

FRIENDS OF THE MOSHASSUCK: BARNEY POND, SAYLESVILLE



LEVEL	Beginner
START/END	Fishing area
RIVER MILES	Pond is ½ mile long
TIME	Varies
DESCRIPTION	Flat Water
SCENERY	Wooded

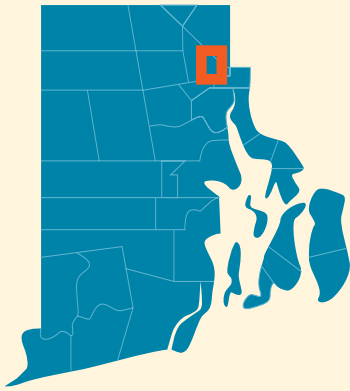
BARNEY POND

Barney Pond is on the Moshassuck River in Providence County, Rhode Island. It was created by the construction of a dam in 1885, and at the dam it appears there was once a mill. The 20 ft high dam is owned by the Town Of Lincoln, and creates a pond of approximately 25 acres, stretching from the corner of Rt. 126 (Smithfield Avenue) and Grandview Ave northwest about ½ mile until the river / pond reaches the Manchester Print Works Road at the main entrance to Lincoln Woods State Park. If going north along Smithfield Ave, the road crosses over the river with the dam visible on the left, followed almost immediately on the west side of the road by the parking lot for the state fishing area. A canoe or kayak can be put in at the fishing area ★, but care should be taken to stay well away from the dam 2. It is approximately ½ mile from the fishing area to the covered bridge in the park, at which point the pond ends and the river course is too steep, rocky, and small for boating. The pond has abundant wildlife and many fish, and is wooded along its entire course. Part way along the course, Threadmill Brook 3, the stream draining Olney Pond in the heart of the park, enters the river / pond. The northern terminus of the pond 4 is right next to the covered bridge in the park 5, and while it is possible to exit a boat at that point, there is no developed put-in site, and accessing the waters there is likely to cause serious erosion and other harm, and is therefore not recommended.



MAP LEGEND

- ★ WATER ACCESS
- POINTS OF INTEREST
- Ⓟ PARKING
- WATER
- ROADS
- ◇ CAUTION
- CONSERVATION LAND



MOSHASSUCK

In 1997, Friends of the Moshassuck was founded because the little river flowing into downtown Providence from the north really needed some friends. In March 2006, Friends of the Moshassuck was designated the official Watershed Council for the Moshassuck and its tributary, the West River, by the Rhode Island Rivers Council.



THE MOSHASSUCK RIVER

The Moshassuck is a tiny watershed, only 23 square miles extending from the Limerock section of Lincoln RI about 10 miles to where it meets with the Woonasquatucket River in the tidewater of downtown Providence and forms the Providence River.

The Narragansett Indians gave the river its name, Mooshausick, meaning the river where moose watered. In 1636 Roger Williams, European founder of Rhode Island, settled on the East bank of the river and learned its name from the Narragansetts. The Moshassuck is joined by its major tributary, the West River, about a mile from the center of Providence. The headwaters are only ten miles away in Lincoln. Between the two cities, the river has five ponds, a reservoir, and 11 dams.

The dams and ponds are the river's industrial heritage. As early as 1646 the first grist mill was set up on the Moshassuck near Smith street in Providence. During the 1700's the river saw tanneries, slaughter houses, coopers, a paper mill, and a chocolate factory along its banks. In 1828 five years of construction on the lower Moshassuck completed the Blackstone Canal. The canal thrived for 20 years and served the communities between Worcester and Providence. On November 9th, 1848 the canal received its last paying freight. The railroads had arrived and made the canal obsolete. High granite walls along the river between Charles Street and Citizen's Plaza are the only remains of the canal visible today on the lower Moshassuck.

The factories, transportation and housing along the river all used the Moshassuck to dispose of industrial and human waste. So much in fact, the Providence cholera epidemics in 1833, 1849, and 1854 were blamed on contamination of the Moshassuck River.

These days the river is much cleaner than in the heyday of pollution, though it still has a long way to go. The surrounding watershed also cries out for the restoration of the ecosystems that support the community. The upper part of the watershed is primarily forested and suburban. The lower part is completely urbanized and a greater percentage of the Moshassuck Watershed is paved than any other in the state.

Due to its small size and quick rise and fall, the Moshassuck is not renowned as a paddling river. Access is limited, it is full of rocks and trash, and long stretches of the river are underground.

DIRECTIONS

From Rt. 146 North or South, exit on Rt. 123 E Breakneck Road / Great Road. Just past the entrance to Lincoln woods, take a right on Rt. 126 (Great Road / Smithfield Avenue). Access to Barney Pond is on the right.

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 FRIENDS OF THE MOSHASSUCK AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IF APPROPRIATE.

Friends of the Moshassuck has a vision of a greenway linking the sights we have found to restore with those already protected sights in the Moshassuck watershed. Friends of the Moshassuck, in addition to restoring sites along the river, has a focus on the ecology/economy interface — in other words a great interest in how restoring the health of ecosystems can help communities achieve prosperity. www.themoshassuck.org

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



Watershed organizations throughout the Narragansett Bay watershed showcase paddling opportunities on downloadable paddle maps. The full list of maps is available at ExploreRI.org.

