

Trail Route

From Hopkinton to Little Narragansett Bay, the Pawcatuck River is the boundary between Rhode Island and Connecticut. The boxes, numbered 1 – 6 denote “put-in or take-out” locations along this beautiful section of the river.



Box#7 denotes an additional 5-mile paddle to Napatree Point.

1 Below Potter Hill dam at the intersection of Laurel St and Maxson St in

Hopkinton is a small put-in. Across the bridge 50 yards on Potter Hill Rd. in Westerly **2** there is a 20-car public parking area and put-in at the end of Post Office Lane (it looks like a driveway). In approximately 2-miles is Boombridge Rd bridge with access to the river **3** immediately following on the right. About 1.5-miles further on the left is the forth launch point **4** a dirt access at White Rock Rd. across from the Gingerella Sports Complex. The river passes by the remnants of a dam at Stillman Ave. which provides 200 yards of class



II rapids with a clear channel on both sides of the island.

There is excellent fishing throughout this stretch of the

Federally designated Wild & Scenic River with a license from either state. The upper portion holds smallmouth bass, pickerel, bullhead, perch, brook and brown trout. Both sections hold migratory alewife, American shad, Atlantic salmon, and the lower portion one finds seasonal striped bass, blue fish, and porgies.

You are now in tidal water. Below this section the river runs through interesting views of commercial buildings. The first Take-out is river right **5** 50 yards below Main Street bridge at Donahue Park and **6** is the last Take-out 275 yards further on the left at the Westerly Boat Ramp. Limited parking is available at all locations.



For the more adventurist you may continue 5-miles further out **7** to Little Narragansett Bay and Napatree Point and return.

History

The Wood-Pawcatuck Rivers were designated “Wild & Scenic” rivers by the Federal Government in 2019. Only 8% of RI’s rivers and 1% in CT hold that designation. The river classification “wild” means free-flowing and generally inaccessible except by trail and “scenic” meaning mostly undeveloped, or riverside structures well screened, with occasional road crossings. This section of the Pawcatuck borders Hopkinton and Westerly, RI and North Stonington and Stonington, CT. Soon after the rapids, the river passes through



a 17th century channel built at the beginning of the industrial age which helped settle the mill villages of

Westerly and the Pawcatuck village of Stonington. Numerous restaurants are available to kayakers and fishermen alike near the terminus of the trail.

LOWER PAWCATUCK RIVER QUAD-TOWN KAYAK/CANOE TRAIL



Produced in cooperation with the Westerly, North Stonington, and Hopkinton Conservation Commissions, and the Stonington Economic Development Commission.
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