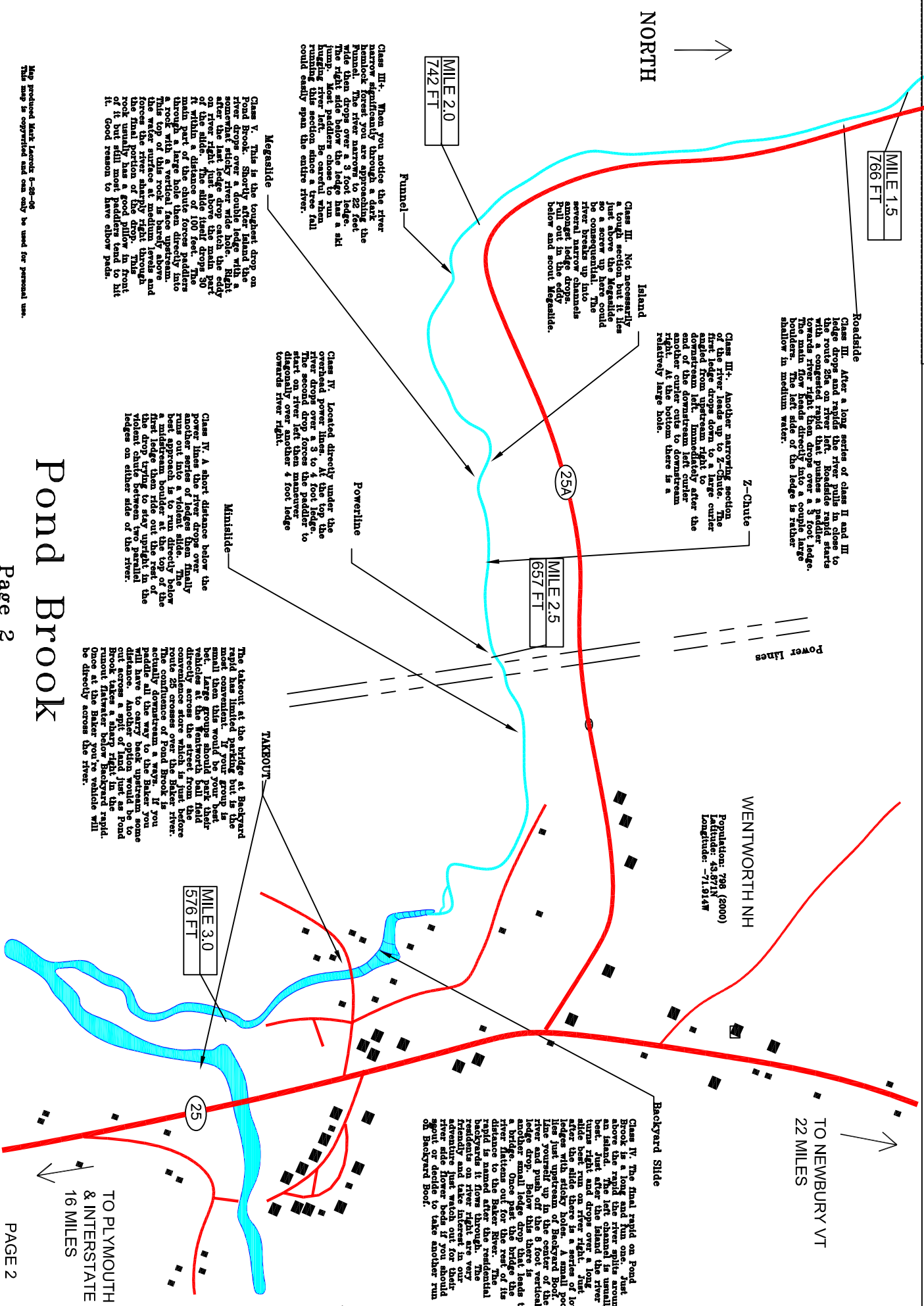




Class III. After a long series of class II and III ledge drops and rapids the river pulls in close to the route 25a on river left. Roadside rapid starts with a congested rapid that pushes a paddle runner into a very tight channel. The main flow heads directly into a couple large boulders. The left side of the ledge is rather shallow in medium water.

Class III+. Another narrowing section of the river leads up to Z-Chute. The first ledge drops down to a large cutler angled from upstream right to after the end of the downstream left cutler another cutler cuts to downstream right. At the bottom there is a relatively large hole.

Class III. Not necessarily a tough section but it lies just above the Megaslides so a screw up here could be consequential. The river breaks up into several narrow channels several large boulders. Pull out in the eddy below and scout Megaslides.

Class III+. When you notice the river narrow significantly through a dark hemlock forest you are approaching the Funnel. The river narrows to 22 feet wide and the water is very shallow. The right side below the ledge has a ski jump. Most paddlers chose to run a hugging river left. Be careful when running this section since a tree fall could easily span the entire river.

Class V. This is the toughest drop on Pond Brook. Shortly after island the river drops over a double ledge with a somewhat sticky river wide hole. Right after the first ledge drop the eddy of the slide. The slide itself drops 300 ft within a distance of 100 feet. The main part of the chute forces paddlers through a large hole then directly into a small ledge. The water surface at the top of this rock is barely above the water surface at medium levels and forces the river sharply right through the final portion of the drop. This section is a good paddle. A scout of it but all small paddlers tend to hit it. Good reason to have elbow pads.

Class IV. Located directly under the overhead power lines. At the top the river drops over a 3 to 4 foot ledge. The river then drops the boulder to start on river left then maneuvers diagonally over another 4 foot ledge towards river right.

Class IV. A short distance below the power lines the river drops over another series of ledges then finally another ledge. The river then drops a midstream boulder at the top of the first ledge then ride out the rest of the drop trying to stay upright in the eddy. The river then drops to several ledges on either side of the river.

The talent at the ledge at Backyard Brook has limited pathing but is the most convenient. If your group is small then this would be your best bet. Large groups should park their vehicles at the Newbury Hall field and then hike down to the ledge. A convenience store which is just before route 25 crosses over the Baker river. The confluence of Pond Brook is actually downstream a ways. If you are going to take a break, you will have to carry back upstream some distance. Another option would be to cut across a spit of land just as Pond Brook enters a sharp right in the runout. Inwater below Backyard right. The ledge is a good place to paddle will be directly across the river.

Class IV. The final rapid on Pond Brook is a long and fun one. Just above the rapid the river splits around an island. The left channel is usually best. Just after the island the river splits into two channels. The right side best run on river right. Just after the slide there is a series of low ledges with sticky holes. A small pool lies just upstream of Backyard Brook. The river narrows up the 8 foot vertical ledge drop. Below this there is another small ledge drop that leads to a bridge. Once past the bridge the river narrows out for the rest of its run. The river is named after the residential backyards it flows through. The residents on river right are very friendly and take interest in our activities. If you are a good runner, river side flower beds if you should opt or decide to take another run of Backyard Brook.

# Pond Brook