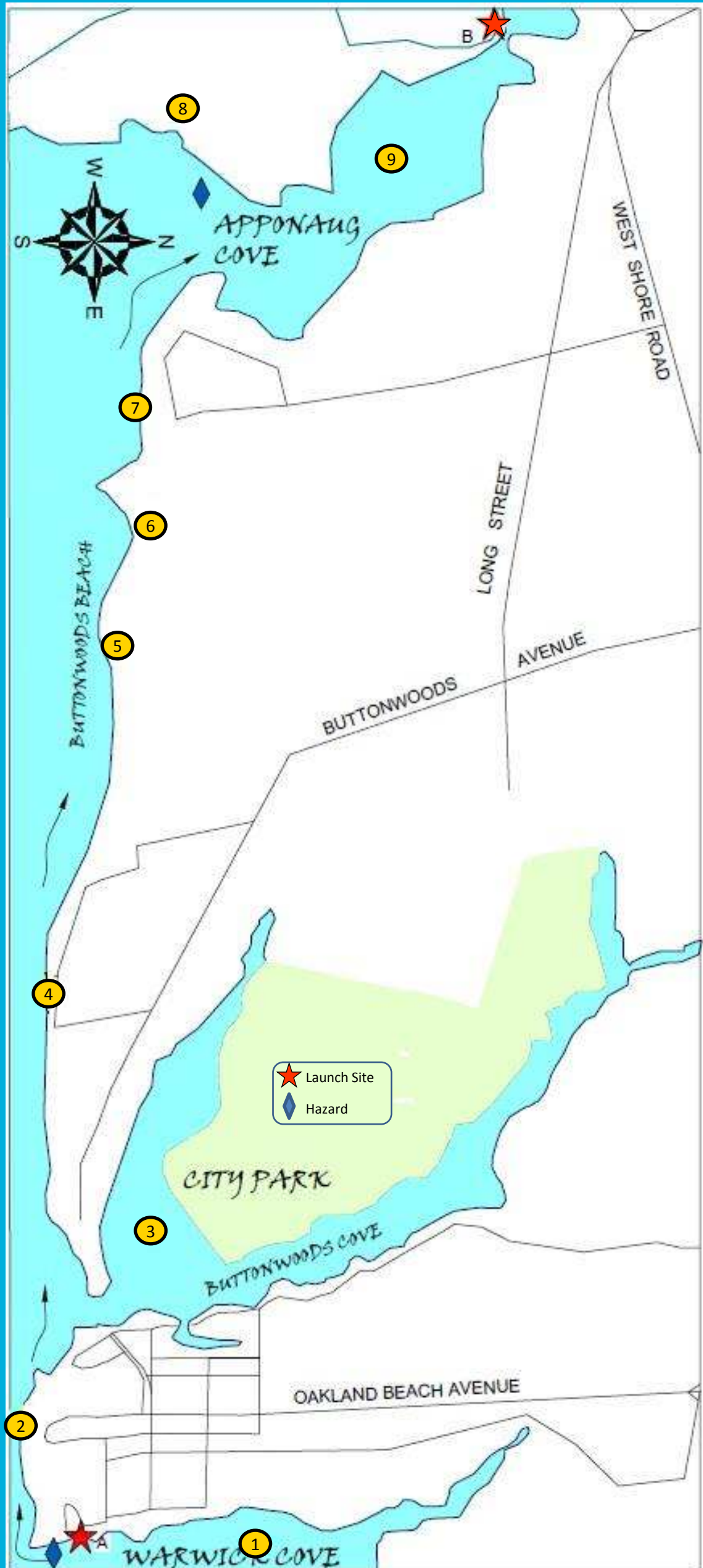


# WARWICK BLUEWAYS TRAILS

## WARWICK COVE TO APPONAUG COVE



Level	Intermediate Brushneck Cove is excellent for beginners
Miles	4 miles
Time	3 hours
Start / End	Start at the ramp on Bay Avenue (A) at the east end of Suburban parkway (West Shore Road -Rte. 117- to Oakland Beach Avenue, to east on Suburban Parkway and right on Bay Ave. to ramp). Takeout at the ramp (B) after the railroad overpass at the end of Apponaug Cove reached by turning onto Arnold's Neck Drive from Route 1 just south of the intersection of Routes 1 and 117. Ramp will be on the left just before the railroad bridge. Parking is available beyond the bridge in the city lot past the marina.
Description	Calm waters in the coves and shallow waters along north shoreline of Greenwich Bay. During the season, watch out for heavy boat traffic entering and leaving Warwick and Apponaug Coves. Greenwich Bay may become choppy if it is windy.



**SCENERY:** The north shore of Greenwich Bay offers views of lovely old Victorian homes on the Buttonwoods shoreline; a variety of wildlife in Brushneck Cove, Bakers Creek, and Mary's Creek at the entrance to Apponaug Cove; and a variety of boat traffic ranging from pleasure craft of all kinds to quahoggers working the bay during the seasonal openings.

**WARWICK COVE:** (1) Old Warwick Cove, now home to numerous marinas was the site of the first Town of Warwick dock, 1680-1710, for commercial trade with Newport and Wickford and connecting the settlements at Apponaug, Potowomut, and East Greenwich socially and commercially. At the head of the cove was the home lot of Samuel Gorton, one of the founders of Warwick, who purchased the 103 square mile tract of land known as Shawomet in January of 1643 from the chief sachem of the Narragansett tribe, Miantonomi. Adjacent to Winsted Marina is the site of the Pomham Indian Fort. A trip up the cove will bring you to an area ideal for observing wading birds. As you leave the cove, the east shore has fine, large homes on Warwick Neck. During prohibition, one of these homes was the center of rum running activities in Narragansett Bay, as Danny Walsh and the famed "Black Duck" snubbed his nose at the Coast Guard and brought heavy cargoes of 'hootch' into Warwick Neck.

**OAKLAND BEACH:** (2) At the mouth of Warwick Cove, kayakers will turn right and head along the Oakland Beach shore. Oakland Beach was a popular summer resort area until 1938, when the hurricane destroyed most of the area. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the American Steamboat Company erected a dock there for excursion steamers and the Warwick Railroad followed with construction of 8 miles of track linking Providence to the shore resort. The Oakland Beach Hotel was erected in 1873, with the management building a large shore dinner hall noted for its clambakes. An artificial pond connecting to Brushneck Cove attracted boaters; and a flying horses carousel, a shooting gallery, and swings rivaled any amusement park. In 1888, R.A. Harrington erected the first Flume ride in America; and in 1915, Joseph Carrolo, 'the Carousel King' (who learned to carve carousel horses from Charles I.D. Loof) built a merry-go-round; by 1922, a rollercoaster and a fun house had been added by the Sholes family. The Great Hurricane of September 21, 1938, destroyed the entire beach community and amusement park. Following Hurricane Carol in 1954, a seawall was built and a park established. The area offers a bathing beach and several restaurants, including Iggys - which has a takeout window and offers traditional takeout foods (burgers, clamcakes, chowder, doughboys). The water along the shore is very shallow, allowing beaching of canoes easily. There are remains of old walls along this shore which show at low tides – caution!

**BRUSHNECK COVE:** (3) Just west of Oakland Beach, the cove offers a quiet paddle with lots of birding opportunities. The west shore is made up of Warwick City Park, with a bicycle trail along the shore and a small beach. Formerly, the park was the Town of Warwick Poor Farm, created in 1869, when the town purchased the Burrill Shippee Farm and created a home to accommodate the destitute and homeless men and women of Warwick. The home closed in 1940. The western arm of Brushneck Cove is Buttonwoods Cove, which was precipitated into national prominence when the shore was the site of a clambake for presidential candidate William Henry Harrison in 1840. In 1871, the Buttonwoods Beach Association acquired 130 acres adjacent to the cove for a summer resort for religious Protestant families. Many of the Victorian homes are unchanged today; (4) and the chapel, clubhouse and tennis courts still exist. Nearby is the 1678/1715 Greene-Bowen-Tyson house, an early stone end house erected shortly after King Philip's War ended.

Leaving Brushneck Cove, you pass along the face of the Buttonwoods area. Prior to the 1938 hurricane, there were prolific oyster beds along this shore - all silted over by the hurricane. During the 1920s until the official Rhode Island State Airport opened at Hillsgrove, the

Buttonwoods Airport was located on the flat fields adjacent to the shore. These open meadows were eventually acquired by the R.I. Grand Lodge of Masons, who established a Masonic Youth Center with swimming pool and baseball fields. Adjacent to this was the (5) Providence Floating Hospital, originally established on Starve Goat Island in the Providence River and later moved here. This was a hospital for disadvantaged children and is now a center for those with physical and mental challenges.

**BAKER'S CREEK:** (6) West of the flat area lies the creek, a salt marsh with numerous birding opportunities. During the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the area was used extensively by farmers to harvest salt marsh hay as winter feed for their livestock.

**NAUSAUKET:** (7) This whole section is a shallow water area for quite a distance offshore with depths of one to three feet. From 1870 to 1920, the area was a popular summer camp ground. It is still an excellent shell fishing area when Greenwich Bay is open. At the entrance to Apponaug Cove is Cedar Tree Point, site of an ancient Indian settlement.

**MARY'S CREEK:** (8) On the west side of the entrance to Apponaug Cove lies Mary's Creek Management Area. It is a large marsh area with a channel running through to its northern end against the railroad tracks, and offers many birding opportunities. The area was used extensively for harvesting salt marsh hay, as at Baker's Creek. It is separated from Apponaug Cove by Arnold's Neck. Some of the houses on the neck enjoyed a seamy past during prohibition, serving as storage locations for the illegal liquor cargoes moving up the bay on the fast boats of the rum runners

**APPONAUG COVE:** (9) Another busy boat traffic area is in Apponaug Cove. The name means "place of Oysters", and huge shell heaps have been found along shore during archaeological digs of the area. The first settlement occurred in 1696, when John Micarter constructed a fulling mill for cleaning wool cloth on the Kehamewit Brook. Deposits of Fullers' Earth had been found in the area, which had chemical properties to clean dirt and oil from woolen cloth. In the same year, John Stafford erected a tidal mill for grinding corn at the mouth of the brook, which he was required to keep open a width of six feet for the passage of boats. Apponaug became a busy center for the construction of sloops and schooners, as well as a port where anchors from the Jacob Greene Co. of Coventry were shipped out, and iron ore and coal for the Greene forge were offloaded. The Town of Apponaug became a center of commerce, with a town house constructed to hold town records and provide space for meetings. Sweet Meadow Brook, adjacent to the railroad tracks was a site of Narragansett Indian settlement.

There can be good waterfowl viewing along this entire route, and especially in Brushneck Cove and Mary's Creek. Waterfowl includes mallards, American black duck, mute swan, Canada goose, brant, American widgeon, American coot, gadwall, bufflehead, common goldeneye, hooded merganser, red-breasted merganser, great scaup, and rarely: canvasback and green winged teal. Most of the ducks appear during the winter months in the area. Summer water birds include great blue heron, snowy egret, great egret, black crowned night heron, green heron, lesser yellowlegs, greater yellowlegs, willet and horned grebe.

Shore birds include herring gulls, greater black backed gulls, laughing gulls, common terns, sanderlings, semipalmated sandpipers, and double crested cormorants.

While all of the coves are closed to shell fishing, during certain seasons of the year, Greenwich Bay is open for the harvest of shellfish. Those interested should check with the Department of Environmental Management, as Greenwich Bay is a shellfish management area and is also subject to closure seasonally and after heavy rains.

**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 WARWICK HARBORMASTER, 401-738-2019.**

