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Greystone Mill Pond

Overview: Greystone Mill Pond is a narrow, winding pond created by the dam at Greystone. There are a number of small wetlands along the pond. Houses line both sides of the pond but the wetlands keep the houses set back a bit in many areas, so they are less visible from the water. Cricket Park, at the south end of the pond, has a canoe and kayak launch. In 2012 this launch is to be upgraded to make it handicapped accessible. A handicapped accessible fishing dock is being built nearby, along with a boardwalk overlooking the pond.

The pond is all of about 300 feet across at the south end, and this is by far the largest open area on Greystone Pond. Above here it quickly narrows down to a winding channel and becomes a river again, but it is often possible to paddle upriver as far as the Benny's complex.

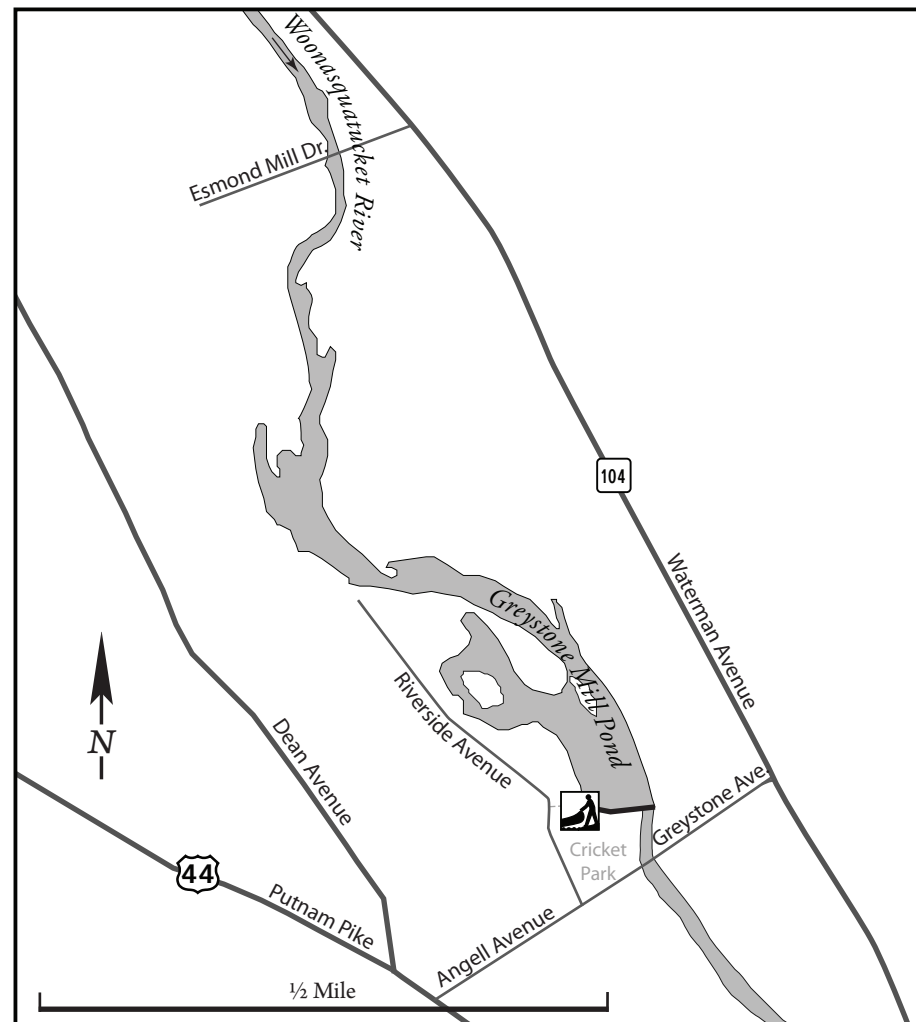
The Smithfield sewage treatment plant discharges treated sewage into the pond ½ mile above the put-in. While the treated sewage normally meets water quality standards you should wash your hands after coming in contact with the water.

Getting There: From I-295 (north or south) take exit 7A for Route 44 and North Providence. This will put you on Route 44 east (Putnam Pike). Go 1 mile and turn left onto Angell Avenue at the blinking light. Go 0.2 miles on Angell Avenue and turn left onto Riverside Avenue at the stop sign. At this turn Cricket Park will be in front of you. After turning onto Riverside Avenue the parking lot for the park will be on your right. You can also park along the Riverside Avenue, but please be careful not to block traffic. It is too narrow in places to allow for safe parking.

What's There: From the put-in at Cricket Park, head towards the far (east) shore to get to the main channel and then turn left. Stay away from the dam in the southeast corner of the pond because a canoe or kayak could get swept over this dam! Once in the main channel it is easy to see where to go and you have only to paddle and enjoy the scenery. In 0.7 miles you will come to a bridge (Esmond Mill Drive). Around here you will start to notice more current pushing against you but it is generally possible to paddle another ¼ mile to the bridge at the Benny's Complex. Here you will find a stronger current pushing against you and there is also a breached dam not far up the river from here. For information on paddling the river above here see paddle #4.

Once you have gone as far up the pond and river as you want to or can, turn around and paddle back to the put-in, stopping along the way to explore the coves and backwaters, if you want to.

Paddling on the Woonasquatucket River below Cricket Park is difficult until you get to the Manton Avenue/Greenville Avenue bridge. Not far below Cricket Park there is a mill building that straddles the river and debris often hangs up



here, blocking passage down river. Below this building the river enters a Superfund site that includes Allendale and Lyman's Mill Ponds, the next two ponds on the river. The EPA has deemed these ponds safe to paddle on as long as reasonable precautions are taken such as washing your hands after coming in contact with the water and cleaning any mud off your shoes and gear. However, since not many people have paddled in this area recently the portages around the four dams between Greystone and the Manton/Greenville Avenue bridge are not well established. There are also no public access points on these ponds.

Also in the Area: Cricket Park is so named because the English mill workers who lived in the area used to play cricket here. However, the crack of the cricket bat is no longer heard echoing over the pond. Instead, walking trails and a gazebo are scheduled to be built in 2012, along with a better canoe and kayak launch, and a fishing dock.