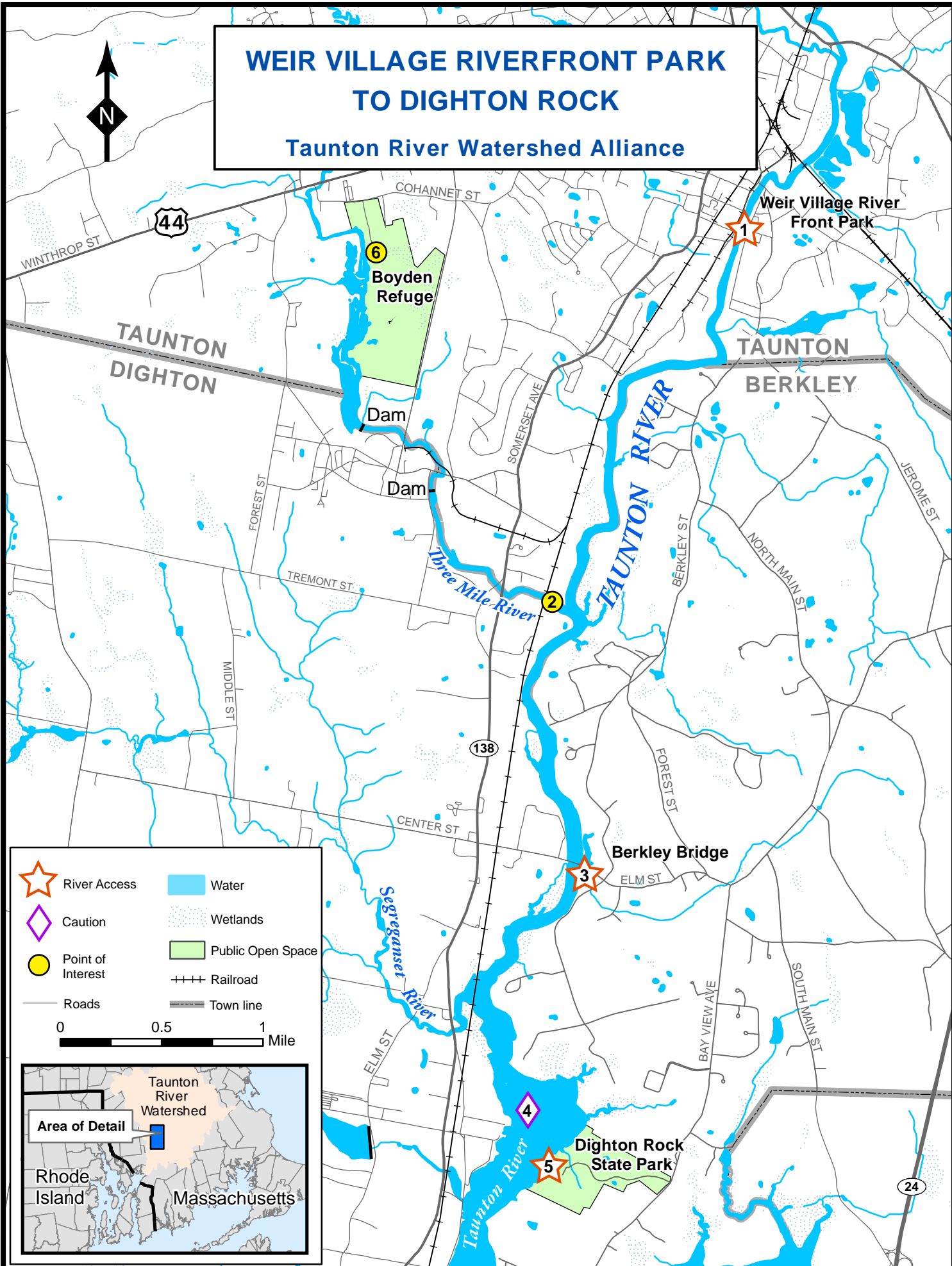
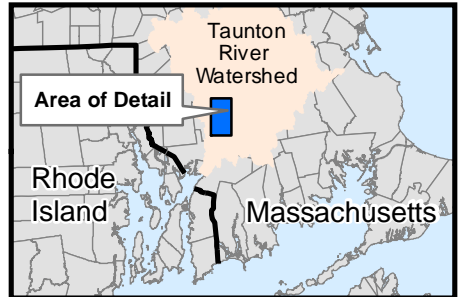
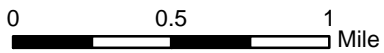


# WEIR VILLAGE RIVERFRONT PARK TO DIGHTON ROCK

Taunton River Watershed Alliance



- River Access
- Caution
- Point of Interest
- Roads
- Water
- Wetlands
- Public Open Space
- Railroad
- Town line



## Weir Village Riverfront Park (Taunton) To Dighton Rock (Berkley)

Paddling downriver from Weir Village Park in Taunton takes you through the transition from river to tidal estuary. At Weir Village Park the Taunton is little more than 100 feet wide and the biggest hint of the change to come is the tide, which raises and lowers the river by as much as four feet. By the time the river gets to Dighton Rock State Park it is over a ¼ mile wide and lined with salt marshes. While the river below Taunton is no longer pristine, you only have to go ½ mile downriver from Weir Village Park to find yourself paddling between wooded hillsides. As the river slowly gets wider, salt marshes replace wooded hillsides and the river starts to feel distinctly coastal, even though it is another eight miles below Dighton Rock before the Taunton flows through Fall River and into Mount Hope Bay. There are occasional industrial facilities such as a sewage treatment plant and power plant that intrude into the scenery but they are the exception rather than the rule.

When paddling these waters you should plan your trip around the tides. A one-way trip downriver from Weir Village Park to Berkley Bridge or Dighton Rock can be made at any tide but will be much easier on an outgoing tide. On an incoming tide you can also paddle upriver from Berkley Bridge or Dighton Rock quite easily, making it possible to do a round trip if you time the tides right. Especially in the lower reaches, low tide will expose tide flats, which often attract interesting birds but can make launching and landing messier. Below Taunton paddlers should also expect to encounter motorboats and as the river gets wider a strong wind can kick up a dangerous chop, especially if the wind is blowing against the current, but usually the river is placid throughout this area.

**Distance:** 5.9 miles

**Estimated Trip Time:** 3-4 hours

- 1) **Weir Village Riverfront Park** is a ½-mile long city park in Taunton, on the east bank of the Taunton River next to East Water Street, below the Plain Street Bridge. There is a small boat ramp near the middle of the park, across from Agawam Street. While quite usable, the ramp is narrow and steep and so less than ideal, even for launching canoes and kayaks. The sand at the base of the ramp would create additional problems for trailered boats. There is parking here for six cars and more parking nearby. The park has paved walking trails but no restrooms or drinking water. The first half mile of river below here is rather industrial but it quickly becomes wooded and scenic, with steep hillsides coming down to the river in some places, and broad salt marshes in other places. **Mile 0**
- 2) The **Three Mile River** enters the Taunton from the west about halfway between Weir Village and Dighton Rock. While paddling down the Three Mile from Boyden Refuge is not recommended due to dams, you can explore up the Three Mile from the Taunton. **Mile 2.6**
- 3) **Berkley Bridge Village Heritage Park** is on the east bank of the Taunton, just below Berkley Bridge, which carries Elm Street/Center Street across the river, thereby connecting the towns of Berkley and Dighton. This is the last bridge before Fall River, 12½ miles downriver from here. By Berkley Bridge the Taunton River is almost 500 feet wide, with broad salt marshes along the shore in many places. The Heritage Park is a small but neatly maintained park right by the end of the bridge. There is parking for 10 cars and a short path leading to the shore. There are picnic tables at the park and lovely views of the river, but no restrooms or drinking water. At most tides, the shoreline is a mix of sand and gravel very suitable for launching hand-carried boats. However, at low tide the shoreline gets a bit muddy. **Mile 4.1**
- 4) **Caution:** A half mile above Dighton Rock State Park the river opens out from 400 feet wide to over ¼ mile wide. While this opening out will reduce the tidal current **you can expect to encounter larger waves and stronger winds** on the wide, open river. **Mile 5.4**
- 5) **Dighton Rock State Park** is an 85-acre park on the east side of the Taunton River. The rock from which it takes its name is a boulder covered with petroglyphs, most likely of Native American origin. The rock is now housed in a small museum that is open by appointment only, but the park is excellent for picnicking and provides good access to the river. There is a large parking lot about 400 feet up from the shore. You can drive down and unload your boat by the river but you will then need to move your car back to the parking lot. The shoreline can be a bit muddy at low tide but is otherwise excellent for launching hand-carried boats. If you are paddling downriver to Dighton Rock look for a stone pier with a small white building on it. This is the museum and the best take out is just downriver from the pier. The park has somewhat limited hours and the gate to the park is locked when the park is closed so check the current hours before planning a visit. **Mile 5.9**
- 6) **Gertrude Boyden Refuge** is a 52-acre city park beside the Three Mile River in Taunton. It is home to the Taunton River Watershed Alliance River Center. Walking trails wind through the woods and along the riverbank. It is about 400 feet from the parking lot to the river, where you can launch hand-carried boats. The river is very slow-moving here and the large wetland area offers interesting possibilities for exploration (head south from the put-in to get to the wetland). There is a dam a mile south of the put-in and continuing downriver below this dam is not recommended so you should return to the put-in to take out. Be careful near the dam so you do not go over it in your boat!



Always wear your life jacket. Remove what you bring, clean up more if you can. Please respect private property. Report any problems you encounter to TRWA and local authorities if appropriate. Thank you! Enjoy!

This map and guide was created through a partnership between:

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