

WARWICK BLUEWAYS TRAILS

GREENWICH COVE TO SANDY POINT



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| Level | Intermediate to Expert Good beginner paddling in Greenwich Cove's south end. |
| Miles | 3 miles |
| Time | Approximately 3 hours |
| Start / End | There are two options for launching sites. In Greenwich Cove, the East Greenwich ramp off Crompton Avenue (B) and the Goddard Park boat ramp (A) in Goddard Park off Ives Road both offer ample parking and an easy ramp (Greenwich ramp has a dock alongside). Sandy Point at the end of Ives Road, has a small parking lot and a sandy beach offering easy take out (C). |
| Description | Generally, quiet water in Greenwich Cove, especially if you stay along the east shore, away from the boat traffic. The south side of Greenwich Bay does not have the boat traffic or marinas to deal with, but may be windier, especially around Sally Rocks and Sandy Point. The most difficult portion of the trip is navigating the area of Sally Rocks and its numerous rock outcroppings. |



SCENERY: Greenwich Cove offers views of the colonial town of East Greenwich on the west side, and pine clad bluffs to the east. Sailboats and yachts mingle with an active shellfishing fleet in the cove. The south shore of Greenwich Bay offers views of the Goddard Park beach and a wooded area to Sally Rocks, with lots of birdlife on shore. Rounding Sally Rocks, you enter a shoreline heavily lined with residences. Sandy Point is a long spit of sandy beach. On the opposite shore are large homes and the Warwick Country Club.

GREENWICH COVE: (1) The cove has a rich history of shipbuilding and was home to the first American Navy. During prohibition, boatyards in the cove produced some of the fastest rum runners, manned by the fearless crews of East Greenwich men. Such famous boats as the Black Duck, the Idle Hour, and Je T'Aime, powered by aircraft engines and with New York City telephone directories lining their hulls to stop machine gun rounds, slipped in and out of the cove to their berths, while everyone looked the other way. Along the shore on the west side, fishermen built shanties in which to keep their gear, a few of which remain today. Many of these buildings were built to house the large scalloping industry. Prior to the 1938 hurricane, scallops abounded in Greenwich and Narragansett Bays, and this area of the cove was called Scalloptown for the number of shanties where scallops were cut out of the shell. It was a rather lawless area during much of its active period - the "Bucket o' Blood" being the most famous saloon on the waterfront. Today, it is lined with restaurants.

At the entrance to Greenwich Cove, Long Point (2) stretches towards the western shore. Opposite Long Point, Fort Barton was erected during the Revolutionary War to protect the cove from British raiding parties. The Kentish Guards manned the earthen fort, nothing of which remains today. Just north of Greenwich Cove, on the west shore, the railroad runs close to the shore and you can see one of the elegant arched openings under the tracks where Arch Road (3) runs to the shore. In 1832, under the supervision of Major William Gibbs McNeil (who had achieved international fame for his work on the Moscow to St. Petersburg railroad line in Russia), the Providence to Stonington Railroad was started. Today, it is the main Amtrak line.

GODDARD PARK: (4) for a good portion of this route, you will navigate the west and north side of Goddard Memorial State Park. In 1927, Madeline Ives, Marquise d'Andigne and her

brother, Robert Hale Ives Goddard, donated over 400 acres of land with a mansion house and working farm to the people of Rhode Island for a park. The park includes miles of bridle trails and a stable which rents horses; a nine hole golf course with clubhouse; a sandy beach with concession and bath house, hundreds of picnic sites; numerous playing fields; and an event location in the former carousel building overlooking the beach. The mansion house, original stable and farm buildings no longer exist; but the park draws thousands of people to relax, picnic, bicycle, hike, dog walk, bird watch, and enjoy the woods and fields.

POTOWOMUT NECK: (5) has a history of being a gathering place for local Indian tribes who came to harvest shellfish and fish from the abundant waters surrounding the neck. The word, Potowomut, means land of fires according to Roger Williams' "Key into the Language of America." In 1654, the Indian Sachem, Potowomut and his two sons deeded the neck to Randall Holden and Ezekiel Holliman of Warwick. Subsequently, the land was occupied by the Greenes and passed into the hands of Nicholas Brown, a creditor of Richard Greene. Hope Brown Ives' granddaughter and namesake married Henry G. Russell in 1864; and the mansion at Goddard Park, "The Oaks" was built. Russell was determined to reforest much of Potowomut Neck and turned to his cousin, Professor Charles S. Sargent, founder of the Arnold Arboretum. The result is the heavily wooded Goddard Park. The Russell tree plantings became an early study in scientific forestry in the U.S. and were adapted by the Federal government to replant desiccated farm land.

Ample opportunity for water bird viewing is available on this route. Within Greenwich Cove, a loop to the southern end (towards Forge Rd.) offers a chance to view ducks, gulls, and long-legged shore birds, including great blue herons and snowy egrets. Along the shoreline of Goddard Park east of the beach lies a fresh water pond just off the shore, and there is active bird movement in this area. The beaches along the Potowomut Neck also attract gulls, ducks, and shorebirds.

While the cove is closed to shell fishing permanently, during certain seasons of the year Greenwich Bay is open. Those interested should check with the Department of Environmental Management, as Greenwich Bay is a shellfish management area, and is also subject to closure seasonally and after heavy rains.

ALWAYS WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET AND CARRY A WHISTLE OR OTHER SOUND PRODUCING DEVICE, PREFERABLY ATTACHED TO YOUR LIFE JACKET, PADDLERS SHOULD CHECK WATER LEVEL AND TIDES, WEATHER, AND WATERWAY CONDITIONS PRIOR TO EVERY TRIP, REMOVE WHAT YOU BRING, CLEAN UP MORE IF YOU CAN. PLEASE RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY. REPORT ANY PROBLEMS YOU ENCOUNTER TO WARWICK HARBORMASTER, 401-738-2019.

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