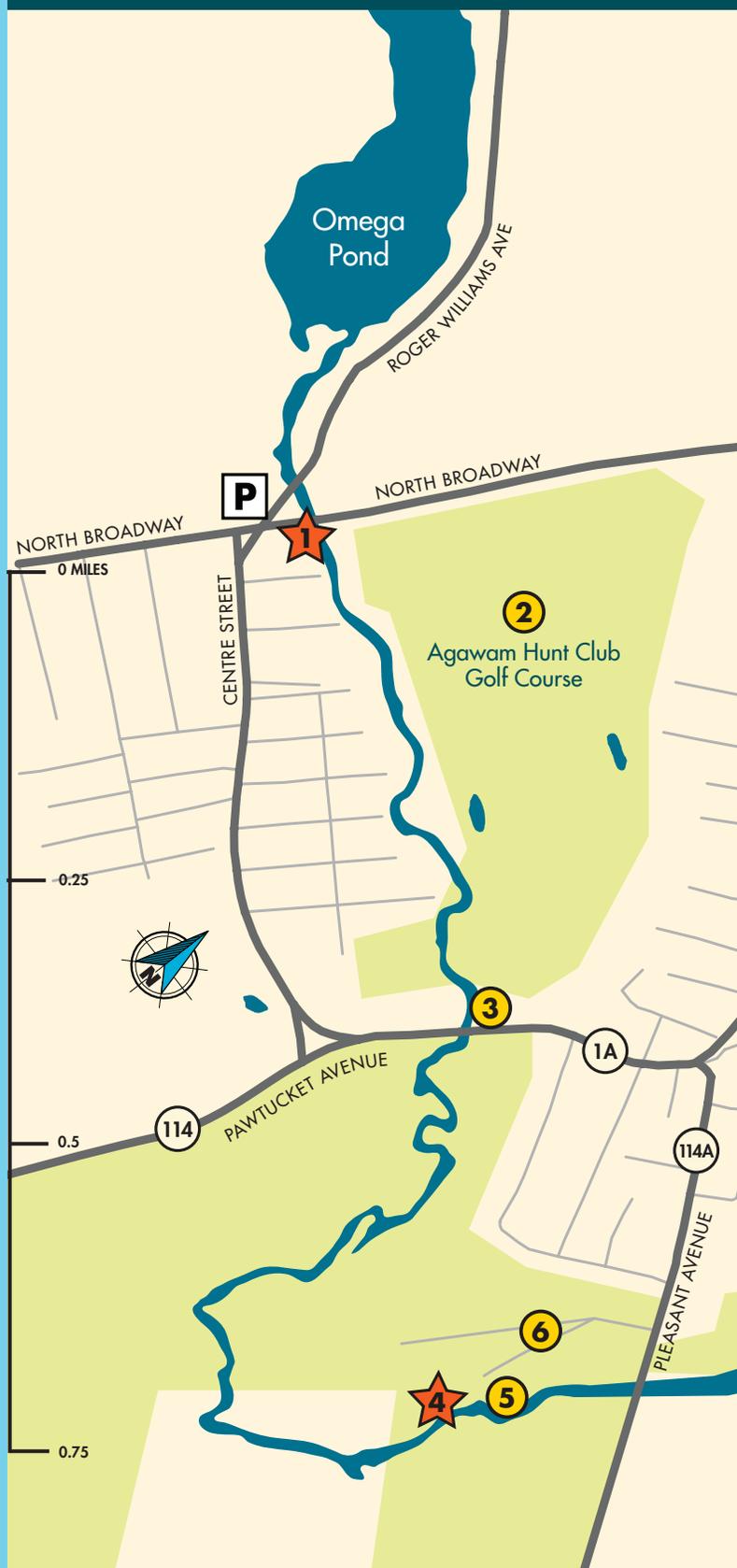


# TEN MILE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

## FREEDOM GREEN TO HUNTS MILLS



MAP LEGEND			
	RIVER ACCESS		POINTS OF INTEREST
	WATER		CONSERVATION LAND
			ROADS

LEVEL	Intermediate
START/END	Freedom Green, East Providence, RI
RIVER MILES	3 mile loop
TIME	2 hours for loop
DESCRIPTION	Slow moving, flat water
SCENERY	Wooded, historic sites
GPS	41° 50' 0.06" N , 71° 21' 34.6" W

### FREEDOM GREEN TO HUNTS MILLS

Your paddle begins at Freedom Green located at the intersection of North Broadway and Roger Williams Avenue. The put in is at the north end of the park – follow the path past the gazebo to stone steps leading down to the river.

This trip is good for all levels of paddling experience, but the river has many twists and turns so larger boats may have difficulty. The trip up river and back is a total of three miles and can be done in two hours, including time to look around. Put in the river and begin your paddle up stream, the left bank of the river is wooded, hiding a golf course 2. The right bank is dotted with houses, and woods. When the river opens up to the fairway of the golf course, watch for flying golf balls. The next bridge you see is the Pawtucket Avenue bridge 3. The current speeds up in this area and may require some hard paddling. Once past the bridge your trip will twist and turn through the woods, without a house in sight, make sure to explore the coves and backwaters. The woods contain all sorts of wildlife from huge snapping turtles to turkeys and deer.

When you reach the rocky falls of Hunts Mills 5, go to the end of the island on the left and look for a spot on the left bank to take out and explore 4. The John Hunt House 6, set back in the woods, was built in the Georgian style with a large center chimney around 1750. John inherited a sawmill, fulling mill and grist mill along with land along the Ten Mile River from his father in 1751. The mills were first located here by Stephen Payne as early as 1643. In 1671 Israel Sabin and Mr. Payne were operating four mills on this site. The pump house built in 1800s is a stunning stone building.

Another option is to take out on the right bank to explore the rock carvings. When canoeing was a popular sport people would come to this spot and carve their names into the rocks.

On your return trip to Freedom Green you can paddle past your original put in to explore Omega Pond.



## TMRWC MEMBERSHIP

Without the assistance of members, we could not do what we do. From exploring the beauty of this urban watershed on land and water, to focusing on the health of the ecosystem through water quality monitoring, to ensuring we leave the watershed a better place for our children. The members of the TMRWC are environmental stewards!



### ABOUT THE TEN MILE RIVER WATERSHED

The Ten Mile River is 22 miles long and the watershed covers 54 square miles, partly in Massachusetts and partly in Rhode Island. The headwater of the river begins as Red Maple swamp habitat in Plainville and Foxboro, with the Seven Mile River and Bungay River as the two major tributaries.

There are 45 lakes and ponds in the watershed and many towns draw their drinking water from these. The river passes through North Attleboro, Attleboro, Pawtucket, and Seekonk before finishing in East Providence at Omega Dam and the Seekonk River. The river becomes more impaired as it passes through this urban core, failing to meet surface water quality standards. Even with this impaired status, Central Pond /Turner Reservoir supports a largemouth bass fishery and a warm-water fishery with yellow and white perch, black crappie, and white sucker – it also has a regular supply of fishermen at Newman Avenue. Restoration efforts are under way to build three fish ladders at Omega Dam, Hunts Mill Dam, and Turner Dam to help blueback herring get to Turner Reservoir to spawn. It has been estimated that up to 200,000 herring could spawn in the 297 acres of the Turner Reservoir.

### HUNTS MILLS HISTORY

John Hunt was deeded the land in 1713, but the first mills, a grist mill, saw mill, and a tannery, were built here around 1643 by Stephen Payne with the last mill demolished in 1893.

In the early 20th century, residents found the area perfect for

canoeing. More than two dozen canoe houses lined Omega Pond and dotted the Ten Mile River from present-day Freedom Green down to Hunts Mill. Young men would test their skills with races on the Seekonk River and Central Pond. Or one could rent a canoe and paddle with his sweetheart up to Hunts Mill, stroll the grounds, and explore the woods – some have left their names and dates carved into the rocks on both side of the river which can still be seen today. During this time, Hunts Mills became a public resort with dance hall carousal, shooting and photograph galleries and other games. The resort was a favorite with women and children because they could visit without an escort. This resort was also a favorite of Sunday school parties and picnickers. The Park closed in 1925 after the dance hall burned down.

### DIRECTIONS

**Take 195 east to Exit 6 (Broadway).** Turn right at end of ramp onto Warren Avenue. Turn right at first light onto Broadway and go 1.3 miles to the intersection of Roger Williams Avenue/Centre Street and North Broadway. Freedom Green Park is on the right. There is a gazebo in the center of the green. There is a small parking lot for the park off Centre Street.

**Or take 195 west to Exit 6 (East Providence).** Go right at end of ramp onto Broadway and go 1.4 miles to the intersection of Roger Williams Avenue/Centre Street and North Broadway. Freedom Green Park is on the right. There is a gazebo in the center of the green. There is a small parking lot for the park off Centre Street.

**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 THE TEN MILE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IF APPROPRIATE.**

The Ten Mile River Watershed Council is dedicated to preserving and protecting the Ten Mile River and its watershed. The Council educates the public on the importance of keeping the water and the land surrounding it viable and healthy and works to improve recreational opportunities in the watershed with water, biking and hiking trails. <http://tmrwc.webs.com/>

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP) protects and preserves Narragansett Bay and its watershed through partnerships that conserve and restore natural resources, enhance water quality and promote community involvement. NBEP supports the RI Blueways Alliance which is dedicated to creating a comprehensive water trail network to link Rhode Island's rivers, lakes and ponds to Narragansett Bay and to the rivers in Massachusetts that flow into the bay. The trail will be used to promote safety, conservation, recreation and economic development. [www.ExploreRI.org](http://www.ExploreRI.org)



Watershed organizations throughout the Narragansett Bay watershed showcase paddling opportunities on downloadable paddle maps. The full list of maps is available at [ExploreRI.org](http://ExploreRI.org).

