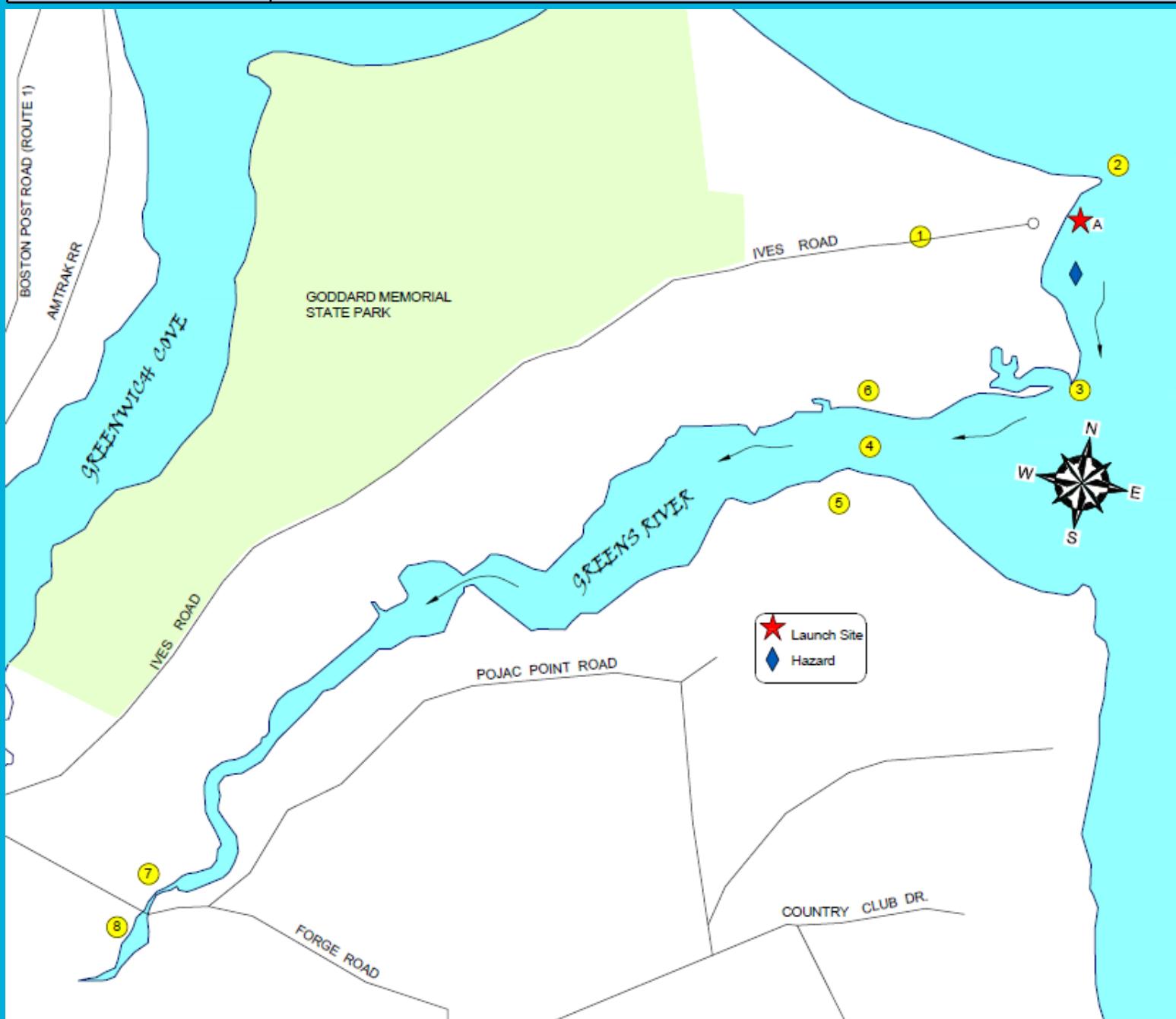


# WARWICK BLUEWAYS TRAILS

## SANDY POINT UP GREENE'S RIVER AND RETURN



Level	Intermediate to Expert
Miles	6.5 miles
Time	3 hours
Start / End	From Route 1 just south of East Greenwich, take a left at the stoplight, following signs to Goddard Memorial State Park (Forge Road to Ives Road). Pass all entrances to Goddard Park and follow Ives Road to the end. There is a small parking area and a sandy beach from which to launch (A).
Description	Greene's River is a shallow tidal river as far as Forge Road. From Sandy Point to the entrance to the river, waters can be rough. There is little boat traffic in the area, and river current is slight.



**SCENERY: POTOWOMUT NECK:** (1) 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 Greene’s, and then 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 they built a large home, “The Oaks” on the west side of Ives Road. 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.

**SANDY POINT (2):** This spit of land is at the entrance to Greenwich Bay, and offers views of Warwick Neck Light House, Prudence and Patience Islands, and the Warwick Country Club on the opposite shore.

**GREENE’S (POTOWOMUT) RIVER:** From Sandy Point, you will head south around Marsh Point (3) and into the mouth of Greene’s River(4). On the left is Pojac Point (5), and on the right you will pass the lovely “Hopelands” estate of Hope Brown and Thomas Poynton Ives, built in the 1790s and home to the private Rocky Hill School (6) since 1948. Continuing up river, the western shore reveals views of large homes and rolling hay fields. Part way down the river, you will pass the former location of an important Rune stone, now housed at the library park in Wickford, in North Kingstown. As you approach Forge Road, the lovely home on the right bank is “The Grange” (7). The river bank is lined with weeping willows. There is no portage at Forge Road, so you must return down river, as a dam blocks further access. In the late 1600s, Jabez Greene and Thomas Hill built the dam to power a grist mill and saw mill; and upon the discovery of bog iron deposits along the river, a forge for manufacturing anchors (in 1710).

Here, at the family home, which can be viewed on the west

shore of the river just south of Forge Road, Major General Nathaniel Greene was born in 1742. (8) General Greene drove the British Army under command of Lord Cornwallis to Yorktown, where they were defeated in October, 1791, ending the Revolutionary War.

Marsh Point and Greene’s River provide abundant bird watching with ducks and long legged shorebirds in the river and marsh, as well as upland birds in the hay fields along the route on the west side of the river and in the wooded banks of the east side.



**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.**

Produced by the Warwick Wildlife and Conservation Commission, 2017.

