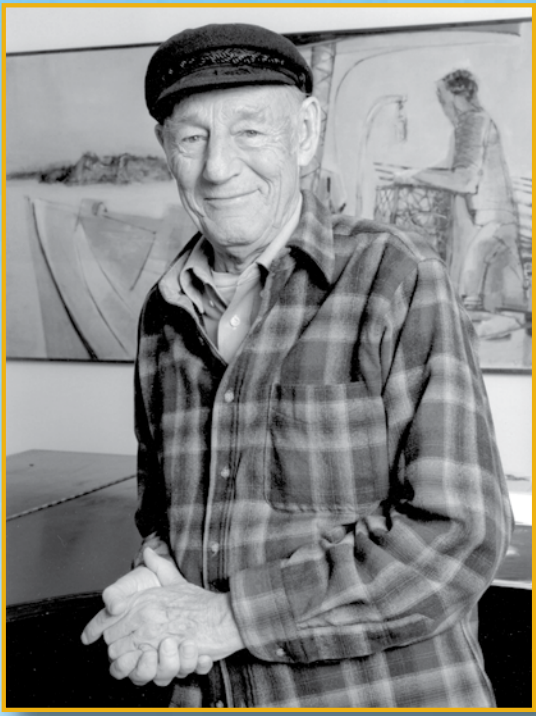


JOHN HATCH PARK

AT WISWALL FALLS

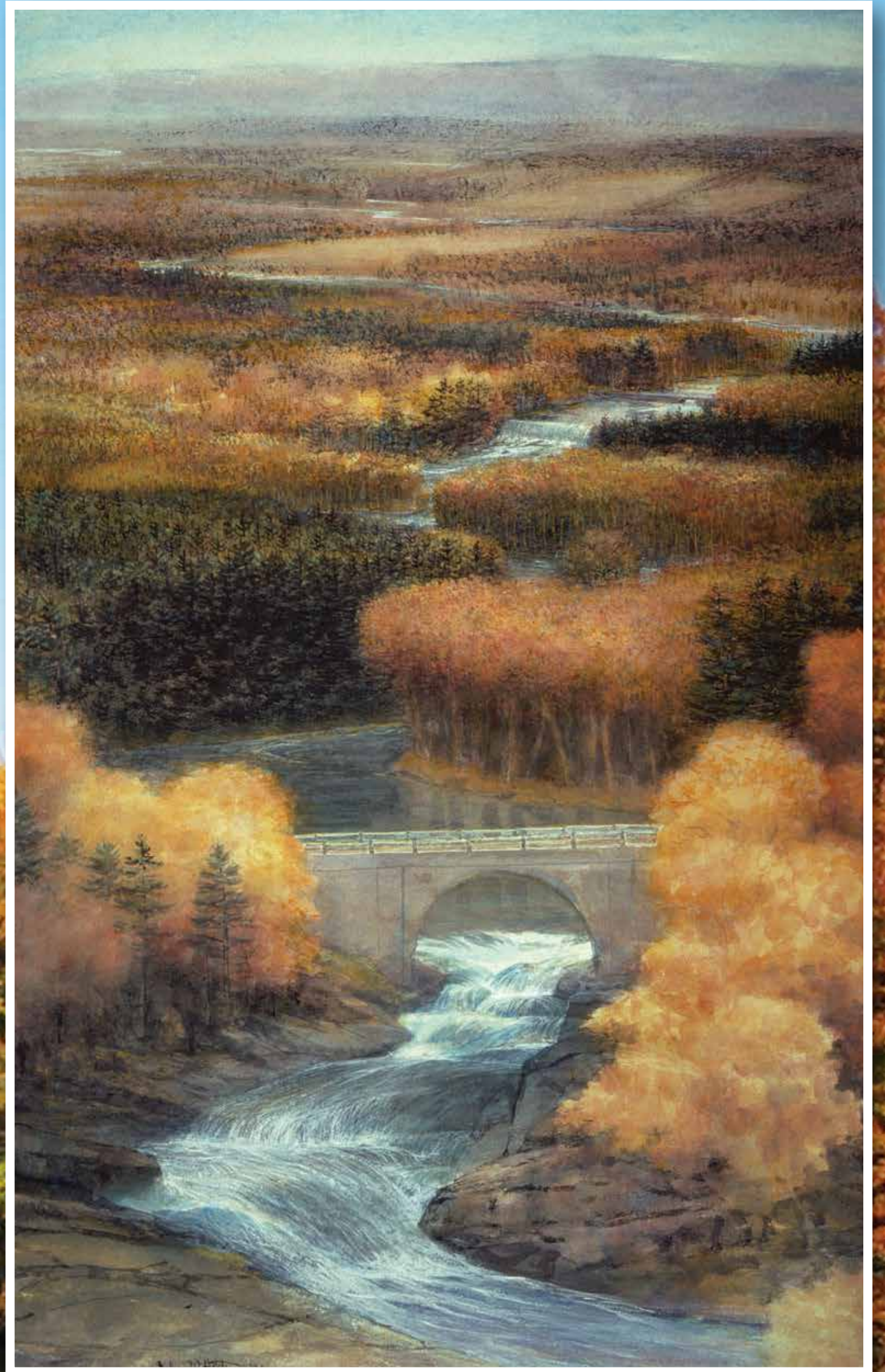


John Woodsum Hatch, 1919 - 1998

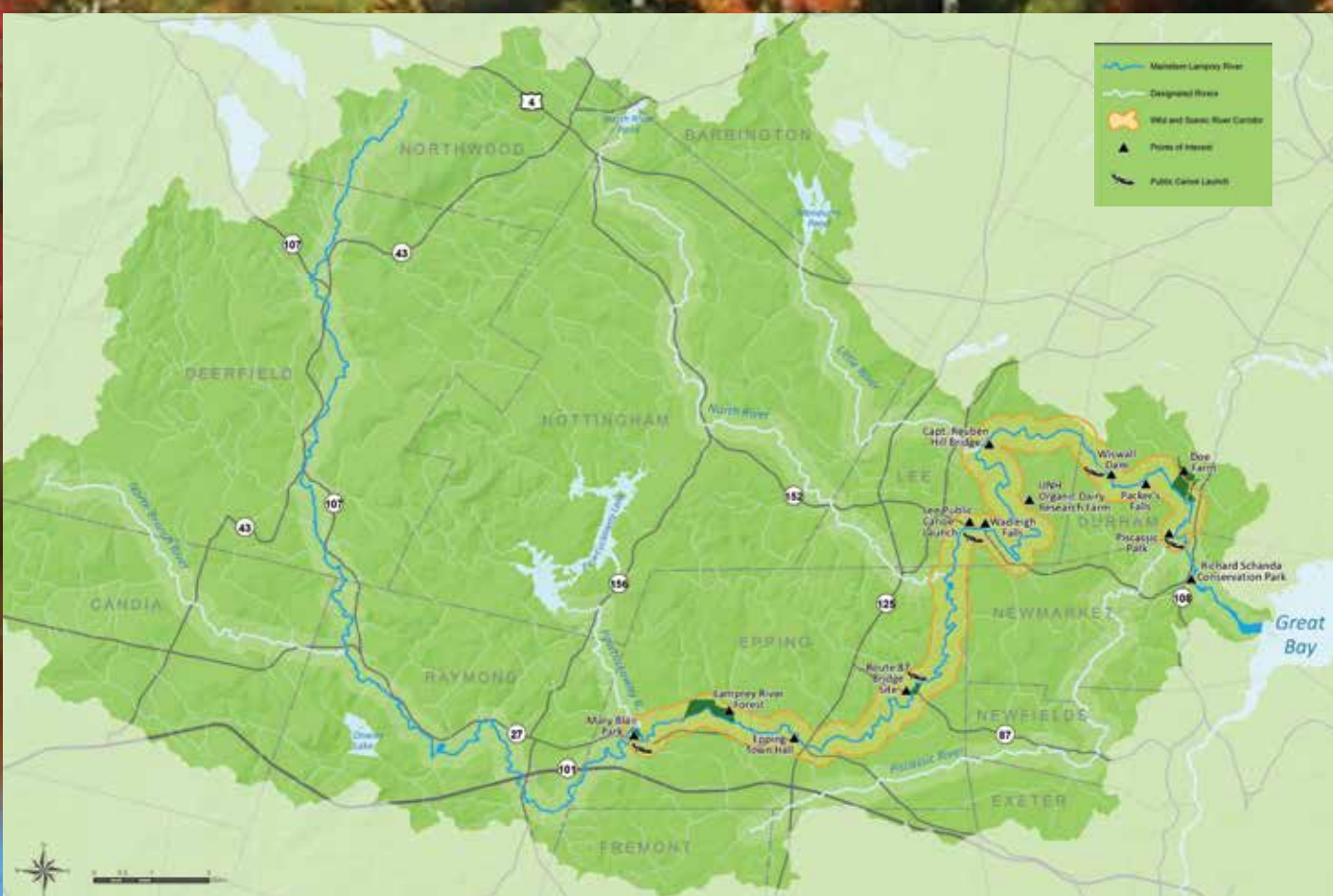
John Hatch sought to connect Durham residents to the land and engender a sense of environmental responsibility. He accomplished this goal through his roles as artist, educator, historian, and land conservationist. His deep appreciation of our natural landscapes led him to serve

on Durham's Conservation Commission and later to become a founding member of the Lamprey River Watershed Association and the Lamprey River Advisory Committee. His enthusiastic guidance was behind many conservation projects throughout Durham: Adams Point, Wagon Hill, Longmarsh, Packers Falls, and here at Wiswall. Above and beyond his countless hours of community service, John Hatch the artist shared his love of the land, nature, and history through his many beautiful paintings of Durham scenes. In appreciation for all of his efforts, this park at Wiswall Falls is dedicated to John W. Hatch.

John and his wife, Maryanna, worked many years in Durham's town government and the Durham Historic Association. This team's inspiration and actions brought many conservation projects to fruition.



"Fall Along the Lamprey" – a watercolor completed by Hatch in 1994 depicts the Lamprey River as it winds its way from its headwaters near Saddleback and the Pawtuckaway mountains, downstream for 45 miles to Durham where it passes over Wiswall Dam and the then beneath the Packers Falls Bridge.



The Lamprey River Watershed

The Lamprey River and its tributaries connect fourteen towns, beginning in Northwood and ending at Great Bay in Newmarket. The river also connects people who care about the past, the present, and the future. The Lamprey River Watershed Association, a volunteer non-profit organization, has tested the river for fishable and swimmable water, documented problems along the entire length of the river, and led efforts to secure state recognition of the river's importance. The Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee was established as a result of entry into the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. The committee is composed of members nominated by their towns. Through its efforts for national recognition in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the committee has used federal funding to create a comprehensive rivers management plan, sponsored research, reviewed proposed development projects, and worked with landowners to permanently protect over 2000 acres of high quality natural land along the main stem Lamprey River.



A visitor learns about mills along the history path at Mary Blair Park, West Epping.



John Hatch Park at Wiswall Falls is only one of many points of interest along the Lamprey. "Explore the Lamprey River" offers a map and self-guided tour of sites to visit where one can learn about the Lamprey's history and enjoy its beauty. Visit www.lampreyriver.org/recreation to view.

- 1983**
Lamprey River Watershed Association formed
- 1990**
Durham and Lee portion designated into the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program
- Lamprey River Advisory Committee formed
- 1996**
Durham, Lee and Newmarket portions designated into National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
- 2000**
Portion of Lamprey in Epping incorporated into Wild & Scenic designation
- 2011**
Entire Lamprey and five major tributaries added to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program

