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Georgiaville Pond

Overview: Georgiaville Pond is a pretty, suburban pond covering about 100 acres, with a town beach, boat ramp and park at the south end, and two pine-tree clad islands in the southwest corner. Houses line much of the shoreline but the houses are largely set back a bit from the shore and surrounded by trees, so the pond feels more rural than it is. Motorboats and personal watercraft ("Jet Skis") are permitted on the pond so on a warm summer weekend the pond can be a busy place. See the rules section below for information on the required passes and permits.

Getting There: Take Exit 7A off I-295 (north or south) in Smithfield. This will put you on Route 44 (Putnam Pike) heading east. At the first traffic light turn left onto Esmond Street. Go 0.8 miles on Esmond and then turn left onto Route 104 (Waterman Avenue). Go 0.7 miles northwest on Route 104, which turns into Farnum Pike. Turn right onto Stillwater Road and go 0.2 miles and turn left into the town park.

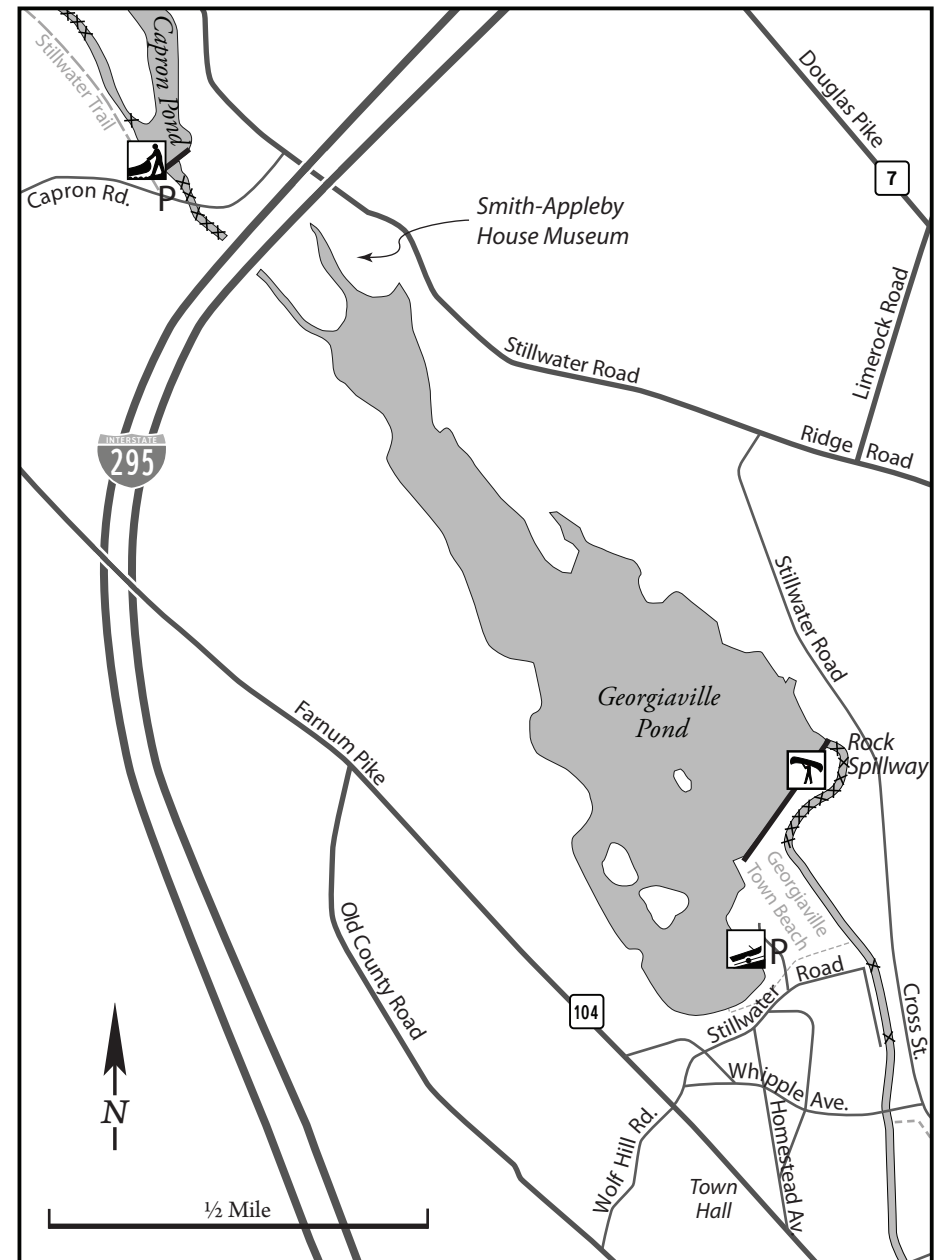
What's There: A circuit around Georgiaville Pond makes for a nice evening paddle. Put in at the boat ramp and go clockwise or counterclockwise around the pond, going behind the pine-tree clad islands. Stop at the small landing at the east end of the earthen dam that creates the pond and walk up on top of the dam for views of the scenic, rock-lined spillway. If you are planning to paddle down the Woonasquatucket River below the pond this is the place to portage around the spillway to the river.

At the north end of the pond, if the current is not too strong, you can explore up the Woonasquatucket to where it flows out from under I-295. The old river channel, east of the current channel, is now a backwater next to the Smith-Appleby House Museum.

Rules: The town beach, park and boat ramp are open to the public and not limited to town residents, but all users must pay for either a day or seasonal pass and boaters must also purchase a sticker for their boat. For more information contact the Smithfield Recreation Department at 231-1051 or visit them at the Smithfield Ice Rink, 109 Pleasant View Avenue to purchase your stickers and passes.

Also in the Area: The town beach and park are pleasant places to visit even if you are not going paddling. There are picnic tables shaded by huge old trees, rest rooms (open in the summer), and you can walk along the dam to see the scenic spillway.

The Smith-Appleby House Museum at the north end of the pond preserves one of the few 17th century homes still standing in Rhode Island. The oldest part of the house was built circa 1696 by Elisha Smith, grandson of one of the six men who accompanied Roger Williams when he left the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1636 to settle Providence. The house is on the National Register of Historic Places and is run as a museum by Smithfield Historical Society. More details are



available on the website smithapplebyhouse.org. The house is only open during scheduled events so check the website before planning a visit.

The Georgiaville neighborhood, just south of the town park, is a historic mill village with houses built to resemble English housing to attract English mill workers.