Launching and parking are available at the Charlestown Town Beach, and restrooms are in the beach pavilion. Travel under the Creek Bridge and follow the channel into Green Hill Pond. As the pond widens travel north by Allen Cove and follow the shoreline along the Ocean Ridge community to Indigo Point. There are oyster beds and small islands all over the pond. Go around Indigo Point to the northern part of the pond where Factory Brook and Teal Pond provide fresh water to the pond. Travel south along Twin Peninsulas to Flat Meadow Cove. Much of that area is lush salt marshes, islands and more oyster beds. Return along the south shore of the barrier beach, under the bridge and return back to your launch site.
Green Hill Pond, like most of the salt ponds is a lagoon estuary. The Green Hill barrier beach separates it from the ocean. Tidal water flows from Ninigret Pond under the Creek Bridge into Green Hill. Two major tributaries, Teal Pond and Factory Brook bring fresh water into the pond. These two streams supported a smelt run, one of the last along our south coast. The bottom was once gravelly, and that combined with the low salinity waters was a perfect habitat for oyster reproduction. Green Hill oysters were once abundant, but due to low salinity never as tasty as Charlestown (Ninigret) oysters. Before high bacterial levels closed Green Hill to shellfishing, aquaculturists would collect spat oysters from Green Hill were transplanted to the Prudence Oyster Farm. After Luther’s passing the Prudence Island oyster farm was passed to Roger Williams University, one of the leading aquaculture schools in the nation. After Mxs and Dermo disease devastated our local oyster resource, the Roger Williams group developed a Green Hill Hybrid disease-free strain of oysters used in our aquaculture throughout the state. So despite Green Hill’s water quality woes, its oyster legacy continues.

Green Hill Pond is a fun place to kayak. There are lots of islands and coves to explore. Boat traffic is minimal. In addition, there are two kayak rental companies within a mile of the pond.

DIRECTIONS:
From Route 1 take the Charlestown Beach exit (Dunkin Donuts and Phil & Ann’s Motel on the corner), which is Narrow Lane. Stay on Narrow Lane until it ends at Matunuck School House Road. Turn left and then take a quick right turn onto Charlestown Beach Road. At Creek Bridge, the Kayak Centre will be on the right just before the bridge, and the town launch will be on the right just after the bridge.

The most significant oyster grower of that time (1980’s) was Luther Blount. He was the son of Byron Blount owner of the last operating large-scale oyster company in Narragansett Bay (now Blount Seafood). Among his many accomplishments, Luther developed an oyster farm on Prudence Island. Spat oysters collected from Green Hill were transplanted to the Prudence Oyster Farm. After Luther’s passing the Prudence Island oyster farm was passed to Roger Williams University, one of the leading aquaculture schools in the nation. After Mxs and Dermo disease devastated our local oyster resource, the Roger Williams group developed a Green Hill Hybrid disease-free strain of oysters used in our aquaculture throughout the state. So despite Green Hill’s water quality woes, its oyster legacy continues.

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