

④ Little Neck Cemetery, East Providence



Little Neck Cemetery lies at the north end of Bullock Cove in Riverside and contains the graves of John Brown, Jr. who purchased Wannamoisett from

Massasoit in 1643; Elizabeth Tilley, a passenger on the 1620 Mayflower voyage to Plymouth; and Captain Thomas Willett, who settled in Rehoboth in 1643 and later served as the mayor of New York City in 1665 and 1667.

⑤ Nockum Hill Cemetery



Nockum Hill is the site of the earliest burial ground in Barrington, containing the graves of English settlers from the 17th Century who fought

in the King Philip War. The cemetery was started in 1663 close to the nearby First Baptist Church. It can be reached by kayak from the east end of the channel just above the Tongue. A path leads from the Cemetery to Warren Avenue. A short walk to the north leads to George Street where a marker for the Church site and the entrance to the Doug Rayner Wildlife Sanctuary can be found.

⑥ Sowams Woods, Barrington



The area around Sowams Woods is believed to be an area set aside hundreds of years ago by the aboriginal population for women and for childbirth, a place of peace.

In 2011, the Barrington Land Conservation Trust (BLCT) purchased the Sowams Woods, a pleasantly wooded property of 12 acres and home of the only nesting site in Rhode Island for the declining population of diamondback terrapins.

Sowams Woods features 800 feet of frontage on Echo Lake and is located north of the Big Mussachuck Creek off of Narragansett Bay. If approaching by car, park on Tallwood Drive, Spinnaker Drive or Lighthouse Lane.

⑦ Hampden Meadows Greenbelt



The land between the two branches of the Sowams River (now known as the Palmer and Barrington Rivers), was known as Chachacust by the

Pokanoket Tribe and New Meadow Neck by the European settlers. It received this name as early as 1653. The appendage of "Hampden" to the New Meadow Neck name was given by the Rhode Island Historical Society in honor of John Hampden, the Plymouth colonist who visited Massasoit Osamequin along with Edward Winslow in 1623.

Travel by kayak 3/4 of a mile north of the Police Park boat ramp on the Barrington River to the west end of Linden Road along New Meadow Road. Secure your kayak to one of the small trees on the shore. The Greenbelt Trail begins just past the curve 1/4 of a mile up Linden Road and runs half a mile north to the Kent Street Skating Pond which functions during the summer as a long-hydroperiod vernal pool. The Trail is open daily from dawn to dusk.

⑧ Tyler Point Cemetery



Tyler Point Cemetery at the south end of Tyler Point Road on the Warren River, was established in 1702 and named for Moses

Tyler, a Boston shipbuilder. It contains the earliest graves in the town of Barrington, including those of 17th century colonists Hugh Cole and Rev. John Myles whose Baptist meeting house stood there until 1700. It can be accessed by boat or kayak using the boat ramp on Tyler Point Road.

⑨ Hugh Cole Well



Plymouth colonist Hugh Cole dug a well for his farmhouse in 1667 after his first house was burned in the King Philip War. The well, along with interpretive signs, can be found along the Kickemuit River in Warren at the back of Crab Pond between Child Street and the Broken Bridge.

⑩ Burr's Hill Burial Ground



Burr's Hill across from the Town Beach in Warren was an aboriginal burial ground that once contained dozens of grave sites of the people who occupied the area in the 1600s. Used as a sand and gravel source for a railroad that was constructed next to the site in 1853, many graves were looted. In an effort to protect the artifacts in the remaining 42 graves, Charles Carr exhumed the contents and donated them to museums in Providence, New York City, and Warren.

Following the passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act in 1990, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council retrieved the artifacts and reburied them at the site in Burr's Hill Park in May, 2017.



Two 17th century houses, both privately owned, still stand at the north end of Bristol Harbor. Nathaniel Bosworth constructed the first house in the town in 1680-81

at 814 Hope Street using material shipped over from England. Religious services for members of the First Congregational Church were held in the house until a meeting house was built on the Town Common in 1684. Joseph Reynolds built the oldest three-story house in Rhode Island at 956 Hope Street c. 1698-1700.



Take a Water Route Tour of 17th Century Rhode Island

Use a boat or kayak to visit eleven unique places that give evidence of the 17th century in East Bay Rhode Island.

Learn about dozens of other places in East Bay Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts on the Sowams Heritage Area website below



Many people think that the 17th century is gone in East Bay Rhode Island. No buildings from that time survive undisturbed, and much that was here has been transformed or covered over with new buildings.

If you know where to look, however, you'll find evidence of that important time when this area was being settled by the English. Each location tells part of the story of what took place here 400 years ago.

Locate the eleven places on the map in this brochure, and then travel to each one by boat or kayak to learn more about how this area started and who was here at the time.

Visit the www.SowamsHeritageArea.org website and find over fifty locations on-line that are part of the story of what happened in East Bay RI and nearby Massachusetts in the 17th century.

① Weybosset Bridge & the Cove



Weybosset in the Narragansett Indian language meant, "crossing place," a narrow, shallow place on the river that Indians used to walk

from one side of Narragansett Bay to the other, presumably during low to mid-tides. Weybosset is just south of the convergence of two rivers, the Woonasquatucket and Moshassuck, flowing south into the Providence River, at the upper end of Narragansett Bay. Today, a new bridge lies at the bottom of College Street

The Bridge can be approached by kayak or boat by traveling up the Providence River to Memorial Park to a dock. Interpretive signs are at either end of the bridge, and the Roger Williams Memorial is four blocks to the north.

④ Little Neck Cemetery ⑤ Nockum Hill ⑥ Sowams Woods ⑦ Hampden Meadows Greenbelt



⑧ Tyler Point Cemetery ⑨ Burr's Hill Burial Ground ⑩ Hugh Cole Well ⑪ Bristol's 17th Century Houses

② India Point and Bold Point



In 1680, Providence's first wharf was erected near today's Transit Street. Originally called Tockwotton by the Pokanoket Tribe,

the point along the Seekonk River became known as India Point after John Brown began to bring tea and spices from the East and West Indies. Bold Point sits across the Seekonk River in East Providence and has views of Upper Narragansett Bay and the Seekonk River. Indigenous people used the shallow water by the Point as a ford across the Seekonk River. Either side can be approached by boat or kayak. There is a boat ramp close to Bold Point where one can put in.

③ Slate Rock Park



Slate Rock Park at Gano and Williams Streets on the East Side is named after the ledge where Roger Williams and a handful of his followers

are said to have first stepped ashore after crossing from their original settlement on Omega Pond across the Seekonk River in the spring of 1636.

When they arrived, they had the good fortune to be met on a large slate rock by a number of friendly Narragansett Indians, one of whom greeted them with the phrase "What cheer, netop?" a mixture of English and Narragansett.

The Indians directed the group to continue down the river, around the point to the west, and up a small river to a cove where they established a settlement that would become Providence.

Slate Rock Park can be found by walking up Power Street from the west shore of the Seekonk River just south of the old railroad bridge.