

# Quinebaug River Water Trail PADDLER'S GUIDE

Draft as of May 8, 2009



## Simonzi Park to Route 101 Putnam CT to Pomfret CT

The beginning of this segment parallels Kennedy Drive and Interstate 395, so the sounds of civilization are part of the experience. Farther along, the river passes between agricultural fields and several gravel operations. This is a pleasant and beautiful reach of the river. The trip to Route 101 is about five miles long with current, some quick-water and flat-water, but no portages. It is an excellent two-hour outing for paddlers who are comfortable with moving water. Plan to paddle downstream after shuttling a vehicle to the take-out at Route 101.

### Put-in: Simonzi Park on Kennedy Drive in Putnam

Lat/Long: N41.908752, W-71.909916

There are about a dozen free parking spaces in a paved lot at Simonzi Park on Kennedy Drive, across from Canal Street, .9 mile west of Exit 95 from I-395.

The carry to the water's edge is less than 50 feet and flat. The put-in is a grassy bank with a one- to two-foot drop to the water which can be tricky. There are plans to



install a better launch area in the next year or two. There are no public restrooms. Set up a shuttle by, first, dropping off your boat(s), gear

and people at the put-in. Drive all the vehicles to the take-out, then shuttle the drivers back in one car. That way you'll have just one care to retrieve after your paddle.

Thanks to Wheelabrator Corporation for funding construction of the informational kiosk.

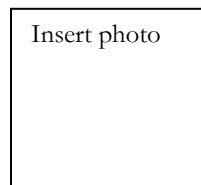
### Paddling Conditions

At high flows, this section moves right along with tricky turbulence; at low flows it is shallow and scratchy with cobbles and rocks. There are few houses and businesses once you paddle away from 395. You may notice a take-out just after the bridge at Cotton Bridge Road, but this is such a nice stretch of river, why stop here? Be sure you do get off the river at Route 101, however. Less than a mile downstream is the Rogers Dam, a dangerous drop with no portage.

### Take-out: River Access at the Route 101 Bridge in Pomfret

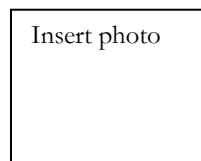
Lat/Long: N41.849044, W-71.921345

There are about ten free parking spaces in an unpaved lot for river access on the



south side of Route 101 in Pomfret. The carry from the water's edge is less than 100 feet. The take-out itself is a series of steps built into the sloping bank. If the flow is strong, you may want to pull into the tiny cove about ten feet downstream. There are no public restrooms. There is a kiosk with information about recreation and the river.

### Things to Watch (and Listen) For



Don't be alarmed if you hear shooting from a neighboring sportsman's club range. Watch for the monolithic leftover from a never-completed water power dam; there are three giant holes in the freestanding wall. You may catch sight of an abandoned cabin along the way. There may also be remains of Native American fish weirs, visible as cobbles arranged on the river bottom. Historians have documented weirs in Killingly and downriver.

### Have Fun Safely

Water levels vary not only with precipitation and snowmelt, but with dam releases. Please pay attention to changing conditions **before and during every trip**. Enjoy this beautiful river, but remember it can present hazards and challenges. Appalachian Mountain Club volunteers offer excellent paddling workshops; for information see [www.outdoors.org](http://www.outdoors.org).

### Help to Complete the Trail

Volunteers are preparing finalized Paddler's Guides, signs and additional water trail segments. You can help by submitting photos, by paddling and by helping to create new public launches.

**A Steering Committee will convene for the first time on June 24, 2009  
at 7pm in Danielson at the Last Green Valley office: 111 Main Street.  
Call 860 774 3300 for more information.**

