

# 1 Woonasquatucket Reservoir (Stump Pond)

**Overview:** At 300 acres and 2.3 miles long, Woonasquatucket Reservoir in Smithfield is the largest water body in the watershed. The reservoir can develop large waves if there is too much wind. The shoreline in the northern part is largely wooded. The southern part is a bit more suburban. The put-in on the west side and the put-in at the Smithfield Conservation Commission are better for launching hand-carried boats than the put-in by the dam. There is a handicapped-accessible fishing dock at the Conservation Commission.

**Getting There:** Take exit 8B off I-295 (north or south) in Smithfield. This will put you on Route 7 (Douglas Pike) heading north. In about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile, at the second light, turn left onto Washington Highway (Route 116). Go 1 mile to a T-junction. To get to the put-in near the dam on the east side of the reservoir turn right here onto Farnum Pike (Route 104) and look for a DEM fishing access parking lot on the left. To get to the other put-ins, turn left at the T-junction, go 0.2 miles and turn right into Pleasant View Avenue. To get to the put-in at the Conservation Commission go 0.4 miles and turn left on Waterview Drive, go 0.1 miles and turn right into the small drive for the Conservation Commission. To get to the put-in on the west side continue on Pleasant View Avenue across the reservoir and turn right onto Log Road. In 0.2 miles bear right at the fork to stay on Log Road. In another 0.2 miles look for a parking lot on your right. For launching hand-carried boats, use the second lot if possible to leave the first lot free for vehicles with trailers.

**What's There:** The shore at the put-in on the west side of the reservoir is gravel very suitable for launching canoes and kayaks. You can put in here and paddle up to the north end, where the Woonasquatucket River enters the reservoir. The river here quickly becomes too shallow to paddle but you can land and have a picnic lunch on the big rock next to the mouth of the river and walk up an informal trail on the east side of the river to Mowry Conservation Area. Watch out for poison ivy!

The southern arm of the reservoir is also pretty, but be prepared for a tight squeeze getting under the two pipes under the Pleasant View Avenue bridge, or put-in at the Conservation Commission. This arm is narrower than the main body of the reservoir and the wetlands along the shore are frequented by birds.

Woonasquatucket Reservoir was built in 1910 to provide a reliable water supply through the summer for the mills down river. It was never a drinking water reservoir. The local name of "Stump Pond" comes from the tree trunks that remained standing in the water for many years after the dam was built.

**Also in the Area:** Mowry Conservation Area, at the north end of the reservoir, is a beautiful natural area with walking trails and a very scenic section of the Woonasquatucket River. Mercer Lookout, also called Wolf Hill, and the Stillwater Scenic Trail, also offer pleasant options for walking. The latter follows an old RR grade along the river.

