

TRAIL MAP



Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge Kettle Pond Unit

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.

Toupoysett Pond Trail

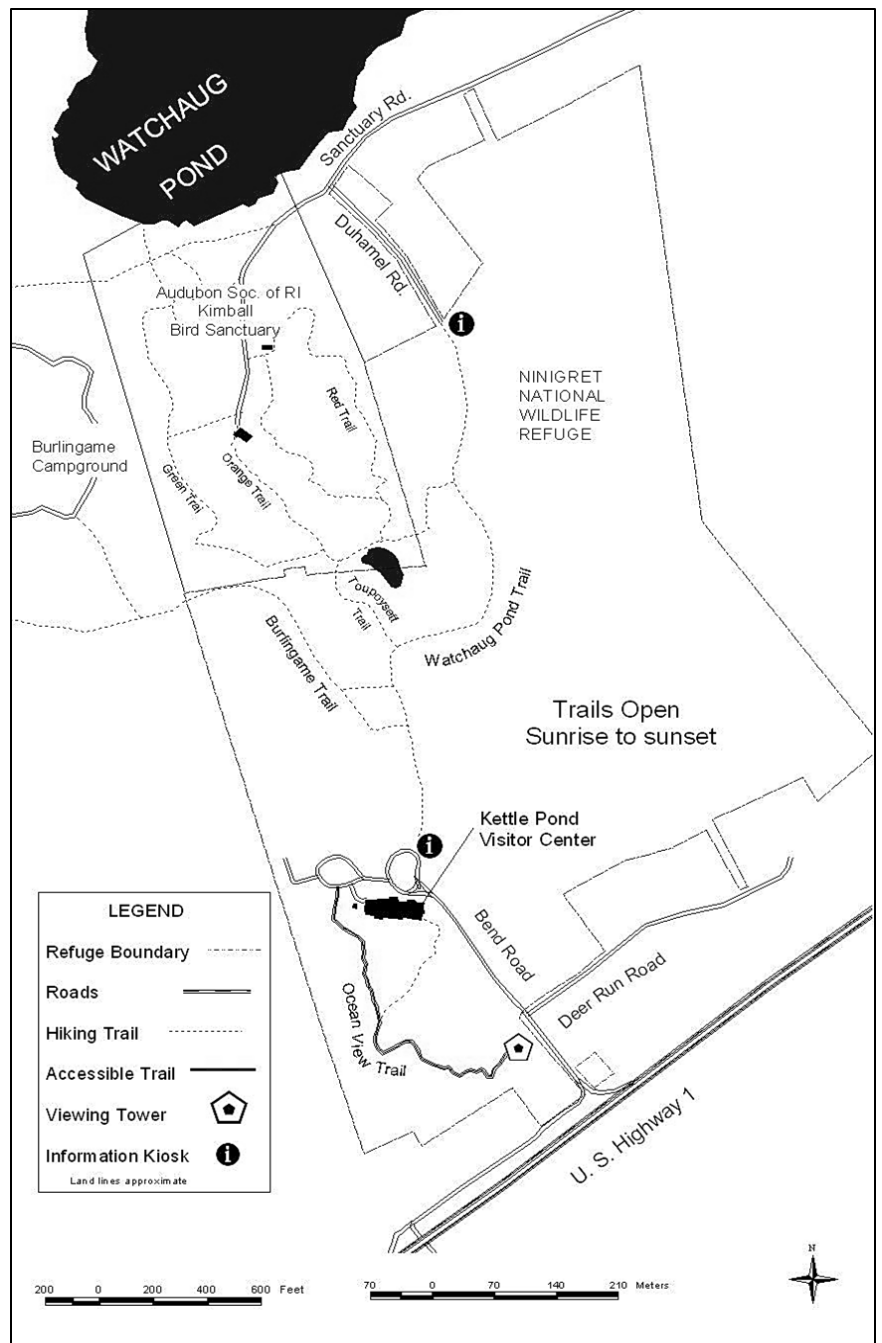
This ¼ mile trail provides good views of a vernal pool, an important ecological feature and place of quiet beauty in all seasons. The stone walls that crisscross the trail are the only signs that the land was once used for sheep farming.

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.



Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge Kettle Pond Unit

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 Toupoysett 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