

Ninigret

National Wildlife Refuge

Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Jack Reed (D)
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D)
Rep. James Langevin (D-2nd)

Contact

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Profile

Established:	1973
Complex acres:	2,574
Ninigret acres:	868
Staff (complex-wide):	9 FTEs
*Salaries/operations	\$1,116,867
**One-time project funds	\$267,628
ARRA project funds	\$250,000
Fire:	\$10,785
Fees:	\$1,092
2010 volunteer hours:	7,620
2010 visitation:	102,271

*Includes annual maintenance, utilities, contracts, etc.

**Includes deferred maintenance, construction, equipment and biological projects

Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge is one of five national wildlife refuges in the Rhode Island Complex.

Purpose

Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge was established as an inviolate sanctuary, or for other purposes, for migratory birds, and for particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird program.

Visitor Services

- Kettle Pond Visitor Center
- Observation platform
- Six miles of nature trails
- Frequent guided walks/tours
- Environmental education
- Waterfowl hunting from boat
- Surf fishing
- Kayak launch

Management Activities

- Implementing the approved comprehensive conservation plan (2002) to enhance wildlife habitats, control invasive species, eliminate non-compatible uses and increase visitor services
- Land protection plan targets 500 acres for land acquisition
- Grassland/shrubland restoration
- Prescribed burning program
- Monitoring wildlife and habitat
- Controlling invasive exotic species
- Protecting the threatened piping plover
- Designated law enforcement officer shared with Connecticut refuges



Linda Cullivan

New England cottontail

Highlights

The environmental education program for school-aged children increased from 141 to an average of 6,000 students annually with the opening of the Kettle Pond Visitor Center.

The refuge has the statewide lead in the piping plover restoration program.

The refuge has an active and involved cadre of volunteers, and an award-winning friends group.

A newly built kayak launch site increases wildlife observation and fishing opportunities.

The refuge is part of a multi-refuge adaptive management project monitoring habitat variables, birds and New England cottontails in a coastal maritime shrub community.

The refuge has a fully accessible trail, with viewing platform and scope.

Issues

Increasing public use and habitat management demands on reduced staff

Water quality is affected by multiple landowners

Reducing the spread of invasive species

Management of barrier beaches in high public-use areas

Eliminating incompatible public uses impacts from the adjacent town park

Lead contamination mitigation at former military gunnery station

Law enforcement issues with all-terrain vehicles

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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