty and staff and those children carrying a canoe or being loaded in their canoe should be on the ramp or dock.
- Canoes shall be held parallel to the dock for loading safely and once in the boat all paddlers should be seated and remain seated at all times. There will be a maximum of three to any canoe. And for social distance purposes until further notice a maximum of two per canoe and masks should be worn by adults and children.
- For science class, naturalist program, adventure and team building and other times, consider lashing canoes together to make a floating classroom.
- Store personal items, e.g. back packs, in the temporary storage lockers or picnic table. Carry everything out when boating session or science class is over.
- All canoes must maintain eye contact with each other at all times.
- Be respectful of the rules of boating and of the river and wetland resources and of everyone on the river.
- Look out for others and be helpful.



**LEGEND**

- Project Site
- Floodplain (BLSF)
- Bordering Vegetated Wetland Area
- Riverfront Area
- River Bank
- 100-foot Buffer Zone
- Off Season Storage Area

Scale 1:1,800  
1 inch = 150 feet

0 75 150 Feet

Basemap: 2020 Orthophotography, Nearmap

Fenn School Seasonal Float Concord, Massachusetts