Welcome to the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge! This unit of Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge features the Kettle Pond Visitor Center and a variety of hiking trails. Ninigret refuge is one of five National Wildlife Refuges in Rhode Island. Purchased in 2001, this parcel of forested uplands is home to pitch and white pines, black and white oaks, blueberry shrubs, sweet fern, and princess pine. Hiking along the trails offer visitors a chance to witness visual reminders of the great ice sheet, see changes in the seasonal vernal pool, and views of Watchaug Pond to the North and Block Island Sound to the South.

**Hiking Trails**

**Watchaug Pond Trail**
A favorite among birders, this ½ mile trail travels over gentle up-and-down terrain as it leads you to Watchaug Pond. Visitors are encouraged to stop along the way and listen for the calls of the many migrating songbirds.

**Toupoyssett Pond Trail**
This ¼ mile trail provides good views of a vernal pool, an important ecological feature and place of quiet beauty in all seasons. The stone walls that crisscross the trail are the only signs that the land was once used for sheep farming.

**Burlingame Trail**
This ½ mile trail connects the Kettle Pond Visitor Center with the 3,100 acre Burlingame State Park. The Park offers camping, picnic facilities, swimming, fishing and nature walks.

**Ocean View Trail**
Step back in time 15,000 years as you walk this ½ mile trail marked by ridges and depressions shaped by the great ice sheet. See giant boulders that were carried here from hundreds of miles away by an “ice bulldozer.” At the end of the trail is a tower where the visitors are treated to views of Ninigret Pond, barrier beaches and Block Island.
The National Wildlife Refuge System
The National Wildlife Refuges in Rhode Island are part of a national system of lands and waters administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The Refuge System is a network of lands and waters managed specifically for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat. It represents the most comprehensive wildlife management program in the world.

Public Use at the Refuge
Wildlife comes first on the national wildlife refuges. All human activities must be compatible with the needs of wildlife. Six priority public uses are encouraged when they do not interfere with the individual refuge’s mission. These are: hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental education, and interpretation.

Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge
provides visitors with excellent opportunities for bird watching, hiking, photography and environmental education. Also, surf fishing is permitted from refuge shorelines in accordance with state and federal regulations. White tail deer hunting is allowed under permit during open seasons.

Refuge staff, along with volunteers and the Friends group manage these habitats, lead guided walks, and conduct environmental education classes. For more information, please contact the refuge.

For school field trips or wildlife conservation parties, please call the office during business hours for more information.

Hours of Operation
Visitor Center: daily 10 am - 4 pm
Refuge trails: Open sunrise to sunset

Your Cooperation is Appreciated
To protect the refuge’s wildlife and habitats, please comply with the following:

° Stay on designated trails.
° There are no campsites on the refuge. Fires are not allowed.
° Bicycles are permitted only on Burlingame Trail, as a way to and from the Visitor Center.
° Pets are not allowed on Toupoyssett Pond Trail.
° Dogs must be on a leash on all other trails.
° The disturbance, destruction, or removal of wildlife, vegetation, and facilities are prohibited.
° Please keep the refuge clean. Take your trash home with you.

IMPORTANT! During the fall and winter deer hunting seasons, we recommend wearing blaze orange clothing, such as a vest and hat, when using the trails.

For additional information contact:
Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuges
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
50 Bend Road
Charlestown, RI 02813
Phone: (401) 364-9124
Fax: (401) 364-0170
Welcome to the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge! This refuge is one of five national wildlife refuges in Rhode Island. Established in 1972, the Salt Pond Unit consists of 409 acres of diverse upland and wetland habitats including grasslands, shrub lands, wooded swamps and freshwater ponds. Formally part of Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, the refuge now provides visitors with over four miles of hiking trails, fishing, hunting and a kayak launch. You may enjoy an excellent view of Ninigret Pond, the largest coastal salt pond in Rhode Island from Grassy Point. For the birding enthusiast, over 250 species of birds have been recorded at the refuge. Also, the refuge shores support a large diversity of marine life such as the blue crab, bay scallop, striped bass and winter flounder.
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Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge
The refuge provides visitors with excellent opportunities for bird watching, hiking, photography, and environmental education. Surf fishing is permitted from refuge shorelines in accordance with state and federal regulations.

Together with volunteers and Friends of the National Wildlife Refuges of Rhode Island, refuge staff manage these habitats, lead guided walks, and conduct environmental education classes.

Hours of Operation
Refuge Trails are open sunrise to sunset

Your Cooperation is Appreciated
To protect the refuge’s wildlife and habitats, please comply with the following:

- Stay on designated trails.
- There are no picnic areas or campsites on the refuge. Fires are not allowed.
- Dogs, horses and other pets are not permitted. Pets are not allowed on National Wildlife Refuges because they alter the natural behaviors of wildlife.
- Bicycles, jogging and roller blades are not permitted.
- Kite flying is not permitted. During the bird nesting season, kites resemble larger birds that could prey on young chicks. This can frighten adult birds potentially causing them to abandon their nests.
- The disturbance, destruction, or removal of wildlife, vegetation, and facilities are prohibited.
- Please keep the refuge clean. Take your trash home with you.

Additional regulations may be in effect

IMPORTANT! During the fall and winter deer hunting seasons, we recommend wearing blaze orange clothing, such as a vest and hat, when using the trails.

For more information, please contact:
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Rhode Island NWR Complex
50 Bend Road, Charlestown, RI 02813
Phone: (401) 364-9124
Fax: (401) 364-0174