

Urban Shore Fishing

Access for all....

by Tom Duffy



The Red Bridge

East Providence, Rhode Island

Rhode Island is famous for its “Red Bridge” which, aside from its lower half, really isn’t red. It’s near the classic landmark “Stuck Up Railroad Bridge” that deserves recognition in almost any tourist guide of Rhode Island, including this fishing guide. The real name is the Henderson Bridge.

ACCESSING IT

A few miles south of Pawtucket on the Seekonk/Blackstone river going in to Providence there is access to the water along a street called River Road right near the west side of the bridge.

There is also access on the east side, however the west side has better parking. Once you learn the side streets you can make your decision on which side to fish, and depending on the conditions.

This “new” red bridge, built in the 60s, is an old little route that locals both in Provide and East Providence use to commute in 15 minutes without traffic.

The only other means of crossing the river without a craft is to drive to Pawtucket or deal with I-95 in Providence.

FISHING IT

When good fishing reports of the areas near the hurricane barrier are in and boats are competing for the same schools of pogies, this area can be very productive for the shore fisherman. I recommend the side with the onshore wind during any current.

The wading is limited on the west bank, but not needed as there are many dropoffs a short cast away. Cleats are not needed and a kayak or canoe could be launched from here as well.

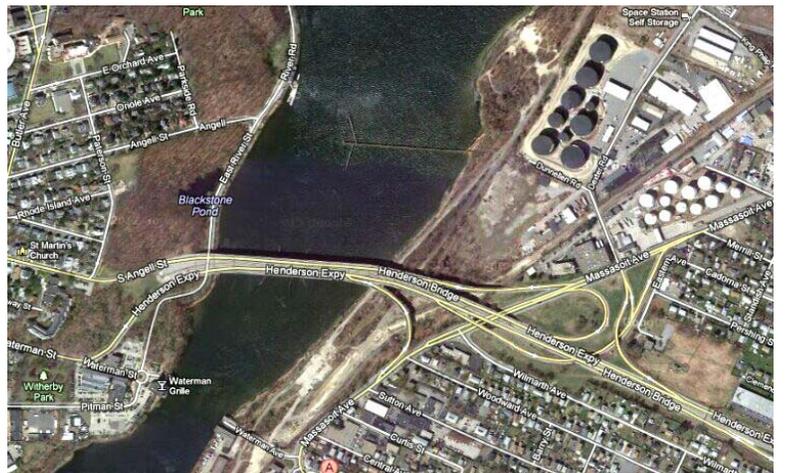
The east bank does have its challenges for parking, and you will find yourself in a much more urban setting so don’t fish alone here at night. However the wading is better and there is more structure near the bridge on this side.

I don’t recommend fishing under the bridge as locals have told me they feel the bridge is in disrepair and debris could fall from above.

DIRECTIONS

From East Providence: drive south on North Broadway until you see the signs for Providence

From Providence: Go to Blackstone Blvd off Hope St. Drive to the end and take a left onto Irving or Angell St. Either one will get you to the water.



INFORMATION TO NOTE

GPS...	41°49.627"N 71°22.842"W
Parking...	Good
24 Hour access...	Yes
Canoe/Kayak use...	Yes
Fly Fishing...	No
Busy spot...	No
Kid friendly...	Yes, during the day
Wading...	Some
Cleats Needed...	No