

Sachuest Point

National Wildlife Refuge

Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Fact Sheet



Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Jack Reed (D)
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D)
Rep.-elect David Cicilline (D-1st)

Contact

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Profile

Established: 1973
Complex acres: 2,569
Sachuest acres: 242
Staff (complex-wide): 9 FTEs
*Salaries/operations \$1,097,881
**One-time project funds \$136,599
Fire \$169,000
Fees \$64
2011 volunteer hours: 5,475
2011 visitation: 193,386

*Includes annual maintenance, utilities, contracts, etc.

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

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

Purpose

Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge was established for development, management, advancement, conservation and protection of fish and wildlife resources, for incidental wildlife-oriented recreation and for conservation of endangered and threatened species.



Management Activities

- Implementing the approved comprehensive conservation plan (2002) to enhance wildlife habitats, control invasive species, eliminate non-compatible uses and increase visitor services
- Monitoring wildlife and habitat
- On-going project to control invasive plant species and restore grassland habitat on nearly 35 acres
- Protecting the threatened piping plover
- Ongoing salt marsh restoration with support from federal, state and local partners

Visitor Services

- Two observation platforms
- Three miles of nature trails
- Visitor center
- Frequent guided walks/tours
- Wildlife/nature photography
- Surf fishing (nighttime permit required)
- Designated law enforcement Officer shared with Connecticut refuges

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Highlights

- Sachuest Point is home to over 200 species of birds.
- The refuge is renowned for excellent surf fishing opportunities and manages a nighttime fishing permit system.
- The waters at Sachuest Point are known for a wintering population of the rare and colorful harlequin duck.
- The first piping plover nest on Aquidneck Island since the 1950s was found on the refuge in 2002, and remains productive.
- The refuge began the final design phase of exhibits in 2009.
- The refuge installed additional solar panels and hopes to expand a solar electric system to reduce energy demands.
- The renovated visitor center continues to attract thousands of people.
- The landfill remediation has safeguarded environmental quality, created 18 acres of salt marsh and restored 15 acres to native grasses.

Issues

- Meeting operating costs
- Increasing public use and demands on limited staff
- Reducing the spread of invasive species
- Management of barrier beaches