



A GUIDE TO ENJOY THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE CITY OF WARWICK

UPLAND WARWICK:

PICNICKING:

Warwick City Park

Conimicut Point Park

Pawtuxet Park

Goddard Memorial State Park offers hundreds of picnic tables, many with adjacent fireplaces; reservations required in season.

WALKING PATHS – SHORT STROLLS:

Barton Farm – Approx. .5 mi. graveled path leading to overlook w/low stonewall for sitting – view of fields and marshy area.

Belmont Park – Approx. .6 mi. of paved and dirt path along riverbank and around playing field.

Chepiwanoxet Park – Approx. .5 mi. of dirt and grass paths leading to benches overlooking Greenwich Bay.

Salter's Grove – A short dirt nature trail overlooking Providence River; and a walk along the top of the stone breakwater at the entrance to Pawtuxet Cove - .5 mi. combined.

WALKING PATHS – ROUTES OVER A MILE:

Dawley Memorial Forest – Old wood roads and paths thru deciduous woodlands offer over a mile of hiking.

Goddard Memorial State Park – Varied distances available, with a choice of walking the park's paved roads, along the shore of Greenwich Cove from the boat ramp to the beach, and on the dirt horseback riding trails through pine and deciduous woodlands (remember – horses have right of way on these trails!) From a short walk on the boardwalk at the beach, you can easily make routes in excess of 5 miles.

Rocky Point Park – A paved walking/bicycle trail along the shore of Upper Narragansett Bay, around fields and thru small, wooded areas – approx. 1.5 mi.

Warwick City Park – 3 mile paved walking/bicycle path through woods and along shore of Brushneck Cove.

Washington Secondary Bike Path – This abandoned roadbed of the Providence-Hartford-Fishkill Railroad offers over 20 miles of paved walking and bicycling in Cranston, Warwick, West Warwick, and Coventry. (In the western sections in Coventry, a dirt horseback trail is built alongside the main trail). The Warwick section, running along and across the Pawtuxet River, is approx. 1 mi., but opens up the route in either direction.

FOR FIDO:

Warwick City Park Dog Park – A large fenced area with sections for large and small dogs to play together.

Dog Approved Walking Paths:

Barton Farm – A .5 mi. path winding gently uphill to an overlook with almost no traffic on it and not near roads

Dawley Memorial Forest – Old farm road and trails leading to a pond at the edge of the property; parking along a busy road.

Chepiwanoxet Park – Grassy trails around a spit of land sticking out into Greenwich Bay; no beach, but Fido wouldn't mind crossing a shingly rock strand to reach the water & would love exploring the shoreline. Parking is away from any traffic areas.

Goddard Memorial State Park – Shoreline from boat ramp to mouth of Greenwich Cove: this sandy shoreline backed by a pine covered bluff is a favorite route for Fido and friends. Dogs are required to be leashed in parks, but this area allows more leeway.

SCENIC BIKE ROUTES FOR HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE LOVERS: (building descriptions enclosed in quotes are from the HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES OF WARWICK, RI, by Robert Jones, RIHPHC publication)

Pawtuxet Village Tour – About 6 miles – parking at Pawtuxet Park or Salter’s Grove:

From the parking area, turn left on Narragansett Parkway (KEEP AWARE OF TRAFFIC). Enjoy views of boat traffic in Pawtuxet Cove, kayakers around the stone islands and breakwater, and a short detour left on General Hawkins Drive will bring you to Pasonquis Cove for water bird viewing. Directly opposite you across the cove is Gaspee Point, where the first blow was struck for American Independence on the night of May 4, 1772. Colonists from Warwick and Providence silently rowed to the stranded British Revenue cutter “Gaspee”, which had run aground. Burned to the waterline and with the crew captured by the Americans, it was the first concrete evidence that the colonies had had enough!

Returning to the Parkway turn left for about .6 miles to a right on Fair Street, which will bring you into the area of some of Pawtuxet’s oldest homes. A left on Harrison Avenue and .3 mile later a left on Roger Williams Circle (just after the Pawtuxet Cemetery) brings you to the home of the Warwick Historical Society since 1965. This is the John Waterman Arnold house, built between 1770 and 1800 – a good example of a “typical simple Federal farmhouse.” Just past the house, turn right and tour the cemetery, which has lovely plantings and interesting graves dating back to 1739. Exit through the main cemetery entrance onto Harrison Ave., turning right back to Fair St. where you turn left and pass several notable homes:

- 130 Fair St., the Colonel Ephraim Bowen House, built in 1799, with additions in 1860, was built for Colonel Bowen, one of the “participants in the ‘Gaspee’ incident”. During the Victorian period, a 2-story arcaded front veranda, Italianate window hoods, bay windows and bracketed eaves were added.
- 89 Fair Street was the 1840 Slocum homestead, a “gable roofed, Greek Revival dwelling with paneled pilasters and entablatures trimming the building mass and the front door...”
- 69 Fair St. is Fair House, built in 1819, with work circa 1848. It was built in 1819 to serve as an exhibition hall for the annual fairs of the R.I. Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry and remodeled for a residence after the last fair was held in 1848. It is a “larger 2 ½ story, gable-roofed structure set end to the street, with a 2 story front portico recessed under the roof, bracketed eaves, and a cupola.
- 42 Fair Street is Warwick’s finest surviving Greek Revival structure – the John Waterman Arnold house, built in mid-19th century
- 25-27 Fair St. is the Captain John Low house, built in 1763, a “gable-roofed dwelling with a four-bay façade, a center chimney, and a projecting vestibule.”

From Fair Street, turn right on Remington St, and at #59, you find the Pawtuxet Armory, 1843, a “2 story gable-roofed structure with stuccoed walls, erected by the State of RI as headquarters for the Pawtuxet Artillery.” After 1853, it housed apparatus for the local fire brigade, then became a Masonic meeting hall and now a private residence.

Remington Street intersects with Narragansett Parkway, where you turn left and go over the bridge over the Pawtuxet River. (CONGESTED AREA – BE ALERT TO TRAFFIC). You will be on Broad Street in Cranston and take a right on Circuit Drive, opposite Rhodes Place, bearing right just past the stone church for 1/10 mile to a left on Commercial which will bring you to Stillhouse Cove on the Providence River. Turn right and at the rotary, go left on Ocean Avenue towards the R.I. Yacht Club at the mouth of the cove.

Just before the yacht club entrance, take a right on Fort Avenue to its end on Pawtuxet Cove. You are in an area of magnificent late Victorian homes, many with stables that have been converted into residences. Reaching the cove, retrace your path to a left on Sheldon Street, which takes you back to Broad Street. Left on Broad, over the Pawtuxet River bridge and bearing right at the split so you stay on Route 1-A will bring you into the section of the oldest houses in Pawtuxet.

1. 2-4 Post Rd. – The Kearsage House, built before 1775, is now a residential-commercial building.
2. 18-20 Post Road – The former Customs House and Post Office, built c.1760 (20th century addition)
3. 23-25 Post Rd – The Christopher Rhodes House, built in 1800. Rhodes was a member of the R.I. General Assembly and a prominent mill owner in R.I. and Ct.; the house features a fanlight doorway with ionic pillars.

4. 27-29 Post Road – The James and Malachi Rhodes House; built in 1734 for James with a 1774 addition for Malachi
5. 30A Post Rd. – A 1784 milestone – a piece of slate marker set into a granite monument, the slate is inscribed “5 miles from Providence Bridge, J.B. (John Brown”, a prominent Providence merchant with a summer home south of Pawtuxet)
6. 30-32 Post Rd. – The 1760 Nelson Slocum House, used as a tavern
7. 37-39 Post Rd. – The 1770 Sylvester and Mary Aborn Rhodes House
8. 40 Post Rd. – The former Pawtuxet Bank built 1814, with 1866 additions
9. 47-49 Post Rd. – The Captain Thomas Remington House, built 1740, with beautiful pedimented fanlight doorway of Federal period

From Post Road, Route 1A, turn left on South Atlantic Avenue and then left on South Fair St. On your left on South Fair is one of the few octagon houses still standing in R.I. The octagon house was a building craze of the 1850s. Only a half-dozen remain in R.I.; and this has been modified with an addition. At Fair Street, turn right for 3/10 miles and then left on Canonchet Avenue, which will bring you to Narragansett Parkway. Go left to Pawtuxet Park or right to Salter’s Grove to return to your parking.

Potowomut Neck and Hunt’s River – 10.8 miles, mostly flat riding; parking at Goddard Park beach area.

THE ROUTE: Leave the beach area and take first right on paved road through the park, exiting through main entrance with stone gates of former Russell estate “The Oaks” turn right on Ives Road and bear left, staying to the left of The Trap Restaurant. At end of road, turn left on Old Forge Road, stopping at bridge over Hunt’s River. To your right, on top of the hill is General Nathaniel Greene’s birthplace, and the dam shows remains of the sluiceway to the iron forge of the Greene family, where anchors (including the one mounted on the gatepost to the birthplace) were made during colonial times for ocean going ships which came up Greene’s River (so-called below the dam) to the forge to get them. On the left, back among the trees, you get a glimpse of “The Grange”, another Greene home. In the mid-1800s, there was a small textile mill built here at the river, and some of the mill houses still stand in Potowomut. Also at the bridge, you can observe the fish ladder built into the dam to assist anadromous fish such as shad, alewives, and herring, which live in salt water, but spawn in fresh water, to reach Hunt’s River and Potowomut Pond.

Continue over the bridge into North Kingstown. Forge Road dead ends into North Quidnessett Road, where you turn right. You will pass Tockwotton Farm on your left (stop at The Farm Stand), a former dairy farm, now specializing in fresh vegetables, which has been in the same family for well over 125 years! Continue on North Quidnessett Road, passing a pond on your left and bearing right at the Y intersection with Potter Road.

Look for Potowomut Road on your right, and turn right, riding downhill over the bridge over the Hunt’s River. The pond is on your left, and you can pull into the dirt parking lot and check out the pond, the remains of an early 1800s textile mill, and perhaps enjoy any snacks you have with you.

Continue on Potowomut Road to its end at Ives Road, where you will turn right following the signs towards Goddard Park. On the right opposite Goddard Park are a number of large homes, including the Gammell property, “The Meadows”, which is now a nature preserve, protecting a large portion of the west shore of Greene’s River. The Greene’s River area to Narragansett Bay is of international importance as one of a very few nesting sites for the Saltmarsh Sparrows of the world.

Continue past the beach entrance to Goddard Park and follow Ives Road to its end at Sandy Point. Here you will overlook Narragansett Bay and the entrance to Greenwich Bay. Directly across to your north is the large white house and golf course of the Warwick Country Club and to the right of it, Warwick Lighthouse. To the east lie Patience and Prudence Islands, and south is the West Passage of Narragansett Bay and Jamestown.

Leaving Sandy Point, retrace Ives Road to a right on Beachwood Drive, following it in a big loop which brings you to a pond on your left and the Bayridge beach on your right. A nice view on Greenwich Bay opens here with the opposite shore, from right to left, showing Oakland Beach and Warwick Cove, then Buttonwoods to the left of it, then a wooded section and to the far left, the entrance to Apponaug Cove. After the beach, take a left on Lakedell Avenue and return to Ives Road, turning right on Ives. You will pass the private Potowomut Golf Club just before reaching the beach road at Goddard Park and returning to your vehicle.

Historic Cowesett Loop: 7 miles; LOTS OF HILLS; park at Chepiwanoxet Park (see directions to park above; small dirt parking lot)

ROUTE: From park, retrace your path to Route 1 and turn left. BUSY ROAD, SO STAY ALERT! Travel south on Rte. 1 (Post Road), passing Cedar St. on your right. Just after this, on the left at 4372 Post Rd. is the Emma Hastings House “This 1 ½ story gable-roofed bungalow with overhanging gables and recessed veranda is a rare example of the early 20th century prefabricated housing...could be ordered by catalog from Sears, Roebuck, and Co. in the early 1900s”. Today, there is a tea shop there, and an addition has been built, but you can see the original house still.

A short distance further, on the left side between two condo complexes, a short road runs to the shore under a beautiful granite arch built in 1854 as part of the Providence to Stonington railroad. Today, Amtrak passes over on the same arch as in 1854. Across the Post Road from this is the 1743 Potter house; and just after this, the 1924 Farrington house – a good example of neo-Classical Style, popular in the 1910s and 20s. Next, you will pass the beautiful 1750, gambrel roof home of Captain Oliver Gardiner at 4451 Post Rd. Opposite, at 4456 Post Rd. is the George Tyler house, a shingle style home built in 1886-87 for a New York businessman who bought a mill in the Pawtuxet Valley. It has a gambrel roof, conical roofed tower, and an oriel window.

Just beyond these is Hesper Drive. Take a right and follow Hesper around in front of a lovely 1867-69 Second empire dwelling. Elements of its original wrought iron fence are still in place, as well as a semi-circular garden seat. Bearing left will bring you back to Rte. 1., where at 4591 Post Rd. is the Horatio Nightingale house, c.1890. This gambrel roof house stands out for its three-story cylindrical corner tower with a recessed porch at the base and a hemispherical dome at the top.

Continue south on Rte. 1; take a left on Arnold St. and left at its end on Hall St., which will bring you to a right on Division St. Division St. has 3 lovely examples of colonial architecture at this point. To your left the second house down on the Hall St. side of Division St. is the Dr. Jeremiah Greene house, c. 1785, which has a handsome Federal doorway with side lights. (15 Division St.). Across from it is the Miller Congdon house at 20 Division St., built in 1711, described as a gambrel roof house similar to those in the country. At the corner of Division St. and Pierce St., opposite Hall St. is the Dr. Eldredge house at #28, built before 1773, and one of the most important 18th century houses in East Greenwich.

From Hall St. you turn up Division St. On the corner of Spencer Avenue and Division St. is the mid-century modern Franek house, built in the 1950s by the well-known Providence architect, Ira Rakatansky. Continuing up Division St. you pass a small church converted to a home at the corner of Division St. and Rector St., formerly a Swedish Lutheran Church. A short distance further is the white-spined Evangelical Lutheran Church.

At #144 Division St. is a c. 1800 building known as the “Windmill Cottage”, where Henry Wadsworth Longfellow stayed and wrote., c. 1870. He was a close friend of George Washington Greene, son of General Nathaniel Greene, who owned the house, and who moved an 18th century windmill and attached it to the house.

Across Division St. at #159, you will see the beautiful wrought iron entry gates, stone posts, and elegant stone wall of “Fyrtre Hall”, the Hodgeman estate. The house was built in 1844 by Josiah Barker in the Late Federal-Greek Revival style. A wing has been added on each side of the original house and it is now Atria Harborhill assisted living. Past the entrance gates, note the arched cut-out in the wall, built to accommodate the spreading roots of a large tree without toppling the wall.

Continue on Division St. to a right on Love Lane; on your left, hidden by trees is the General Greene farm. The original part of the house was built in 1685 by Samuel Gorton, then sold to Samuel Greene. In 1758, additions were made; and Greene’s son, William, who was Governor of R.I. from 1778-1785, lived there and entertained George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Rochambeau, Lafayette, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in the house. Continue on Love Lane to a small wrought iron gate and arch set into the stonewall on the left and leading through a rhododendron archway to the family cemetery of the Greene’s. Across From this, turn left on Hilltop Drive and follow it to Spencer Avenue, where you will go left, passing a lovely grouping of Victorian homes overlooking Greenwich Bay. Across from Hilltop Drive at 258 Spencer is a comfortable 1890s shingle style house with gables, conical style roofs, and a stone chimney. Completely different is the house at 230 Spencer, the Benjamin Arnold house, which has a mansard roof and is of brick with brick dentil cornice, and geometric brick hoods over the windows.

At 204 Spencer is the 1860 Benjamin Vaughn house with a veranda and porte-cochere, remodeled in the 1880s-90s in Queen Anne style. Just beyond and on the opposite side of Spencer is a truly unique sight - the majestic entry gates into the property known as “Dew’s Woods”. The stonework is impressive, and the huge, beautiful moon gate is unusual.

Just past the moon gate, turn left on Overhill Road, which has a center island. This street features four Tudor style houses on the left side built in the 1930s, when the area was developed. At 90 Overhill Rd., the 1930 Nathanson house, a brick and half-timber dwelling is an excellent example of this popular early 20th century design – the small Tudor cottage. All 4 are charming. At the end of Overhill, turn right on Love Lane, and just opposite the 1920s Warwick Heights Tennis Club (which still has two clay courts), turn left on Major Potter Road.

Follow Major Potter Road to Larchwood Rd. and turn right on Larchwood, following it to Cowesett Road. At Cowesett Road turn right. The white 3 story house next to the church on your right was originally part of a working dairy farm owned by the Godfrey family, which included the area you have just ridden through. Cowesett Road is a HIGH TRAFFIC ROAD, and you may want to use the paved, winding walkway on the north side of the street (which sees little use by pedestrians) to ride on instead of the roadway itself. The area was once all dairy and small vegetable farms until you reach the intersection with Love Lane. Here, on the north side of Cowesett Road was the farm of the internationally known Professor Daniel J. Lambert – inventor of “Lambert’s Death to Lice” powder and an international poultry judge.

Continue on Cowesett Road past Love Lane, and in a few hundred yards, you will see on your left the 1740s Cowesett Pound. This large animal impoundment was used until the 1930s to contain cattle, horses, sheep, and goats which had strayed from nearby farms, until claimed by their owners. A large sign by the street explains the pound.

Just as you sight Post Road, turn right through 2 square stone gate posts onto Valentine Circle, and you will see what appears to be a Swiss chalet on your right. This beautiful home was once twice its current size and was the carriage house for the Governor William Sprague estate, built in 1870, and including a chalet style balcony, elaborate barge boards and elements of Stick Style architecture. It was designed by the well-known R. I. architect, William R. Walker, for a member of one of the most influential R. I. textile families. Following Valentine Circle, you pass on your left the elevation where the Sprague house stood until it burned in the 1930s, and then pass out onto Post Road through the beautiful and unique stone entry posts of the estate. To your left, as you exit the gates, is a circular granite watering trough, donated by Governor Henry W. Ladd to the people of R.I. as a watering stop for their horses, and fed from a spring in the hillside on Valentine Circle. Today, it sits in a small island at the intersection.

Turn right on Post Road, a busy highway, so KEEP ALERT TO TRAFFIC. At 4157 Post Road, on your right, is the Clouds Hill Victorian House Museum. Follow the winding asphalt driveway through rolling fields uphill to the front of the 27 room granite house (designed by William R. Walker). Take a flyer from the mailbox at the front steps and learn more about this Gothic Victorian summer home built by William Smith Slater for his daughter as a wedding present. Then coast back down the hill and turn right on Post Road.

The next house on the right side of Post Road is a late 1700s gambrel roofed house, remodeled in the 1880s and later, with an adjacent carriage house. At the stoplight coming up, turn left on Chepiwanoxet Way, under the railroad tracks, right on Oak Grove Ave., and left on Alger Ave back to Chepiwanoxet Park and your vehicle

Rocky Point-Warwick Neck Ride: Approx.9 miles; park at Rocky Point Park

ROUTE: From the main parking lot, ride the 1.9 mile loop inside the park. This was an amusement park from the 1850s to 1994, and there are interpretive signs at many of the remains of old rides and beautiful water views of Upper Narragansett Bay. On your return to the parking area, follow the road out of the park, turning left on Palmer Avenue, then right on Rocky Point Avenue back to Warwick Neck Avenue. Turn left and for the next mile or so you will ride with the magnificent “Indian Oaks” estate on your left. The north end of the grounds is marked with a “tall wrought iron double leaf gateway” and stone gate lodge built in 1904-05; Stone, Carpenter, and Wilson of Providence, architects.

Beyond this, you will next pass the stone stable complex with its mansard roof and tall Shingle Style fieldstone tower, again designed by Stone, Carpenter, and Wilson – who also did the boathouse on the shore.

A second set of entrance gates opens to the spectacular main house, a rambling building modeled after a 17th century French chateau, built around 1911 to the design of New York architects, Carrere and Hastings, for Nelson W. Aldrich. Aldrich was a member of the R.I. Legislature from 1875 to 1876, the U. S. House of Representatives from 1879 to 1881, and then U. S. Senator from R.I. from 1881 for the next 30 years. His daughter, Abby, married John D. Rockefeller. Today, the property is owned by the Catholic Diocese of R.I. and may be rented for weddings, etc.

At 946 Warwick Neck Ave. is the caretaker's cottage for the Aldrich estate, a charming house with stone ground floor and shingled upper story with gables decorated with shingled barge boards. Just past this house is the William Aldrich house at 1046 Warwick Neck Ave. The R.I. Historic Preservation Commission describes the house, built in 1882, as a "dwelling with hipped and gabled roof forms, corbeled chimneys, cut-shingle wall cover, a veranda, a porte-cochere, and carved decorative panels with the initial A and the figure of a squirrel." Aldrich, a relative of Nelson Aldrich was an architect and may have designed the house himself.

Warwick Neck Avenue ends at the Warwick Lighthouse, a U. S. Coast Guard property, the active light standing today was built in 1932. There has been a light at this location since 1826. A late 19th century keeper's cottage stands next to the light, which looks directly down the west passage of Narragansett Bay.

From the lighthouse, retrace your route north on Warwick Neck Avenue, passing the fairways of the Warwick Country Club on the left and taking a right on Agawam Avenue. This will take you past Wild Salt Farm and their veggie and egg stand. This property has had farm animals continuously on the land since the 1800s. Take a left on Beacon Avenue to its end at Warner and left on Warner to Warwick Neck Avenue.

If you have a fascination with prohibition, take a detour from the route to see the house that was the center of rum running in Narragansett Bay. Go left on Warwick Neck Avenue and right on Kirby Avenue to its end at Greenwich Bay. On the right at the end of Kirby is the Carl Rettich house, a 20 room summer home. Rettich, who was from New Jersey, had ties to major national mob figures, including Al Capone. From this house, he operated a wide-ranging criminal operation encompassing more than illegal "hooch". Rettich was credited with the invention of "cement shoes" to get rid of an enemy.

Return up Kirby to Warwick Neck Avenue and turn left to Randall Avenue, where you take a left and then right on Carlton Avenue, crossing Leroy onto Slater and turning right when Slater reaches Meadowview Ave. You will get fleeting views of Warwick Cove as you go along. At Warwick Neck Avenue continue straight across on Meadowview, and at its end, continue on the short bike path through woods to Palmer Avenue. Turn right on Palmer and left at the Rocky Point Park entrance, back to the parking area.