

# Willimantic River Water Trail

## Canoe & Kayak Launches and Landings from Stafford to Windham, Ct.

**Water levels** can make or break a trip. Check the Paddling page at [www.willimanticriver.org](http://www.willimanticriver.org) for the current water level and for detailed maps of river features compiled by the Willi River Yacht Club. **Because river conditions and access points may change over time, use of information in this Willimantic River Alliance paddling guide is at the sole risk of the user.**

River mile	Location	Comments
<b>QUICK WATER SECTION</b>		
Mile 0.0	Stafford Springs Commuter Lot E side of Rt. 32	Excellent access. Narrow section, good only in high water. <b>WARNING:</b> 2-foot drop at 1.0 m downstream. Use on weekends only.
Mile 4.3	Willington W-bound I-84 rest stop S of Exit 70.	Access through gate W of facilities building. Downhill carry over grass. Year-round fishing area down river to Rt. 74 bridge.
Mile 5.9	Tolland Nye-Holman St. Forest W side of Rt. 74 bridge	Best access from picnic area at 350 ft. from Forest entrance. Brush and steep bank.
Mile 6.5	Tolland, Heron Cove Park S. River Rd., 0.5m S of Rt. 74.	Excellent access. Park at N end of lot. Carry 200 feet on gravel road to launch platform.
Mile 9.2	Willington, Peck's Mill Landing Access from river only.	Look for large midriver rock 1.0 m below Depot Rd. bridge. After 250 yards stay left in Class 2 rapids. Watch for eddy and sandy landing on left for 2 or 3 boats.
Mile 10.8	<u>Mansfield</u> , Merrow Meadow Park. Merrow Rd. .3m W of Rt. 32. <u>Coventry</u> , Taylor Preserve	E side of bridge: Steps to landing by bridge.  W side of bridge: Park in Riverview Trail Park lot N of bridge. Watch for traffic as cross to S side of bridge for easy 100' carry and easy put-in and take-out.
<b>QUIET WATER SECTION</b>		
Mile 13.7	Mansfield, River Park* Plains Rd., 0.2 m W of Rt. 32	Easy 100' carry to handicapped-accessible launch in sheltered bay. <b>BEST NOVICE LAUNCH &amp; PADDLE AREA.</b>
Mile 15.1	<u>Coventry</u> , Eagleville dam W side of river on Rt. 275. 0.3 m W of Rt. 32 <u>Mansfield</u> , Eagleville dam E side of river on Rt. 275	<b>WARNING: take-out from Eagleville Lake before 15' dam.</b> Can portage across Rt. 275 bridge to continue downstream. <u>Put-in</u> for Eagleville Lake. 50' carry over rocky bank. 100' carry over embankment to <u>put-in for Eagleville Lake.</u> Or 150' carry across Rt. 275 to put-in by S side of bridge for <u>downstream trip.</u>
<b>FLATWATER SECTION BELOW EAGLEVILLE DAM</b>		
Mile 21.4	Columbia, DEP rest area N side of Rt. 66 on W side of bridge 0.6 m W of Rt. 32.	150' path down to put in/take out at bridge. Muddy landing. Below Rt. 66: no public launch. Turn around at power lines. <b>WARNING:</b> Mill dams below power lines.

### Safety tips:

- Each person in the boat must have an approved personal flotation device in the boat at all times, and must wear one in the boat between Oct. 1 and May 20 (state law).
- Choose a route of appropriate length and river conditions for your boating skills.
- Tie one safety line to the bow and another to the stern. Keep them in your boat for emergencies.
- Enter and exit your boat carefully. Be prepared for the weather and cold water. Hypothermia can strike at any temperature.

\*This area always has navigable water upstream for 0.5m and downstream to Eagleville Lake. It's easy to miss the last turn to the lake. Look for a large tree at a fork. Go right there.