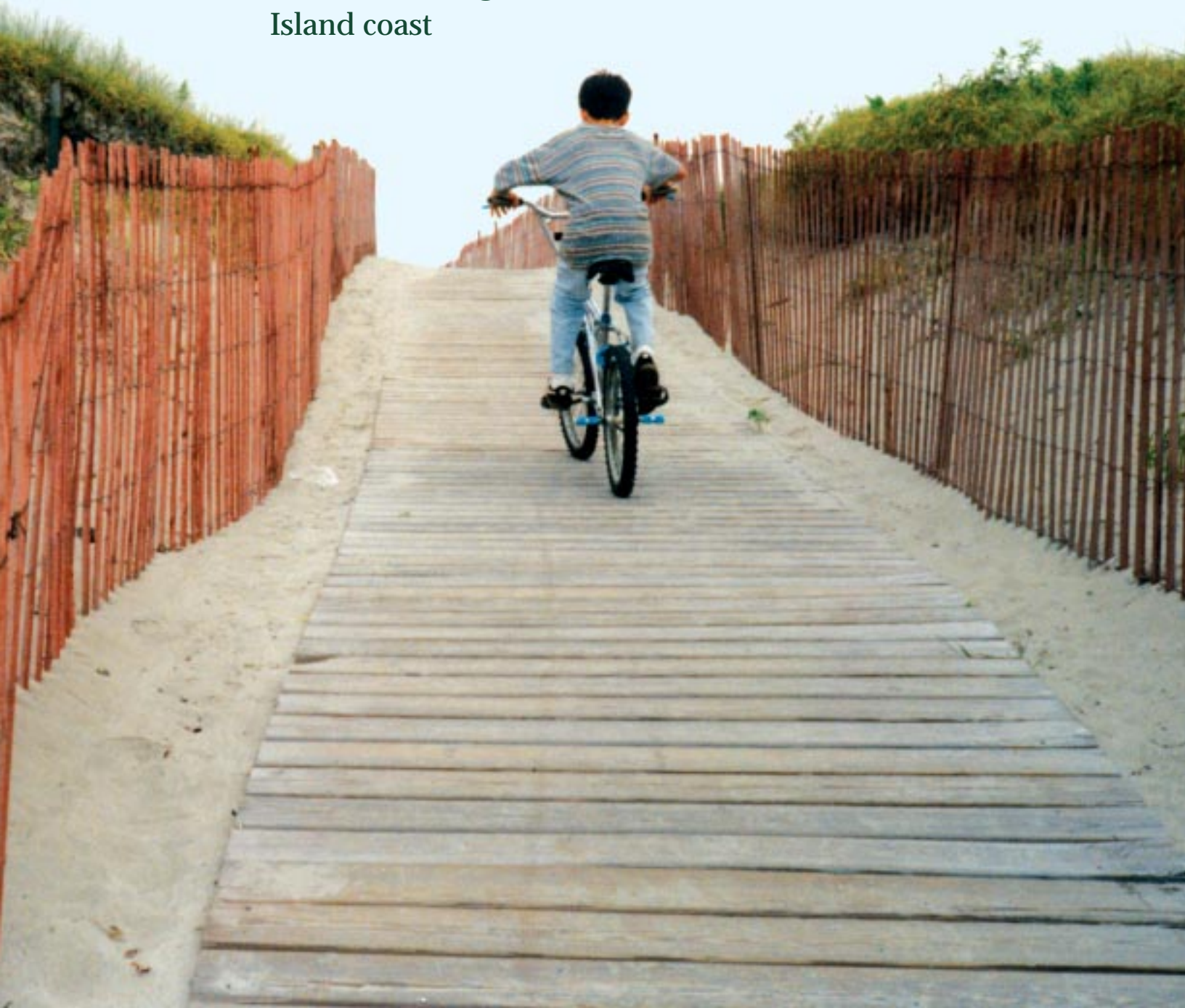


Public Access

to the Rhode Island Coast

A guide to parks, wildlife refuges, beaches, fishing sites, boat ramps, pathways, and views along the Rhode Island coast





Block Island

Additional copies of this publication are available from the Rhode Island Sea Grant Communications Office, University of Rhode Island Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI 02882-1197. Order P1696.

Loan copies of this publication are available from the National Sea Grant Library, Pell Library Building, University of Rhode Island Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI 02882-1197. Order RIU-H-04-001.

This publication is sponsored by R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council, by Rhode Island Sea Grant under NOAA Grant No. NA 16RG1057, and by the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of CRMC, CRC, or NOAA or any of its sub-agencies. The U.S. Government is authorized to produce and distribute reprints for governmental purposes notwithstanding any copyright notation that may appear hereon.

Sustainable Coastal Communities Report #4404

This document should be referenced as:

Allard Cox, M. (ed.). 2004. *Public Access to the Rhode Island Coast*. Rhode Island Sea Grant. Narragansett, R.I. 84pp.

Designer: Wendy Andrews-Bolster, Puffin Enterprises



Printed on recycled paper



ISBN #0-938412-45-0

Please Note

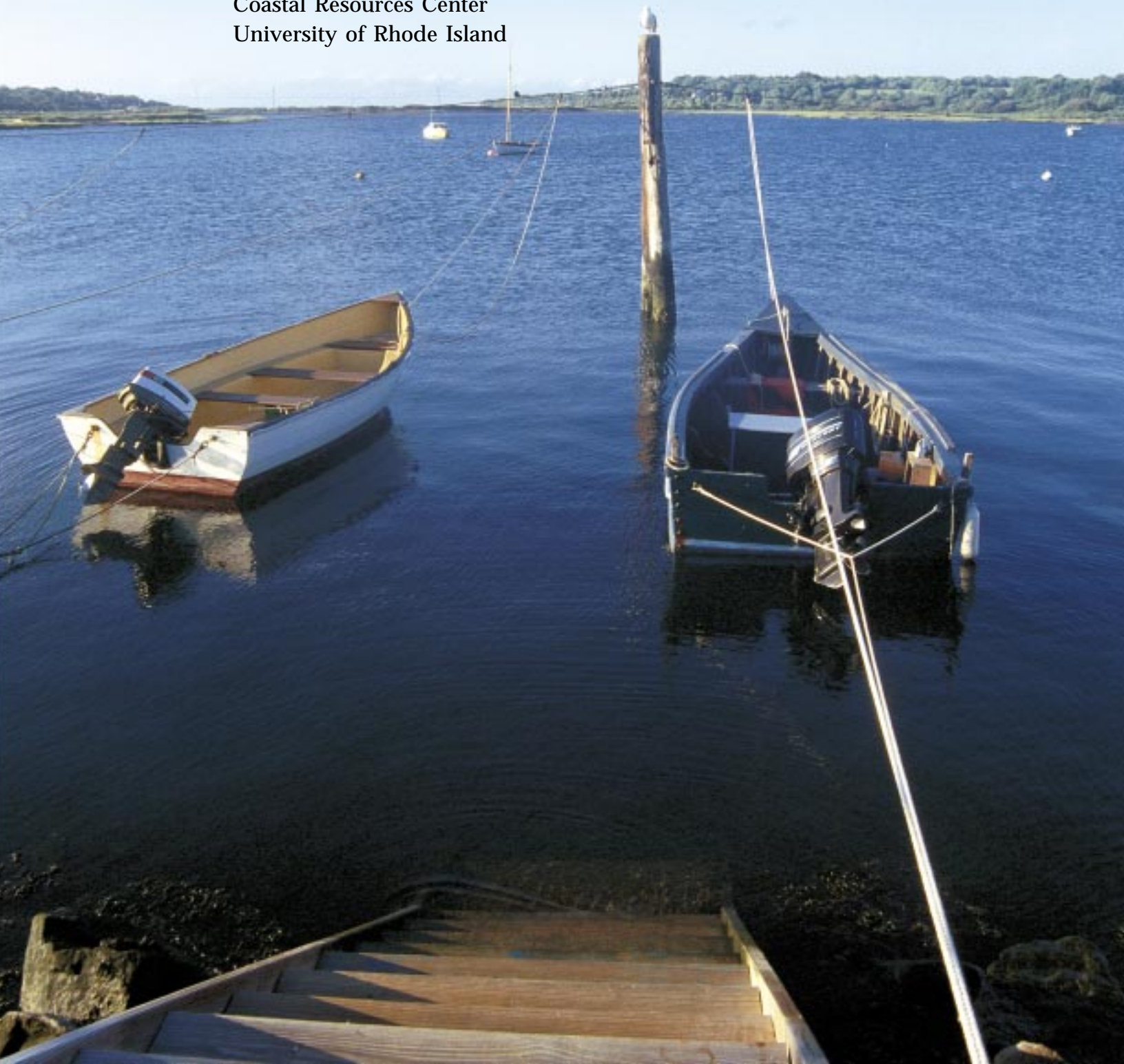
Of all the hundreds of potential public coastal access sites to the shoreline, including street ends and rights-of-way, this guide represents a selection of sites that are both legally available and suitable for use by the public. This guide is not a legal document; it is simply intended to help the public find existing access sites to the coast. As of winter 2003–04, all descriptions are accurate to the best of our knowledge. Each site was visited and descriptions verified to the best of our ability. However, inaccuracies may still exist in the text, since conditions are constantly changing and more sites are being adopted and managed for public use.

Please send comments to: Monica Allard Cox, Rhode Island Sea Grant, University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography, Narragansett, RI 02882.

Public Access

to the Rhode Island Coast

Written by
Rhode Island Sea Grant
Coastal Resources Center
University of Rhode Island



Acknowledgements



This second edition of *Public Access to the Rhode Island Coast* is updated from Lee, V. and P. Pogue. 1993. *Public Access to the Rhode Island Coast*. Rhode Island Sea Grant, Narragansett, R.I. 75pp.

I would like to thank Adam Zitello who, as a University of Rhode Island (URI) Coastal Fellow, visited the sites and photographed and catalogued them. His work was instrumental in capturing the breadth of information included in this guide. I would also like to thank Kevin Cute, Marine Resources Specialist, R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council, who, with tireless advocacy for public access to the coast, has helped to make this guide as inclusive and accurate as possible.

Special thanks goes to Wendy Andrews-Bolster for her many hours of painstaking work in designing this guide to be both beautiful and usable.

I also gratefully acknowledge the efforts of the following people in providing content and/or reviewing site listings and maps for accuracy.

- Tom Ardito, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
- Kim Botelho, R.I. Department of Environmental Management
- Theresa Burke
- David Byrnes, R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
- Carl G. Carvell, Weekapaug Fire District
- Michael Cassidy, Pawtucket Department of Planning and Redevelopment
- Marilyn Cohen, North Kingstown Department of Planning
- Betsy de Leiris, Norman Bird Sanctuary
- James W. Farley, The Mount Hope Trust
- Charlie Festa, University of Rhode Island
- Lynn Furney, City of Cranston
- Arthur Ganz, R.I. Department of Environmental Management
- Dan Geagan, City of Warwick
- Robert Gilstein, Town of Portsmouth
- Geoff Grout, R.I. Economic Development Corporation
- William Haase, Town of Westerly
- Charlotte Johnson, Rose Island Lighthouse
- Richard Kerbel, North Kingstown Harbor Management Commission
- Bob Kilmarx, Barrington Conservation Land Trust
- Mil Kinsella-Sullivan, Common Fence Point Improvement Association
- Karen LaChance, R.I. Economic Development Corporation
- Eugenia Marks, Audubon Society of Rhode Island
- Steve Medeiros, R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
- Don Minto, Watson Farm
- Bob Moeller, R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
- Larry Mouradjian, R.I. Division of Parks and Recreation
- Bill Mulholland, Pawtucket Parks and Recreation Department
- Lisa Nolan, Southeast Lighthouse Foundation
- Andrew Nota, Narragansett Parks and Recreation Department
- John O'Brien, R.I. Department of Environmental Management Division of Fish and Wildlife
- Becky Pellerin, Town of North Kingstown
- Michael Rubin, Rhode Island Special Assistant to the Attorney General
- Bob Rutkiewicz, Warren Conservation Commission
- Lee Schisler, Audubon Society of Rhode Island
- Frances Segerson, R.I. Department of Transportation
- Raymond Sousa, Town of Barrington
- Lori Urso, Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
- Lee Whitaker, Town of East Greenwich
- Tim Wolken, Town of South Kingstown
- Sandra Wyatt, Barrington Conservation Land Trust



North Light, Block Island

And thanks to Rhode Island Sea Grant staff for their assistance in preparation of this guide. Maps were adapted from base maps provided for the first edition by the URI Environmental Data Center.

—Monica Allard Cox, Editor
Rhode Island Sea Grant Communications

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Block Island





Introduction

Rhode Island is richly endowed with a magnificent shoreline. Access to this shore is an essential part of the heritage of the people of the Ocean State. As a consequence of a long tradition of a variety of commercial uses of the shore, combined with forward-looking government policy to purchase coastal open space for public use, Rhode Island has a multitude of coastal access areas. This is a guide to 344 popular public access sites chosen from the many hundreds that exist. It is a guide to the variety of different kinds of access and recreational opportunities they provide, whether you wish to launch a boat on the Bay, swim at the ocean beaches, picnic at coastal parks, photograph ducks during fall migration, or seek solace and solitude along the shore.

Sites chosen for this guide are either (1) owned by federal, state, or municipal government and managed for the public, (2) owned by private organizations who welcome the public, or (3) rights-of-way that have been officially designated by the R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) and are suitable for public use.

There are, of course, many opportunities for wonderful experiences on our coastal waters that are not in this guide. For instance, many popular commercial operations are not included, and every city street that ends at the shore is not included.

Public Access: A Tradition of Value

The value of safeguarding access to the shoreline has a long history in Rhode Island, reflected in the names of favorite sites.¹ Places that were special to the Indians, such as Misquamicut (red fish or salmon) and Matunuck (lookout), are now state beaches. Neighborhood rights-of-way or street ends still provide access to the Kickemuit River (source of water), Apponaug Cove (place of oysters), Sakonnet (place of black geese), and the Woonasquatucket River (as far as the tide goes). Pettaquamscutt Rock (round rock), site of one of the early purchases of land from the Narragansett sachems by British colonists, still offers a lofty view of the Narrow River and the mouth of Narragansett Bay. At the head of Narragansett Bay in Pawtucket (at the falls) is the Slater Mill, where the power of water was first harnessed by Samuel Slater to drive textile machinery, and where the American Industrial Revolution began.

For the colonists, access to the shore was also essential: for fishing—a source of food and income—for transportation before the highways were constructed (South Ferry, Fogland Point Ferry), for pasturing animals (Ram Point, Hog Island), and for gathering seaweed to fertilize crops. Many rights-of-way originated as “driftways”—areas used seasonally for gathering seaweed that had drifted onto shore and carting it away to spread over farmlands. Stinky Beach, so called because of the abundance of rotting seaweed that once collected there, is located just north of Scarborough Beach, one of the most popular state beaches today.

Access to the shore was crucial for the rise of maritime commerce. Some of the lighthouses that were essential beacons for safe shipping now mark favorite access sites on Block Island, Watch Hill, Point Judith, and Beavertail. Ida Lewis Rock in Newport Harbor is named for the lighthouse keeper who became a national heroine for her decades of courageous service to the ships and sailors of Newport. At Point Judith, the stone breakwaters, now often lined with fishermen, were originally constructed as a harbor of refuge for the thousands of sailing ships and steamboats that passed the point each year.

The importance of coastal access for transportation is still evident in the stone piers of Jamestown Harbor and of South Ferry Road in Narragansett that were former ferry landings. For over 200 years before the bridges were built, these ferries and others were the highway links across the Bay. The ferry from Bristol to Prudence Island has provided continuous service since the 1700s.

Shoreline access has also been critical for military defense. Forts and staging areas were constructed along our coast for every major war in our history. These fortifications have been turned to public use by the federal government and have become some of the most popular public parks: Fort Adams in Newport, Fort Wetherill and Fort Getty in Jamestown, and the gun emplacements at Fort Greene in Narragansett, now part of Fishermen's Memorial Park.

Public and Private Rights

The shoreline can be defined as that part of the shore that is regularly covered by the tide. It is considered by common law to be public land, held in trust for the public by the state. Each state has a different interpretation of what activities the public has a right to pursue in these areas. The Rhode Island Constitution specifically protects citizens' rights to fish from the shore, to gather seaweed, to leave the shore to swim in the sea, and to walk along the shore. In Rhode Island, state waters of public domain

extend from mean high water three miles out to sea. Above mean high water, land and resources can be, and often are, privately owned.

Access along the shore has been a common expectation and legal right for generations of Rhode Islanders. Trespassing across private property to reach the shore, however, is illegal. Since most waterfront property in Rhode Island is privately owned, those seeking to reach the shore without trespassing must rely on the various public lands and access ways that dot the coast.

Role of CRMC

As trustee of Rhode Island's coastal resources and in accordance with state and federal statutory mandates, CRMC has a responsibility to ensure that public access to the shore is protected, maintained, and, where possible, enhanced for the benefit of all.

CRMC recognizes that well-designed and maintained public access sites and improvements to existing public access sites can enhance the value of adjacent properties. In addition, properly designed, maintained, and marked public access facilities, including adequate parking areas, can reduce the pressures for use of or infringement upon adjacent properties.

Certain activities that require the private use of public trust resources to the exclusion of other public uses necessarily impact public access. In general, these activities include commercial, industrial, and residential developments and redevelopment projects, or activities that involve filling and/or building on or over tidal waters. This would also include the construction of structural shoreline protection facilities.

Projects involving the alteration of coastal areas, including those that affect public rights-of-way to the coast, require permits from CRMC. CRMC requires applicants to provide, where appropriate, access of a similar type and level to that which is being impacted as the result of a proposed activity or development project. Once projects receive council approval with public access components, these projects are eligible for limited liability protection under R.I.G.L. 32-6-5(c). Projects seeking council approval should also follow the general public access guidelines. For more information, visit the CRMC website at www.crmc.state.ri.us.

Role of the R.I. Department of Environmental Management

The R.I. Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) oversees the management, including maintenance and acquisition, of state parks and beaches. RIDEM also oversees the management of open space bond money for state or municipal acquisition and/or development of various coastal open space areas. RIDEM maintains boat ramps for fishing access to salt and fresh waters statewide.

What You Can Do

Concerned about public access to the shore? Your involvement is important. If you believe that you know the location of a potential right-of-way or have any information that can assist CRMC at any point in the designation process, please contact CRMC at (401) 222-2476.

¹ Wright, M.I. and R.J. Sullivan. 1982. *The Rhode Island Atlas*. Rhode Island Publications Society, Providence, R.I. 240 pp.

Key to Primary Uses



Public Park



Path to Shore



Boating



Beach with Lifeguards



Wildlife Refuge



Scenic View



Hiking/Walking



Historic



Fishing



Ferry

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you locate some of the different types of public access to the Rhode Island shore. The sites vary from small dirt paths that lead to fishing spots on the shore to local community parks, beaches, and state facilities managed for public recreation; from national wildlife refuges to privately held conservation lands that provide an opportunity for nature study.

This guide is divided into six geographic regions starting with Block Island, continuing around the state's coast from the south shore beach area to the harbors of the West Bay and Jamestown, to the urban shoreline of the Providence and Seekonk rivers in the upper Bay, to the East Bay, including the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay, and ending at Newport. Insert maps of larger scale are provided for Newport, Bristol, Portsmouth, and Barrington.

Each region is color-coded and has a map with sequentially numbered sites and a description of each coastal access site and its facilities. Because the sites are divided geographically, some towns listings are divided. See the table of contents to find all town listings. Rights-of-way designated by CRMC are listed at the back of the guide. The more suitable of these sites appear on the maps of this guide.

It is expected that changes will occur after this information is compiled, as a result of changes in maintenance and use. The authors and publisher are not responsible for these changes.



Block Island Boat Basin



Saltwater Sportfishing Laws and Licensing

Information is available from the RIDEM website at: www.state.ri.us/dem/. A pamphlet on general recreational and commercial fishing laws is available from the RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife by calling (401) 423-1920. All marine licenses are issued by RIDEM's licensing section, 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908, or call (401) 222-6647.

Shellfishing

During open season, no license is necessary for residents of Rhode Island. Any resident may take, in any one day during open season (if applicable), not more than a half-bushel each of quahogs, soft-shelled clams, surf clams, oysters, and mussels, and not more than one bushel of scallops, provided that none of these shellfish be offered for sale. The holder of a nonresident shellfishing license may take, on any one day, not more than one peck each of oysters, quahogs, soft-shelled clams, surf clams, or mussels. There is no taking of lobsters, blue crabs, or bay scallops by nonresidents. Licenses are required for lobsters and are only available to residents of Rhode Island. Additional restrictions apply in shellfish management areas.

Finfishing

No license is necessary for saltwater fishing in Rhode Island.

Minimum Size, Catch Limit, Closed Areas

There are strictly enforceable minimum size and catch limits for fish, shellfish, lobsters, and crabs. For further information on minimum sizes and catch limits call RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife at (401) 423-1920. For current information on pollution and seasonal closures, call RIDEM Division of Water Resources at (401) 222-3961.



Charlestown Breachway



Safety Tips

Many areas of Rhode Island's shoreline can be hazardous. Twice a day, high tide floods the shoreline with over 3 feet of water. Consult tide tables before exploring rocky beaches and tide pools. Check marine weather forecasts and stay on trails and paths. Steep or eroding bluffs and cliffs, rocky shores slippery with sea spray, rain, or ice, dilapidated piers, and treacherous coastal waters are dangerous. During the winter, Rhode Island's coastal waters can be so cold that they may cause hypothermia in anyone exposed for more than a few minutes. Dangerous, swift currents can be hazardous to boaters or swimmers, particularly near breachways or inlets. A number of beaches and coastal areas do not have lifeguards. The following tips can help you stay safe while enjoying Rhode Island's shoreline:

- Always accompany children into the water, even if it is shallow.
- When exploring rocky shores, avoid slippery rocks that are partially covered by algae in the warmer months and by ice during the winter season.
- Beware of broken glass on the shore. Safely dispose of any sharp fragments.
- Keep away from surf-casting fishermen. Do not attempt to pull out fishhooks from the skin, but seek medical attention immediately.
- Stay away from storm-water and sewage outfalls. Unsanitary and toxic wastes are health hazards.
- Do not shellfish in waters posted as unsafe for shellfishing. RIDEM may change postings as they monitor during the year.
- Boaters: Watch your wake. Always have children and non-swimmers wear personal flotation devices. All vessels, rowboats, and canoes must carry one approved life preserver for each person on board.
- Be especially careful when operating boats in any area where swimmers or divers may be present. Divers are easily recognized by the required red flag with a white diagonal slash that marks the approximate center of their activities. Leave a 50-foot radius around a dive flag to insure the safety of the divers below the surface.
- All vessels, if operated after sunset and before sunrise, are required to have lights.
- Swim only near lifeguards. Watch out for rip currents, which are strong but narrow seaward flows. If you get caught in one, don't panic; swim parallel to the shore until you get out of the current, then return to the shore. If you can't escape the current, call or wave for help.

Fall Fishing in South County

Autumn is a great time for fishing from shore along the South County coast. Schools of fish cruise the shoreline, coming within reach of novices and experts alike as they follow the smooth sand beaches that serve as fish "highways" for the fall migration. Here and there, natural structures interrupt the highways, rerouting the fish to create concentrations of different species among the points, rock piles, sandbars, and sloughs. Because these natural structures harbor baitfish, the sportfish tarry to find food. Anglers can tell by the flocks of diving seagulls that baitfish are plentiful and gamefish are actively feeding. Point Judith, Deep Hole, Watch Hill, and Napatree Point are some of the most familiar areas that lure both fish and anglers for good hunting.

Detours along the migration route also promise productive fishing. Breachways at Charlestown, Quonochontaug, and Weekapaug ponds distract migrating fish with opportunities for resting and feeding. The travelers' respite rewards anglers with access to a generous variety of edible species, from the large striped bass to the smaller scup.

For some of the most popular recreational species, good fishing means timing the outing to match fishes' feeding schedules. Dawn and dusk are prime times to fish for striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish. Daylight hours assure better success catching species such as tautog and scup.

Lures and bait are equally effective for attracting fish, and making the best choice is a part of the adventure. Swimming plugs, metal squids, poppers, and bucktail jigs are favored lures for game fish during the fall migration. Options for bait include sea worms, clams, and squid strips, which entice scup all along the South County coastline. Crabs, clams, or mussels work well for blackfish or tautog lingering around rocky areas. Squid, eels, and cut menhaden are morsels of choice for both stripers and bluefish.

Rhode Island has some of the best surf fishing in the United States, and the South County coastline has easy access to great fishing locations. Weekend anglers can cast a leisurely line from a breachway jetty. Kids can discover the thrill of that telltale tug from the safety of a sandy beach. And hard-core rod-and-reelers can reap the best of autumn's bounty from their own undiscovered fishing spots.

—By David Beutel and Tony Corey, Rhode Island Sea Grant





Public Access Locations

“The public shall continue to enjoy and freely exercise all the rights of fishery, and the privileges of the shore, to which they have been heretofore entitled under the charter and usages of this State.”

—Rhode Island Constitution,
Article I, Section 17



Coastal Birding in Rhode Island



Rhode Island has a long and varied coastline that provides excellent birding opportunities throughout the year. Each season offers its own species: songbirds and shorebirds that migrate up the coast in spring, wading birds and terns that nest here in summer, hawks and swallows that funnel down the shore in fall, and waterfowl that spend winters here.

Return visits to each of the birding hot spots listed below are likely to result in different species in each season. The viewing spots, all accessible by car or by a relatively short walk, range from tidal marshes and brackish ponds to rocky shorelines, barrier beaches, mud flats, and fresh water. The diverse habitats are the reason for the variety of birds.

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island (ASRI), in cooperation with the Rhode Island Ornithological Club, publishes a *Checklist of Rhode Island Birds* that lists 322 species that may be seen in the state at varying times through the year, along with 90 other species that have wandered here but are only rarely found. The checklist is available at ASRI's nature shops (12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, and 1401 Hope St., Bristol).

Birding programs are offered by ASRI, the Norman Bird Sanctuary, Save The Bay, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. These interpreted walks often use coastal access points as destinations.

A good field guide and a pair of binoculars or a spotting scope are usually the only equipment needed, but also take along an updated visitors' road map since space here does not permit detailed directions to the suggested viewing areas. Among the best bird identification guides for use in Rhode Island (also available at ASRI and other nature shops, as well as at most commercial bookstores) are the following:

- *Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies*
- *The Sibley Guide to Birds*
- *National Audubon Society Field Guide to Birds, Eastern Region*
- *Stokes Field Guide to Birds, Eastern Region*
- *National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America*



Coastal Birding Hot Spots in Rhode Island:

Napatree Point, Westerly
 Weekapaug Breachway, Westerly
 Quonochontaug Pond and Breachway, Charlestown
 Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge, Charlestown
 Charlestown Breachway and Marsh, Charlestown
 Green Hill Pond, South Kingstown
 Trustum Pond National Wildlife Refuge and Moonstone Beach, South Kingstown
 Matunuck Management Area and Succotash Marsh, South Kingstown
 Galilee Bird Sanctuary, Narragansett
 Point Judith and Camp Cronin, Narragansett
 Pettaquamscutt Cove and Middle Bridge, Narragansett
 Rome Point and Bissell Cove, North Kingstown
 Apponaug Cove, Warwick
 Conimicut Point, Warwick
 India Point Park, Providence
 Seekonk River, Providence/East Providence
 East Bay Bike Path: Watchemoket Cove to Boyden Conservation Area, East Providence
 Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge, Warren
 ASRI Environmental Education Center, Bristol
 Colt State Park, Bristol
 Fogland Point, Tiverton
 Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge, Tiverton
 Seapowet Marsh, Tiverton

Nannaquaket Pond, Tiverton
 Sakonnet Point, Little Compton
 Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge, Middletown
 Brenton Point Park and Ocean Drive, Newport
 Marsh Meadows, Fox Hill Pond, and Sheffield Cove, Jamestown
 Beavertail State Park, Jamestown
 Block Island National Wildlife Refuge, New Shoreham

—Audubon Society of Rhode Island



Block Island

Standing boldly atop the Mohegan Bluffs of Block Island, the Southeast Lighthouse has testified to the power of ocean storms since its creation in 1874. The tower stands 67 feet high and sits on an octagonal-shaped granite base. Both the keeper's residence and light tower were constructed primarily of brick, with a cast iron lantern gallery perched at the tower's pinnacle. The gallery houses a parapet lantern magnified by a large lens imported from France.

The lamp first burned oil, but was converted to kerosene in the 1880s. In 1907, the lamp was replaced with an oil lamp, which increased the light's intensity to 45,690 candlepower. In 1929, a rotating mechanism was installed to accomplish a flashing effect and the signal was changed from a white light to a green light in order to help mariners differentiate between the signals of other nearby lighthouses. The green flash could be seen as far out to sea as 22 miles. In 1990, the U.S. Coast Guard ordered the lamp to be replaced by a white electric aircraft beacon, which remains in the lighthouse today.

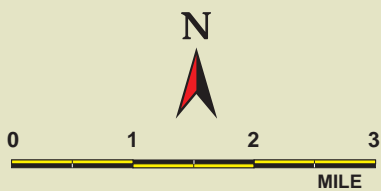
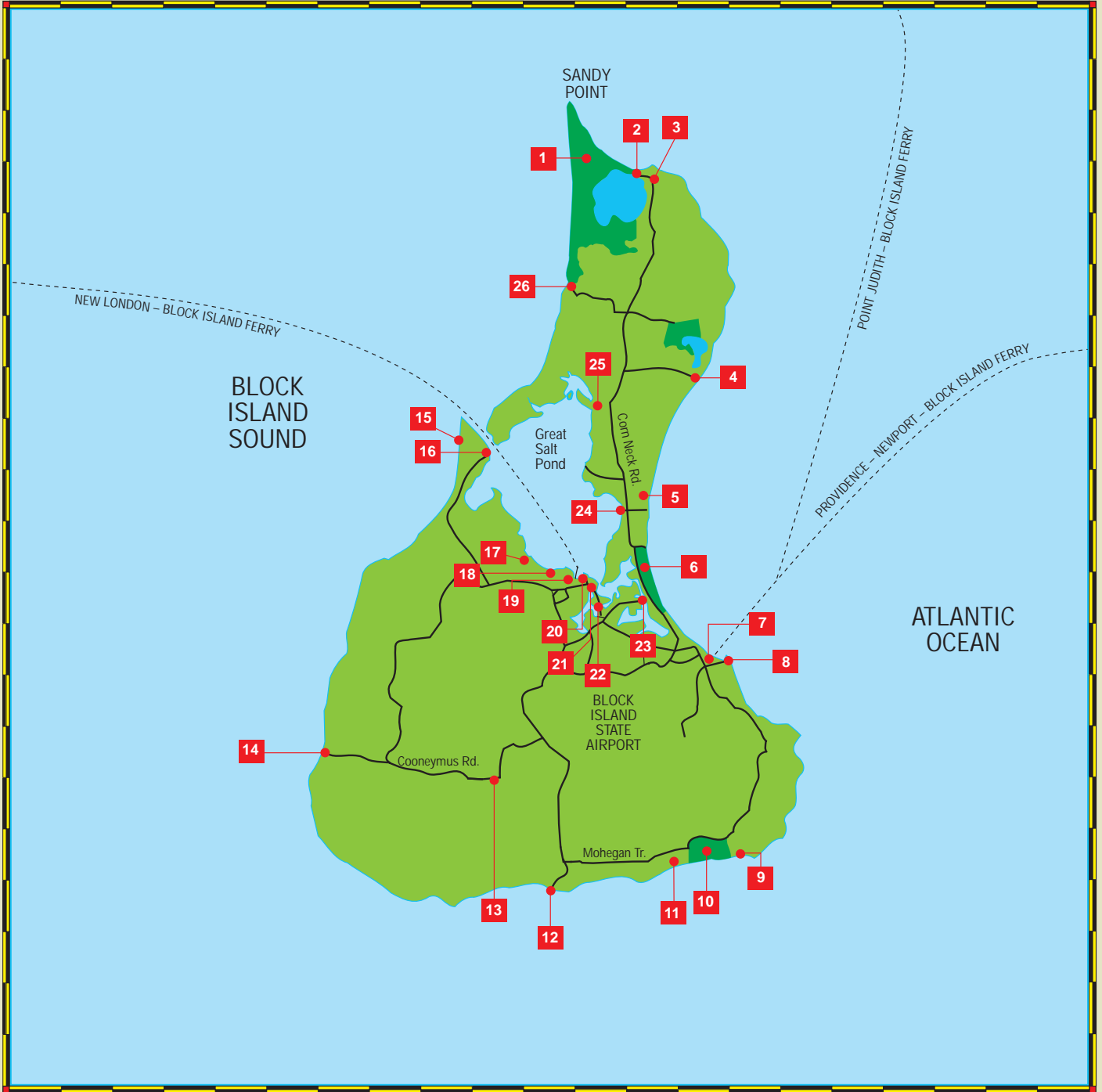
Perhaps the most notable moment of the lighthouse's history came in 1993, when the 2,000-ton structure was hydraulically lifted from its original location and transported 360 feet inland via a temporary rail system to avoid almost certain destruction by erosion, which had brought the edge of the cliffs within 55 feet of the lighthouse. Today, the lighthouse rests at a location that scientists say should be safe for another century (see page 13).

Southwest Point

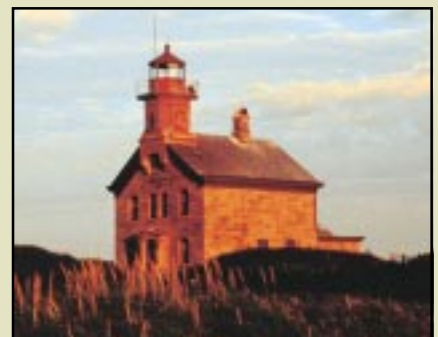


Southeast Lighthouse





NEW SHOREHAM



North Lighthouse

Block Island

1. Block Island National Wildlife Refuge

The refuge encompasses the northern tip of Block Island (Sandy Point) and includes the historic North Lighthouse. The shoreline of the refuge consists of a cobble beach that extends from the Settler's Rock parking area to Sandy Point, and a sandy/cobble beach that extends several miles along the west side from Sandy Point to Great Salt Pond. The uplands of vegetated dunes provide a rookery for seagulls, and Sachus Pond is a feeding area for a wide variety of waterfowl. This is an ideal area for walking, bird watching, and enjoying the view in all directions. Four-wheel-drive vehicles with permits may drive out to Sandy Point, where fishing is a popular activity. This is an environmentally sensitive area—stay off vegetation and out of the dunes. Do not swim at Sandy Point, as it has dangerous tidal currents. Parking is available.

- Trash receptacles

2. Settlers' Rock

At the end of Corn Neck Road, near a cobble beach on Rhode Island Sound, a rock with a plaque marks the landing site of the European settlers on Block Island in 1661. Across the road is scenic Sachus Pond, with a small, sandy beach great for wildlife observation. The parking area marks the access to Sandy Point, the Block Island National Wildlife Refuge, and the northern end of the Clayhead Nature Trail.

- CRMC ROW#: E-1
- Picnicking, trash receptacles

3. Clayhead Nature Trail

This scenic nature trail winds through shrubs, fields, and wetlands to the Clayhead Bluffs along Block Island's northeast shore. The trail starts at Corn Neck Road and continues for a quarter mile along a dirt road to a parking area with bike racks. From here the trail narrows and winds its way to the coast. There is a small beach where the trail reaches the shoreline that is often very rocky due

to strong surf. The main trail then winds north along high coastal bluffs to Settler's Rock. This trail and the maze of trails leading off from it provide wonderful walking and bird watching with views of farms, ponds, and the coast. No mopeds are allowed on the road, and no mopeds or bikes are allowed on the trail. This is an environmentally sensitive area.

- Picnic tables/benches

4. Mansion Road

At the eastern end of Mansion Road—a sandy lane and right-of-way—is a beach below the bluffs that overlook the Atlantic Ocean. Ample on-site parking is available. It is an excellent site for picnics and swimming in the summer and for wildlife observation off-season. This right-of-way is circled by a one-way access road.

- Fishing, hiking/walking

5. Scotch Beach Road

This right-of-way is located at the Scotch Road end, off Corn Neck Road, with access to the northern end of Frederick Benson Town Beach.

- CRMC ROW#: E-2
- Swimming, hiking/walking

6. Frederick Benson Town Beach

A long, sandy beach off Corn Neck Road on Rhode Island Sound, this is a popular location for walking, sunbathing, and swimming, with a view of the ocean and Old Harbor. The beach has a large parking area, bike racks, and a pavilion. It is managed by the town of New Shoreham. Access may also be gained from Corn Neck Road.

- Picnic tables/benches, concessions, toilets, trash receptacles

7. Old Harbor Dock

Located east of the ferry dock on Water Street in Old Harbor, this town dock has guest slips available. The dockmaster's office is located here and the dock is close to the center of town, restaurants, shops, hotels,

and the ferry to Point Judith. Parking is limited to 30 minutes in the ferry dock lot.

- Picnic tables/benches, toilets, trash receptacles

8. Ballard's Beach

Located off Water Street, at the eastern end of Old Harbor, this sandy beach is owned by Ballard's Inn and is open to the public. The beach has picnic tables, lifeguards, and volleyball nets, and there is a restaurant with a deck overlooking the beach. There is a great view of Rhode Island Sound and Old Harbor from the beach and from the harbor breakwater. Parking is available.

- Toilets, trash receptacles

9. Southeast Lighthouse

Completed in 1874, Southeast Lighthouse is a museum open to the public for a nominal fee during the summer season. The lantern is 204 feet above the water and can be seen 35 miles out to sea. The property around the lighthouse is open to the public and offers a spectacular view of the ocean and Mohegan Bluffs. There is no access to the beach at this site. Parking is available.

- Wildlife observation, trash receptacles

10. Mohegan Bluffs

Off Southeast Light Road, Mohegan Bluffs drop 150 feet to the sandy beach and crashing surf below. A short trail from the parking area leads to a vantage point at the edge of the bluffs. A long, wooden stairway leads down to the beach. This state-managed site is well known for its excellent view of the island's dramatic southern coastline and of historic Southeast Lighthouse.

- Picnic tables/benches, swimming, fishing, hiking/walking, trash receptacles

Key to Primary Uses

-  Public Park
-  Path to Shore
-  Boating
-  Beach with Lifeguards
-  Wildlife Refuge
-  Scenic View
-  Fishing



Clayhead Nature Trail



Ballard's Beach



Old Harbor Dock



Mansion Road

Mohegan Bluffs





▲▼ Snake Hole Road

11. Scup Rock Property

This hard-to-spot right-of-way at the sandy extension of Pilot Hill Road leads to a small parking lot. A 150-foot path can then be taken to a beautiful vista overlooking Mohegan Bluffs.

- CRMC ROW#: E-3



12. Snake Hole Road

At the intersection of Mohegan Trail and Lakeside Drive, a gravel road heads south to a grassy path leading to the shore. The path is steep at times so access should be reserved for the sure-footed.



13. Rodman's Hollow

In a natural ravine located south of Cooneymus Road, a network of trails winds through the conservation area to the southern coast of the island. These trails provide a scenic location for walking and bird watching. This is an extremely sensitive area; stay on the trails. No parking is available.



Mosquito Beach

14. Southwest Point/Cooneymus Road

Located on the southwest side of the island, just north of Bluff Head, this right-of-way consists of a sandy path extending west from the intersection of Cooneymus Road and West Side Road to a cobble beach bordering the ocean.

- CRMC ROW#: E-4
- Wildlife observation, fishing



Ocean Avenue Bridge

15. Charlestown Beach

Located on the west side of the island on six acres of ASRI property, this right-of-way consists of a path extending from Coast Guard Road to Block Island Sound. This site is one of the few places in Rhode Island where one can see the sun set over the water. No parking is available.

- Swimming, wildlife observation, fishing



Charlestown Beach

16. Coast Guard Station/Coast Guard Road

This town right-of-way is located at the end of Champlin Way, just west of the New Shoreham Coast Guard Station. It is a small but popular swimming beach in the protected waters



West Beach Road

of Great Salt Pond. Parking is available at the road end.

- CRMC ROW#: E-5
- Fishing, historic interest, hiking/walking, wildlife observation

17. Champlin's Marina

Located off West Side Road, this is a full-service marina on Great Salt Pond with guest slips available. This site provides shopping, a playground, a video arcade, a movie theater, and a variety of rentals. Parking is available.

- Dock, picnic tables/benches, toilets, trash receptacles

18. Veterans Park

Located on West Side Road, this site affords a nice view of Great Salt Pond. A playground and parking are also available. Though there is no direct access to the water, it is a great place to take a break from biking.

19. Block Island Boat Basin

A full-service marina on Great Salt Pond with guest slips available, this site has picnic tables, a barbecue area overlooking the harbor, and a small beach. Bike, car, and moped rentals are available. This is the terminal for the Block Island-New London ferry. The harbormaster's office is also located here. Parking is available. Fee.

- Dock, concessions, toilets, trash receptacles

20. Payne's Dock

This is a full-service marina in New Harbor on Great Salt Pond located at the end of Ocean Avenue with guest slips available. For the non-boater, the docks offer a spectacular view of the pond. This is also the high-speed ferry terminal. No parking is available.

- Picnic tables/benches, concessions, toilets, trash receptacles

21. Indian Head Neck Road

A gravel strip between Dead Eye Dick's and Smuggler's Cove restaurants leads from Ocean Avenue to a boat ramp on Great Salt Pond. Traditionally,

this spot has been used as a launching ramp and a public fishing area.

- Picnic tables/benches, trash receptacles

22. Ocean Avenue Bridge

This bridge crosses over Trims Pond, a tidal pond that is connected to Great Salt Pond in New Harbor. This site is most often used by the public for fishing, walking, shellfishing, and kayak launching.

- Historic interest

23. Beach Avenue/Dunns Bridge

The bridge over the Harbor Pond Channel, this site has traditionally provided public access for fishing, scenic enjoyment, and shellfishing. No parking is available.

- Wildlife observation

24. Mosquito Beach

Located on the southeast shore of the Great Salt Pond, this parcel is west of Corn Neck Road. The area encompasses 80,000 square feet and is characterized by salt marsh and beach. Shellfishing and landing small dinghies are traditional uses of this site. Parking is available for about 10 cars at the boardwalk.

- Wildlife observation

25. Andy's Way

This right-of-way consists of a dirt and sand road extending west from Corn Neck Road to a sandy beach bordering Great Salt Pond. Historically, this area was the site of the colonial fishing settlement on the island.

- CRMC ROW#: E-6
- Fishing, wildlife observation, trash receptacles

26. West Beach Road

This is a sandy road on the northwest side of the island, extending west from Corn Neck Road, past the landfill, to a sandy cobble beach (West Beach) bordering Block Island Sound.

- CRMC ROW#: E-7
- Wildlife observation, fishing



A watchtower and beacon were first installed at Watch Hill in Westerly around 1745, giving the Watch Hill area its name. After the tower was destroyed in a storm, Thomas Jefferson signed an act in 1806 to erect a full-scale lighthouse at Watch Hill. Completed in 1807, the 35-foot-tall Watch Hill lighthouse, constructed of wood, was the second built in Rhode Island after Beavertail in Jamestown. To prevent destruction of the tower by erosion, it was replaced in 1856 with a square granite lighthouse further inland. A two-story keeper's house was built that same year along with a granite seawall that encircled the property.

The lighthouse alone could not prevent all mishaps from occurring along Westerly's treacherous shores. In 1872, the steamer *Metis*, traveling to Providence, collided with a schooner. At first it was believed the damage wasn't serious, but less than a mile from Watch Hill the *Metis* began to sink. Local residents saved 33 people, but about 130 others aboard the *Metis* lost their lives. A U.S. Life Saving Service Station was established a few years later at Watch Hill.

During the Hurricane of 1938, lighthouse keeper Lawrence Congdon reported that waves broke over the top of the lighthouse, smashing the lantern glass, damaging the lamp and sending seawater into the tower. Congdon and his assistant keeper, Richard Frick, weathered the storm, but it took several weeks to repair the damages.

The light was automated in 1986 and the Fresnel lens replaced with a modern optical lens. The lighthouse and all buildings are leased to the Watch Hill Lightkeepers Association.

The Wood & Pawcatuck Rivers

The Wood and Pawcatuck river system, which may be accessed from starting points in Exeter, South Kingstown, and several midpoints in between, offers 53 miles of accessible, canoeable river corridor. Touted as Rhode Island's most pristine river system, the Wood and Pawcatuck rivers annually host thousands of residents and visitors who enjoy canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and hiking.

Even the novice can enjoy a paddle along the Wood River, and access is available at the Route 165 check station in Exeter, the Pines access in Arcadia, at the Barberville Dam on Arcadia Road in Hope Valley where the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association (WPWA) campus is also located, the Hope Valley baseball field, Switch Road in Hope Valley just south of the I-95 overpass, and Woodville Dam in Woodville. There are a few smaller, lesser-known put-ins as well. The major challenges faced on the Wood River include those caused by blow downs, or large trees that have fallen across the river. The impact of blow downs varies with the level of the water. High water in the spring could bury the tree trunks, or cause them to emerge slightly from the surface. If the water is low enough, as it can be in the summer, it can be possible to pass beneath the trees—or be completely blocked from passage. The WPWA monitors river corridor passage and removes blow downs on a fairly regular basis.

The Pawcatuck River, though also suitable for the novice in general, does have areas where whitewater can present a bit of a challenge in high-water conditions. The Pawcatuck emerges from the Great Swamp at Wordens Pond in South Kingstown.

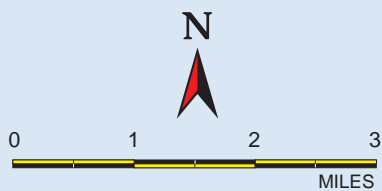
Though a challenge, you can put in on the east side of Wordens Pond and canoe across to the Pawcatuck. A strong head wind makes this a

workout! Once crossed, however, you will encounter the most pristine, and wild, section of the river—wonderful for exploration. The Pawcatuck, from its origination at Wordens Pond to its confluence with the Queen-Usquepaug River, is also known to some as the Charles River. There are public access points to the Pawcatuck in Charlestown, Richmond, and Westerly, in Rhode Island, and in Pawcatuck, Conn., as well. In the village of Carolina there is an access to the Pawcatuck River just before the Route 112 bridge. Those who enter there in springtime enjoy the rapid ride to Richmond. In addition, the historic villages of Burdickville, Potter Hill, and White Rock can be found along the Pawcatuck route.

The Wood and Pawcatuck rivers offer numerous opportunities for outdoor enjoyment and scenic experiences for individuals, families, or organized groups. Canoe rentals are available in the area, and some businesses offer transportation of boats for convenience. More information on canoeing and kayaking the Wood and Pawcatuck rivers can be located in the Wood-Pawcatuck River Guide map, produced by the WPWA and available at retail stores throughout the region.

—By Lori Urso, Executive Director, Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association





WESTERLY



Napatree Point

Westerly

1. Main Street Boat Ramp

This site is located on the Pawcatuck River between Union Street and School Street. This state-owned concrete boat launch, in excellent condition, is located upriver from the Margin Street Launch. Ample parking is available for vehicles and trailers.

- Handicap access, fishing

2. Viking Marina

Located off Margin Street on the tidal portion of the Pawcatuck River, the Viking Marina is privately owned but has one small boat ramp available for public use. The ramp is 10 to 12 feet wide and public parking is located one-half mile away. A restaurant and store are located on the premises. Fee.

- Dock, toilets, trash receptacles

3. Margin Street Launch

Located on the right as you pull into Westerly Marina, the Margin Street Launch is a town boat ramp and restricted to use by town residents. Parking is available on site for 15 to 20 cars with trailers.

- Dock

4. River Bend Cemetery

With an entrance at the corner of Beach (Route 1A) and Hubbard streets, this beautiful old cemetery along the Pawcatuck River consists of rolling lawns, trees, and interesting gravestones. Although not an ideal site for access to the river, this area offers many great views and excellent birding. Incorporated in 1844, the cemetery's ornate monuments and gravestones are examples of the fine granite quarried in Westerly more than a century ago. Park on interior roads only.

- Hiking/walking



River Bend Cemetery

5. Frank Hall Boat Yard

This boatyard and marina facility is located on India Point Road and offers a dock. Parking is available. Fee.

- Toilets, trash receptacles

6. Lotteryville Marina

Believed to be the oldest in the nation, this marina is located on Avondale Road on the Pawcatuck River and is privately owned. A boat ramp is available to nonmembers only on weekdays only due to a lack of parking on the weekends. Parking is limited. Fee.

- Dock, trash receptacles

7. Watch Hill Boatyard

Located on Pasadena Avenue, this site offers public access to the Pawcatuck River (Colonel Willie Cove). Ramp, moorings, and transient slips are available for a fee. Open year round, it is busy, and sometimes full, on summer weekends. Parking is available for a fee.

8. Watch Hill Dock

Off Bay Street, on the edge of Watch Hill Harbor, a small park with six benches offers a great opportunity to stroll or sit and observe the harbor activity. The municipal dock is also available for picking up or dropping off boaters just over the seawall. Limited parking is available.

- Handicap access, historic interest, trash receptacles

9. Napatree Point Conservation Area

At the southwestern tip of Rhode Island, a long sandy spit separates Little Narragansett Bay from the ocean. Napatree Point is owned, maintained, and managed primarily by the Watch Hill Fire District. It offers a mile-long walk along the sandy spit either on the beach face or on the nature trails. This area is one of the most important migratory shorebird stopover points on the East Coast and provides a foraging area for wading birds and year-round habitat for a variety of species. There are spectacular hawk, songbird, and monarch butterfly flights in autumn.

The area also offers excellent fishing from the rocky shore near the ruined fort at the far end of the point. Napatree Point is accessible from two paved parking lots on Bay Street.

- Swimming, historic interest, trash receptacles

10. Watch Hill Lighthouse

Two-tenths of a mile from the intersection of Bluff Avenue and Larkin Road, this 1856 granite lighthouse sits at the end of a private road. Vehicle access is restricted to local residents, senior citizens, and handicapped persons by special arrangement. Although entrance to the lighthouse is prohibited, on a clear day, the driveway past the gate offers a picturesque view of Napatree Point, the Watch Hill mansions, and Block Island to the east. No parking is available.

- Picnicking, fishing, trash receptacles

11. Bluff Avenue

This right-of-way offers a 500-foot path that leads to a long stretch of sandy beach. Just east of Watch Hill Lighthouse, beautiful views of the mansions, rocky cliff faces, and Block Island can be seen. No parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: A-2 (on appeal)
- Swimming

12. Manatuck Avenue

Located at the road end of Manatuck Avenue, this right-of-way provides easy access to an extensive sandy beach. It is well marked, but no parking is available on site.

- CRMC ROW#: A-3 (on appeal)
- Swimming



Bluff Avenue

Key to Primary Uses



Public Park



Path to Shore



Boating



Beach with Lifeguards



Wildlife Refuge



Scenic View



Fishing



Watch Hill Lighthouse



Viking Marina



Watch Hill Dock



Napatree Point



Misquamicut State Beach



Weekapaug Breachway



Lotteryville Marina



Manatuck Avenue



Watch Hill Dock



13. Misquamicut State Beach

Located on the south side of Atlantic Avenue, Misquamicut Beach is Rhode Island's largest state-owned beach with 3,600 feet of frontage on the Atlantic Ocean. The parking lot is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Public changing facilities, parking, bathrooms, and changing rooms for the handicapped are available. The beach is part of 102 acres of state-owned land that also borders Winnapaug Pond. Fee.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, concessions, hiking/walking, trash receptacles



14. New Westerly Town Beach

Located on both sides of Atlantic Avenue, in close proximity to Misquamicut State Beach, this 3.12-acre town-owned property contains almost 300 feet of beach frontage and is open to the general public. Changing rooms are available. This stretch of beach is popular with surfers, who are encouraged to visit during summer evenings and off-season to minimize conflicts with other beachgoers and sunbathers. Parking is available.

- Concessions, toilets, trash receptacles



15. Atlantic Avenue #7

This right-of-way is located adjacent to Pole 72 and is a 12-foot-wide sandy path extending from Atlantic Avenue to the beach. No parking is permitted on Atlantic Avenue. This marked path is very accessible to the public.

- CRMC ROW#: A-11
- Swimming, hiking/walking



16. Atlantic Avenue #9

This right-of-way to the beach is located within Atlantic Beach Park on Atlantic Avenue, adjacent to Pole 91. It is a 12-foot-wide marked path extending south from Atlantic Avenue over a paved parking area and a short stretch of sand to the beach.

- CRMC ROW#: A-13
- Swimming, hiking/walking



17. Atlantic Avenue #2

This right-of-way is located between Poles 46 and 47 and is a 12-foot-wide sandy path extending south from Atlantic Avenue to the beach. No parking is permitted on Atlantic Avenue. A sign denotes the path location.

- CRMC ROW#: A-7
- Swimming, hiking/walking



18. Westerly Town Beach

Located south of Atlantic Avenue, this town-owned beach consists of approximately 10 acres with 550 feet of ocean frontage. The beach pavilion has showers, bathrooms, lifeguards, first aid, and a food concession stand. The beach is restricted to Westerly taxpayers. Parking for the beach is available at two parking lots with a total of 400 spaces. Handicapped bathrooms and parking are available. From the bathhouse, there is a nice view of Winnapaug Pond to the north. Fee.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, hiking/walking, trash receptacles



19. Atlantic Avenue #1

This right-of-way near Pole 54 is a 12-foot-wide sandy path extending south from Atlantic Avenue to the beach. No parking is permitted on Atlantic Avenue. A sign denotes the path location.

- CRMC ROW#: A-6
- Swimming, hiking/walking



Atlantic Avenue #1



Atlantic Avenue #2



20. Weekapaug Breachway

Located at the corner of Atlantic and Wawaloam avenues, this state-managed fishing area offers parking on both sides of the breachway. There are concrete stairways built into the rocks at three different locations on each side of the breachway that serve as ideal areas to sit and fish.



21. Weekapaug Point Overlook

Located on Spring Avenue, this scenic site overlooks a rocky, exposed portion of the coast. Limited excursions down onto the rocky beach are possible, tide and weather permitting. Parking is limited.

- Fishing, wildlife observation



22. Quonochontaug Conservation Area

Quonochontaug Beach is one of the few remaining undeveloped, privately owned barrier beaches in Rhode Island. The Quonochontaug Beach Conservation Commission (QBCC), an umbrella organization of the Nopes Island Association, Weekapaug Fire District, Shelter Harbor Fire District, and Shady Harbor Fire District, manages the area. Swimming areas with lifeguards are restricted to property owners and require a pass. The QBCC allows the public to park at this site during specified times, primarily off-season, and to gain access to the beach and pond via well-marked sand trails. A pamphlet of regulations and guidelines for use of the site is available from the QBCC.



Atlantic Avenue #7



Quonochontaug Conservation Area

Charlestown

Prior to the arrival of the Europeans, Narragansett Indians inhabited the region now known as Charlestown. They lived off the land, hunting, fishing, and raising crops. When the first European settlers arrived in the mid-17th century, plantations were quickly established to exploit the fertile coastal lands. On August 22, 1738, a portion of Westerly was divided and named Charlestown after King Charles II. Today's town boundaries were finally established in 1748 when the town of Richmond was divided at the Pawcatuck River.

In the early 19th century, residents of Charlestown began harnessing the Pawcatuck River to power textile mills. As the industry grew, so did the surrounding area. Other mills sprang up along the river, including saw, cotton, and wool mills. Over the years most of the mills have been converted into offices, but Kenyon Mills continues to produce textiles and serves as a symbol of the town's history.

South Kingstown

Originally called King's Towne and incorporated in 1674, the area included the present towns of South Kingstown, North Kingstown, and Narragansett. The first settlement was in South Kingstown, and it was there, in the Great Swamp Fight of 1675, that colonial soldiers from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut gave King Philip his greatest defeat.

Farming was the main activity in early times. Prior to colonial settlement, however, the Narragansetts occupied the area, farming, hunting, and fishing. Although corn was their principal crop, they also produced squash, beans, and strawberries. Venison, cod, and shellfish were their primary sources of protein.

Narragansett

Ronald Robinson settled and purchased the land along the western shore of Narragansett Bay from the Narragansett Indians in the late 17th century. Incorporated as a town in 1901, Narragansett's earliest industry was a shipbuilding operation located at Middle Bridge on the Narrow River. As ship size outgrew the capacity of the Narrow River, the town turned to tourism as its primary source of income.

By the turn of the 20th century, Narragansett was an elegant summer resort. Many small summer cottages, as well as upscale hotels, were erected to accommodate the increasing number of tourists to the area. Soon, larger estates also dappled the shoreline. Many wealthy city families spent their weekends in Narragansett by taking the day ferry from Providence.

Perhaps the most well-known landmark of its time was the Narragansett Casino. Located at the corner of Ocean Road and Narragansett Beach, the casino was Narragansett's central attraction until 1900, when a devastating fire destroyed all but the main entrance towers. Today, the towers serve as the Narragansett Visitors' Center.



Narragansett Bay

Narragansett Bay is an estuary—a semi-enclosed inlet of the sea in which seawater is diluted by fresh water. Compared to other estuaries, Narragansett Bay is small- to medium-sized. Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the United States, covers more than 30 times the area of Narragansett Bay. Still, Narragansett Bay is big enough to take a good-sized bite out of little Rhode Island. It reaches two-thirds of the way up the state—with the result that no Rhode Islander is more than half an hour's drive from the shoreline—and covers about 10 percent of the state's area.

There are three entrances to Narragansett Bay: the West Passage, the East Passage, and the so-called Sakonnet River, which is not really a river but an arm of the sea. Only the East Passage, with an average depth of 44 feet, is deep enough for large ships.

The Bay's three largest islands are Aquidneck (the Indian name means "longest island"), Conanicut, and Prudence. Some 30 smaller islands, many of them little more than large rocks, also dot the Bay.

Life in the Bay

One-celled floating algae called phytoplankton are the basis of the Bay's food chain—or, more accurately, food web. Like land plants, these microscopic plants use photosynthesis to convert carbon dioxide into organic material that ultimately nourishes all other life in the Bay.

Narragansett Bay, like any estuary, provides a variety of different habitats for living things. Certain plants and animals are concentrated in particular areas where salinity and other conditions are best suited to their needs. For example, the most productive quahog beds are in the less salty, more nutrient-rich waters of the upper Bay. On the other hand, lobster and blue mussel prefer the more oceanlike conditions of the lower Bay.

Geological History of Narragansett Bay

25,000 years ago: With the Pleistocene Ice Age in full force and sea level 300 feet lower than today, Rhode Island lay buried under an ice sheet 400 feet thick. The glacier extended as far as Block Island. Southward from there, some 70 miles of frozen tundra led finally to the Atlantic coast.

10,000 years ago: Earth was warming. The glacier had receded from Rhode Island, and the ocean was rising but had not yet reached its present level. Prehistoric humans lived in the valleys that today are the passages of Narragansett Bay. They could walk across Rhode Island by simply crossing the small streams that ran through these valleys.

9,000 years ago: As sea level continued to rise, the Atlantic Ocean entered the East Passage of the Bay.

5,000 years ago: Narragansett Bay was filled almost to its present level.

Fisheries

The Bay's commercially important species include:

- Demersal (bottom-dwelling) fish: winter flounder, summer flounder, tautog, black sea bass
- Pelagic fish (fish that feed in the water column): bluefish, striped bass, scup, squeteague (weakfish), menhaden, Atlantic herring, and alewife (for use as lobster bait)
- Shellfish: quahog, oyster
- Lobster
- Squid

The demersal fish, as well as the quahog and oyster, are Bay residents that are able to live in the Bay year round and during all stages of their life cycles. Most of the commercially important pelagic fish, as well as squid, migrate to Narragansett Bay in May or June. Each year, about 100 different species may visit the Bay at one time or another.

Physical Characteristics of Narragansett Bay

- Length: 25 miles
- Width: 10 miles
- Volume: 706 billion gallons at mid-tide
- Shoreline: 256 miles, including island shorelines
- Drainage basin (watershed): 1,853 square miles

—Excerpted from "An Overview of Narragansett Bay" by Eleanor Ely, published by Rhode Island Sea Grant



Ninigret Pond

Also known as Charlestown Pond, this 1,711-acre coastal lagoon is totally located within the town of Charlestown. A small channel under Creek Bridge connects Ninigret with Green Hill Pond in South Kingstown. The pond is bounded on the south by barrier beaches, to the west by the village of Quonochontaug, and on the east by Charlestown Beach. The ocean breachway in the southeastern end connects with Block Island Sound, and fresh water flows into the pond from numerous small brooks and springs.

Fishing and shellfishing are very popular. Marine fisheries laws and regulations are available at Burlingame State Park and at all local marinas and bait shops. No licenses are needed for Rhode Island residents, but nonresidents must be licensed to harvest shellfish. Licenses are available at Ocean House Marina and Westerly Wal-Mart. Commercial shellfish licenses are available only to Rhode Island residents and nonresident property owners, and may be obtained at RIDEM headquarters in Providence; call (401) 222-3576. No license is required for rod-and-reel fishing, but maximum daily limits and minimum sizes must be obeyed.

Shellfishing is prohibited in two areas. One lies east of a line across Tockwotten Cove to a point on the south shore adjacent to Florence Street and is closed because of pollution. The second, a shellfish spawner sanctuary in the western end, is closed to protect shellfish brood stock; this forms a triangle, bounded by a flag pole at the Ninigret Conservation Area to the south, and to the north by an orange-and-white sign at the end of Kennedy Lane and a sign at Lavin's Landing Marina.

The range of boating activity is dependent on the depth of the water. Ninigret is generally shallow, with an average depth of less than 6 feet. The southern areas have been shoaled to an even more shallow depth by storm surges and windblown sand.

The central basin is generally free of navigational obstructions. Rocks are located along the north side of "The Narrows," located between Hall and Grassy points, south of the National Wildlife Refuge. Open fairway runs north through Fort Neck, but the channel leading to the ocean breachway is shallow and treacherous. The harbormaster marks the channel with stakes; however, the breachway itself is dangerous and requires experienced seamanship. Strict adherence to rules of the road and to the no-wake regulations are a must.

Public access is available at several points. Four launching facilities provide parking for a fee. The state ramp is at the end of Charlestown Beach Road; the other three are owned by local marinas: Ocean House, Lavin's Landing, and Shelter Cove. The three marinas offer restrooms, and Ocean House provides complete marina services.

Windsurfers, kayakers, and canoists find Ninigret a mecca for their enjoyment. Launching may take place from the Ninigret Conservation Area, all marinas, and at Creek Bridge, Charlestown Beach Road, where kayak rentals are available.

Recreational activities oceanside and pondsides are plentiful. Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge is located off Route 1, bordering the northwestern side of the pond. There are two well-marked nature trails and plenty of parking at this federally maintained site. Walking access to the pond is provided at the refuge and at the conservation area.

Ninigret Park, a former naval air station, is north of the wildlife refuge and offers nature trails, basketball, volleyball, tennis, and baseball opportunities, BMX bike courses, freshwater swimming at Little Nini Pond, and the Frosty Drew Nature Center, which offers nature programs.

Ocean swimming is available at Blue Shutters Town Beach, Ninigret Conservation Area (state-owned) at the west end, and Charlestown Town Beach at the eastern end of the pond.

East Beach barrier beach is undeveloped and owned by RIDEM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Vehicles may access the back dunes with a permit obtained at the Burlingame State Park facilities.

For further information:

Charlestown Harbormaster: (401) 364-6810

Burlingame State Park: (401) 322-8910

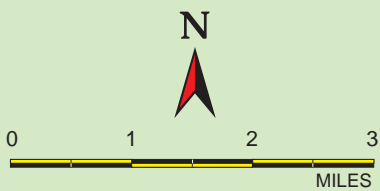
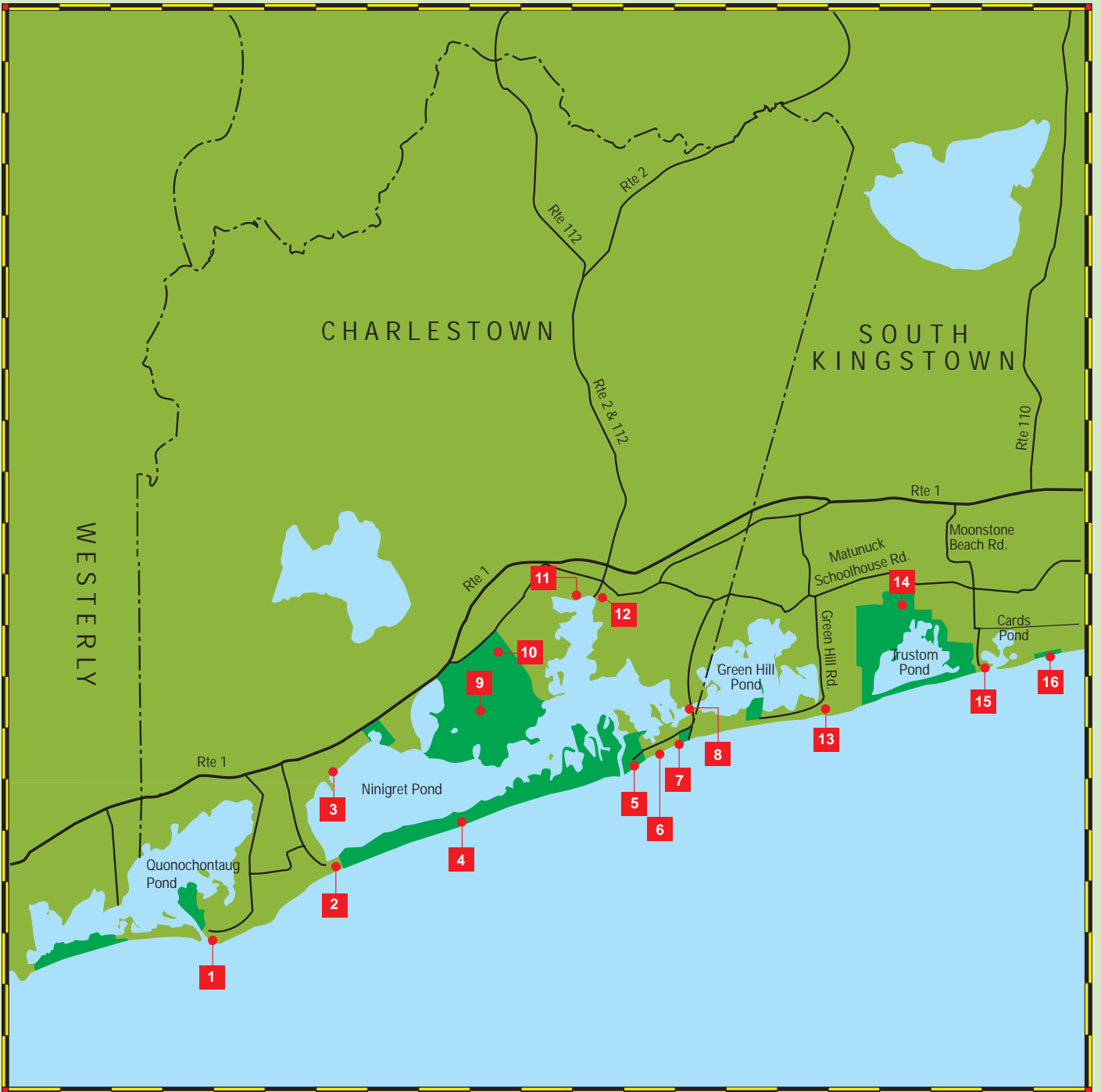
RIDEM Law Enforcement: (800) 498-1336

—By Arthur Ganz,
Salt Ponds Coalition and
RIDEM Supervising Biologist

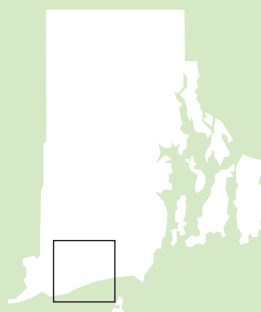


Charlestown Breachway





**CHARLESTOWN &
SOUTH KINGSTOWN**



Charlestown, South Kingstown & Narragansett

Charlestown

1. Quonochontaug Breachway

A popular fishing spot for striped bass, winter flounder, snapper, and bluefish, this state-owned 49-acre parcel runs parallel to the east side of the Quonochontaug Breachway. Parking is available at the end of West Beach Road for cars and boat trailers. The boat ramp located at this site provides access to Block Island Sound, but it is very dangerous due to swift currents running through the breachway. This site includes a RIDEM shellfish management area. A walk toward the wetland area fringing Quonochontaug Pond affords a beautiful view of the entire pond and some excellent bird watching.

- Toilets

2. Blue Shutters Town Beach

Located near the end of East Beach Road, this town-owned property offers many amenities such as showers, on-site pay parking, and concessions. This beautiful, wide, sandy beach is located just west of the Ninigret Conservation Area.

- Picnic tables/benches, toilets, trash receptacles

3. Lavin's Landing Marina

Lavin's Landing Marina, located on Meadow Lane, offers bait, tackle, and fuel for sale. Parking is available. Fee.

- Dock

4. East Beach/Ninigret State Facilities

At the east end of East Beach Road, a two-mile-long barrier beach separates Ninigret Pond from Block Island Sound. Ninigret Pond offers excellent windsurfing, canoeing, and shellfishing. This is also a RIDEM shellfish management area. Winter flounder, clams, quahogs, blue crabs, eel, and bay scallops can be found

here in season. On the ocean side, a beautiful sandy beach is great for sunbathing or walking. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are allowed behind the dunes only with a RIDEM permit. Bring your binoculars: Waterfowl, wildlife, and shorebirds can be found, especially during the fall and spring migrations. Parking is available. Fee.

- Handicap access, swimming, toilets, trash receptacles

5. Charlestown Breachway Beach and Boat Ramp

This state-managed parcel consists of approximately 2 acres. It is located off the west end of Charlestown Beach Road and borders Ninigret Pond on the north and Block Island Sound on the south. The area consists of a wide sandy beach on the ocean, a rock jetty, which is a popular fishing site, a recreational vehicle campground along the east arm of the breachway, and a wetland area bordering Ninigret Pond. This is a great family spot due to its guarded beach and close fishing opportunities. A boat ramp is located at the north end of the breachway on the pond. Activities include fishing, swimming, beach-walking, and windsurfing. Ninety parking spaces are available on site, and there is an entrance fee during the summer season.

- CRMC ROW#: B-1
- Picnic tables/benches, toilets, trash receptacles

6. Charlestown Town Beach

South of Charlestown Beach Road, a section of the beach is owned by the town and is open to the public. Pay parking is available for approximately 300 cars about 500 feet across the road from the beach.

- Hiking/walking, trash receptacles

7. Shelter Cove Marina

Shelter Cove Marina is located on Charlestown Beach Road. Parking is available. Fee.

- Dock, concessions

8. Perry Creek Accessway

This site consists of a small dirt road extending north from the town beach parking lot (off Charlestown Beach Road) to a sandy shoreline area bordering Perry Creek. The tidal creek links Ninigret Pond to Green Hill Pond. This site is suitable only for small craft and kayaks due to the shallowness of the creek. Across the creek on the north side is a small area with a concession stand, bait shop, ramp, small boat docks, and a good view of Ninigret Pond. Parking is available.

- Fishing, wildlife observation

9. Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge

Located just off Route 1, bordering the northwestern side of Ninigret Pond, this 400-acre federally maintained site consists of grasslands, brush and shrub, uplands, freshwater ponds, salt marsh, a barrier beach, and a portion of the former Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field. There are two well-marked nature trails—a must for nature photographers and bird watchers. There is plenty of parking available. Watch out for poison ivy and ticks.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, fishing, toilets, trash receptacles



Green Hill Beach

Key to Primary Uses

-  Public Park
-  Path to Shore
-  Boating
-  Beach with Lifeguards
-  Wildlife Refuge
-  Scenic View
-  Fishing



Quonochontaug Breachway



Blue Shutters Town Beach



Charlestown Town Beach



Perry Creek Accessway



Roy Carpenter's Beach



Ninigret Park



Ocean House Marina



Trustum Pond National Wildlife Refuge



Moonstone Beach

10. Ninigret Park

A former naval air station, Ninigret Park is just north of the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge. The park offers a wide variety of amenities, including nature trails, full-court basketball, volleyball, tennis, baseball, BMX bike courses, freshwater swimming, fitness trails, and a senior center. While the park does not offer direct shore access to Ninigret Pond, there is freshwater swimming available at Little Nini Pond. Plenty of parking is available. Wildlife is abundant here, as seen from the nature trails. The Frosty Drew Nature Center offers a series of nature programs.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, concessions, historic interest, toilets, trash receptacles

11. Fort Ninigret

Located at the end of Fort Ninigret Road, which extends south from Post Road, near Cross' Mills, the site of Fort Ninigret occupies a bluff overlooking the northern end of Ninigret Pond. Once an Indian stronghold and trading center, the park is maintained as a memorial to the Narragansett and Niantic tribes. Although there is no access to the pond, this is a great place for picnicking, kite flying, or viewing the pond and barrier beach. Parking is limited.

- Wildlife observation

12. Ocean House Marina

Located off Town Dock Road on Fort Neck Cove, Ocean House Marina is privately owned, but offers a public boat launch for a nominal fee. The marina is situated in a well-protected cove of Ninigret Pond in a picturesque setting. In addition to a boat ramp, Ocean House also has a bait shop, boat repair, and trailer parking for customers.

- Handicap access, dock, picnic tables/benches, fishing, toilets, trash receptacles

South Kingstown

13. Green Hill Beach

Located off Green Hill Beach Road, this site is a sandy, dune-backed beach offering no parking. Most of the beach is lined with residences, condominiums, and other beachfront development. A right-of-way located here consists of a sandy path leading to Green Hill Beach.

- Swimming

14. Trustum Pond National Wildlife Refuge

This 640-acre national wildlife refuge surrounds Rhode Island's only undeveloped coastal salt pond. Access is from Matunuck Schoolhouse Road. From the parking area, three miles of gently sloping foot trails weave through the refuge leading to points along the north shoreline of Trustum Pond. The site has three wildlife observation towers and is a beautiful place to visit each season of the year. Because it is a wildlife refuge, dogs, bicycling, horseback riding, and motorcycling are prohibited.

- Picnic tables/benches, swimming, toilets, trash receptacles

15. Moonstone Beach

Part of the Trustum Pond National Wildlife Refuge, this is one of Rhode Island's more isolated and beautiful beaches. The beach is fenced off at a mean high-water mark to protect the sand dune habitat and the endangered piping plovers that nest on the beach. The end of Moonstone Beach Road is a public right-of-way. No parking is available.

- Swimming, hiking/walking

16. Roy Carpenter's Beach

Hidden by the dense bungalow community south of Cards Pond Road, this private beach is open to the public for a fee. A wooden pavilion, beach rentals, a general store, a snack bar, and parking for a fee are available.

- Picnic tables/benches, toilets, trash receptacles

Surfing in Rhode Island

Surfing has been an integral part of Rhode Island's rich coastal culture since the mid-1950s. Rhode Island established itself on the surfing world's map by providing surfers with well-known breaks such as Matunuck, Ruggles, and Point Judith. Having over 30 surf spots within its 40 miles of open-water coastline, Rhode Island serves as the Northeast's premier surfing location, rivaled only by Cape Cod. Rhode Island's coastline consists of sandy and gravel beaches, as well as rocky points, creating a variety of surf breaks.

A rocky point break, such as Narragansett's Point Judith, provides surfers with a diverse array of wave types, ranging from long, lazy rollers to heavy, hollow barrels. The geography of the point allows these large swells to approach the land at an angle, causing each wave to gradually break to the right or left. Such conditions prevent the waves from crashing over all at once, a phenomenon known as "closing out" in the surfing community. The gradually breaking waves at Point Judith provide surfers with longer rides and help to establish the point as a preferred surfing location. These waves are not for beginners, however. Point Judith's rocky shoreline, heavy undertow, and dangerously powerful waves render it a surf spot suitable for only the most experienced surfers. During storm swells, such as those produced by late summer offshore hurricanes, wave heights at Point Judith can reach and exceed 15 feet.

For a safer, more relaxed surfing experience, Rhode Island also offers several beach breaks, such as Narragansett Town Beach or Newport's Easton's Beach. Although providing less consistent surf, Rhode Island's

sandy beach breaks are a great spot for less experienced surfers to have as much fun as the experts. Waves at a sandy beach break tend to provide shorter rides than those at a point. Since the swells are nearly parallel to the shoreline, each section of the wave reaches shallow water simultaneously, causing the wave to close out. However, bottom contour irregularities and sandbars cause some sections of a wave to break earlier than others and make the wave "ridable" for at least a short time.

During the summer, crowded beach conditions require authorities to designate sections of some beaches as "swimming only." Although this helps to make the beaches safer for swimmers, it inhibits surfers from spreading out, and ultimately makes it difficult to surf on crowded days. To avoid the crowds, try surfing in the morning or the evening, or avoid the popular beaches altogether.

—By Charlie Festa, former URI Coastal Fellow for Rhode Island Sea Grant



Charlestown

Prior to the arrival of the Europeans, Narragansett Indians inhabited the region now known as Charlestown. They lived off the land, hunting, fishing, and raising crops. When the first European settlers arrived in the mid-17th century, plantations were quickly established to exploit the fertile coastal lands. On August 22, 1738, a portion of Westerly was divided and named Charlestown after King Charles II. Today's town boundaries were finally established in 1748 when the town of Richmond was divided at the Pawcatuck River.

In the early 19th century, residents of Charlestown began harnessing the Pawcatuck River to power textile mills. As the industry grew, so did the surrounding area. Other mills sprang up along the river, including saw, cotton, and wool mills. Over the years most of the mills have been converted into offices, but Kenyon Mills continues to produce textiles and serves as a symbol of the town's history.

South Kingstown

Originally called King's Towne and incorporated in 1674, the area included the present towns of South Kingstown, North Kingstown, and Narragansett. The first settlement was in South Kingstown, and it was there, in the Great Swamp Fight of 1675, that colonial soldiers from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut gave King Philip his greatest defeat.

Farming was the main activity in early times. Prior to colonial settlement, however, the Narragansetts occupied the area, farming, hunting, and fishing. Although corn was their principal crop, they also produced squash, beans, and strawberries. Venison, cod, and shellfish were their primary sources of protein.

Narragansett

Ronald Robinson settled and purchased the land along the western shore of Narragansett Bay from the Narragansett Indians in the late 17th century. Incorporated as a town in 1901, Narragansett's earliest industry was a shipbuilding operation located at Middle Bridge on the Narrow River. As ship size outgrew the capacity of the Narrow River, the town turned to tourism as its primary source of income.

By the turn of the 20th century, Narragansett was an elegant summer resort. Many small summer cottages, as well as upscale hotels, were erected to accommodate the increasing number of tourists to the area. Soon, larger estates also dappled the shoreline. Many wealthy city families spent their weekends in Narragansett by taking the day ferry from Providence.

Perhaps the most well-known landmark of its time was the Narragansett Casino. Located at the corner of Ocean Road and Narragansett Beach, the casino was Narragansett's central attraction until 1900, when a devastating fire destroyed all but the main entrance towers. Today, the towers serve as the Narragansett Visitors' Center.



Narragansett Bay

Narragansett Bay is an estuary—a semi-enclosed inlet of the sea in which seawater is diluted by fresh water. Compared to other estuaries, Narragansett Bay is small- to medium-sized. Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the United States, covers more than 30 times the area of Narragansett Bay. Still, Narragansett Bay is big enough to take a good-sized bite out of little Rhode Island. It reaches two-thirds of the way up the state—with the result that no Rhode Islander is more than half an hour's drive from the shoreline—and covers about 10 percent of the state's area.

There are three entrances to Narragansett Bay: the West Passage, the East Passage, and the so-called Sakonnet River, which is not really a river but an arm of the sea. Only the East Passage, with an average depth of 44 feet, is deep enough for large ships.

The Bay's three largest islands are Aquidneck (the Indian name means "longest island"), Conanicut, and Prudence. Some 30 smaller islands, many of them little more than large rocks, also dot the Bay.

Life in the Bay

One-celled floating algae called phytoplankton are the basis of the Bay's food chain—or, more accurately, food web. Like land plants, these microscopic plants use photosynthesis to convert carbon dioxide into organic material that ultimately nourishes all other life in the Bay.

Narragansett Bay, like any estuary, provides a variety of different habitats for living things. Certain plants and animals are concentrated in particular areas where salinity and other conditions are best suited to their needs. For example, the most productive quahog beds are in the less salty, more nutrient-rich waters of the upper Bay. On the other hand, lobster and blue mussel prefer the more oceanlike conditions of the lower Bay.

Geological History of Narragansett Bay

25,000 years ago: With the Pleistocene Ice Age in full force and sea level 300 feet lower than today, Rhode Island lay buried under an ice sheet 400 feet thick. The glacier extended as far as Block Island. Southward from there, some 70 miles of frozen tundra led finally to the Atlantic coast.

10,000 years ago: Earth was warming. The glacier had receded from Rhode Island, and the ocean was rising but had not yet reached its present level. Prehistoric humans lived in the valleys that today are the passages of Narragansett Bay. They could walk across Rhode Island by simply crossing the small streams that ran through these valleys.

9,000 years ago: As sea level continued to rise, the Atlantic Ocean entered the East Passage of the Bay.

5,000 years ago: Narragansett Bay was filled almost to its present level.

Fisheries

The Bay's commercially important species include:

- Demersal (bottom-dwelling) fish: winter flounder, summer flounder, tautog, black sea bass
- Pelagic fish (fish that feed in the water column): bluefish, striped bass, scup, squeteague (weakfish), menhaden, Atlantic herring, and alewife (for use as lobster bait)
- Shellfish: quahog, oyster
- Lobster
- Squid

The demersal fish, as well as the quahog and oyster, are Bay residents that are able to live in the Bay year round and during all stages of their life cycles. Most of the commercially important pelagic fish, as well as squid, migrate to Narragansett Bay in May or June. Each year, about 100 different species may visit the Bay at one time or another.

Physical Characteristics of Narragansett Bay

- Length: 25 miles
- Width: 10 miles
- Volume: 706 billion gallons at mid-tide
- Shoreline: 256 miles, including island shorelines
- Drainage basin (watershed): 1,853 square miles

—Excerpted from "An Overview of Narragansett Bay" by Eleanor Ely, published by Rhode Island Sea Grant



Ninigret Pond

Also known as Charlestown Pond, this 1,711-acre coastal lagoon is totally located within the town of Charlestown. A small channel under Creek Bridge connects Ninigret with Green Hill Pond in South Kingstown. The pond is bounded on the south by barrier beaches, to the west by the village of Quonochontaug, and on the east by Charlestown Beach. The ocean breachway in the southeastern end connects with Block Island Sound, and fresh water flows into the pond from numerous small brooks and springs.

Fishing and shellfishing are very popular. Marine fisheries laws and regulations are available at Burlingame State Park and at all local marinas and bait shops. No licenses are needed for Rhode Island residents, but nonresidents must be licensed to harvest shellfish. Licenses are available at Ocean House Marina and Westerly Wal-Mart. Commercial shellfish licenses are available only to Rhode Island residents and nonresident property owners, and may be obtained at RIDEM headquarters in Providence; call (401) 222-3576. No license is required for rod-and-reel fishing, but maximum daily limits and minimum sizes must be obeyed.

Shellfishing is prohibited in two areas. One lies east of a line across Tockwotten Cove to a point on the south shore adjacent to Florence Street and is closed because of pollution. The second, a shellfish spawner sanctuary in the western end, is closed to protect shellfish brood stock; this forms a triangle, bounded by a flag pole at the Ninigret Conservation Area to the south, and to the north by an orange-and-white sign at the end of Kennedy Lane and a sign at Lavin's Landing Marina.

The range of boating activity is dependent on the depth of the water. Ninigret is generally shallow, with an average depth of less than 6 feet. The southern areas have been shoaled to an even more shallow depth by storm surges and windblown sand.

The central basin is generally free of navigational obstructions. Rocks are located along the north side of "The Narrows," located between Hall and Grassy points, south of the National Wildlife Refuge. Open fairway runs north through Fort Neck, but the channel leading to the ocean breachway is shallow and treacherous. The harbormaster marks the channel with stakes; however, the breachway itself is dangerous and requires experienced seamanship. Strict adherence to rules of the road and to the no-wake regulations are a must.

Public access is available at several points. Four launching facilities provide parking for a fee. The state ramp is at the end of Charlestown Beach Road; the other three are owned by local marinas: Ocean House, Lavin's Landing, and Shelter Cove. The three marinas offer restrooms, and Ocean House provides complete marina services.

Windsurfers, kayakers, and canoists find Ninigret a mecca for their enjoyment. Launching may take place from the Ninigret Conservation Area, all marinas, and at Creek Bridge, Charlestown Beach Road, where kayak rentals are available.

Recreational activities oceanside and pondsides are plentiful. Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge is located off Route 1, bordering the northwestern side of the pond. There are two well-marked nature trails and plenty of parking at this federally maintained site. Walking access to the pond is provided at the refuge and at the conservation area.

Ninigret Park, a former naval air station, is north of the wildlife refuge and offers nature trails, basketball, volleyball, tennis, and baseball opportunities, BMX bike courses, freshwater swimming at Little Nini Pond, and the Frosty Drew Nature Center, which offers nature programs.

Ocean swimming is available at Blue Shutters Town Beach, Ninigret Conservation Area (state-owned) at the west end, and Charlestown Town Beach at the eastern end of the pond.

East Beach barrier beach is undeveloped and owned by RIDEM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Vehicles may access the back dunes with a permit obtained at the Burlingame State Park facilities.

For further information:

Charlestown Harbormaster: (401) 364-6810

Burlingame State Park: (401) 322-8910

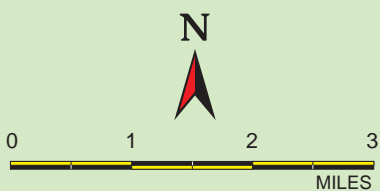
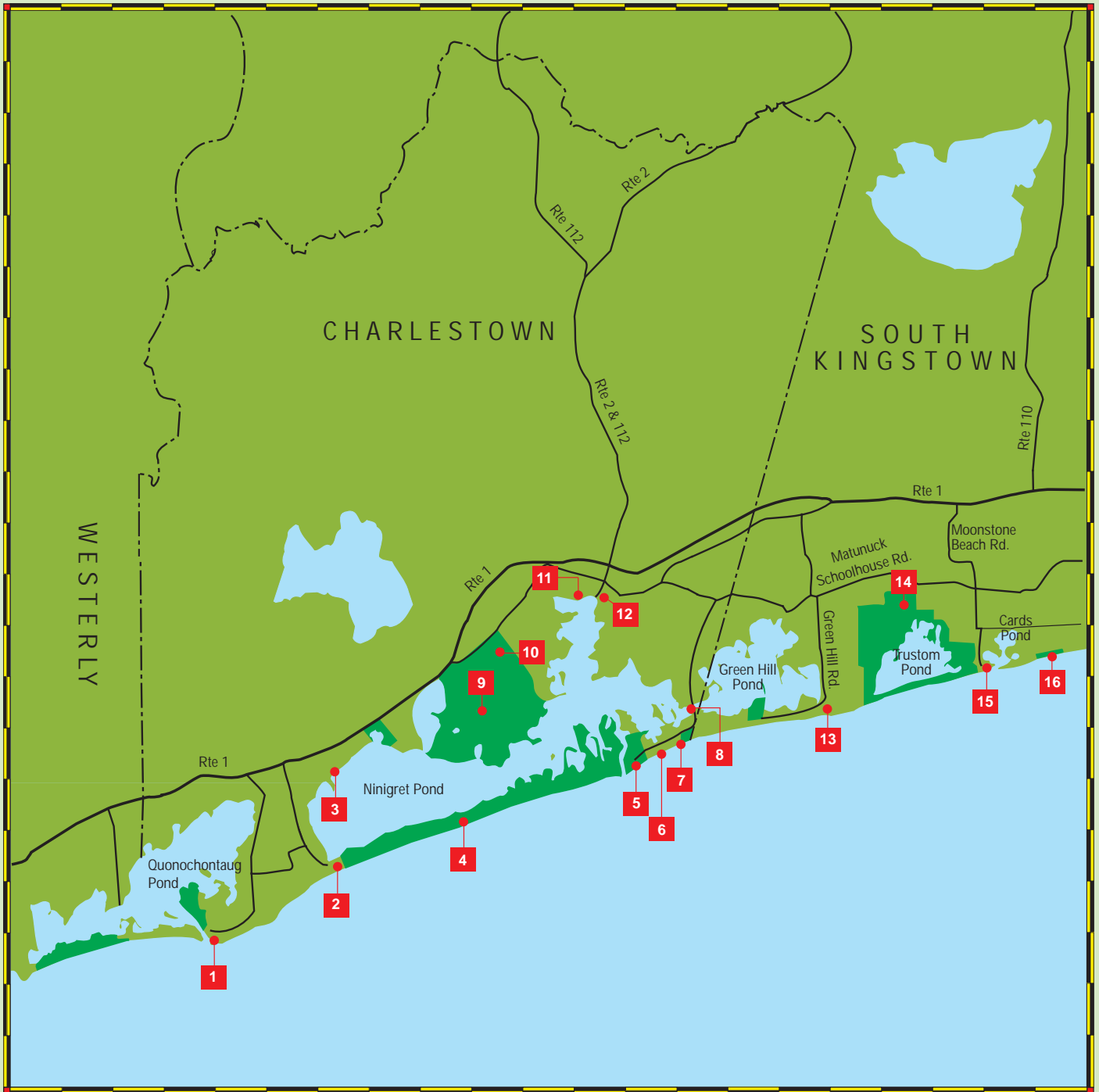
RIDEM Law Enforcement: (800) 498-1336

—By Arthur Ganz,
Salt Ponds Coalition and
RIDEM Supervising Biologist

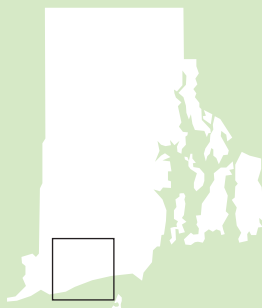


Charlestown Breachway





CHARLESTOWN & SOUTH KINGSTOWN



Charlestown, South Kingstown & Narragansett

Charlestown

1. Quonochontaug Breachway

A popular fishing spot for striped bass, winter flounder, snapper, and bluefish, this state-owned 49-acre parcel runs parallel to the east side of the Quonochontaug Breachway. Parking is available at the end of West Beach Road for cars and boat trailers. The boat ramp located at this site provides access to Block Island Sound, but it is very dangerous due to swift currents running through the breachway. This site includes a RIDEM shellfish management area. A walk toward the wetland area fringing Quonochontaug Pond affords a beautiful view of the entire pond and some excellent bird watching.

- Toilets

2. Blue Shutters Town Beach

Located near the end of East Beach Road, this town-owned property offers many amenities such as showers, on-site pay parking, and concessions. This beautiful, wide, sandy beach is located just west of the Ninigret Conservation Area.

- Picnic tables/benches, toilets, trash receptacles

3. Lavin's Landing Marina

Lavin's Landing Marina, located on Meadow Lane, offers bait, tackle, and fuel for sale. Parking is available. Fee.

- Dock

4. East Beach/Ninigret State Facilities

At the east end of East Beach Road, a two-mile-long barrier beach separates Ninigret Pond from Block Island Sound. Ninigret Pond offers excellent windsurfing, canoeing, and shellfishing. This is also a RIDEM shellfish management area. Winter flounder, clams, quahogs, blue crabs, eel, and bay scallops can be found

here in season. On the ocean side, a beautiful sandy beach is great for sunbathing or walking. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are allowed behind the dunes only with a RIDEM permit. Bring your binoculars: Waterfowl, wildlife, and shorebirds can be found, especially during the fall and spring migrations. Parking is available. Fee.

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This state-managed parcel consists of approximately 2 acres. It is located off the west end of Charlestown Beach Road and borders Ninigret Pond on the north and Block Island Sound on the south. The area consists of a wide sandy beach on the ocean, a rock jetty, which is a popular fishing site, a recreational vehicle campground along the east arm of the breachway, and a wetland area bordering Ninigret Pond. This is a great family spot due to its guarded beach and close fishing opportunities. A boat ramp is located at the north end of the breachway on the pond. Activities include fishing, swimming, beach-walking, and windsurfing. Ninety parking spaces are available on site, and there is an entrance fee during the summer season.

- CRMC ROW#: B-1
- Picnic tables/benches, toilets, trash receptacles

6. Charlestown Town Beach

South of Charlestown Beach Road, a section of the beach is owned by the town and is open to the public. Pay parking is available for approximately 300 cars about 500 feet across the road from the beach.

- Hiking/walking, trash receptacles

7. Shelter Cove Marina

Shelter Cove Marina is located on Charlestown Beach Road. Parking is available. Fee.

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8. Perry Creek Accessway

This site consists of a small dirt road extending north from the town beach parking lot (off Charlestown Beach Road) to a sandy shoreline area bordering Perry Creek. The tidal creek links Ninigret Pond to Green Hill Pond. This site is suitable only for small craft and kayaks due to the shallowness of the creek. Across the creek on the north side is a small area with a concession stand, bait shop, ramp, small boat docks, and a good view of Ninigret Pond. Parking is available.

- Fishing, wildlife observation

9. Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge

Located just off Route 1, bordering the northwestern side of Ninigret Pond, this 400-acre federally maintained site consists of grasslands, brush and shrub, uplands, freshwater ponds, salt marsh, a barrier beach, and a portion of the former Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field. There are two well-marked nature trails—a must for nature photographers and bird watchers. There is plenty of parking available. Watch out for poison ivy and ticks.

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Green Hill Beach

Key to Primary Uses



Public Park



Path to Shore



Boating



Beach with Lifeguards



Wildlife Refuge



Scenic View



Fishing



Quonochontaug Breachway



Blue Shutters Town Beach



Charlestown Town Beach



Perry Creek Accessway



Roy Carpenter's Beach



Ninigret Park



Ocean House Marina



Trustum Pond National Wildlife Refuge



Moonstone Beach

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- Handicap access, dock, picnic tables/benches, fishing, toilets, trash receptacles

South Kingstown

13. Green Hill Beach

Located off Green Hill Beach Road, this site is a sandy, dune-backed beach offering no parking. Most of the beach is lined with residences, condominiums, and other beachfront development. A right-of-way located here consists of a sandy path leading to Green Hill Beach.

- Swimming

14. Trustum Pond National Wildlife Refuge

This 640-acre national wildlife refuge surrounds Rhode Island's only undeveloped coastal salt pond. Access is from Matunuck Schoolhouse Road. From the parking area, three miles of gently sloping foot trails weave through the refuge leading to points along the north shoreline of Trustum Pond. The site has three wildlife observation towers and is a beautiful place to visit each season of the year. Because it is a wildlife refuge, dogs, bicycling, horseback riding, and motorcycling are prohibited.

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- Swimming, hiking/walking

16. Roy Carpenter's Beach

Hidden by the dense bungalow community south of Cards Pond Road, this private beach is open to the public for a fee. A wooden pavilion, beach rentals, a general store, a snack bar, and parking for a fee are available.

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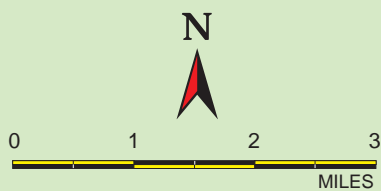
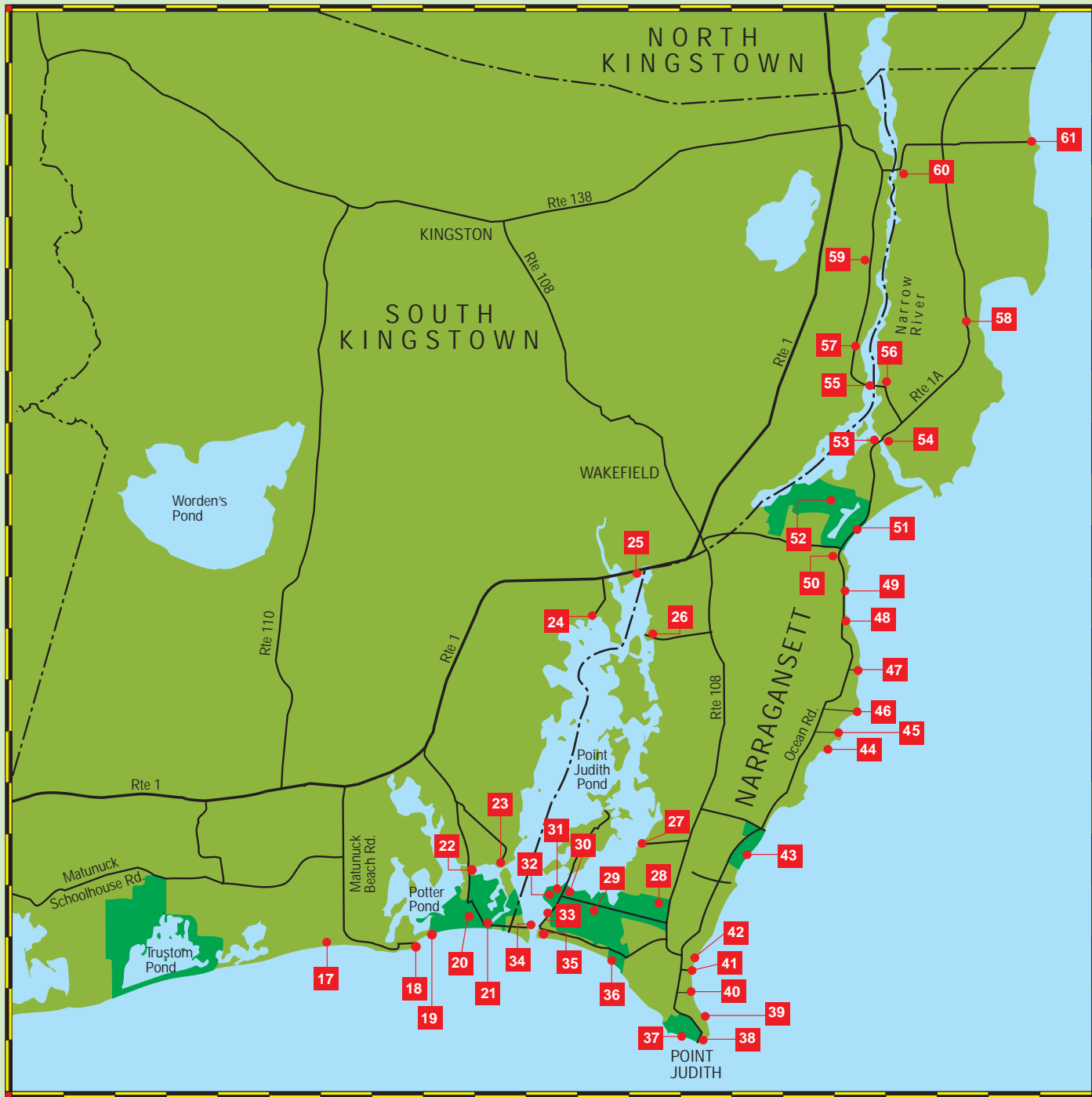
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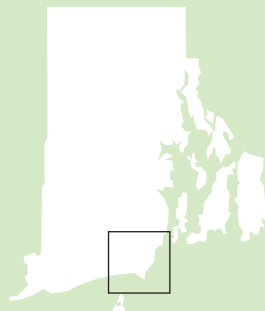
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—By Charlie Festa, former URI Coastal Fellow for Rhode Island Sea Grant





**SOUTH KINGSTOWN
& NARRAGANSETT**



East Matunuck State Beach

 **17. South Kingstown Town Beach**

Where Matunuck Beach Road reaches the shore, there is a town beach facility with picnic areas, boardwalks, a playground, a volleyball court, and dirt paths leading to the beach. Several stores within walking distance carry food, sundries, and beach supplies. The parking facility accommodates approximately 80 vehicles. The beach charges a fee in the summer season, but is open to both town residents and nonresidents.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, fishing, wildlife observation, toilets, trash receptacles

 **18. Deep Hole Fishing Area**

Located near the end of Matunuck Beach Road, this small pocket of sandy beach is set aside for Rhode Island fishermen. However, compatible uses such as surfing are allowed. Parking is available for approximately 30 cars.

 **19. Ocean Avenue**

At the narrow end of Ocean Avenue, a stair pathway leads down to the west end of East Matunuck State Beach. Though this is great beach access, no parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: D-4
- Swimming, fishing, hiking/walking

 **20. Matunuck Management Area**

Off Succotash Road, north of East Matunuck Beach, this area encompasses over 145 acres of salt marsh and wetlands on Potter Pond, Point Judith Pond, and Block Island Sound. Popular activities in this area include canoeing, bird watching, and fishing. It is an ideal setting to observe many migratory bird and waterfowl species in the fall and spring. On occasion, nature walks are offered through the area. Parking is available at the west end of the state beach lot for a fee.

- Historic interest



 **21. East Matunuck State Beach**

Located south of Succotash Road, this state beach is popular during the summer season for swimming and off-season for walking. From the pavilion, there is a beautiful view over the dunes of the Succotash Salt Marsh, a state-managed wetlands conservation area. On a clear day, Block Island is visible on the horizon. Public parking is available all year with a fee in the summer.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, concessions, toilets, trash receptacles

 **22. Kenport Marina**

Located on Succotash Road, this privately run marina has a boat ramp available to the public for a nominal fee. Parking for non-customers is available on a first-come first-served basis. A bait shop and ship store are also available. A restaurant and a fish market are situated nearby.

- Dock, fishing, toilets, trash receptacles

 **23. Gooseberry Road Town Ramp**

A town right-of-way at the end of Gooseberry Road, next to Channel Marina, this public access has an asphalt boat ramp in good condition. This site is not frequently used because there is no public parking available.

- Trash receptacles

 **24. Pond Street Ramp**

At the end of Pond Street, this marked right-of-way on Billington Cove, Point Judith Pond, is one of the town's four public boat ramps. The site and the ramp are in good condition. The ramp is next to private marina facilities. No parking is available.

- Dock, fishing



Gooseberry Road Town Ramp

 **25. Marina Park**

This municipal park, just south of Route 1, is located at the head of Point Judith Pond on Salt Pond Road, across the street from several marinas, a town boat ramp, and a restaurant. A large grassy area, formerly known as Heritage Field, is the site for a number of annual events such as carnivals and boat shows. Also in Marina Park is the URI Sailing Club. Beginning and intermediate sailing classes are offered during the summer. The public can join the URI Sailing Club for a nominal fee. There are benches available and 30 parking spaces.

- Dock, trash receptacles

Narragansett

 **26. Long Cove Marina**

Located west of Route 108, approximately one mile south of Route 1, this privately owned campground consists of 200 to 300 campsites for tents, campers, and recreational vehicles. There is public access to the boat ramp that leads to Point Judith Pond. Parking is available. Fee.

- Picnic tables/benches, toilets, trash receptacles

 **27. Knowlesway Extension**

At the end of Knowlesway Extension, west of Route 108, a paved right-of-way provides access to Point Judith Pond. This site consists of a small grassy park and a stairway to the pond.

- CRMC ROW#: C-1
- Picnicking, swimming, wildlife observation, hiking/walking, trash receptacles



Kenport Marina

Key to Primary Uses

-  Public Park
-  Path to Shore
-  Boating
-  Beach with Lifeguards
-  Wildlife Refuge
-  Scenic View
-  Fishing
-  Ferry



South Kingstown Town Beach



Deep Hole Fishing Area



Ocean Avenue



Matunuck Management Area

Marina Park



Galilee Bird Sanctuary



Bluff Hill Cove Access



Knowlesway Extension



Fisherman's Memorial State Park



Salty Brine State Beach



Galilee at Great Island Bridge

Roger Wheeler State Beach



28. Fisherman's Memorial State Park

West of Route 108, Fisherman's Memorial State Park is a campground that has 182 campsites, three game fields, and two tennis courts. During the summer there is an entrance fee to the campgrounds, and advance reservations are recommended. There is a spectacular view of Point Judith Pond, Narragansett Bay, and Block Island Sound from the overlook platform located at the site of the old bunker, part of U.S. Army Fort Greene. During the summer, RIDEM holds evening nature education programs for the public. On the grounds' north-west corner, a pathway leads to a state shellfish management area. Parking is available.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, historic interest, fishing, toilets, trash receptacles



29. Galilee Bird Sanctuary

Located south of the Galilee Escape Road and across the street from Roger Wheeler State Beach is a 172-acre tidal wetland. This environmentally sensitive wetland habitat is ideal for bird watching. However, the area has no access except along its outer edge. No parking is available.

- Fishing



30. Bluff Hill Cove Access

North of the Galilee Escape Road is an area of wetlands and tidal flats that is a state shellfish management area. It is one of the state's most popular recreational shellfishing sites. Parking is available along the Galilee Escape Road.

- Wildlife observation



31. Galilee at Great Island Bridge

Located off the Galilee Escape Road at the southeast end of the Great Island Bridge, this state-owned fishing access site has a boat ramp with parking for cars and trailers.

- Dock, toilets



32. State Pier #3

In the heart of Galilee, next to the Block Island Ferry terminal, this state pier bustles with activity supporting the commercial fishing fleet and charter deep-sea fishing boats. Southland Ferry Cruises offers boat tours around Point Judith Pond during the summer. This site is extremely busy; limited parking is available on nearby streets. Ample pay parking is available throughout Galilee.

- Concessions, toilets, trash receptacles



33. Block Island Ferry Terminal

The main ferry terminal for public transport to Block Island is located in Galilee. When the ferry is not at the dock, this site provides an interesting view of harbor activities. There is ample parking for a fee in nearby lots.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, concessions, toilets, trash receptacles



34. State Pier #4

Across the breachway from the ferry terminal in Jerusalem, at the end of Succotash Road, a state-owned property and pier provide access to the main channel of Point Judith Pond. This is a popular spot for recreational finfishing that can be reached by following Succotash Road to its end in Jerusalem. Jerusalem is part of Narragansett and was once connected to Galilee in the 1800s before the U.S. Army Corps constructed the permanent breachway in its present location. Parking is available.



35. Salty Brine State Beach

This small state beach is within the confines of the protected Point Judith Harbor of Refuge. The adjacent breachway, which is stabilized by rock jetties, connects Point Judith Pond to the sea. The rock jetties provide access for fishing or for the sure-footed who want to watch the activities in the harbor. Divers also frequent the area to dive for lobsters and observe the underwater world

along the rocky shore. From here, one can walk to Sand Hill Cove Beach, a mile to the east. Although on-site parking is available, the small parking lot fills quickly on nice days.

- Concessions, toilets, trash receptacles



36. Roger Wheeler State Beach

Popularly known as Sand Hill Cove Beach, this state-owned beach is located at the east end of Sand Hill Cove Road. A great place for the family, the beach offers ample parking (at least 1,500 spaces), lifeguards, changing facilities, toilets, picnic areas, concessions, and playground equipment. This site is a safe place for swimming because of the long, wide, sandy beach and breakwater-protected, calm waters. Fee.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, hiking/walking, trash receptacles



37. Point Judith State Park

Formerly Camp Cronin, a military camp, this site has a long rocky shoreline fronting the Atlantic Ocean near the Point Judith Lighthouse and is a good spot for surf fishing. Block Island is visible in the distance. This site also provides access to the east arm of the Harbor of Refuge breakwater, a popular fishing area. On-site parking is available.

- Swimming, hiking/walking, wildlife observation, toilets



38. Point Judith Lighthouse

At the southern end of Ocean Road stands the Point Judith Lighthouse, an octagonal brick building erected in 1816. The lighthouse, which is still in use, is not open to the public. The grassy slope around the lighthouse has a fine view of the ocean where, two miles off the coast, the last German U-boat was sunk during World War II. Beware of the loud foghorn sounding out to the passing ships on foggy days. On a good day you will find many of Rhode Island's best surfers in the water. Parking is available nearby.

- Hiking/walking

39. Rose Nulman Memorial Park

Adjacent to the Point Judith Lighthouse, this park provides scenic ocean views and has ample parking.

- Picnic tables/benches

40. Pilgrim Avenue Extension

Just north of Point Judith, at Pilgrim and Calef avenues (Pole 17), is a scenic right-of-way that consists of a paved roadway about 50 feet wide and 166 feet long that extends eastward to a cobble beach. This is one of several road ends in the area that offers surfing access.

- CRMC ROW#: C-2

41. Calef Avenue

A right-of-way just north of Point Judith at Pole 8, this site consists of a grassy strip 50 feet wide and 140 feet long, extending east from the intersection of Louise Avenue and Calef Avenue to a cobble beach. No parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: C-3

42. Conant Avenue Road End

This scenic right-of-way overlooks the ocean and consists of a rocky shoreline with a path used by surfers and kayakers. No parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: C-7
- Fishing

43. Scarborough State Beach

One of the state's most popular beaches, this facility has gazebos, picnic areas, benches, a wooden boardwalk with concessions, changing facilities, toilets, and showers. The wide sandy beach is ideal for swimming, walking, and a variety of oceanside activities. Includes Scarborough South Side, which offers access to grassy playing fields and tailgating. Ample on-site parking is available and accessible from Ocean Road. Fee.

- Handicap access, trash receptacles

44. Black Point

Located off Ocean Road, just north of Scarborough State Beach, this state fishing area consists of a wooded dirt path that extends toward the Bay from a parking lot just north of the old stone carriage house ruins. The path leads to a dramatic rocky shore of boulders and tide pools. This is a great place to relax and throw out a fishing line, but use caution when walking out on the rocks, particularly during periods of high waves. On-site parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: C-5 (on appeal)
- Wildlife observation

45. Bass Rock Road

A right-of-way extending east of Ocean Road, this site is difficult to find because it is unmarked and can be easily confused with the many private driveways in the area. The site offers a terrific view of Narragansett Bay and the Atlantic Ocean and is often used by recreational fishermen. Beware of treacherous wave conditions and dangerous rocky shoreline.

- CRMC ROW#: C-6
- Trash receptacles

46. Newton Avenue

At the end of Newton Avenue, off Ocean Road, a well-worn footpath leads to a dramatic rocky shore. This is a site where ancient bedrock, known as Narragansett Pier granite, surfaces. Fishing and wildlife observation are popular but dangerous due to treacherous waves and slippery rocks.

- CRMC ROW#: C-13
- Trash receptacles

47. Hazard Avenue

This site, a right-of-way at the end of Hazard Avenue, off Ocean Road, consists of a well-worn footpath to spectacular granite rock formations. Fishing is popular but dangerous due to the treacherous waves and slippery rocks.

- CRMC ROW#: C-9
- Trash receptacles

48. State Pier #5 (Tucker's Dock)

Located off Ocean Road, near the well and the intersection of South Pier Road, this site offers boat launching, fishing, surfing, and a scenic view of Narragansett Bay. Parking is available for about 15 cars. There is also a bulkhead with pilings to tie up to in a small, usually well-protected cove. This site is commonly known as Monahan's Dock. The ramp is steep and slippery at low tide.

- Concessions, historic interest, trash receptacles

49. Ocean Road

A walkway extends 0.8 mile from Narragansett Beach south along Ocean Road, under the Towers, to State Pier #5 (Tucker's Dock). This is a popular place to walk, to watch the sunrise, or to sit on the wall and watch the passersby. When the wind is blowing and the surf is up, this area is populated with surfers. Free parking is available along Ocean Road but fills up quickly on hot summer days.

- Concessions, fishing, trash receptacles

50. Casino Park

Located off Route 1A, across the street from Narragansett Town Beach, this grassy area with a distinctive gazebo offers an ocean view and is the site of concerts and art shows during the summer. There is limited parking along Ocean Road. A variety of shops and restaurants is nearby. The area may be reserved for special events for a fee.

- Picnic tables/benches, trash receptacles

51. Narragansett Town Beach

Located off Route 1A, this is a very popular summer beach spot. The wide, sandy beach is perfect for walking, sunning, picnicking, swimming, kayaking, and surfing. The town offers seasonal fitness classes, concerts, beach camps, junior lifesaving programs, and special events. There is a parking lot for which a fee is charged during the summer daytime hours. A beach pavilion and chang-



Point Judith Lighthouse



Rose Nulman Memorial Park



Pilgrim Avenue Extension



Calef Avenue



Scarborough State Beach



Newton Avenue



Conant Avenue Road End



State Pier #5 (Tucker's Dock)



Ocean Road



Hazard Avenue



Narragansett Town Beach



Pettaquamscutt Cove



View to Middle Bridge



Pettaquamscutt Avenue

ing rooms are available, but there is a rental fee. A shopping area containing several restaurants, public restrooms, and a grocery store is located nearby. Fee.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, fishing, trash receptacles



52. Canonchet Farm

Located off Route 1A, opposite Narragansett Town Beach, Canonchet Farm offers hiking trails and fishing in salt ponds bordering Pettaquamscutt Cove. South County Museum is located here and contains articles of early Rhode Island life and industry. There are also an animal petting farm and plenty of parking on the grounds. The museum is open in the summer, beginning May 1, Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Wildlife observation, toilets, trash receptacles



53. Narrow River Inlet

Just east of Sprague Bridge, on the south side of the Narrow River inlet, is a small parking area and a path to the tidal waters of the Narrow River. This site offers access to a popular fishing site underneath the bridge and an excellent place to launch a kayak.

- Trash receptacles

54. Old Sprague Bridge Overlook

East of Scenic Route 1A is the site of Old Sprague Bridge. The bridge abutments provide a view of the Pettaquamscutt Refuge and the Narrow River. Depending on tidal conditions, this area can be quite populated with shore birds. This is a nice site for a picnic or a fishing excursion. There is parking available for cars on both sides of the river.

- Handicap access



Old Sprague Bridge

55. Middle Bridge

Seasonal fishing is popular from the causeway and bridge over the Narrow River. At the southwest end of the bridge there is a path to the Narrow River identified by a historic marker. There is restricted parking along Middlebridge Road and at the east end of the bridge on a private lot for a fee. Kayak rentals are on the east side of the bridge.

- Trash receptacles

56. Pettaquamscutt Cove National Wildlife Refuge

Along the southeastern shore of the Narrow River, this federally designated national wildlife refuge contains over 150 acres of tidal marshes, mudflats, and estuary and is home to the black duck. An access road leads off the west side of Scenic Route 1A just north of the bridge over the Narrow River. This is a great place to have a picnic and watch the sun set over the river. Parking is available.

- Fishing

57. Narrow River Boat Ramp (South Kingstown)

This state-owned boat ramp is in good condition and offers several parking spaces. Take Middlebridge Road to Pollock Avenue. Boaters should be aware that Narrow River has several bridges along its length that could pose an obstacle to boats with high superstructures or towers. Parking is available.

- Fishing

58. Route 1A Overlook

A parcel of land owned by the R.I. Department of Transportation and known as The Overlook extends from Boston Neck Road (Route 1A) eastward to the shore of Narragansett Bay. The lot is just south of Browning Drive. It slopes steeply down to the shore so that when it is mowed it provides a spectacular view of the lower West Passage. No on-site parking is available.

- Wildlife observation, hiking/walking



59. Pettaquamscutt Park (South Kingstown)

High over the Narrow River is the historic site of the original purchase of surrounding lands by British colonists from three sachems of the Narragansetts in 1657. There is a trail to the top of the rock and a sweeping view of the Narrow River. The trail starts at the town park at the base of the rock. Parking on the road is restricted.

- Historic interest, hiking/walking, trash receptacles, picnic tables/benches



60. Pettaquamscutt Avenue

This right-of-way at the end of Pettaquamscutt Avenue may be used as a ramp to launch small boats or kayaks. Due to the shallow depth of the Narrow River, this site is best used at high tide.

- CRMC ROW#: C-10



61. South Ferry Road

The old Jamestown ferry landing at the end of South Ferry Road off Route 1A also consists of a small cobble beach on the West Passage. Dutch Island, Jamestown, and the Jamestown Bridge may be seen in the distance. This is a multi-use site for swimming, fishing, boating, and windsurfing. The site is adjacent to the URI Graduate School of Oceanography. Parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: C-8



South Ferry Road



Narrow River Inlet

Jamestown

Beavertail Lighthouse was built in 1749. It was the first lighthouse in Rhode Island and third in the country following the 1716 Boston Harbor light and the 1746 Great Point light on Nantucket. Although this wooden tower burned to the ground just four years later, the tower that replaced it lasted until the present granite lighthouse was constructed in 1856. The base of the older tower was exposed by the Hurricane of 1938 and now is marked by a granite plaque erected by the Jamestown Historical Society.

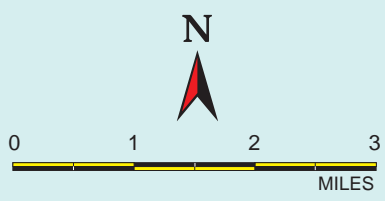
Today, the lighthouse is part of a state park that has seen a major increase in visitors, many of whom come to Beavertail to sightsee, whether from the comfort of a vehicle, from one of the four scenic overlooks, or from the rocky coastline. Also, Beavertail boasts some of the best saltwater fishing around, and its rocky shoreline provides fishermen with countless locations to cast into the surf.

North Kingstown

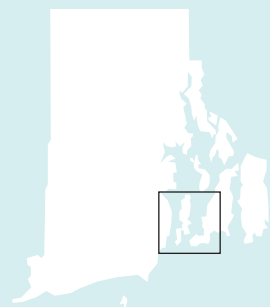
Roger Williams established a temporary trading post in the Wickford area in 1637, and four years later, Richard Smith built a trading post there as well, on land he acquired from the Narragansetts. He later occupied the building, known as Smith's Castle, with his family. It was burned during King Philip's War, and later rebuilt and expanded as a plantation. Today, Smith's Castle is owned by the Cocumscussoc Association and is open to the public. It serves as an example of the type of plantation house and grounds that existed along the Rhode Island shore, from Wickford to Westerly, in the 18th century.

Mackerel Cove, Jamestown





JAMESTOWN & NORTH KINGSTOWN



Marsh Meadows



Jamestown & North Kingstown

Jamestown

1. Spirketing Street

This right-of-way, at the end of Spirketing Street, consists of a path running alongside a neighboring driveway and a set of concrete steps leading down to a cobble beach. This is a great place to watch the sun set with great views of West Passage.

- CRMC ROW#: G-2

2. Garboard Street

This grassy, 10-foot-wide right-of-way at Pole 32 provides a short walk west from the end of Garboard Street and Seaside Drive. A path through some shrubs allows for access to a cobble beach overlooking the Jamestown Bridge.

- CRMC ROW#: G-11

3. Seaside Beach

This town property on the west end of Seaside Drive is a multi-use site, including a grassy picnic area, sandy beach, rock jetty for fishing, and a sandy boat ramp. The boat ramp is a great place to hand-launch craft. On-site parking is available for about 15 cars.

- Picnic tables/benches, swimming, toilets, trash receptacles



Gilbert Stuart Birthplace



Spirketing Street

4. Buccaneer Way

When traveling north on Seaside Drive, be on the lookout for this 15-foot-wide, grassy path to the water located between Dory Street and Champlin Way. Scuba diving is popular at this site.

- CRMC ROW#: G-9

5. Capstan Street

This right-of-way at the end of Capstan Street offers a grassy path down to a cobble shoreline.

- CRMC ROW#: G-12

6. Broad Street

At the end of Broad Street off East Shore Road, on the northeast end of Conanicut Island, is a right-of-way to a quiet, rocky beach with a spectacular view of upper Narragansett Bay and the entrance to Mount Hope Bay. In the early 1900s, this was the location of a steamboat landing for travel between Providence, Jamestown, and Newport.

- CRMC ROW#: G-1

- Fishing, trash receptacles

7. Carr Lane

Where Carr Lane joins East Shore Road is a public right-of-way that may be difficult to spot because there is no sign. A grassy path from East Shore Road leads about 20 yards through a clearing to a cobble beach, which offers a spectacular view of the Newport Bridge to the south and the Mount Hope Bridge to the north. This site is a suitable picnicking area for cyclists or hikers.

- CRMC ROW#: G-10

- Fishing

8. Decatur Avenue

A grassy, 20-foot-wide path extends east from the Decatur Avenue road end to a cobble beach overlooking the Newport Bridge.

- CRMC ROW#: G-13

- Fishing

9. Conanicut Island Sanctuary

Owned by the Conanicut Island Land Trust and located north of the Jamestown Police Station on Canonicus Avenue, this site offers well-maintained wooded trails out to the east side of Marsh Meadows, with scenic views of the marsh and the hills beyond. While there is no parking on site, parking is available with permission at the police station across the street.

10. Potter Cove/Taylor Point

Two different parking areas located just north of the Newport Bridge, off Bayview Drive, provide a very scenic view of the East Passage. A long, narrow beach hugging Potter Cove can be reached by stairs descending from one parking lot. Popular activities include scuba diving, windsurfing, kayaking, fishing, clamming, and picnicking on the shale rock outcrops surrounding the cove and reached from the easternmost parking lot.

- Trash receptacles

11. East Ferry

In the heart of downtown Jamestown is the site of the old landing for the Newport-Jamestown ferry, with a public fishing pier, a beach, a touch-and-go dock, and a boat ramp. The ramp is adequate, but there are "No Trailer Parking" signs posted. This area is close to stores, restaurants, and the commercial district of Jamestown. The town's harbor bustles with summer boating enthusiasts. There is a grassy commons with access along the waterfront for walking, jogging, or just sitting on the benches and observing the ships passing through the East Passage to the ports of Providence and Fall River. Public parking is available, but fills up quickly in the summer.

- Trash receptacles

Key to Primary Uses

-  Public Park
-  Path to Shore
-  Boating
-  Beach with Lifeguards
-  Wildlife Refuge
-  Scenic View
-  Fishing
-  Historic
-  Hiking



Conanicut Island Sanctuary



Buccaner Way



Seaside Beach & Boat Ramp



East Ferry

12. RIDEM Fish and Wildlife Marine Fisheries Center

This scenic site, adjacent to Fort Wetherill State Park, offers a path, located in front of the visitor parking area, out to bluffs overlooking cobble beaches. There is a pretty view of Aquidneck Island and lots of boat traffic. On the other side of the fisheries center is an accessible dock area that provides fishing access. Parking is available.

- Handicap access



RIDEM Marine Fisheries Center

13. Fort Wetherill State Park

This park is located on Fort Wetherill Road, off Walcott Avenue. In addition to the ruins of Fort Wetherill, much of this state facility consists of a grassy lawn with picnic tables and benches fringed by rock bluffs overlooking sheltered coves and cobble beaches. Several one-way roads wind about the park and lead to small parking lots with panoramic views of Narragansett Bay. Many footpaths lead to rocky outcrops that provide spectacular views from 50-foot-high bluffs. The park has an access point for scuba divers eager to view the outcrops from below sea level. This site also has a steep boat ramp in poor condition. Plenty of on-site parking is available.

- Handicap access, fishing, toilets



Beavertail State Park



Taylor Point

14. Mackerel Cove Beach

Situated at the head of a long cove, there is a sandy cobble beach, while the remainder of the cove has a rocky shore. This well-protected, shallow cove is ideal for family swimming. Boats and windsurfers are allowed only after 5 p.m. and during the off-season. On-site pay parking is available.

- Picnicking, concessions, toilets, trash receptacles



▲▼ Fort Wetherill State Park

15. Beavertail State Park

At the end of Beavertail Road, at the southern tip of Conanicut Island, is the site of Rhode Island's first lighthouse. It offers a spectacular vista of the Atlantic coastline. This peninsula park is bordered by a rocky shore acces-



sible through low brush or by stone stairs in numerous locations. Look out for breaking waves and slippery rocks close to the water. Fishing is good. Educational signs describe coastal habitats and ships that frequent the East Passage. The park is popular throughout the year as a place to observe the sea both in calm and stormy weather from the road that loops through the park. Ample on-site parking is available. The lighthouse museum is open from June to September, Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Handicap access, picnicking, hiking/walking, wildlife observation, toilets, trash receptacles

16. Conanicut Battery on Prospect Hill

This site, located off Beavertail Road on Battery Lane, was the location of an earthen gun battery during the Revolutionary War. In the 20th century, underground observation posts were added to help direct coastal batteries elsewhere in the West Passage of Narragansett Bay during World Wars I and II. Well-kept trails provide an easy walk around the site and out to beautiful views of the West Passage, with interpretive signs providing a self-guided tour. Parking is available.

- Picnicking, wildlife observation

17. Fort Getty

Located on Fort Getty Road off Beavertail Road, this recreation facility is the site of a World War I and World War II fortification to guard the entrance to Narragansett Bay. It is popular in the summer for camping, boating, fishing, and swimming. A total of 115 campsites are available—15 for tents, 100 for trailers. Windsurfers and small sailboats frequent this area. The town maintains an outhaul for tying up fishing boats and a boat ramp that is in good condition. There is a fee to use the ramp during the camping season. The outdoor pavilion and grills are available for group picnics with a permit. The rocky shore is inviting to the explorer and rock walker. Ample on-site parking is available. There is an entrance

fee in the summer, and advance reservations are recommended for camping and recreational vehicles.

- Dock, picnic tables/benches, hiking/walking, wildlife observation, toilets, trash receptacles

18. Fox Hill Salt Marsh

At the entrance to Fort Getty Park is an ASRI wildlife refuge of low-lying marshland. There is a good view of the entire refuge from atop the hills and ruins of Fort Getty across the street. Parking is available at Fort Getty (seasonal fee). Entry gained with permission of ASRI. The Kit Wright Nature Trail on the west side of the marsh provides access to the water.

19. Sheffield Cove Marsh

While parked at Mackerel Cove Beach, take a walk across the street and along one of several paths through the marsh grass for a beautiful view of both coves. Although the head of the cove is cobble, it is bordered by low marsh grass and may have many beautiful birds. Owned by ASRI, it is a place for birding, wildlife photography, and painting. No on-site parking is available.

- Fishing

20. West Ferry

At the end of Narragansett Avenue and adjacent to the Dutch Harbor boatyard, there is a long paved pier extending into Dutch Harbor. The southern side of the pier is accessible to the public by permit. The town provides well-maintained pilings, outhaul stringers, and transient moorings. There is no on-site boat ramp or dock. Sweeping views of Dutch Harbor, Fort Getty, Dutch Island, and the Jamestown Bridge to the north abound. No parking is available.

- Trash receptacles



Broad Street

21. Marsh Meadows Wildlife Preserve

Surrounding the east end of Great Creek Marsh is a wetland wildlife conservation area, rich in wading birds and ducks, with an osprey nesting pole. The marsh can be seen from North Main Road as it crosses over the marsh. ASRI owns the northern section of the marsh. No parking is available.

22. Watson Farm

Watson Farm, on North Main Road, is an 18th-century working farm, with cattle, sheep, horses, and a large vegetable garden. Run by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, the 280-acre farm offers self-guided hiking trails through pastures, hayfields, and woodlands out to the western shore of the island; group tours; and special events. Open Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., from June 1 through October 15. There is a small entrance fee. Parking is available.

23. Hull Street

This hard-to-spot right-of-way, situated at Pole 11 in a residential neighborhood, is located off Beach Avenue and is the first street south of the Jamestown Bridge. Look for an open grassy area. There is a very steep decline to a cobble beach that provides a spectacular view of the West Passage and the Jamestown Bridge.

- CRMC ROW#: G-7
- Fishing



West Ferry



Sheffield Cove Marsh

North Kingstown

24. Walmsley Lane

Located at the end of Walmsley Lane off Tower Hill Road/Route 1, this mostly wooded 5-acre parcel provides limited access to the Narrow River as well as access to the adjacent URI boat house. Access to this area is off a primitive dirt road with limited on-road parking. The primary use of this area is for the launching of kayaks, canoes, and other small, non-motorized watercraft. It also provides a unique opportunity to enjoy the scenic beauty of the Narrow River and its abundant wildlife.

25. Gilbert Stuart Birthplace

Located at the head of the tidal Narrow River on Gilbert Stuart Road, off Route 1A, this site is an operating 18th-century snuff mill, the first in America with a waterwheel. In early spring, herring swim up the Narrow River from the sea past the mill and into Carr Pond to spawn. Limited on-site parking is available. Open seasonally.

- Picnic tables/benches, wildlife observation, trash receptacles

26. Chafee Nature Preserve

Located off Boston Neck Road, the Chafee Nature Preserve, commonly referred to as Rome Point, consists of 230 acres of state-owned land traversed by a series of trails leading to Narragansett Bay. The town of North Kingstown holds a conservation easement over the land. The preserve is often host to harbor seals, who haul out on rocks in the water during winter months. There are also several archaeological and historic resources throughout the site. There is a fee for special group tours of the site (contact RIDEM). Parking is available.

- Fishing



Fox Hill Salt Marsh



Conanicut Battery



Pathway at Beavertail State Park



Fort Getty



Potter Cove/Taylor Point



Bissel Cove



North Kingstown Town Beach



Wickford Municipal Wharf



Intrepid Drive Boat Ramp

27. Bissel Cove

Located at the end of Worsley Avenue, this site allows users the opportunity to access Bissel Cove and Narragansett Bay by foot, bicycle, or boat. Navigation is difficult here because of the rocks close to shore. Otherwise, this is a quiet area offering a great location for canoeing, kayaking, and birding. Shellfishing on shore is prohibited. No parking is available.

- Fishing, hiking/walking

28. North Kingstown Town Beach

Located at the end of Beach Street, this is a pleasant place to picnic, to walk on the beach, or to swim in the roped-off area in the Bay. The sandy beach is long and narrow and backed by a 3-foot-high bulkhead. Just behind the beach is a large grassy area shaded by tall trees, with picnic tables, grills, and playground equipment. Across the street are the North Kingstown Senior Center, the Cold Spring Community Center, and the Wickford Art Association. During the summer, daytime parking is restricted to town residents.

- Handicap access, concessions, fishing, toilets, trash receptacles

29. Wickford Municipal Wharf

At the end of historic Main Street from Brown and West Main streets, this municipal wharf is situated among other commercial piers and hosts both commercial fishing and recreational boats. It is a pleasant

place to park and watch the activity of Wickford Harbor. There are also recreational fishing opportunities. There is no public launching facility here.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, toilets, trash receptacles

30. Wickford Municipal Dock

This site is located off Brown Street along the shoreline adjacent to the municipal parking lot. The town maintains 160 feet of transient docking facilities. A ramp leads from the waterfront park to the docks. A waterfront walkway parallels the shoreline and offers a great opportunity to enjoy the panorama of an active harbor.

- Picnicking

31. Pleasant Street

This site is located at the end of Pleasant Street, off Main Street. The right-of-way is situated between two privately owned establishments, Wickford Yacht Club and Pleasant Street Wharf. It is possible to launch small boats from this site. Limited parking is available.

32. Wilson Park

This town-owned park on West Main Street in Wickford contains a boat ramp, sports fields, basketball and tennis courts, a playground, and a short recreational path that winds around Mill Cove. Parking for trailered vehicles is available at the boat ramp at the end of Intrepid Drive.

- Dock, picnic tables/benches, wild-life observation, trash receptacles



Wickford Harbor

North Kingstown continued

East Greenwich

Incorporated in 1677 along the western shore of Narragansett Bay, East Greenwich, originally Green Town, was named after Greenwich County of Kent, England. The Old Kent County Courthouse, built in 1805, served as a seat of Rhode Island state government until 1854. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it is one of the five original state houses in Rhode Island and is recognized as one of the few surviving Federal/Georgian buildings of its size in the state. In the early 1990s it stood vacant and deteriorating, facing indefinite closure. Restoration began in 1993, and the courthouse was finally reopened as East Greenwich Town Hall in 1995.

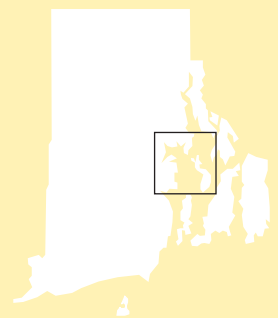
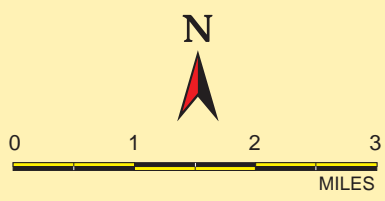
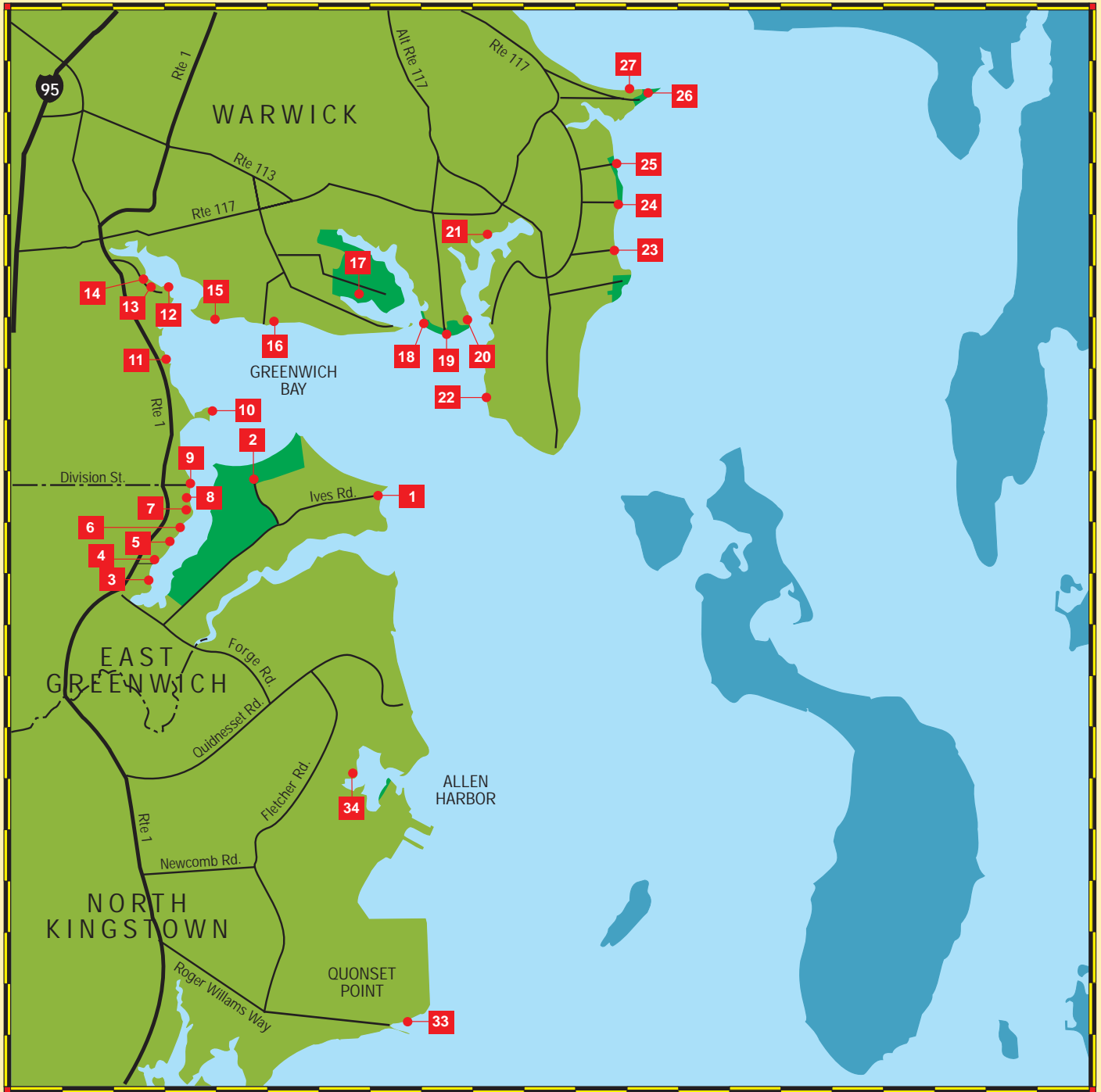
Warwick

Prior to the colonial settlement of Warwick, the land was occupied by the Cowesett, Shawomet, and Pawtuxet tribes, all members of the larger Narragansett Indian tribe. The Narragansetts traveled seasonally in the area, taking advantage of the rich natural resources of the Bay in the summer and upland resources in the winter. Samuel Gorton purchased Warwick from the Narragansetts, and the land was cleared for farms.

Warwick is a particularly rich area for studying the prehistoric people of southern New England. In the 1950s, several sites near Apponaug Cove in Warwick were excavated. Evidence of the people who settled there dates back 2,100 years. Prehistoric quahog shells and deer bones serve as evidence for the Narragansetts' hunting and gathering lifestyle.



Warwick continues on page 48.



East Greenwich Overlook

**NORTH KINGSTOWN,
EAST GREENWICH & WARWICK**

North Kingstown, Warwick & East Greenwich

North Kingstown

33. Compass Rose Beach

Located off Roger Williams Way in the Quonset-Davisville Port and Commerce Park, this area consists of an 800-linear-foot sandy beach owned by the R.I. Department of Transportation, leased by the R.I. Airport Corporation, and managed by the R.I. Economic Development Corporation. While only beach launches are allowed, the site is frequently utilized to launch small watercraft. In the summer, Compass Rose Beach is host to several races and other marine-related recreational activities. Parking is available.

- Swimming, fishing, hiking/walking

34. Allen Harbor Complex

Within the Quonset Point Industrial Park, Allen Harbor is a well-protected harbor and an ideal site for boaters. Many public amenities are offered at the town marina, including plenty of parking, bathrooms, and picnic benches. There is a concrete boat ramp available for a small entry fee. Parking is available.

- Dock, trash receptacles



Allen Harbor Complex ▼▲



Warwick

1. Potowomut Neck

Several rights-of-way run from Ives Road to Greenwich Bay. Located in a very quiet residential neighborhood, these sites are generally footpaths situated between private homes, offering no parking. Sandy Point Beach is located at the end of Ives Road, where there are approximately 12 parking spaces. Another alternative for the runner, bicyclist, or walker would be to park in Goddard State Park (about three miles away) before going to the area. Potowomut Neck offers many scenic vistas of Greenwich and Narragansett bays and the head of the Potowomut River. The rights-of-way located in this area are: Bradford Avenue, Elkins Avenue, Charlotte Drive and Sidney Avenue intersection, Charlotte Drive and Robert Avenue boat ramp, Charlotte Drive and Collins Avenue intersection, Charlotte Drive and Hopkins Avenue intersection, Beachwood Drive, Ives Road end, and Beachwood Drive and Baycliff Drive intersection.

2. Goddard State Park

Located on Ives Road, off Forge Road, this year-round facility is a wonderful park to escape to in the summer for swimming, in the fall for hiking/walking the trails, horseback riding, and observing the changing leaves, and in the winter for cross-country skiing. Situated on Greenwich Bay, the facility offers a number of activi-



East Greenwich Town Overlook ▼▲



ties. There is a public boat launch ramp (high tide only) and a fishing area with plenty of parking for trailered vehicles at the west end of the park, a public golf course, an equestrian park and trails, ball fields, a popular swimming beach, restrooms, and many picnic areas. There is also a concrete walk, extending the length of the beach, that is handicap accessible and includes benches and small gazebos providing shade from the sun. Special events, such as summer concert series, are offered at the park's performing arts center. Ample on-site parking is available.

- Wildlife observation, dock, trash receptacles

East Greenwich

3. Rocky Hollow Road Access at Crompton Avenue

Off Crompton Avenue, south of the Harbor Heights condominiums and next to a marina, is a public right-of-way to Greenwich Cove.

- CRMC ROW#: H-2

4. Bridge Street Access at Crompton Avenue

A wide, grassy strip just north of the Harbor Heights condominiums on Crompton Avenue, this public right-of-way offers pedestrians access to Greenwich Cove. There is no parking available.

- CRMC ROW#: H-5

5. East Greenwich Town Overlook and Boat Ramp

Situated off Water Street, next to the municipal transfer station, the municipal overlook and boat ramp offer both visual access and boating access to Greenwich Bay. Parking is available at the overlook, where you can reach the water's edge by a flight of stairs or at the boat ramp.

- Handicap access, dock, picnic tables/benches, fishing, trash receptacles

Key to Primary Uses



Public Park



Path to Shore



Boating



Beach with Lifeguards



Scenic View



Rocky Hollow Road Access ▼▲



Bridge Street Access



Long Street Access



Division Street Access



Barbara M. Tufts Playground



▼▲ Nausauket Road



▼▲ Arnold's Neck Park



Sylvia Drive



6. Barbara M. Tufts Playground

Off Water Street, just north of the municipal overlook, this town-owned play area offers fun for the kids and a spectacular view of Greenwich Cove and Goddard Park. Cement steps lead down to Greenwich Cove. Public parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: H-1
- Picnic tables/benches, trash receptacles



7. Long Street Access at Water Street

This right-of-way is located on Water Street among several marinas. No on-site parking is available, but parking is available on Queen Street.

- CRMC ROW#: H-3
- Trash receptacles



8. King Street Access at Water Street

A public right-of-way located off Water Street, just south of Division Street, King Street ends at Greenwich Cove. A seafood restaurant is located here. No parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: H-4
- Historic interest



9. Division Street Access at Water Street

This site is located next to the East Greenwich Yacht Club on Water Street. A five-minute walk from Main Street, this area is ideal for watching harbor activities. Goddard Park is located across the cove. Seafood restaurants are a short walk away.

- CRMC ROW#: H-6
- Picnic tables/benches, trash receptacles

Warwick



10. Chepiwanoxet Island

Though called Chepiwanoxet Island, this site is actually a peninsula located on the western shore of Greenwich Bay, halfway between Greenwich Cove and Apponaug Cove. Access to this 10-acre parcel, purchased by the city with help from the Champlin Foundation and The Nature Conservancy, is via Alger Road. The site is unimproved and offers sweeping views of Greenwich Bay proper. Parking is available.

- Wildlife observation



11. Masthead Drive

One block east of Post Road, this interesting area has a shipyard, marinas, restaurants, marine retail shops, and a scenic waterfront walk along Greenwich Bay. There is a small gravel path in front of one of the restaurants overlooking the marina, with a large picnic table available for picnickers who want to observe the activities of the marina and shipyard. On the south side of the marina, a rock jetty offers some protection from the waves and a good spot for rod-and-reel fishing. Plenty of parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: J-37
- Handicap access, dock, toilets, trash receptacles



12. Arnold's Neck Park

This site is a nice area for picnics and for observing the hawks, geese, and ducks in the fringing marsh across the cove. Parking is available for approximately 60 cars and trailers. There are picnic tables, a municipal dock, and a restaurant nearby.

- Handicap access, trash receptacles



13. Ray's Bait

Ray's Bait & Tackle owns this boat ramp on Arnold's Neck Drive, located off Route 1 and next to the bait shop. Parking is available. Fee.

- Dock, trash receptacles



14. Apponaug Cove

This is a well-protected cove located east of Post Road and east of the railroad track, in the northwestern part of Greenwich Bay. One of the town boat ramps is located here. The cove is busy with recreational and commercial boats, fishing boats, and sailboats. The waterfront has private and public docking facilities. Public docks and parking are located along the western side of the cove.

- Picnicking, wildlife observation, trash receptacles



15. Nausauket Road

This public access site, located at the southerly end of Nausauket Road, provides views from the northwest corner of Greenwich Bay. Parking is prohibited.

- CRMC ROW#: J-24



16. Sylvia Drive

This right-of-way is a 200-foot grassy path down a gradual slope to a sandy beach on Greenwich Bay. It is a great place to take a walk on the beach.

- CRMC ROW#: J-9
- Swimming



17. Warwick City Park

Located on Long Street, off West Shore Road (Route 117) about one-half mile east of Apponaug, this large city facility has much to offer, from basketball, tennis, and ball playing to secluded nature walks, a beach, and playgrounds. This is an excellent facility for the handicapped and those with bikes or strollers because there are benches and a boardwalk extending the length of the beach along Brush Neck Cove. The wetland areas at the ends of the beach are ideally suited for observing shore birds and other coastal wildlife. There are also many miles of trails for hiking/walking, running, or bicycling. There is a nominal entrance fee to the waterfront in the summer. Parking is available.

- Swimming, fishing, historic interest, toilets, trash receptacles

 **18. Seaview Beach**

This site is located at the west end of Suburban Parkway, off Oakland Beach Avenue, across Brush Neck Cove from City Park and adjacent to the tidal channel. Although this site is not well maintained, it is a popular local spot for soft-shell clam digging. Swimming is not advised because there are no lifeguards on duty and there are strong currents in this area. On-site parking is available behind the beach.

- Fishing, trash receptacles

 **19. Oakland Beach**

At the southern end of Oakland Beach Avenue, off Route 117 East, is a wide, sandy municipal beach on Greenwich Bay. The beach extends about 900 feet along the shore and provides a shallow swimming area with lifeguards on duty in the summer. The shoreline is engineered, as evidenced by the rock groins, and designed to contain sand and prevent erosion. These structures provide the visitor with an added opportunity to walk along the rocks, to look for intertidal creatures, or to cast a line for fish. There are also a grassy commons area, a ball field, nearby concessions, and toilets available in the summer. Two concrete boat ramps and a handicapped-accessible dock are available. There is a nominal parking fee during the summer.

- Picnic tables/benches, trash receptacles

 **20. One Bay Avenue Restaurant**

One Bay Avenue Restaurant offers a boat ramp and dock and is located on Suburban Parkway. Parking is available. Fee.

- Trash receptacles



Longmeadow Fishing Area

 **21. Wharf Marina**

Wharf Marina is located on Wharf Road in Warwick Cove and offers a boat ramp in excellent condition. Parking is available. Fee.

- Dock, toilets, trash receptacles

 **22. Narragansett Bay Avenue**

The road/right-of-way on the western end of Narragansett Bay Avenue runs approximately 500 feet from the corner of Crawford Avenue to the shore of Greenwich Bay. Parking is prohibited.

- CRMC ROW#: J-28

 **23. Ogden Avenue Extension**

Located in a quiet residential neighborhood between two private homes, at the intersection of Ogden Avenue and Burnett Drive, this site has a steep boat ramp best suited for launching smaller boats at high tide. There are "No Parking" signs posted on-site.

- CRMC ROW#: J-38
- Fishing

 **24. Longmeadow Fishing Area**

At the end of Samuel Gorton Avenue, this long, rocky beach is a good area for walking. There is a boat ramp in poor condition. Limited parking is available.

- Trash receptacles

 **25. Bayside Beach**

Located at the end of Pender Avenue, between Conimicut Point and Longmeadow Beach, Bayside Beach is situated in a quiet residential area. This site is best suited for beach walking along the cobbles and rocky shore and observing the Warwick Lighthouse in the distance.

- Trash receptacles



Goddard State Park



Warwick City Park



Oakland Beach



26. Conimicut Point Recreation Area

This multipurpose recreation area has boat access (Shawomet Boat Ramp), fishing spots, picnic areas, several rights-of-way, and wonderful views of Narragansett Bay. The city park is located at the tip of Point Avenue and is well identified with directional signs. The point extends as a sandy spit jutting out into Narragansett Bay towards Conimicut Lighthouse. On the north side of the point are the Shawomet Avenue rights-of-way and the Bellman Avenue right-of-way. On the south side of the point, a bit more isolated and protected from boat wakes, is a sandy beach ideal for sunbathing. The rotary at the

point provides limited parking close to the beach and there is also an unmarked ramp for handicap access to the paved walk around the rotary, the beach, and the grassy picnic area. Restrooms and ample additional parking are about 200 yards from here. The park is closed between sunset and sunrise. Shellfishing north of the park on the point is prohibited due to pollution.

- Picnic tables/benches, swimming, trash receptacles



27. Shawomet Boat Ramp

At the end of Shawomet Avenue, off Stokes Street and adjacent to Conimicut Point Recreation Area on upper Narragansett Bay, this sandy boat ramp is suitable for hand-carried boats or for trailered boats with four-wheel-drive vehicles. There is parking available for approximately 15 trailered vehicles.

- Fishing



Warwick City Park

Warwick continued

Cranston

In 1638, Roger Williams purchased what is now the eastern part of Cranston from the Narragansett Indians. The town was named for Samuel Cranston, governor from 1698 until 1727.

Cranston was incorporated as a town in 1754. Its early industry was mainly textiles. As the Industrial Revolution took hold, immigrants from Ireland, Italy, Canada, Germany, Sweden, Greece, and Armenia arrived to work in the mills.

For nearly 100 years, Cranston also served as home to Rhode Island's famous Narragansett Brewery. In 1888, six local businessmen organized the Narragansett Brewing Company with a brewmaster from Berlin, Germany. The company constructed a brick brewing house and produced its first beer in December 1890. The Narragansett Brewing Company was situated on New Depot Avenue, Cranston Street, and Garfield Avenue. The brewery closed for good in 1983 due to high production costs.

Providence

The worst hurricane to hit New England in recorded history struck on September 21, 1938. People in Providence found themselves in the midst of a devastating storm virtually without warning. The so-called "Florida cyclone" killed some 600 people in New England and did at least \$306 million in damage in 1938 dollars (about \$3.5 billion today). The storm's intensity, direction, and timing combined to flood Providence with a 20-foot storm surge.

The flood and the fear of similar future events prompted calls for restricting the ocean's ability to flow into the Providence River. Another severe hurricane struck in 1954, and construction on the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier began in 1960 and was completed in 1966. Located 750 feet upstream from Fox Point in Providence, where the Providence River flows into the Narragansett Bay, the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier serves two central functions. First, it serves to retard high tides from potential storm surges in Narragansett Bay, and second, it maintains river flow so that water levels do not get too high behind the barrier. The barrier can be seen from Corliss Landing (see page 49).

Pawtucket

During the late 18th century, Rhode Island pioneered the Industrial Revolution thanks in large part to Samuel Slater, who introduced textile-manufacturing technology to the United States. In 1790, Slater established his first mill—one of the first factories in the United States—on the Blackstone River. Three years later, in Pawtucket, he built Slater Mill, the first American factory to successfully produce cotton yarn with water-powered machines. Other mills were soon established throughout Rhode Island and New England. By the first half of the 19th century, there were more than 100 mills in Rhode Island that employed thousands of men, women, and children. Today, visitors can tour Slater Mill and meet costumed interpreters who explain and demonstrate what life was like as America began moving from the farm to the factory (see page 50).

East Providence

East Providence was first settled by Roger Williams and his followers in 1636, after he had been banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. When, only months after arriving there, Williams was informed that the area was actually in Massachusetts, he was forced to move again to the area now occupied by the city of Providence. East Providence continued to be part of Massachusetts for over 200 years until 1861 when the U.S. Supreme Court ordered that its boundary line be relocated to fall within the borders of Rhode Island.

Designing Providence's Riverfront Revival

Twenty years ago, the once-meandering rivers of downtown Providence had become, essentially, a set of pipes. Over them squatted "the widest bridge in the world," a deck of roadways featuring the rotary known as Suicide Circle. The lower Woonasquatucket and Moshassuck rivers—along with their confluence, the upper Providence River—were almost completely hidden beneath a sea of asphalt.

In early 1982, William D. Warner, a planner and architect, proposed a study that would look at reconnecting Providence with its lost waterfronts. The timing was fortunate, as the R.I. Department of Transportation was just beginning a project to relocate the railroad downtown. "So you can see we were under the gun," said Warner during an interview at his office, a renovated mill in Exeter, R.I. "They're already building this thing, and we're getting funding to commence a study."

In 1983, Warner's firm, William D. Warner Architects & Planners, embarked on the project with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Providence Foundation, and the R.I. Department of Transportation. From the outset, the study included public participation workshops. "That was key," said Warner, "because the people didn't even know where their rivers were. I said, 'Look, folks, it doesn't have to be this way.'"

"We began to develop a groundswell of interest to uncover the rivers," he continued, "to make them accessible. At the same time, we solved the traffic problem, which made it a real project because the funding came from the Federal Highway Administration to build it." The state's transportation planners recognized the value of the proposal and, by late 1984, approved a \$60-million project to unearth the rivers and extend Memorial Drive, improving traffic flow through the downtown. Construction was completed 12 years later, in 1996.

Warner designed 12 low, graceful, arched bridges to span Providence's reborn rivers and designed Waterplace Park and Riverwalk. Now one can rent a kayak, ride a Venetian gondola, dine overlooking the river, or simply stroll along the water's edge. Since completion of the project, more than a million people have attended Barnaby Evans' WaterFire, an occasional installation of flaming torches and surreal music on the rivers. Many of these visitors were



undoubtedly unaware that the watercourses were all but lost just two decades ago.

In 1990, Warner's firm turned its attention to the state's next major transportation undertaking: rebuilding Interstate 195. Warner again teamed up with the Providence Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts and developed the Old Harbor Plan, which proposed moving the highway seaward of the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier.

State transportation planners approved the proposal, and construction has begun on the project, which will uncover 45 acres of waterfront land in downtown Providence for use as parks, streets, and for private development. The project includes the extension of the Riverwalk to Fox Point, improving the pedestrian connection between downtown and India Point Park. Warner's vision will, once again, reunite a part of Providence with a vital element of the city's heritage—Narragansett Bay.

—By Tom Ardito, Editor, *Narragansett Bay Journal*, and Outreach and Policy Coordinator, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

This article first appeared in the Narragansett Bay Journal, available on-line at www.nbep.org/journal/.



Providence Riverwalk



A Century of Change: Providence Harbor Shorelines

Over the course of the 20th century, about 350 acres of coastal waters along the edges of the Providence River were filled for shipping, roadways, and industry. The map on the left shows that, by 1894, the shoreline of downtown Providence had largely been filled, but the banks of the lower Providence River were still largely natural, except for the construction of rail lines. Salt marshes and tidal creeks occupied the edges of Watchemoket Cove in East Providence and the now-forgotten Corliss Cove in south Providence. The 1987 map on the right shows that, in less than 100 years, these natural shorelines were completely buried beneath shipyards, oil tanks, the state's largest wastewater treatment plant, and a strip joint or two.

The same kinds of changes, on a lesser scale, have transformed shorelines all around Narragansett Bay. From Quonset Point to Fall River, salt marshes, coastal ponds, and shallow waters have been filled to build wharves, naval bases, and highways, to dispose of mud from channel dredging, and to protect houses and roads from storms. The pace of change slowed greatly after 1972, when the Clean Water Act gave federal and state governments the ability to protect wetlands and water by limiting dredge-and-fill operations.

In the 21st century, some of Narragansett Bay's shorelines may begin moving in the opposite direction, migrating landward as sea level rises. More likely, this trend will lead to increased demand for engineering measures—like seawalls and shoreline fill—to protect coastal property from the rising sea.

—By Tom Ardito, Editor, *Narragansett Bay Journal*, and
Outreach and Policy Coordinator, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

This article first appeared in the Narragansett Bay Journal, available on-line at www.nbep.org/journal/.

1894



1987



Bringing Back the Blackstone

"Back then," laughs Bob Billington, recalling the early days of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, "you couldn't say 'Blackstone Valley' and 'tourism' in the same sentence without getting a big guffaw."

Nobody's laughing now. Since its formation in the early 1980s, Billington has built the tourism council from a shoestring organization into an internationally recognized leader in "urban ecotourism." Perhaps more important from Billington's perspective is the change that the council has brought about: an entirely new appreciation for the Blackstone River among the communities that line its banks in northern Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. Early on, it took some doing.

"I spoke with every Rotary, Lions, and Kiwanis Club, every mayor and city council in the Blackstone Valley," he remembers, in an effort to convince them that the Blackstone River could be an asset to their hard-scrabble mill towns.

Their initial skepticism was understandable. Just 30 or 40 years ago, the Blackstone, sometimes called "the hardest working river in America," was nearly dead, a fetid conduit for waste and a source of hydropower, with little biological value. But passage of the federal Clean Water Act in 1972 regulated discharges from factories and city sewers; by the 1980s, the Blackstone, while still a far cry from an alpine stream, was improving.

The time was ripe for Billington's message. Slowly—more by dint, one suspects, of his persistent enthusiasm than anything else—it began to take hold. In 1986, Sen. John Chafee spurred the creation of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, a "special type of national park...to preserve and interpret...the unique and significant value of the Blackstone Valley," according to the National Parks Service, which administers it. The bill provided funding through the heritage corridor to improve the natural and cultural resources of the Blackstone: in 2002, roughly \$1 million in grants. The heritage corridor and the tourism council were natural partners, and Billington was appointed to serve on the commission established to guide the work of the corridor.

In 1989, Billington hatched another implausible scheme—to get people out in boats on the Blackstone River. He contacted Luther Blount, a prominent shipbuilder in Warren. As it turned out, Blount's grandparents had met while working at Slater Mill in Pawtucket. Billington met Blount on the banks of the Blackstone to share his vision of tourboats on the river and seek his advice.

"Luther said, 'I think you can do it,'" Billington recalls. "He said, 'I've got a couple of boats, I use them on the Carribean in the winter, they don't do anything in the summer—why don't you lease them from me?' They were glass-bottom boats. We used to say it was the shopping-cart-and-rusty-oil-drum tour!"

By any name, the venture was "an overwhelming success," says Billington. "People actually wanted to get out on the river." The tourism council's weekend tours sold out at \$7.50 a head. Even today, Billington seems astonished at the public enthusiasm for those first river tours. "My view of the Blackstone growing up was just foam and suds—it was just awful," he recalls. "Now you hear people say, 'I've lived to see the Blackstone come back.'"

—By Tom Ardito, Editor, *Narragansett Bay Journal*, and Outreach and Policy Coordinator, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

This article originally appeared in the Narragansett Bay Journal, available online at www.nbep.org/journal/.



Slater Mill



In 1993, the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council launched the 33-foot Blount-built *Blackstone Valley Explorer*, a 49-passenger aluminum-hulled vessel powered by twin 25-horsepower outboards.

"We nicknamed it 'The Convincer' because it's the boat we used to convince people that the Blackstone was worth saving," says Billington. "Many of them were public officials. They'd get out on the river and their blood pressure would go down. Senators would go back to Washington and say, 'I've been on the river.'" To date, 175,000 passengers have gained a new perspective of the Blackstone from the deck of the *Explorer*.

A crane lifts the *Explorer* over dams, allowing it to work different areas of the river. The council's ecologist, Tammy Gilpatrick, leads on-board nature tours for school groups, engaging the kids in hands-on water-quality testing and teaching them about pollution issues as well as the natural history of the river. The *Explorer* also takes children and adults on river history tours, with trained guides to help passengers understand 300 years of changes along the Blackstone.

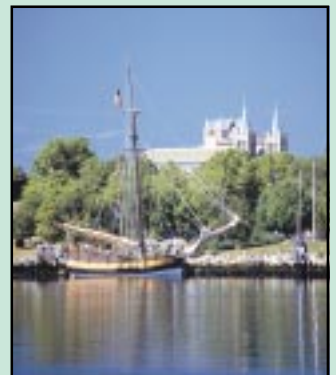
In 2000, an English canal boat, the *Samuel Slater*, was added to the fleet. The *Slater* is a kind of floating B&B that offers overnight trips in the Lonsdale area in Lincoln, perhaps the prettiest and most natural reach of the lower Blackstone. "People come from all over the country to sleep on the Blackstone River," says Billington, still slightly amazed. A 20-foot pontoon boat, the *Spirit of the Blackstone Valley*, also runs tours of the Blackstone Gorge on the Rhode Island-Massachusetts border.



For information on the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council's riverboat tours, call (401) 724-2200 (www.tourblackstone.com).



**WARWICK, CRANSTON,
PROVIDENCE, PAWTUCKET
& EAST PROVIDENCE**



India Point Park

Warwick, Cranston, Providence, Pawtucket & East Providence

Warwick

29. Gaspee Point Drive

This right-of-way at the end of Gaspee Point Drive provides a concrete slab boat ramp and access to Narragansett Bay. Parking is available for eight trailered vehicles.

- CRMC ROW#: J-22
- Trash receptacles

30. George B. Salter Grove

Off the scenic Narragansett Parkway, at the end of Landon Road, this state park overlooks Narragansett Bay and has several grassy knolls ideally suited for picnicking. There is a dirt ramp leading to a well-protected cove, best suited to launching small boats at high tide. The park has picnic tables and plenty of parking. This site is unsafe for swimming due to poor water quality.

- Fishing, hiking/walking, trash receptacles



George B. Salter Grove



Seaview Park

Cranston

1. Aborn Street Boat Ramp

A concrete ramp is located off Broad Street, at the end of Aborn Street. However, it is usable only at high tide, because the entire cove is navigable only at high tide. Although no parking is permitted in the immediate area, there is parking for more than 20 cars at the nearby city-owned Commercial Street parking lot.

- CRMC ROW#: K-2

2. Seaview Park

Located on a cul-de-sac at the end of Seaview Avenue, this small park overlooks historic Pawtucket Cove. The area is enclosed on three sides with a three-rail wood fence and has a picnic table and park benches. There is no parking on the cul-de-sac.

- CRMC ROW#: K-3
- Trash receptacles

3. Ocean Avenue

At the foot of Ocean Avenue, next to the Rhode Island Yacht Club, five steps in a concrete seawall lead to a beach that is accessible only at low tide.

- Scenic view

4. Stillhouse Cove

A grassy strip at the southern end of Narragansett Boulevard overlooks the Rhode Island Yacht Club, Stillhouse Cove, and the Providence River. There is an unmarked asphalt boat ramp in poor condition leading to the Providence River. The ramp is situated on a muddy, rocky shore and is usable only at extreme high tides. The town plans to construct a concrete, 15-foot-wide concrete ramp by 2005. No on-street parking is available.

- Picnicking, wildlife observation

5. Arnold Avenue

Arnold Avenue ends in a small grassy area. In spite of a chain link fence on top of the concrete seawall, this is a pleasant spot to bring a lunch and enjoy the view of the river.

Providence

6. Collier Point Park

This site, owned by Narragansett Electric Company, is on Henderson Street and is open from dawn to dusk. Parking is available.

- Trash receptacles

7. Waterplace Park

This 4-acre park features a 240-foot-diameter pond and reconstructed riverwalk in the heart of downtown Providence along the historic waterfront. This site hosts outdoor concerts and, on spring, summer, and early fall evenings, is also the location of WaterFire, an installation by artist Barnaby Evans that centers around a series of 100 bonfires that blaze just above the surface of the three rivers that pass through the middle of downtown Providence.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, concessions, trash receptacles

8. Corliss Landing

Corliss Landing is a small city park on South Water Street with several benches facing the Providence River, the Narragansett Electric Plant, and the hurricane barrier that was built to protect downtown Providence from flooding during a hurricane. The park is surrounded by shops and restaurants of the Old Harbor District and is close to downtown Providence. Only streetside parking is available.

- Hiking/walking, trash receptacles



Corliss Landing

Key to Primary Uses



Public Park



Path to Shore



Boating



Scenic View



Fishing



Historic



Stillhouse Cove



Ocean Avenue



Aborn Street Boat Ramp



India Point Park

9. India Point Park

This city park on India Street offers views of downtown Providence and the city's working waterfront. A bulkhead provides protection for asphalt paths and grassy areas for jogging, walking, and playing ball. India Point Park is a pleasant place to bring a lunch and enjoy a view of the Providence River from one of the many wooden benches or picnic tables. The dock for the Block Island Ferry is also located here. Parking is available.

- Handicap access, trash receptacles



Max Read Field

10. Richmond Square Parking Lot

This parking lot at the end of Pitman Street offers no facilities but has a scenic view of the Seekonk River. A 10-foot-high bluff makes this a possible fishing spot. Several steep paths make it possible to access the cobble shoreline.

- Hiking/walking



Richmond Square Parking Lot

11. Blackstone Park

This 40-acre city park has 2,400 feet of shore frontage on the Seekonk River. It is located on the East Side of Providence, just north of Richmond Square, at the end of Waterman Street. The park is equipped with benches, picnic tables, and trash facilities. Winding paths and streets provide pleasant routes for jogging, fishing, and bicycling. Parking is limited to roadside spaces.

- Wildlife observation



▲▼ Blackstone Park



Pawtucket Town Landing

Pawtucket

12. Max Read Field

This athletic field complex is located on Pleasant Street next to Francis J. Varieur Elementary School. The 13.8-acre site contains football, baseball, and softball fields, and a quarter-mile running track. Beyond the playing fields are a few benches and a steep set of stairs leading to the banks of the Seekonk River. Concessions and restrooms are open only during games. On-site parking is available.

- Fishing, hiking/walking, trash receptacles

13. Pawtucket Town Landing

This boat-launching ramp is located on Taft Street beneath the Division Street bridge. This is a great place to launch a boat into the Seekonk River or to relax on a bench. Off-street parking for boat trailers is available both across the street and just south of the ramp.

- Handicap access, dock, fishing, historic interest, trash receptacles

14. Slater Mill Historic Site

Located on the Blackstone River at the head of Narragansett Bay, this National Historic Landmark includes three historic buildings, a dam, a power canal, and a riverside park. Old Slater Mill (1793) was the first factory in America to manufacture cotton yarn with water-powered machines. Today, the mill museum includes the original historic mill, operating textile machinery in the Wilkinson Mill (circa 1810), and a restored residence, the Sylvanus Brown House. The museum provides self-guided tours with interpretations done by staff at each of the three buildings. An adjacent visitors' center contains a theater, a gift shop, and information on both the Slater Mill and the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. The museum is open every day during the summer and on weekends in the spring and fall. Nearby, the riverside Hodgson Rotary Park is a scenic spot for a picnic. Take exit 27 off I-95 and

follow signs. Parking is available. Fee.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, hiking/walking, toilets, trash receptacles

15. School Street Pier

A steep cobblestone road leads from School Street (Route 114) to this facility on the Seekonk River, owned by the city of Pawtucket. The pier is currently used primarily for fishing, though there is a cement boat ramp in fair condition. Plenty of on-site parking is available. The city plans to develop a riverfront park on this 7-acre waterfront site.

- Handicap access

16. Metropolitan Park

Also known as the Seekonk River Reservation, this 15.8-acre park is the site of the Pawtucket Boys' and Girls' Club on School Street (Route 114). A small amount of the acreage is wooded, and the remainder of the site contains tennis courts, two baseball diamonds, and a soccer field. A paved walk leads around the ball fields to a scenic sitting area above the Seekonk River. The site commands a nice view of the Swan Point and Riverside cemeteries across the water. Access to the water is dangerous, as there are no steps or paths down the steep slope. Ample parking makes this municipal site a spot to have lunch, relax, enjoy the river, and play ball.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, historic interest



School Street Pier



Metropolitan Park

East Providence

17. John Lewis Park

This small waterfront park has views to India Point and the Seekonk River and is located adjacent to East Providence Yacht Club at the terminus of Mauran Avenue at Pier Road. Parking is available.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, trash receptacles

18. Bold Point Park

This city park on the east side of the Providence River has a good boat ramp and a sturdy dock. The 2.1-acre park is nicely landscaped and has a great view of the Providence waterfront. Plenty of on-site parking is available. Located on Pier Road, just south of Exit 4 from I-195. Fishing is prohibited.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, trash receptacles

19. Veterans' Memorial Parkway

The west side of the parkway has three separate parking areas, all on bluffs, with sweeping views of the Providence River and the Providence waterfront. These scenic overlooks are ideal spots to park your car and eat lunch. Further south on the parkway, Squantum Woods Park offers picnic areas and trails that overlook a coastal cove and tidal marsh. These park areas are connected by the East Bay Bicycle Path.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, trash receptacles



Providence Avenue Playground

20. East Bay Bicycle Path—Riverside Square Leg

This popular state bike path currently starts at India Point Park in Providence and passes through East Providence, Barrington, Warren, and Bristol along the old railroad bed. There is a small park just off the bike path at Vintner Avenue consisting of a tot lot, basketball court, and picnic tables. Parking is available.

- Handicap access, concessions, wildlife observation, trash receptacles

21. Sabin Point Park

Located at the end of Shore Road, this waterfront park commands sweeping views of the upper Bay. Facilities include a boat ramp, dock, lighted basketball courts, a tot lot, covered picnic tables, and plenty of on-site parking.

- Fishing, hiking/walking, trash receptacles

22. Providence Avenue Playground

Located on Providence Avenue, which begins at Crescent View Avenue across from Crescent Park, on the north end of Bullock Cove, this park has a baseball diamond and basketball courts. The waterfront area of the park has not been developed, but there are wooded paths at the far end of the parking lot leading to the shore. Plenty of on-site parking is available.

- Picnic tables/benches, trash receptacles

23. Beach Road Extension

This city right-of-way on the North end of Bullock Point has a long sandy beach that is well suited for walking, but is presently deemed to be unsafe for swimming, due to bacteria levels in upper Narragansett Bay.

- Trash receptacles

24. Crescent Park

This city park is on the site of the former Crescent Amusement Park, a favorite summertime stop for steamboats loaded with city residents during the 1890s. The only ride remaining is the Loeff Carousal, circa 1895. The park features plenty of on-site parking. The carousel runs noon to 9 p.m. from Wednesday through Sunday in the summer. Access to the park is from Crescent View Avenue.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, concessions, toilets, trash receptacles

25. Rose Larisa Memorial Park

This 10.6-acre city park is located across the street from Crescent Park, on the west side of Bullock Point Avenue, overlooking Narragansett Bay. It features walking trails, benches, picnic areas, lawns, scenic overlooks, landscaping, and a 1,280-foot public beach, accessible by two wooden staircases, and is open from Easter to Columbus Day. Parking is available.

- Trash receptacles

26. Bullock Cove Access

This site on Carousel Drive offers a grass path down to a marsh area on Bullock Cove. Though no parking is available, it is a short walk from the Loeff Carousal and its parking lot.

- Wildlife observation



Bold Point Park



Veterans' Memorial Parkway



Beach Road Extension



Sabin Point Park



Crescent Park

Salt Marsh

Most of what you see in a salt marsh is grass of the genus *Spartina*—cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) near the water, and salt-marsh hay (*Spartina patens*) above the level of the average tides. Going inland, there are zones dominated by spike grass, black grass, and switch grass, with reeds and cattails where freshwater creeks enter the marsh. Finally, above the highest tides, is a belt of shrubs, including bayberry. At the base of the grasses growing in the flooded part of the marsh are found algae in the form of filaments or tiny diatoms.

The salt-marsh ecosystem is actually created, in part, by the plants that make up the bulk of the living things found there. The cordgrass is known as a pioneer species, which colonizes bare mud flats. Blades of dead cordgrass accumulate among the live plants, held by stems and roots, trapping sediments to form a layer of peat. Layers of peat eventually accumulate to raise the landward part of the salt marsh to the high-tide level. Salt-marsh hay can then begin to grow on the higher ground, protected from constant flooding by the tides. Peat forms from the salt-marsh hay as well, further raising the level of the marsh so that the landward edges are protected from flooding by all but the highest storm-driven tides.

The plant community supports an animal community by providing both food and shelter. Parts of the grasses are eaten by insects, while diatoms and filamentous algae are consumed by tiny worm-like and shrimp-like creatures, as well as fish like mummichog and sheepshead minnow, and mollusks, such as snails and mussels. These, in turn, are eaten by crabs such as the fiddler crab, cancer crab, blue crab, lady crab, and horseshoe crab—which really is more closely related to spiders than to crabs. Birds, such as herons, ducks, terns, and plovers, feed on fish, crabs, and worms, as well as on the seeds of the grasses. Mammals are represented by mice, shrews, raccoons, skunks, minks, and weasels.

This is the salt-marsh ecosystem, a community of plants and animals controlled by the tide.

—By Jim Donaldson, former URI oceanography graduate student. This article first appeared in *A Guide to Rhode Island's Natural Places*.



Barrington

Before the Pilgrims landed, Barrington was occupied by the Wampanoag Indians. In 1632, a trading post was established at Tyler Point near the present Barrington Yacht Club. What is now called Barrington was then called by its Indian names, Sowams and Pokanoket.

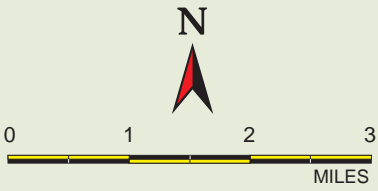
In 1653, the early Pilgrims purchased the land from the Wampanoags; Massasoit, a chief of the Wampanoag tribe, was paid 35 pounds in return. Myles Standish received much of the land in West Barrington north of the present Rhode Island Country Club, although he chose not to live there. Standish called the area “The Garden of the Plymouth Patent and the Flower of the Garden” because of its fertile soil and scenic location.

Barrington became part of Rhode Island in 1746, and was incorporated in 1770. In the 1790s, salt works were established here for evaporation of the waters of Narragansett Bay.

Warren

Warren, like Tiverton, was given to Rhode Island from Massachusetts in the settlement of a boundary dispute in 1746, and was incorporated as a town the following year. The town was named after Admiral Sir Peter Warren, who commanded the British fleet that cooperated with the New England troops in the capture of the fortress of Louisberg. The town was pillaged and partially burned by Hessian troops during the Revolutionary War. In the early days, Warren held its place in world commerce mostly by shipbuilding. Its plentiful water supply from the Warren and Kickamuit rivers, together with its location on Narragansett Bay, soon helped to make it a thriving industrial center.





BARRINGTON & WARREN

Barrington & Warren

Barrington

1. Haines Memorial Park

The 73-acre state park is ideal for boat launching, fishing, picnicking, and playing ball. Ample parking is available on both sides of the park, which straddles Narragansett Avenue. The boat ramp, in excellent condition, offers access to Bullock Cove, which has several full-service marinas. This is a good place to park for access to the East Bay Bicycle Path. No fishing is permitted from the dock.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, hiking/walking, toilets, trash receptacles

2. Allen Avenue

This public right-of-way is located at the end of Allen Avenue next to the Cove Haven Marina. Access to the water is obstructed by debris and marsh vegetation.

3. Bay Spring Avenue

Located at the end of Bay Spring Avenue, this public right-of-way overlooks Bullock Cove and has a boat ramp in poor condition that is used by shellfishermen. No parking is available.

4. Woodbine Avenue

A public right-of-way is located at the end of the avenue on Bullock Cove. There is no boat access to the water, but the site makes for a scenic picnic spot.

5. Latham Park

This small town park is open to the public until 9 p.m., when car traffic is prohibited. The park has a nice view of the entrance to Bullock Cove and has an open grassy field ideal for kite flying. Parking is available.

- Picnic tables/benches, hiking/walking, wildlife observation, trash receptacles

Latham Park

6. Willow Way

This public right-of-way includes 500 feet of beach that is considered unsafe for swimming. Located at the end of Willow Way, the beach area overlooks upper Narragansett Bay. A wetland behind the beach provides excellent bird watching opportunities.

- Hiking/walking

7. Annawamscutt Road

This road ends at the shore in a pleasant area of crushed shells and sand, with a grand view of upper Narragansett Bay. Roadside parking is prohibited. Water is unappealing and unfit for swimming.

- Hiking/walking

8. Appian Way

Owned by the Barrington Land Conservation Trust, this site, though well disguised as a private drive, is a 50-foot dirt path leading to Narragansett Bay. There is a small point with a pleasant sandy area on one side and a wetland on the other. This site is great for bird watching. No roadside parking is available.

- Hiking/walking

9. Nayatt/Daunis Road

This scenic right-of-way consists of a path along Mussachuck Creek that leads to a cobble beach on Narragansett Bay. There is no on-street parking.

- CRMC ROW#: P-2
- Fishing, hiking/walking

10. Elm Lane

A public right-of-way on the south end of Elm Lane, this site commands a nice view of Narragansett Bay and has a bulkhead well suited for fishing. No parking is available.



11. Watson, Clark, Bluff, and Waterway Extensions

These four street ends are parallel to each other and all lead to the extension of Barrington Beach. Watson, Clark, Bluff, and Waterway all have trash facilities, but parking is prohibited on all four streets.

- Swimming, hiking/walking

12. Barrington Town Beach

This is a long, sandy beach with commanding views of Narragansett Bay. Lifeguard hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily in the summer season. There are showers and restrooms at the site. During the summer, the municipal beach is restricted to town residents who have paid the permit fee. The beach is, however, open to anyone in the off-season. Parking is available.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, hiking/walking, trash receptacles

13. Barrington Police Station Boat Ramp

This boat ramp is located on the Barrington River just north of Barrington Harbor. Boat ramp and trailer parking are available for town residents with permit. The ramp is adjacent to the East Bay Bicycle Path. Fee.

- Hiking/walking, trash receptacles

14. Veterans' Memorial Park

A 200-acre town park is located next to the YMCA and surrounds Brick Yard Pond. The pond is very shallow and only suitable for canoes, rowboats, and shallow-draft sailboats. The park is a great spot for such activities as fishing, jogging, and bird watching. Open from sunrise to sunset. Parking is available.

- Picnic tables/benches, trash receptacles

Key to Primary Uses

	Public Park
	Path to Shore
	Boating
	Beach with Lifeguards
	Wildlife Refuge
	Scenic View
	Fishing



Haines Memorial Park



Appian Way



Barrington Town Beach



Allen Avenue



Walker Farm

15. Walker Farm

This 30-acre town park includes a boat ramp and a dock that is suited for fishing. It is located off County Road and overlooks the west side of Hundred Acre Cove. Parking is available.

- Trash receptacles



Osamequin Nature Trails

16. Osamequin Nature Trails and Bird Sanctuary

Two to three miles of trails wind through the sanctuary adjacent to Hundred Acre Cove and bordering wetlands, making this an ideal place for observing migratory waterfowl and shore birds. No hunting, camping, fires, or swimming is allowed in this town-owned sanctuary. Parking is for town residents only, by permit.



Knockum Hill Reserve

17. Knockum Hill Reserve

This town-owned nature reserve is home to endangered bird species and diamondback terrapin, and therefore several restrictions apply: No vehicles, hunting, horseback riding, or firearms are allowed on the site. A quarter-mile walk down a dirt road leads to an overgrown wooded area that eventually leads down to the water. A number of trails make this a good place for walking and bird watching. Access may be gained from George Street on the Barrington/Swansea border. No parking is available.

- Fishing



Juniper Street

18. Acre Avenue

Located on Hundred Acre Cove, this public right-of-way has an overgrown 50-yard path that crosses wetlands before reaching the water. The site is ideal for bird watching and shell-fishing.

19. Juniper Street

The end of this road is a public right-of-way and a shellfishing spot.



Wamsetta Avenue

20. Wamsetta Avenue

Hand-carry boat hauling and launching only are permitted at this town right-of-way on the Barrington River. The launching site is not well marked; it is comprised of grassy and sandy patches leading to the water.

21. Belvidere Avenue

Located on the upper Palmer River, this town right-of-way has a nice view of the quiet river and its wetlands.

- Wildlife observation

22. East Bay Bicycle Path—Barrington Leg

The path is ideal for walking, biking, and rollerblading. The bridges over the Barrington and Palmer rivers are great locations for skipjack fishing. Motorized vehicles are prohibited on the bike path. Parking is available at various locations along the path.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, concessions, wildlife observation, trash receptacles

Warren

23. East Bay Bicycle Path—Warren Leg

This state-owned bike path on the old railroad grade offers scenic views of several coastal water bodies: Palmer River, Belcher Cove, Warren River, and upper Narragansett Bay. The best places to park your car are at Colt State Park in Bristol, Haines Park in Barrington, and the Franklin Street park-and-ride in Warren. The path is not limited to bikers; it is also enjoyed by walkers, joggers, and rollerbladers. Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, concessions, wildlife observation, fishing, trash receptacles



Warren Town Beach

24. Brown Street Extension

Brown Street Extension curves around a municipal pumping station and ends at a wetland with a small path along the southwestern shore of Belcher Cove. Although it has no facilities, this public right-of-way is a nice spot for bird watching or taking a rest from bicycling along the bike path.

25. Wheaton Street Boat Ramp

This town boat ramp is located at the end of Wheaton Street on the Warren River. The ramp is flanked by a fish company on one side and the Warren Sewage Treatment Plant on the other. The boat ramp is in fair condition and is a bit steep. Parking is limited. There is a small dock for quahog boats.

26. Warren Town Beach

On the Warren River, north of Burr's Hill Park, is a 2.3-acre town beach. The shoreline has a sandy beach with a seawall and a grassy area with a small playground. A lifeguard is on duty in the summer. No dogs, bicycles, or fires are allowed on the beach. Parking is restricted to town residents during the summer. Fee.

- Picnic tables/benches, toilets, trash receptacles

27. Burr's Hill Park

Located south of Warren Town Beach, this 7.6-acre park offers baseball, basketball, tennis, and a nice view of the water from the parking lot or from several paths that run through the park. The park is close to the East Bay Bicycle Path. Parking is restricted to town residents during the summer.

- Picnic tables/benches, historic interest, toilets, trash receptacles



Wheaton Street Boat Ramp

28. Maple Street

A shoreline access sign marks this town right-of-way on the Warren River. There is a grassy area under a tree and a small seawall that make this a pleasant place to stop while on the adjacent East Bay Bicycle Path.

- CRMC ROW#: R-1
- Boat ramp

29. Harris Avenue

Located on the Kickemuit River, this right-of-way ends in a small marshy and sandy area. This area gets mostly local use.

- CRMC ROW#: R-4

30. Clark Road

This town right-of-way ends in a mudflat on the Kickemuit River. The area is suitable for hand-launched boats.

31. Patterson Avenue

This right-of-way has a small path leading around a wetland on the Kickemuit River. This is a good spot for bird watching. No parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: R-3

32. Parker Avenue

Parker Avenue ends in a very overgrown dirt path that juts out into the Kickemuit River. This is a good place for bird watching.

- CRMC ROW#: R-2

33. Barker Avenue

At the end of Barker Avenue, a 50-yard gravel path leads to the remnants of stone columns on both sides of the Kickemuit River. This is a good place for fishing.

- Wildlife observation

34. Road to Town Landing

At the end of Maple Road, it seems that the road has become a private drive, but don't be fooled. This road end provides a peaceful place to sit and look out across the Bay. Vehicle traffic should be kept to a minimum.

- CRMC ROW#: R-10

35. Shore Drive

There are four rights-of-way on Shore Drive, one of which is marked with a faded access sign.

- CRMC ROW#: R-6 to R-9

36. Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge

This 66-acre refuge, owned by ASRI, fronts on the Kickemuit River and Chace Cove and offers splendid views of both. In addition to the water, the refuge includes open fields and forested areas, thereby providing diverse habitats that attract numerous birds and other forms of wildlife. A network of trails runs through the property. Parking is available behind the Touisset Fire Station off Touisset Road.



Maple Street



Barker Avenue ▲▼



Brown Street Extension



Road to Town Landing



Shore Drive



Burr's Hill Park



Harris Avenue



Osprey



The osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) is a large, majestic bird of prey, with a 3-foot wingspan, dark brown back, white or slightly mottled underparts, and a white head with a dark eye stripe.

The time to see ospreys in Rhode Island is April through August—the birds use southern New England as their breeding grounds. Large concentrations of nesting ospreys can be found at the Great Swamp Management Area, South Kingstown, and at Napatree Point in Westerly. Migrants continue to be seen in the area into fall.

Feeding

Ospreys feed almost exclusively on live fish. Their feet have short, sharp spines that cover the foot pads and toes for holding their prey, and the talons are long and razor sharp. The legs are long and without feathers, allowing the birds to extend their reach under water. When hunting, ospreys usually hover over the water until they spot their prey, then plunge, feet first, into the water to grab it.

Breeding and Nesting

Ospreys are monogamous and often return to the same nest site year after year. The birds can be seen nesting in trees, on telephone poles, on channel markers, or on specially constructed platforms. Once they arrive at the breeding grounds, males search for a suitable nest site and begin to perform their courtship aerial display above the nest site—often called the “fish-flight” or “sky dance”—to attract a mate. Once a pair has settled at a nest site, the female gives begging calls to her mate to bring food. During “courtship feeding,” females are fed almost exclusively by their mates, doing almost no hunting on their own.

Both male and female share incubation duties, although the male continues to bring food to his mate, and later to the brood. By 30 days old, the young have attained 70 to 80 percent of their adult weight.

Threats

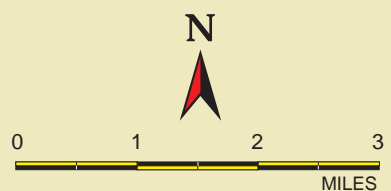
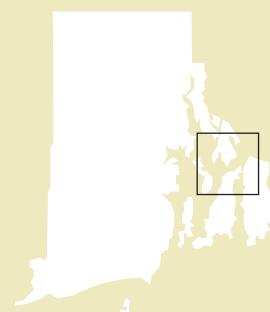
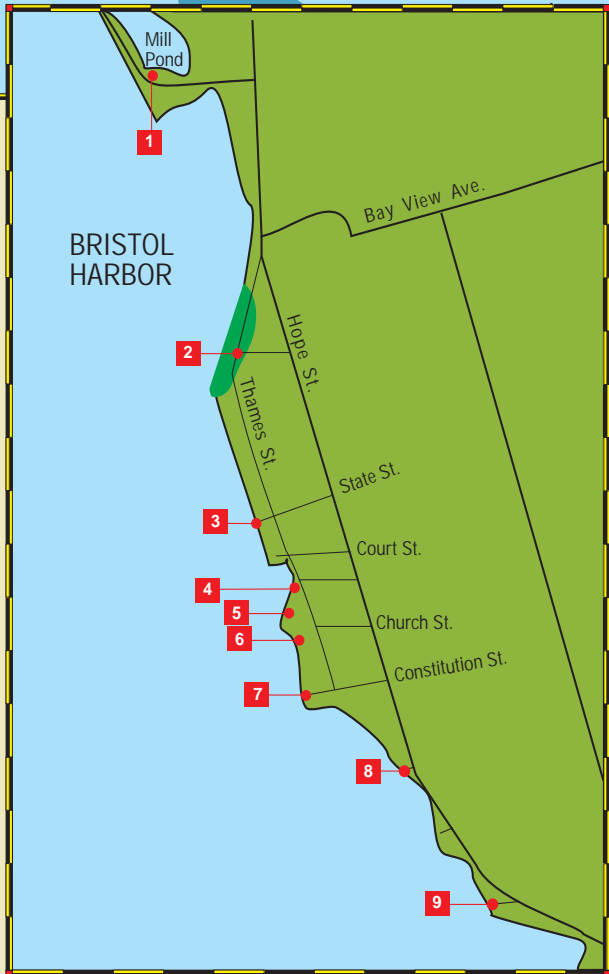
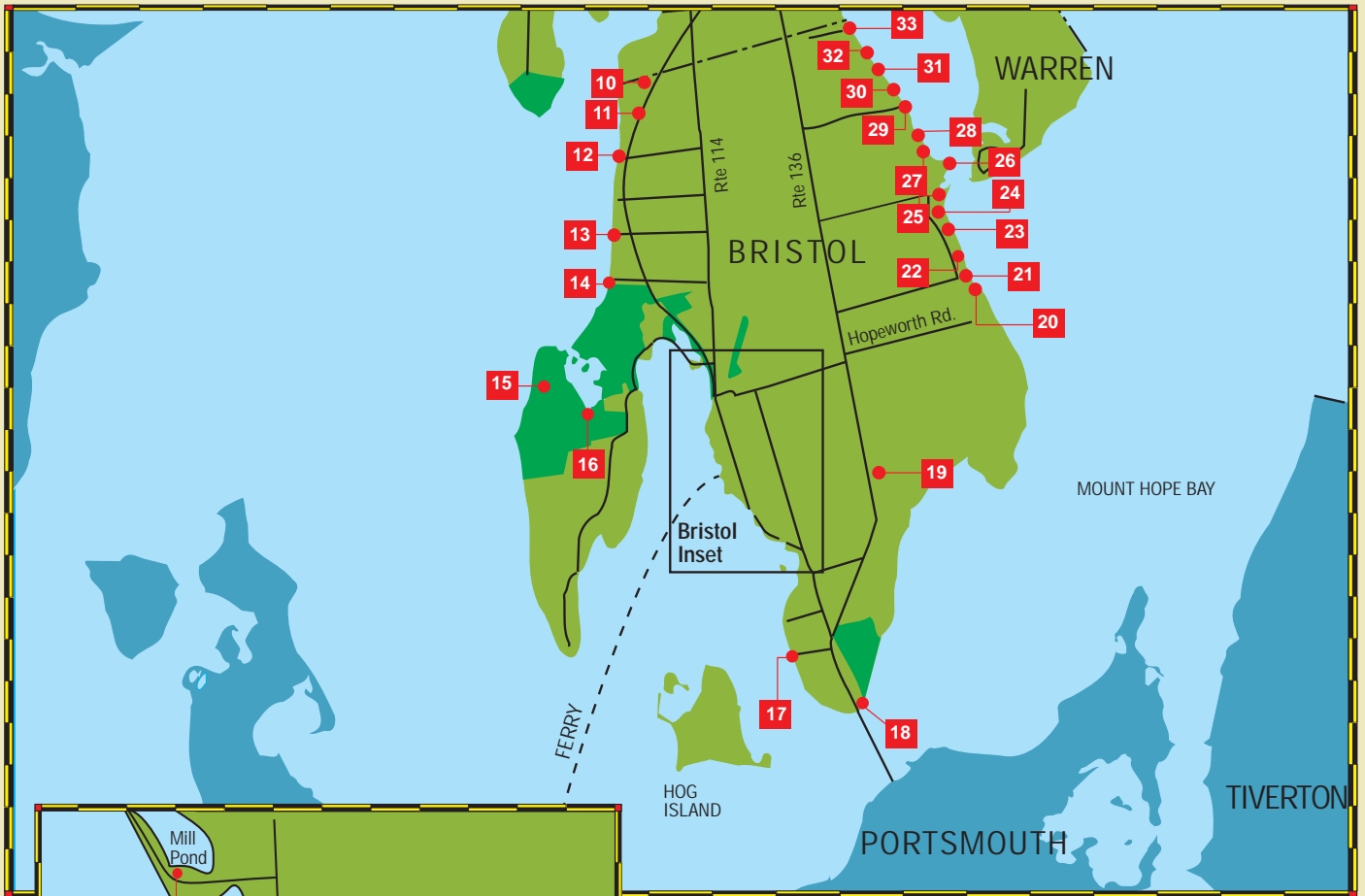
Osprey populations were decimated between 1950 and 1975 due to the effects of the pesticide DDT, which made its way up through the food chain to the birds, often thinning eggshells and poisoning or killing some embryos, so that few eggs hatched. During that period, 90 percent of ospreys nesting between Boston and New York City disappeared. A ban on DDT in 1972, combined with construction of special platforms to provide the recovering population with nesting sites, has resulted in a remarkable comeback. The platforms helped the birds to overcome two hindrances to survival—a decrease in natural nesting sites due to development, and an increase in nest predators, in particular, the raccoon. Nesting distribution is now roughly similar to that seen historically. Osprey may be seen nesting on platforms at the Osamequin Bird Sanctuary in Barrington, and in other wildlife refuges throughout the state.

—This article first appeared in *A Guide to Rhode Island's Natural Places*, produced by Rhode Island Sea Grant.

Bristol

In 1785, the town of Bristol hosted its first annual 4th of July parade, beginning what has become the longest-running unbroken series of Independence Day observances in the country. Bristol has several Federal-period homes in its historic downtown section of the parade route, rendering it an ideal place for the parade. Each celebration is planned a year in advance by a committee of volunteers. The parade on July 4th is actually the pinnacle of a five-week schedule of concerts, receptions, dances, athletic events, and exhibits.





BRISTOL

Bristol

1. Mill Pond Inlet

Located off the south side of Poppasquash Road, at the inlet to Mill Pond on Bristol Harbor, this site is a small pull-off parking area. There is a nice view of the upper end of the harbor, Mill Pond, and the East Bay Bicycle Path. The site is marked with a faded public coastal access sign. Very limited roadside parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: S-19
- Hiking/walking, wildlife observation

2. Independence Park

This is a grassy town park on the shores of Bristol Harbor, off Thames Street, between the extensions of Franklin and Oliver streets. There is a wide concrete road parallel to the shoreline, with room for parking. The shoreline has a rock wall used for fishing and a wide cement slab boat ramp. Adjacent to the beach there is parking for vehicles with trailers. A town naval war monument is located on the lawn. This park marks the southern end of the East Bay Bicycle Path.

- Picnic tables/benches, hiking/walking, trash receptacles

3. State Street Pier and Boat Launch

This pier is located off the end of State Street next to the Bristol town boat launch ramp. The single-width ramp provides access to the harbor via a narrow channel between two piers. There is plenty of parking for trailers near the ramp and on the State Street Pier, but parking is limited to town residents with stickers. Parking for vehicles without trailers is available on the street. There is a public coastal access sign at the right-of-way.

- CRMC ROW#: S-20
- Fishing, trash receptacles



State Street Pier and Boat Launch

4. Rockwell Park

Located just north of the Prudence Island ferry dock on the Bristol Harbor waterfront, this area has been redeveloped as a waterfront park with benches, brick walkways, a small playground, and a wooden “T” dock extending into the water. This is a nice place to sit or walk out on the dock for a view of the harbor and boats. Two-hour parking is available along Thames Street.

- Trash receptacles

5. Prudence Island Ferry

The passenger and vehicle ferry to Prudence Island leaves from the Church Street Wharf, off Thames Street. The ferry dock is located next to Rockwell Park, just north of the end of Church Street. Parking adjacent to the ferry dock is restricted to season ticket holders, but there is a parking lot down the street for those taking the ferry, and there is two-hour parking available on Thames Street.

6. Firefighters’ Memorial Park

Next to a rug factory and the Prudence Island Ferry, this grassy town park offers a view of the urban waterfront of Bristol Harbor and several benches to rest on. No swimming or fishing is allowed from the pier next to the Prudence Island ferry dock. Two-hour parking is available on the street.

7. Constitution Street

An extension of Constitution Street, past Thames Street in downtown Bristol, this right-of-way provides access to a small beach via a ramp through the seawall at the end of the road. It is located between the Coast Guard station on the south and a carpet factory and Elks Lodge on the north. Two-hour parking is available on Thames Street.

- CRMC ROW#: S-4



Prudence Island Ferry

8. Union Street

Located at the end of Union Street, off Hope Street (Route 114), this is a 40-foot-wide right-of-way with a grassy area and benches. It leads down to a seawall and a ramp walkway to a sand and gravel beach. This site is ideal for wading and for viewing the harbor and boats.

- CRMC ROW#: S-5
- Trash receptacles

9. Walley Street

Located at the extension of Walley Street, off Hope Street (Route 114), this site is a 30-yard-wide lawn sloping down to a set of steps that leads to a cobble shoreline of Bristol Harbor. The grassy area is good for sunbathing, picnicking, or viewing the harbor and boats. There is a public coastal access sign at the right-of-way.

- CRMC ROW#: S-6
- Trash receptacles

10. ASRI Environmental Education Center

The centerpiece of ASRI’s educational endeavors, located on the 28-acre Claire McIntosh Wildlife Refuge, this site includes an exhibit hall, an auditorium, classrooms, a gift shop, walking paths, and a quarter-mile-long boardwalk that enables visitors to visit a freshwater marsh, a brackish marsh, and a salt marsh. At the boardwalk’s terminus is a spectacular view of Narragansett Bay. There is an admission fee for entering the exhibit hall but no other fees for walking the trails or boardwalk. Parking is available near the exhibit hall at 1401 Hope Street (Route 114).

Key to Primary Uses

	Public Park
	Path to Shore
	Boating
	Beach with Lifeguards
	Wildlife Refuge
	Scenic View
	Fishing
	Ferry
	Historic



Rockwell Park



Firefighters’ Memorial Park



Independence Park



East Bay Bicycle Path



Walley Street



Beach Road



▲▼ Colt State Park



Bristol Town Beach



11. East Bay Bicycle Path—Bristol Leg

The southern end of this bike path in Bristol is at Independence Park. The path is a scenic, paved path following the old railroad bed. From the park, it runs along Narragansett Bay, passes just inland of Mill Pond, near Colt State Park, and winds north along the Bay into Warren. The path extends 14.5 miles from Bristol to Providence. Parking for the bike path in Bristol is at Independence Park and off Asylum Road (entrance road to Colt State Park). In addition to bicycling, the path offers opportunities for walking, scenic views of the shoreline, and bird watching. Motor vehicles are prohibited on the path.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, concessions, fishing, toilets, trash receptacles



12. Beach Road

Located at the end of Beach Road, off Hope Street (Route 114), this site is a narrow, paved right-of-way leading to a guardrail and two benches overlooking upper Narragansett Bay. Parking is limited on the narrow streets.

- CRMC ROW#: S-1
- Wildlife observation



13. Fales Road

An extension of the west end of Fales Road, off Hope Street (Route 114), this right-of-way is a concrete ramp leading down to a cobble beach on Narragansett Bay. Not suitable as a trailered boat launch, it offers a nice view of the Bay and is popular for shellfishing.

- CRMC ROW#: S-3



14. Bristol Town Beach

Located off Asylum Road, adjacent to Colt State Park, this town facility features a sandy, gravelly beach fronting upper Narragansett Bay. There is a nice grassy area behind the beach, plenty of picnic tables/benches, a playground, and basketball, tennis, and softball facilities. A well-maintained skateboard park is available to those with experience. Lifeguards are on duty during the summer. Plenty

of on-site parking is available. There is an admission fee during the summer.

- Concessions, toilets, trash receptacles



15. Colt State Park

Located off Route 114 and fronting the upper part of Narragansett Bay and Mill Gut Pond and Salt Marsh, this is a large state park with expansive lawns gently sloping down toward the Bay. A two-mile promenade along the park's seawall is popular with strollers and joggers. From the promenade and other vantage points, Colt State Park offers sweeping views of the Bay, of Prudence Island to the west, and of Mill Gut Salt Marsh to the east. There is a loop road with numerous pull-offs and picnic areas as well as plenty of room for a wide variety of recreational activities. Ample parking is available.

- Handicap access, boat ramp, dock, picnic tables/benches, concessions, swimming, fishing, historic interest, wildlife observation, toilets, trash receptacles



16. Coggeshall Farm Museum

Located on Colt Drive, between Poppasquash Road and the Colt State Park loop road, this area is leased from the park and run as a nonprofit organization. It is a working 18th-century farm—a restoration project centered around an 18th-century farmhouse and barnyard complex, complete with livestock and a blacksmith shop. The museum offers no direct access to the water, but there is a nice view across Mill Gut Pond to the old stone bridge at the entrance to Narragansett Bay. Open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; no admission fee, but reservations are necessary for group tours. Limited parking is available.

- Hiking/walking, trash receptacles



Coggeshall Farm Museum



17. Low Lane

At the end of Low Lane, off Ferry Road (Route 114), is a 150-foot-long overgrown dirt path leading down to a cobble beach and a small breakwater on upper East Passage. This site offers a nice view of the Newport Bridge, Hog Island, and passing boats. It is possible to walk a short distance down the beach in either direction. "No Parking" signs are posted on both sides of the street.

- CRMC ROW#: S-18



18. Ferry Road

Situated between the Mount Hope Bridge and Roger Williams University, this paved road leads to a cobble beach on Mount Hope Bay. "No Parking" signs are posted. This is a good place to launch a boat.

- Fishing



19. Mount Hope Farm

Mount Hope Farm, on Metacom Avenue, consists of 127 acres of fields, woods, lawns, and ponds, with approximately 1,500 feet of waterfront on Church Cove. The property includes stone walls, terraces, flowers, vegetable gardens, and indigenous trees, along with several historic buildings. Hours of operation vary by season and are posted at the entrance. Public access and parking are available south of the main entrance, on South Pasture Road. To accommodate handicapped individuals who are unable to walk around the farm, the Mount Hope Trust will occasionally open the farm to vehicle traffic only. Handicapped stickers are required. Such openings will be posted at the farm and announced in the newspaper. Fishing, shellfishing, and swimming are prohibited. Group outings must be scheduled in advance.

- Picnicking, wildlife observation



20. Mount Hope Fishing Access

Located off Annawamscutt Drive, this access has a single-width concrete boat ramp into shallow water, with a breakwater fronting Mount Hope Bay. Adjacent to the boat ramp is a cobble beach and a fringing marsh. One can walk along the shoreline in either direction for fishing or for a view of Mount Hope Bay and Fall River. There is parking for about 10 vehicles with trailers or about 20 vehicles without trailers, with possible additional parking along the entrance road.

- Wildlife observation

21. Annawamscutt Drive

Located at the east end of Annawamscutt Drive, off Metacom Avenue (Route 136), this site is a wide, paved right-of-way. Those who make the descent down a short stairway will find a cobble beach with a scenic view of Mount Hope Bay and Fall River. It is also possible to walk the shoreline to the south and connect with the Mount Hope Fishing Access.

- CRMC ROW#: S-17

22. King Philip Avenue

Located off King Philip Avenue, between Leahy and Annawamscutt drives, a paved drive amongst trees leads to a wide, grassy right-of-way leading about 40 yards down to a cobble beach with a view of Mount Hope Bay and Fall River. Don't be fooled by "No Trespassing" signs; this is public access.

- CRMC ROW#: S-28

23. Sunrise Drive

This site is a paved extension of Sunrise Drive leading to a rocky step-down and to a rocky beach with a nice view of Mount Hope Bay, the Bristol Narrows, and Fall River. There is a coastal access sign at the right-of-way.

- CRMC ROW#: S-16



24. Platt Street (Narrows Coastal Access)

This site is off King Philip Avenue near the junction with Platt Street. A set of concrete stairs and a path lead down to a grassy area with benches and a nice view of Mount Hope Bay, Bristol Narrows, and Fall River. A set of stairs leads from here to the cobble beach below. It is well marked with a large sign.

- CRMC ROW#: S-27
- Trash receptacles

25. Narrows Road

At the end of Narrows Road, at Pole 42, a tricky path down some rocks leads to a cobble beach on Mount Hope Bay. A road on the left leads to the Narrows Fishing Area.

- CRMC ROW#: S-15

26. Narrows Fishing Area

This long, sandy peninsula is a great place to launch shallow-hulled boats or to cast a line. Shellfishing is prohibited.

- CRMC ROW#: S-26
- Trash receptacles

27. Kickemuit Avenue

This is a paved right-of-way at the extension of Kickemuit Avenue, leading to a narrow dirt path through the reeds and down the rocks to a marsh shoreline of the Kickemuit River. A coastal access sign is located at the right-of-way.

- CRMC ROW#: S-14
- Wildlife observation

28. Smith Street

Located at the extension of Smith Street, off Kickemuit Avenue, this scenic right-of-way is a paved extension leading to the remnants of a run-down concrete boat ramp, to a gravel path, and on through a fringing marsh on the Bristol Narrows section of the Kickemuit River. There is a coastal access sign located at the right-of-way.

- CRMC ROW#: S-13

Mount Hope Fishing Access

29. Sherman Avenue

This site is a paved extension of Sherman Avenue with a concrete boat ramp to a dirt beach on the Kickemuit River. Small boats can be launched here. There is a coastal access sign at the right-of-way.

- CRMC ROW#: S-12
- Wildlife observation

30. San Miguel Drive

A paved extension of San Miguel Drive ends at a gentle dirt ramp and a fringing marsh on the Kickemuit River. Boats could possibly be hand launched here, but it would be a bit tricky. There is no parking in the right-of-way. A coastal access sign marks the site.

- CRMC ROW#: S-11
- Wildlife observation

31. Fatima Drive

This is a narrow right-of-way at the east end of Fatima Drive, off Everett Street. It leads between two fences to a seawall above a fringing salt marsh on the Kickemuit River. No parking is permitted in the right-of-way.

- CRMC ROW#: S-10
- Fishing

32. Franca Drive

Located at the extension of Franca Drive, off Hawthorne Street, this is a paved right-of-way located in a residential area between two houses, leading to a steep concrete ramp to the Kickemuit River. It is possible to launch boats here, but it would be tricky, and there is no trailer parking. There is a coastal access sign at the right-of-way.

- CRMC ROW#: S-9

33. North Street

A narrow extension of North Street off Slocum Road, this right-of-way is a dirt road leading about 30 yards to the shoreline of the Kickemuit River. There is a nice view of the river and boats, and the spot could be used for launching small boats. However, there is no on-site parking available. A coastal access sign marks the site.

- CRMC ROW#: S-7
- Wildlife observation



Sherman Avenue



San Miguel Drive



Platt Street



Fatima Drive



Narrows Fishing Area



Sunrise Drive

The Quahog

The shellfish that Rhode Islanders call a quahog possesses an impressive variety of names, and even the word “quahog” (which comes from the Narragansett Indian name “poquauhock”) has an alternate spelling, “quahaug,” and a number of pronunciations: KO-hog, KWO-hog, and KWA-hog. The quahog’s scientific name, *Mercenaria mercenaria*, is derived from a Latin word meaning “wages” and was chosen because Indians used quahog shells to make beads that were used as money (called wampum). In much of the United States, quahogs are simply called “hard clams” or “hard-shell clams.”

Still other names are based on a quahog’s size. Little necks (or “necks”) are the smallest legal size, measuring 1-inch thick at the largest thickness; chowders are the largest size; and cherrystones are in between.

In Rhode Island, quahogs grow to legal size in three to four years if conditions are good. A quahog’s

age can be determined by counting the growth rings on its shell. As quahogs get older, they grow more slowly, so the growth rings get very close together and difficult to count accurately. Researchers estimate that the largest ones (4 inches or more in length) are as much as 40 years old.

Quahogs—like soft-shell clams, oysters, scallops, and mussels—are classified as bivalve mollusks because they have hinged shells made up of two halves, or “valves.” Bivalves obtain their food by filter feeding. Water is taken in through a siphon and passed over the gills, which are specially adapted to filter out food (microscopic algae and other small organic particles). The filtered water is then expelled via another siphon. A large clam can filter about a gallon of water in one hour.

Quahogs prefer salinities between 18 and 26 parts per thousand. This is less salty than the open

ocean (salinity about 35 parts per thousand), so quahogs are often found in estuaries (such as Narragansett Bay) where the mixing of fresh and salt water provides ideal conditions.

Although quahogs can be found along the North American Atlantic coast from Canada’s Gulf of Saint Lawrence to Florida, they are particularly abundant between Cape Cod and New Jersey. Farther north, most waters are too cold for quahogs, restricting them to just a few relatively warm coves; while to the south, quahogs have more predators, such as blue crabs.

Pollution in Narragansett Bay affects the quahog industry because the filter-feeding process concentrates not only food particles but also many pollutants—including disease-causing bacteria and viruses and toxic compounds. Thus, even pollutants that are present only in low levels in the water can accumulate to dangerous levels in filter feeders. RIDEM maintains a list of shellfish areas closed to pollution. It is available at: www.state.ri.us/dem/. For more information about shellfishing regulations, see page 7.

—By Eleanor Ely,
Rhode Island Sea Grant

In the early 20th century, oysters dominated commercial shellfishing in Narragansett Bay. But the oyster population gradually declined after the 1920s, and, at the same time, the quahog fishery expanded. Here, handrakers display a bullrake used to harvest quahogs, which became such an economically important resource that, in 1987, the humble quahog was elevated to the status of Rhode Island’s official state shell.



Portsmouth

In early August of 1778, American forces attacked the 7,000 British, Hessian, and Provincial troops occupying the town of Newport. By the end of the month, with militia enlistments expiring and British reinforcements on the way from New York, the American commanders decided to abandon the siege lines and the island. At dawn on August 29, the British discovered the American lines were abandoned and troops had retreated to Portsmouth. Hoping to catch the 10,000 Continental and State troops, British General Pigot ordered British forces to advance from their defensive line at Newport.

Pigot ordered reinforcements from Newport to attack the American troops. However, the British forces were outnumbered and despite three attacks, they were unable to take control of the troops in Portsmouth. Americans retreated off the island unmolested, with the last troops departing just hours before thousands of British reinforcements arrived by ship into Newport Harbor.

Tiverton

The Indian territory now occupied by Tiverton and neighboring Little Compton was known as Pocasset. Tiverton was named after Tiverton, England, and was incorporated by Massachusetts in 1694. One of five towns received from Massachusetts by royal decree, Tiverton was given to Rhode Island on January 27, 1746, in the resolution of a border dispute.

Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

The Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NBNERR) is one of 25 reserves in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS). The NERRS was established by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in recognition of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. NBNERR was established in 1980, making it the first reserve to be designated in New England. The reserve protects a total of 2,533 acres of land on Prudence, Patience, Hope, and Dyer islands and 1,843 acres of water adjacent to these properties. Nationally, the NERRS protects approximately 1 million acres of estuarine waters and upland habitats.

Located in the middle of Narragansett Bay and a short ferry ride from Bristol, Prudence Island offers ample opportunities to study coastal and upland habitats. One of the most interesting and rare habitats on the reserve is the pine barrens at the south end of the island. Although the area has a relatively low amount of biodiversity, the rarity of the species living in this area makes it an interesting place to visit. Within the pine barrens you will find pitch pine forests, semi-barren areas, and dry meadows. The soil found in this habitat is called Poquonock soil. This is an extremely dry, well-drained soil



NBNERR North

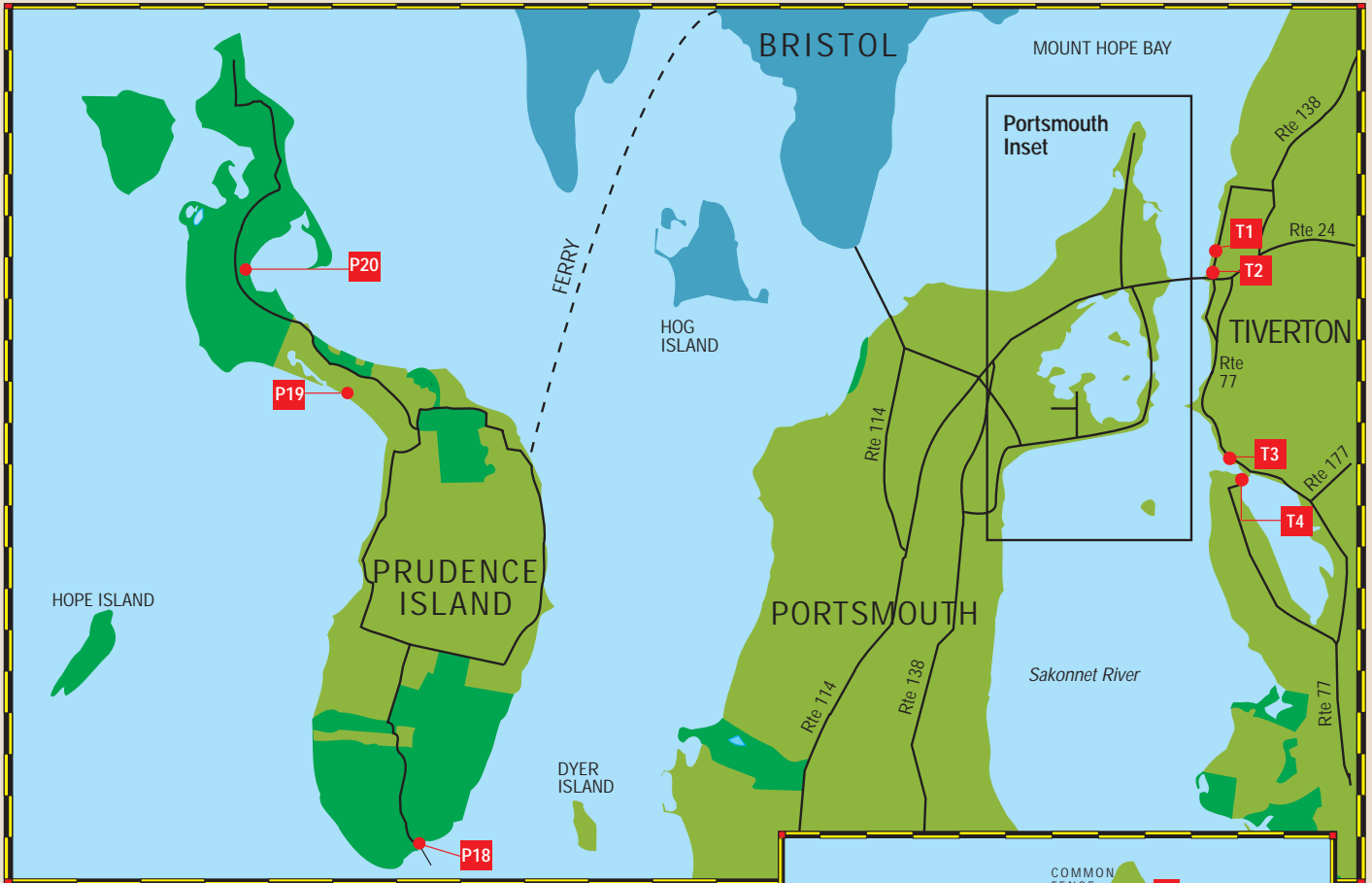


NBNERR South

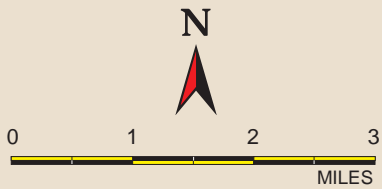
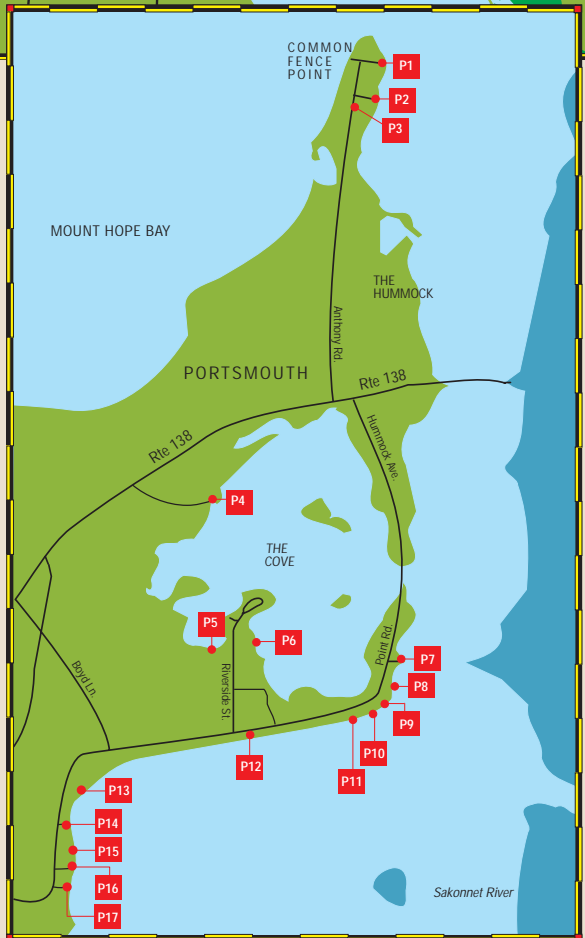
that makes up only 0.4 percent of Rhode Island's land mass. As an example of the importance of this habitat, the pitch pine forest on Prudence is the only known nesting site for pine warblers on any of the islands in Narragansett Bay. The semi-barren areas are almost dune-like in appearance and support five of the seven species of tiger beetles found in Rhode Island, including the threatened *Cicindela tranquebarica*. A number of other sand-loving invertebrates live in this area as does the rare sickle-leaved golden aster, *Chrysopsis falcata*. The dry meadows have a number of uncommon flowers and grasses growing in them that in turn support an array of insects, including the pink-streak moth, *Faronta rubripennis*. This globally rare moth has never been found at any other location in Rhode Island.

If you are interested in visiting this unique habitat, NBNERR offers tours of the reserve throughout the year, and the Learning Center is open from June to September. For more information on Prudence Island and reserve programs, please call (401) 683-6780. See also page 68.

—By Kim Botelho, Education Coordinator,
NBNERR



Sandy Point Light, Prudence Island



**PORTSMOUTH
& TIVERTON**

Portsmouth & Tiverton

Portsmouth

P1. Mount Hope View Road

This site is located in the Common Fence Point area at Pole 56S, at the northernmost end of Anthony Road. The path starts between a picket fence and a fire hydrant. The trail winds through the brush about 500 feet to a rocky point surrounded by a cobble beach and intertidal areas. The point affords an excellent view of Mount Hope Bay, the surrounding coastal areas, and the Mount Hope Bridge, and it is a nice spot for walking and bird watching. This area is closed to shellfishing. A faded access sign is present. No parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: V-1
- Picnicking, fishing, trash receptacles

P2. Narragansett Road

Located in the Common Fence Point area at Pole 40, this site is a right-of-way at a bend in the road near the northern end of Narragansett Road. A 30-foot dirt path leads to a sandy cobble beach that is well suited for a summer picnic. No parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: V-3
- Wildlife observation

P3. Anthony Road

A 50-foot-wide grassy right-of-way at Pole 39 offers a shady place to stop and enjoy beautiful views of Mount Hope Bay and the Mount Hope Bridge. An opening in the rail fence indicates the right-of-way. No parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: V-2
- Picnicking

P4. Gull Cove State Boat Ramp

Located off Route 24/138 North, just before the Hummocks Road and Common Fence Point exits, this state property is on a peninsula situated in the cove off the Sakonnet River. The facility has a single-width concrete slab boat ramp in fair condition and

an extensive gravel parking area. There are other possible launching spots along the cobble shoreline of the peninsula. This well-protected cove offers boaters easy access to both the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay. The area is also popular with quahoggers and bird watchers but is unsafe for swimming.

- Picnicking, fishing, hiking/walking, trash receptacles

P5. Cedar Avenue

Located in Island Park at Pole 6, this right-of-way consists of a narrow path that extends northeast from the intersection of Cedar Avenue and Beach Street to a cobble area bordering the cove. A public access sign is present.

- CRMC ROW#: V-4
- Wildlife observation, hiking/walking

P6. Green Street

Located in Island Park, just off the Coral Street intersection, this very narrow right-of-way runs off Green Street to a grass path leading to a set of concrete steps to a salt marsh and tidal flat area at the south end of Blue Bill Cove. This site is marked by a blue shoreline access sign.

- CRMC ROW#: V-6

P7. Stone Bridge Ramp

This state-owned boat ramp is located on the Sakonnet River next to Stonebridge Marina on Point Road. This ramp provides access to upper Sakonnet River. Suitable for boats up to 20 feet at half-tide and above. Parking is available.

P8. Teddy's Beach

Located at the end of Park Avenue on Point Road, just south of the Old Stone Bridge, this state-managed area has a small crescent of sandy beach with a sloping grassy area behind it. It is a nice spot for swimming, sunbathing, picnicking, and viewing the river and the Gould Island Refuge. No lifeguards are present.

- Picnic tables/benches, wildlife observation

P9. Ivy Avenue

This right-of-way is located in Island Park at Pole 14, at the intersection of Ivy Avenue and Seaconnet Boulevard. The right-of-way is a grassy path leading about 20 yards between two houses to a small rocky bank on the Sakonnet River. A shoreline access sign is present.

- CRMC ROW#: V-7
- Fishing

P10. Gould Avenue

This right-of-way is located in Island Park at Pole 9, at the extension of Gould Avenue off Seaconnet Boulevard. A steep, paved boat ramp provides access to the Sakonnet River. The site is marked with a blue shoreline access sign.

- CRMC ROW#: V-9
- Fishing

P11. Island Park Avenue

This right-of-way, located at Pole 6 at the intersection of Island Park Avenue and Seaconnet Boulevard, is a grass strip leading to a stone wall bordering the Sakonnet River. There is a blue shoreline access sign.

- CRMC ROW#: V-10
- Fishing

P12. Fountain Avenue

A right-of-way located at Pole 3 in the middle of Fountain Avenue, this site is a grass strip leading about 20 yards to a concrete wall extending south to a cobble beach bordering the Sakonnet River. There is no parking in the right-of-way. The site is marked with a blue shoreline access sign. Just west down the street is a concrete boat ramp with no available parking.

- CRMC ROW#: V-12
- Fishing

Key to Primary Uses



Public Park



Path to Shore



Boating



Beach with Lifeguards



Wildlife Refuge



Fishing



Teddy's Beach



Common Fence Point



Mount Hope View Road



Gull Cove



NBNERR North Parcel



NBNERR South Parcel



Sandy Beach



Grinnell's Beach



East Corys Lane



Sakonnet Bridge Access



P13. Aquidneck Avenue

Located near Portsmouth Park, this site is a right-of-way off Aquidneck Avenue. This narrow right-of-way is a grass path leading to a set of small concrete steps between two houses and to a cobble shore of the Sakonnet River. The site is marked with a blue shoreline access sign, and a cross-walk leads to the right-of-way.

- CRMC ROW#: V-13
- Fishing



P14. Tallman Avenue

Located near Portsmouth Park, at the intersection of Tallman and Atlantic avenues, this right-of-way is a paved walkway leading to a concrete ramp and a set of concrete steps to a state-owned cobble beach on the Sakonnet River. The site is marked with a blue shoreline access sign.

- CRMC ROW#: V-15
- Picnic tables/benches, hiking/walking



P15. East Corys Lane

Located near Portsmouth Park, off East Corys Lane at the junction with Atlantic Avenue, this right-of-way is a 20-yard grassy path leading to a cobble shoreline bordering the Sakonnet River. The site is marked with a blue shoreline access sign. There is a view of the river from the road.

- CRMC ROW#: V-14



P16. Child Street

Located in Portsmouth Park, this right-of-way is a paved road extension leading to a cobble beach bordering the Sakonnet River. A public access sign is present.

- CRMC ROW#: V-16
- Fishing



P17. Morningside Lane

Located near Portsmouth Park, at the end of Morningside Lane off Water Street, this right-of-way is a grassy path with concrete stairs leading down to a cobble beach on the Sakonnet River. A shoreline access sign is present.

- CRMC ROW#: V-17



P18. Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NBNERR)

NBNERR includes approximately 60 percent of Prudence Island as well as Patience, Hope, and Dyer islands. NBNERR facilities are concentrated at the south end of Prudence Island and include a learning center with exhibits on the flora, fauna, and history of the island, a water quality monitoring lab, and an indoor classroom. Just down the road from the NBNERR learning center, you will find the T-wharf, a popular fishing spot and seal haul-out location. There is a floating dock on the north side of the T-wharf and a dock at Potter's Cove at the north end of the island that can be used by boaters for loading and unloading only. Other access to the reserve is via the Prudence Island Ferry from Bristol. The NBNERR Learning Center is open June to September and is about 3.5 miles from the ferry landing. Due to a high population of deer ticks, camping is not allowed on any of the reserve properties. Parking is available.

- Picnic tables/benches, swimming, fishing, hiking/walking



P19. Sandy Beach

Located off the main road west of the turnoff to NBNERR North Parcel, this is a beautiful, long, sand and cobble beach on Narragansett Bay with a pristine salt marsh behind the beach. This is a good spot for walking and birding, with a view of the marsh, the Bay, and Hope Island. Access via an unmarked, bumpy dirt road is difficult.

- Swimming, picnicking



P20. NBNERR (North Parcel)

See P18 above for description.

Tiverton



T1. Riverside Marine

Riverside Marine is located on Riverside Drive. The ramp is busy on weekends and parking fills up quickly. Fee.

- Dock, trash receptacles



T2. Sakonnet Bridge Access

Off Riverside Drive, under the Sakonnet Bridge, is a hard-packed sand boat launch area. There is room for several vehicles with trailers to park across the street. Parking for vehicles without trailers is available on the street. Riverside Marine boat launch is located just to the north. Not a scenic spot, but good access to the Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay.

- Fishing



T3. Grinnell's Beach

Located off Main Road (Route 77), just south of the Stone Bridge Pier, this small crescent of beach has a restroom facility with showers and changing rooms, a children's play area, and a lifeguard in the summer at a designated swimming area. There is a nice view of the Sakonnet River and Gould Island. Parking is available for 50 cars, with a fee in the summer.

- Picnic tables/benches, fishing, hiking/walking, trash receptacles



T4. Nannaquaket Bridge

A bridge across the tidal inlet to Nannaquaket Pond provides good fishing access. There is a small parking area for 20 cars on the west end of the bridge. There are also steps to the pond from an adjacent sidewalk.

- CRMC ROW#: T-3
- Hiking/walking, trash receptacles



Nannaquaket Bridge

Portsmouth & Tiverton continued

Little Compton

Construction of the Sakonnet Lighthouse at Sakonnet Point in Little Compton began in 1883. An iron pier was placed on Little Cormorant Rock, about 800 yards offshore, and then filled with concrete. The lighthouse was completed in October 1884 and served as Rhode Island's easternmost beacon.

The Hurricane of '38 destroyed many houses and took 13 lives at Sakonnet Point. The lighthouse survived but was left with a large crack in its base. After Hurricane Carol in 1954 caused additional damage, the U.S. Coast Guard decided to decommission and abandon the lighthouse. In 1985 the structure was donated to The Friends of Sakonnet Point Lighthouse, Inc., who raised \$100,000 for its restoration.

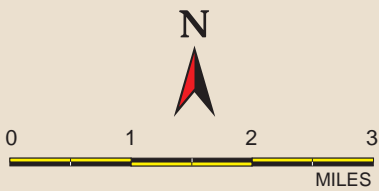
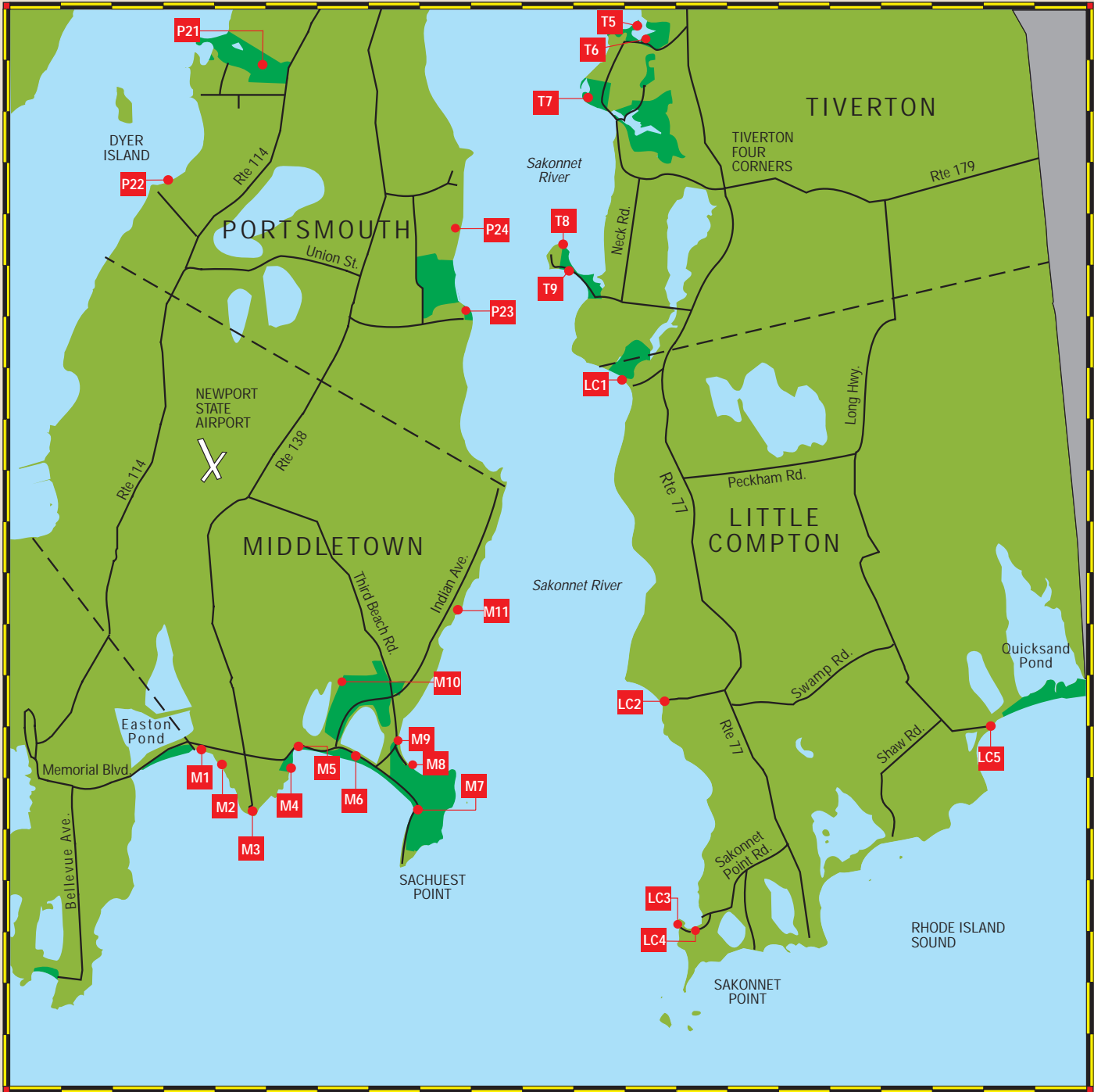
On March 22, 1997, Sakonnet Point Light was relit after 43 years, flashing a red signal that is visible for seven nautical miles. Although Sakonnet Point Light can be seen from the shore of Little Compton, a boat is needed for a closer look.

Middletown

Middletown, between Newport and Portsmouth, got its name from being in the middle of the island of Rhode Island (Aquidneck), which was one of the earliest colonial settlement sites in Rhode Island. Middletown was originally an agrarian community. Because of this, there are few native trees now growing in the township, the original forests having been cleared for farms. As a result of a petition to the General Assembly requesting political independence from Newport, Middletown was set off as a separate town and incorporated in 1743. Today the town hosts a wealth of commercial and retail activity.

Weaver Cove





**PORTSMOUTH, TIVERTON,
LITTLE COMPTON
& MIDDLETOWN**



Norman Bird Sanctuary

Portsmouth



P21. Melville Campground Recreational Area

Located off Sullivan Road, a right turn off Stringham Road, one-half mile from Route 114, this town facility has sites for 57 tents and 59 trailers and is open April through October. There is access to the shoreline of Narragansett Bay via a bumpy dirt road. Although overgrown, the shoreline provides opportunities for walking and viewing the East Passage of the Bay. On-site parking is available. Fee.

- Picnic tables/benches, swimming, toilets, trash receptacles



P22. Weaver Cove Boat Ramp

Located off Burma Road, one mile south of Stringham Road, this concrete public boat ramp offers plenty of vehicle and trailer parking. A dock with handicap access is also available for use.

- Fishing, hiking/walking, trash receptacles



P23. Sandy Point Beach

Located at the end of Sandy Point Avenue, off Route 138, this is a wide, sandy beach about one-half mile long, forming a point in the Sakonnet River. The beach has a dirt parking lot and a small bathhouse with restrooms. This is a well-protected beach for swimming and a nice place for walking along the shore. There is a parking fee for nonresidents.

- Picnic tables/benches, fishing, wildlife observation, trash receptacles



P24. McCorrie Lane Fishing Area

At the end of McCorrie Lane, a large, sandy parking area offers access to an extensive cobble beach perfect for swimming, fishing, or hand-launching a boat. No parking is available.

- Trash receptacles



Seapowet Marsh

Tiverton



T5. Two Rod Way

This right-of-way at the end of Two Rod Way, off Seapowet Road, offers a great view of the Sakonnet River. It also provides access to the coastal trails of the Emily Ruecker Wildlife Refuge. The extension of this road is a good place to hand-launch a boat into a protected cove.

- CRMC ROW#: T-6
- Fishing



T6. Emily Ruecker Wildlife Refuge

This 50.5-acre refuge owned by ASRI encompasses freshwater, brackish, and marine habitats as well as wooded uplands and fields. A network of trails runs through the refuge and follows the shores of the Sakonnet River. This is an ideal spot for walking and bird watching year round. There are trail maps available at the entrance at the parking area and trailhead, located off Seapowet Road.



T7. Seapowet Marsh and Point Fishing Area

Located off Seapowet Avenue, this refuge area includes a variety of coastal habitats. There is a parking area along a cobble beach north of the bridge over the Seapowet River and walking or driving access to Seapowet Point. There is a marsh on the point, popular for shellfishing. The beach is a good spot for walking, fishing, bird watching, or enjoying the view of the river. There is also a small gravel boat ramp south of the bridge that provides access to an extensive salt marsh and tidal creek area.

- Historic interest



T8. Fogland Road

A right-of-way located at the end of Fogland Road, at the junction with High Hill Avenue, leads to a concrete boat ramp on the Sakonnet River. There is a view of the Sakonnet River and Fogland Beach from here. Parking is available at nearby Fogland Beach.

- CRMC ROW#: T-4
- Fishing



T9. Fogland Beach

Fogland Beach provides an excellent windsurfing area and a beautiful view of the Sakonnet River and the Portsmouth shoreline. The cove area to the north of the beach is convenient for nature study. Amenities include changing rooms, showers, and a children's playground. Parking is available for a fee in the summer.

- Picnic tables/benches, fishing, hiking/walking, toilets, trash receptacles

Little Compton



LC1. Town Way

At the western end of Town Way, off West Main and Old Main roads, there is room for about 10 cars to park and a short path down to a cobble beach on the Sakonnet River. At low tide, it is possible to walk along the cobble beach to the mouth of Almy's Creek, and from there, partway into Donovan's Marsh, a well-preserved tidal creek and unditched salt marsh. From the beach, there is a nice view of the Sakonnet River and Sachuest Point. A sign is posted indicating that this is not a public swimming beach and there are no lifeguards.

- CRMC ROW#: W-2
- Wildlife observation, trash receptacles



LC2. Taylor's Lane

This site is a right-of-way at the end of Taylor's Lane, off West Main Road. At the end of this road there is parking for about 10 cars and a dirt path about 10 yards long leading down to a small sand and cobble beach on the Church Bay portion of the Sakonnet River. It is possible to walk out to Church Point by scrambling along boulders at the tide line. There is a nice view of the mouth of the Sakonnet River, Sachuest Point, and the Atlantic Ocean.

- CRMC ROW#: W-1
- Trash receptacles



Fogland Beach

Key to Primary Uses



Public Park



Path to Shore



Boating



Beach with Lifeguards



Wildlife Refuge



Scenic View



Fishing



Melville Campground



McCorrie Lane Fishing Area



Two Rod Way



Emily Ruecker Wildlife Refuge



▲▼ Sakonnet Harbor



Sakonnet Harbor Fishing Access



▲▼ Atlantic Beach



▲▼ Town Way



LC3. Sakonnet Harbor

At the end of Bluffhead Road, off Sakonnet Point Road, at the mouth of the Sakonnet River, there is a breakwater that forms the entrance to Sakonnet Harbor. The breakwater is good for walking, fishing, watching fishing boats, or just checking out the view across the river, into the harbor, or out to sea. There is no public ramp here, only private docks. On-site parking is available.

- Trash receptacles

LC4. Sakonnet Harbor Fishing Access

Located off Sakonnet Point Road at the southern end of Route 77, this site has two cement plank ramps across a beach into Sakonnet Harbor and a sheltered basin with access to the Sakonnet River and the Atlantic Ocean. There is a parking area for trailers across the road and a nice view of the Haffenreffer Wildlife Refuge. Parking is limited to 48 hours.

- CRMC ROW#: W-3

LC5. South Shore Beach

Located at the end of South Shore Road, this is a long, sandy beach on the Atlantic Ocean, with a large dirt parking lot, portable toilets, and life-guards. There is a parking fee for nonresidents during the summer; weekly and seasonal passes are available. There is a beautiful view of the Atlantic with Cuttyhunk and the Elizabeth Islands in the distance, a picturesque salt pond (Tunipus Pond), and a farm located behind the parking lot. One can walk east along the beach across a shallow tidal creek to Goosewing Beach, a wildlife refuge, which is now owned by The Nature Conservancy. There are some restrictions here to protect nesting piping plovers. Parking for fishing is available in the evening and off-season.

- Trash receptacles



Northwest End of Esplanade Shore Drive

Middletown

M1. Atlantic Beach

Located on Aquidneck Avenue just west of the junction with Purgatory Road, this site provides access to the eastern end of Atlantic Beach with short-term parking for Middletown residents. This site has a sandy beach fronting Easton Bay (Atlantic Ocean) with good surf and a nice view of the Cliff Walk and the mansions across the bay. There is a small grassy field, Dunlap-Wheeler Park, with a few benches near the parking area. Large public parking lots and concessions are a quarter-mile to the west at Easton's (First) Beach in Newport. Board sailing and surfboard rentals are located nearby.

- CRMC ROW#: Y-9
- Fishing, hiking/walking, trash receptacles

M2. Northwest End of Esplanade Shore Drive

This public right-of-way, located just at the bend in the road, offers a short path down a concrete stairway onto Easton's Beach.

- CRMC ROW#: Y-8 (on appeal)
- Swimming, fishing, trash receptacles

M3. Tuckerman Avenue (opposite Wolcott Avenue)

This right-of-way is a very tricky dirt path, but well worth the effort. This rocky shoreline offers a great place to sit and take in a beautiful ocean view.

- CRMC ROW#: Y-11 (on appeal)
- Fishing

M4. Purgatory Chasm

Located on Tuckerman Avenue just south of the junction with Purgatory Road, it is a short walk to a rocky cliff that overlooks Sachuest Bay and a bridge over a deep natural chasm in the bedrock. From the cliff, there is a beautiful view of the ocean, Second Beach, Sachuest Point, and the Norman Bird Sanctuary. This area is also accessible from the Hanging Rock Road parking area via a short walk along the rocks.

M5. Hanging Rock Road Parking Area

Located at the western end of Hanging Rock Road, at the junction of Paradise Avenue and Purgatory Road, this is a small parking area at the western end of Sachuest Bay (Atlantic Ocean) with access to the beach and to Purgatory Chasm. This site is also a favorite spot for many Rhode Island surfers. Parking fee.

- Concessions, toilets, trash receptacles

M6. Second Beach

The main parking lot for this beach is located off Sachuest Point Road. This site has a wide, sandy, 8,000-foot-long beach fronting Sachuest Bay (Atlantic Ocean) and is an excellent place for swimming, surfing, walking, and sunbathing. The beach is well known and gets quite crowded during the summer. Facilities include a large parking lot (fees charged) and a concession area with food, restrooms, changing rooms, and picnic tables/benches. Fee.

- Handicap access, trash receptacles

M7. Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge

Located at the eastern end of Sachuest Point Road, this refuge forms the point between the Sakonnet River and Second Beach, where the river joins the sea. A network of trails traverses the point with trailside exhibits along the way. The uplands at the point are dominated by shrubs and grasses, and the shoreline is part cobble, part rock. Over 200 species of birds have been spotted here during the year, including the largest colony of harlequin ducks in the eastern United States. Sportfishing for striped bass, bluefish, and tautog is popular. A visitors' center is open Wednesday through Sunday, and bird walks are held on most summer and fall weekends. Parking is available.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, toilets, trash receptacles



M8. Third Beach

Located at the end of Third Beach Road, this town-owned site offers a protected, sandy beach fronting the Sakonnet River and is ideal for swimming and boating. There is a concrete boat ramp and areas marked off for swimming, boating, and anchoring. The site is suitable for boats up to 18 feet. A walk along the beach toward the Sachuest Point Wildlife Refuge provides a good opportunity for observing waterfowl. There are no fees in evening or off-season. Parking is available.

- Handicap access, picnicking, fishing, toilets, trash receptacles



M9. Third Beach Road

This right-of-way is located at the north end of Third Beach. It is a footpath with a boardwalk through dune grass to the beach. The beach north and south of the access way is private. Don't be deceived by a chain across the right-of-way; this is public access. No parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: Y-4



Third Beach



Third Beach



Third Beach Road



M10. Norman Bird Sanctuary

The parking lot and sanctuary headquarters are located at 583 Third Beach Road, north of its junction with Hanging Rock Road and Indian Avenue. At the headquarters, there is an extensive network of trails winding through fields, forest, wetlands, and rocky ridges. The sanctuary property extends on the south side of Hanging Rock Road through meadows and marshland, and includes the Maidford River where it flows into the Sakonnet River. The sanctuary also owns the section of Third Beach running from the public portion of Third Beach north across the Maidford River and up to Peabody's Beach. The beach can be accessed from the south on the public beach or by the public right-of-way at the north end of the beach. The diversity of undeveloped coastal ecosystems provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife and birds throughout the year. Rocky outcrops offer sweeping views. A natural history museum is located in the old barn and a gift shop in the sanctuary visitors' center. There is a trail fee for nonmembers. There is no fee to walk the beach. Guided bird walks are offered free on Sunday mornings.

- Historic interest, toilets, trash receptacles



Tuckerman Avenue



Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge



M11. Taggart's Ferry Road

This popular fishing spot is located off Indian Avenue and is a 50-foot-wide path leading to the mouth of the Sakonnet River. Parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: Y-6
- Trash receptacles



Taggart's Ferry Road



Second Beach



Norman Bird Sanctuary

American Holly

While traveling through Tiverton and Little Compton, you'll notice that the American holly, *Ilex opaca*, is quite common. The reason for this is primarily temperature. Holly is a southern plant and is found in Rhode Island at the northernmost extent of its range. On the west side of Narragansett Bay, holly is generally not found north of Route 138 and usually grows within five miles of the coast. The close proximity of Narragansett Bay to all of Tiverton and Little Compton moderates the temperature here and creates perfect growing conditions for holly.

—This article first appeared in *A Guide to Rhode Island's Natural Places*, produced by Rhode Island Sea Grant.



Piping Plover

The presence of the piping plover is one indicator of a healthy beach. Because these small shorebirds require a pristine environment for successful nesting, their presence indicates an unspoiled beach and minimal human intrusion. But as beaches have been used increasingly for human activities, the piping plover has been less successful in its nesting efforts, and the population has declined. By the mid-1980s, Rhode Island's population, reflecting the regional trend, had dropped so precipitously that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) included the bird on the Endangered Species List as federally threatened. To protect fragile nesting areas, FWS began roping off upper dune areas of popular Moonstone Beach during the summer season. Although controversial, this move helped stabilize the beach's plover population, then estimated at only two pairs.

Piping plovers breed on sparsely vegetated outer beaches, scraping out a shallow nest in the sand for their eggs. Both parents share incubation duties for the four speckled eggs the female lays. Unlike many birds, piping plovers do not feed their chicks. Within hours of hatching, the young leave the nest to follow their parents in search of food—running along the shoreline, foraging for insects and other marine invertebrates.

It takes about 28 days for the eggs to hatch and another month for the chicks to fledge. During this time, the birds are extremely vulnerable. The eggs and flightless chicks are exposed to predation, especially when incubating adults are flushed from the nest by intruders. Also, the sandy-colored camouflage of adults, chicks, and eggs makes them susceptible to inadvertent destruction by humans. Chicks, the size of cotton balls, need to feed continuously in order to grow. But frequent disturbances, such as foot traffic, send them scuttling from intertidal feeding areas to the protection of the dunes, and may disrupt and disorient them to such a degree that they weaken and die.

Habitat protection and management efforts have helped boost the piping plover population, both in Rhode Island and along the Atlantic Coast. Undeveloped beaches, including Napatree Point, Ninigret Conservation Area, and Goosewing Beach, provide safe habitat for these threatened birds, which numbered 71 nesting pairs in 2003.

Doing your part

- Nesting areas are fenced off and marked with signs. When visiting the beach, respect these protection devices and do not disturb the birds or their nests.
- Pets on the beach are a special danger to plovers. Please leave them at home during plover season, March through September.
- Trash and food left behind on the beach can draw predators, which can eat plover eggs and chicks. Please properly dispose of all food or trash from your day at the beach.

—This article first appeared in *A Guide to Rhode Island's Natural Places*, produced by Rhode Island Sea Grant.

Newport

In the 19th century, Newport was a center of Victorian extravagance in architecture, drawing millionaires, minted by the Industrial Revolution, who competed amongst themselves to build ever more elaborate “summer cottages.” Many of the great mansions built during those times were ideally located along Newport’s Cliff Walk, which had begun as an Indian footpath. Serious development of Cliff Walk started around 1880, and a number of the estate owners spent the next 50 years improving the walk piece by piece.

Over the last 150 years, the public and some of the wealthy estate owners have clashed over access rights both along and to the shore. A combination of long-term public use, the rights granted by the colonial charter, and a passage in the Rhode Island Constitution that grants the public “rights of fishery and the privileges of the shore to which they have heretofore been entitled,” has ensured the legal right of people to walk on the cliffs. For a full description of this site, see page 79.



Narragansett Avenue



Easton's Beach

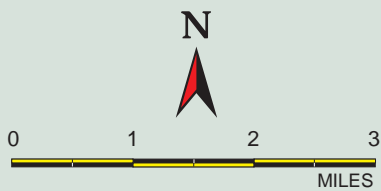


Rose Island



Fort Adams





NEWPORT



Bowen's Wharf

Newport

1. Van Zandt Avenue

Located just south of the Newport Bridge is a well-maintained pier that extends west from the intersection of Van Zandt Avenue and Washington Street to Narragansett Bay. There is no on-site parking available.

- CRMC ROW#: Z-7
- Picnic tables/benches, trash receptacles

2. Battery Street

Located just south of the Newport Bridge, this site consists of a right-of-way that extends west from the intersection of Battery Street and Washington Street to a bulkhead that retains Battery Park and offers a nice view of Narragansett Bay. There is limited on-site parking available.

- CRMC ROW#: Z-8
- Picnic tables/benches, fishing, trash receptacles

3. Pine Street

This right-of-way, adjacent to Battery Park, is a good place to launch a kayak. The flat, rocky shore makes for a durable, easy-to-negotiate surface. No parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: Z-9
- Trash receptacles

4. Willow Street

Willow Street ends in a boat ramp in poor condition, suitable for canoes and kayaks. No parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: Z-13

5. Poplar Street Landing

This landing is suitable for launching canoes or kayaks. No parking is available.

6. Elm Street

This right-of-way is just south of the Newport Bridge. It consists of a paved road and walk, leading to a concrete ramp and wooden pier, that extends west from the intersection of Elm Street and Washington Street to a cobble beach bordering Narragansett Bay. There is no on-site parking available.

- CRMC ROW#: Z-15
- Fishing, trash receptacles

7. Storer Park

Located on Newport Harbor, just north of the Goat Island causeway, this park is situated on land donated by the federal government after World War II. The park has an ample grassy area for picnicking, fishing, and recreation. It is within easy walking distance of the Gateway Center parking facility and the harbor shopping district.

- Picnic tables/benches, trash receptacles

8. Goat Island Connector 1

Linking Newport to Goat Island, the causeway is a popular spot for fishing. A paved road and two concrete sidewalks extend from the circle in front of the hotel to the west side of the causeway and Newport Harbor. Curbside parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: Z-17 (with Connector 2)
- Trash receptacles

9. Goat Island Connector 2

Located on the east side of the causeway, this site consists of a paved road, two concrete sidewalks, two paved parking areas, and an area of large rocks on the shore. It extends west from Washington Street to the east side of the causeway to Newport Harbor and just south of Storer Park.

- CRMC ROW#: Z-16 (with Connector 1)
- Trash receptacles

10. Perotti Park

Located just south of Long Wharf, this site is a small, linear park hugging downtown Newport Harbor. There are park benches and a scenic view of the Newport boating scene. No parking is available.

- Handicap access, concessions, trash receptacles

11. Ann Street Pier

Located off Thames Street, one block south of Christie's Landing, this site is a public dinghy dock consisting of a long wooden pier, benches, and a small area for boats to dock. Boat rentals are available. Adjacent to the dock is a small cobble beach. This spot is ideal for boater pick-up and

drop-off. Parking is limited along Thames Street.

- Handicap access, concessions, historic interest, hiking/walking, trash receptacles

12. Brown and Howard Wharf

This right-of-way is a paved road that extends west from the intersection of Dennison Street and Thames Street to Pole 4D and then southeast to a section of steel bulkhead bordering Newport Harbor. No on-site parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: Z-18
- Historic interest, hiking/walking

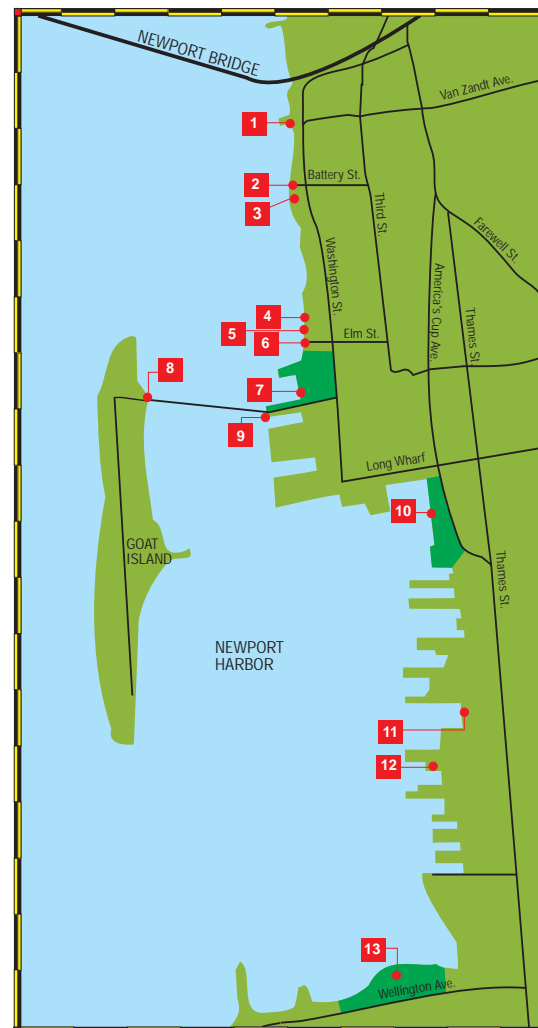
13. King Park

This is a small, grassy park off Wellington Avenue, with playground equipment, plenty of benches, and a small but unobstructed beach area with lifeguards during the summer. Parking in lot with sticker only.

- Handicap access, boat ramp, hiking/walking, trash receptacles

Key to Primary Uses

	Public Park
	Path to Shore
	Boating
	Beach with Lifeguards
	Wildlife Refuge
	Scenic View
	Fishing
	Historic
	Hiking/Walking





Van Zandt Avenue



King Park



Elm Street



Brenton Point State Park



King's Beach



Ledge Road

14. Rose Island Wildlife Refuge

This 16-acre site was a Navy storage facility for explosives during World Wars I and II. Today it is a protected prime nesting habitat for migratory birds; thus, walking around the perimeter of the island is prohibited between April 1 and August 15. Small boats may be beached, but only at the lighthouse. When the refuge is open, visitors must stay on the beaches and abide by the signs. From late October to early April, harbor seals may be seen on the north end and at Citing Rock on the east side of the island. Fee.

15. Rose Island Light Station and Fort Hamilton

The Rose Island Lighthouse was built in the 19th century on the site of an 18th-century fort. It was active until 1970, when it was abandoned and fell into disrepair. The Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation restored the lighthouse and adjacent fort and offers tours seasonally. This 1.5-acre public park is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily from July 1 to Labor Day. Access is via the Jamestown Ferry. Overnight visitors are welcome at the lighthouse year-round. Reservations required. Fee.

- Picnic tables/benches, swimming, fishing, wildlife observation, hiking/walking, toilets

16. Fort Adams State Park

Located off Ocean Drive, this state facility is one of the largest seacoast fortifications in the United States, containing a visual record of military history from the 1820s to the end of World War II. Displaying original granite, brick, and earthworks as well as 20th-century gun emplacements, the park has many public facilities, including a bathing beach with restrooms and showers, two fishing piers, two soccer fields, and a rugby field. Guided tours of the fort are available daily from mid-May through October. Fort Adams is also the location for Sail Newport Sailing Center, the Museum of Yachting, and the Eisenhower House. The Jamestown

Ferry provides water taxi service to Bowen's Wharf, Goat Island, Rose Island, and Jamestown. Parking is available.

- Handicap access, boat ramp, picnic tables/benches, hiking/walking, wildlife observation, trash receptacles

17. Ocean Avenue

This state-maintained coastal road from the end of Bellevue Avenue to Castle Hill and Ridge Road offers breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean, rocky shoreline, and historic mansions. Bailey's Beach (private), Gooseberry Beach, Hazard's Beach (private), Price's Neck Access, and Brenton Point State Park are located off Ocean Avenue. Parking is available.

- Fishing, hiking/walking, wildlife observation

18. Brenton Point State Park

Located off Ocean Avenue at Brenton Point, this state park has lots to offer. During World War II, it was considered a strategic location for the defense of the mouth of Narragansett Bay. The area is frequently used by students to observe the many tidal pools, plants, and animals that live along the rocky shoreline. There is a one-mile walking path along the oceanfront, complete with nature study information displays. Fishing for tautog, mussels, and lobsters is also popular along the shore. There is a large, open, grassy area ideal for picnicking and flying kites. Plenty of free parking is available.

- Handicap access, picnic tables/benches, toilets, trash receptacles

19. King's Beach and Fishing Access

Next to Price's Neck, off Ocean Avenue, is a state-maintained fishing area in a well-protected cove. There is also a large, open, grassy area west of the site and a small cobble beach to the south of the parking area. There is plenty of on-site parking available.

- Swimming, picnicking, wildlife observation



20. Gooseberry Beach

This is a small, quiet beach in a large cove, with a well-protected swimming area. Dogs, floats, jet skis, open fires, ball playing, and spearguns are not allowed. Parking is available for a fee.

- Picnic tables/benches, concessions, fishing, hiking/walking, toilets, trash receptacles



21. Ledge Road

Located near the southern end of Bellevue Avenue, before Ocean Drive, this right-of-way provides access to the end of Cliff Walk. Unlike the other parts of Cliff Walk, this end of the walkway is not paved. Caution should be taken, as this section consists of boulders, dirt paths, and narrow passages along the bluffs. This is a popular site for skin and scuba diving and fishing.

- CRMC ROW#: Z-3
- Wildlife observation, trash receptacles



Battery Street



Ocean Avenue

22. Ruggles Avenue

Located just south of The Breakers mansion, off Bellevue Avenue, this right-of-way ends at the historic Cliff Walk. There is no on-site parking.

- CRMC ROW#: Z-4

23. Shepard Avenue

Located just north of The Breakers off Bellevue Avenue, this site provides access to Cliff Walk. Streetside parking fills up with visitors to The Breakers.

- Trash receptacles

24. Webster Street

Located just south of "40 Steps," off Bellevue Avenue, this right-of-way provides access to Cliff Walk and to some exceptionally scenic views of the mansions, Rhode Island Sound, and Salve Regina University.

- CRMC ROW#: Z-1

25. Narragansett Avenue (40 Steps)

Located at the eastern end of Narragansett Avenue, this site provides access to the mid-point of Cliff Walk. It has been restored as a beautiful National Historic Landmark. Forty granite steps lead sharply down the face of the rocky bluffs above the ocean. Some parking is available.

- CRMC ROW#: Z-2
- Handicap access, fishing, toilets, trash receptacles



Cliff Walk

26. Cliff Terrace

Located off Memorial Boulevard, off Cliff Avenue, this site is near the beginning of Cliff Walk. There is access to Cliff Walk, but no parking.

27. Cliff Walk

Beginning at Memorial Boulevard, this 3.5-mile scenic walkway overlooks the rocky bluffs and the Atlantic Ocean as well as the adjoining famous Newport summer mansions. Although the pathway is paved most of the way, great caution should be taken, as the trail is potentially dangerous in some locations. The site is only partially wheelchair-accessible, as there are rocks and stairs in some areas. Parking is available.

- Wildlife observation, fishing, trash receptacles



Ann Street Pier



Pine Street



Gooseberry Beach ▲▼



28. Easton's Beach (First Beach)

Located at the end of Memorial Boulevard, north of Cliff Walk, this is a great spot for the family because of its many facilities and amusements that include bumper boats, miniature golf, a carousel, an arcade, and lawn bowling. This site also has lifeguards, restrooms, showers, rental bathhouses, a snack bar, and handicapped facilities. A cement boardwalk extends the length of the beach, ideal for strollers and wheelchairs. Although there is plenty of pay parking available, on summer weekends the lots usually fill up by noon.

- Picnic tables/benches, fishing, hiking/walking, trash receptacles



Poplar Street



Ruggles Avenue



Willow Street



Webster Street



Storer Park



Perotti Park

CRMC's Public Right-of-Way Process

What Is a Public Right-of-Way to the Shore?

A public right-of-way to the shore is a piece of land over which the public has the right to pass on foot, or, if appropriate, by vehicle, in order to access the tidal waters of Rhode Island.

How Is a Public Right-of-Way Established in Rhode Island?

Generally, there are six legal methods of establishing a public right-of-way in Rhode Island:

1) *Roadways that have been laid out, recorded, opened, and maintained by a city or town council.* These are commonly known as city- or town-accepted streets. To become a public right-of-way, the city or town must follow the statutory method for laying out public highways. Many of the public rights-of-way in Rhode Island's coastal communities fall into this category.

2) *Highways by grant or use (R.I.G.L. Chapter 24-2).* This statute provides that all lands that have been quietly, peaceably, and actually used, improved, and considered as public highways for 20 years by a city or town council shall be taken and considered to be public highways as if the lands had been regularly laid out, recorded, and opened by the city or town council. In order for this statute to apply, a city or town must give notice of its intentions to declare the land as a public highway and must prepare and record a plat of the highway in the land evidence records of the city or town where the land lies.

3) *Ways that have been approved by recordation of a subdivision plat.* Rhode Island's subdivision statute authorizes cities and towns to control the subdivision of land within their borders (R.I.G.L. Chapter 45-23). A subdivision, of necessity, requires roads and ways. Sometimes, a subdivision contains roads or ways that lead to the

state's tidal waters. After a city or town planning commission has given notice of the proposed subdivision plat, held public hearing(s), and approved the subdivision plat, and that plat has been recorded in the city's or town's land evidence records, the roads or ways are available for public use.

4) *Ways that have been offered to the public by dedication and accepted by public use or by official city or town action (implied dedication).* This is a common law method of establishing public rights-of-way. In order for there to be a common law dedication, there must be a clear intent by the owner to donate the land and a clear acceptance of that land by the public. Once a parcel of land has been dedicated, the transfer is irrevocable. The landowner's intent to dedicate the land can be evidenced by the recordation of a plat map showing the right-of-way as public or by language contained in a deed(s). Many public rights-of-way to Rhode Island's shoreline have been established by dedication.

5) *Highways that have been used by the public since time immemorial.* This is an old common law concept. The law provides that to create a public right-of-way by use, the evidence must show that the use has been general, uninterrupted, continuous, and adverse so as to

warrant the inference that the land had been laid out, appropriated, or dedicated by the landowner to the public. An occasional use of land by a few persons living in the area or by abutters to the property without any claim of right is insufficient to establish a public right-of-way.

6) *Ways that have been obtained by the public's adverse use.* Privately owned paths to the shore that have been used for a period of 10 consecutive years by the public may become rights-of-way, but only if the requirements of the R.I. General Laws are met (R.I.G.L. Chapter 34-7). This method is commonly known as an easement by prescription. An easement is a right to use the land of another in a specified manner. In order to create a public right-of-way by this method, the public has the burden of establishing actual, open, notorious, hostile, and continuous use of a way under a claim of right for 10 years. In addition, the law specifically does not allow a public right-of-way to be established by footpaths; the pathway has to have been used by carriages or vehicles.

CRMC Public Right-of-Way Designation Process

CRMC has the authority to designate public rights-of-way to the tidal waters of the state (R.I.G.L. 46-23.6). A CRMC public right-of-way designation clarifies the status of a public right-of-way and provides shore goers with clear and legally defined pathways to the shore. The designation of public rights-of-way also ensures the preservation and protection of these access sites for subsequent generations of Rhode Islanders. CRMC carries on a continuous process of discovery and designation of rights-of-way using a standing right-of-way subcommittee. Because of administrative and legal requirements, the right-of-way designation process is complex and requires a substantial investment of time and resources.

Therefore, CRMC typically takes a town-by-town approach to identify and investigate potential public rights-of-way. The CRMC designation process begins with a fact-finding investigation and a title search conducted by CRMC's or the town's legal counsel. This investigation is usually at the request of a coastal city or town. In many cases, CRMC's efforts are supplemented with research by the various municipal departments. During the fact-finding process, evidence pertaining to the existence of a right-of-way is gathered from land evidence records, deeds, tax assessor records, public works records, town documents, and court records. A visual inspection of potential sites is also made to gather evidence pertaining to the exercise of dominion over a potential right-of-way including maintenance, repair, and upkeep.

All evidence is reviewed for accuracy and relevance by the CRMC right-of-way subcommittee and presented at a public hearing in the town or city involved. If, based on the evidence gathered and public testimony received, the subcommittee determines with reasonable probability that a public right-of-way exists, a recommendation is made to the full council to designate the site. If the full council approves the right-of-way subcommittee's recommendation, then a final written decision is rendered containing factual findings and conclusions of law. If there is not an appeal or after an appeal has been resolved in favor of CRMC, then the decision is recorded in the land evidence records and filed with the Secretary of State's Office.

What a CRMC-Designated Right-of-Way Means

Once a public right-of-way has been designated, the public possesses a passageway to gain access to the tidal waters of the state. Like an easement, a public right-of-way relates to the public's use, not the public's ownership. In

other words, the public has the right to pass over and use the land in a manner consistent with the condition of the site no matter who owns it. When CRMC designates a public right-of-way, it does *not* determine the ownership of the site. CRMC is prohibited from addressing questions of ownership.

Determining the ownership of a public right-of-way can be complicated and often requires court action. Frequently, if a site has been actively used by the public, the public may in fact own the site. CRMC does not create "new" public rights-of-way; it merely recognizes and places an official designation on previously existing conditions. It is the landowner and/or a city or town that *creates* a public right-of-way; CRMC merely *identifies* these sites. If CRMC has not designated a site, it does not mean that a public right-of-way does not exist. In fact, a public right-of-way may exist, but CRMC may not have enough information to legally designate it or CRMC may not have investigated the site.

Can a Public Right-of-Way Be Blocked or Abandoned?

Once a site has been designated as a public right-of-way, CRMC prohibits any activities that would obstruct the public's use of the site and pursues legal actions against individuals that block or impede the public's access at designated rights-of-way.

Once a public right-of-way has been designated by CRMC, it cannot be abandoned by a city or town without prior approval of CRMC (R.I.G.L.46-23-6.2). In addition, a public right-of-way that has not been designated by CRMC, but is nevertheless a public way, cannot be abandoned without formal abandonment proceedings. Moreover, highways that have been designated public by the actions of a landowner or acquired by prescription cannot be lost due to non-use and the public cannot lose its rights due to adverse possession.

Public Access Created via CRMC Permit

In addition to creating public access by legislative mandate to discover and designate public rights-of-way to the shore, CRMC creates public access via Section 335 regulations in the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program. These regulations require that a public access plan be included when CRMC issues a permit for:

- Commercial and industrial development or redevelopment projects
- New marinas or significant expansions to marinas
- Activities that involve the filling of tidal waters
- Publicly funded beach nourishment projects

Projects That Include a Section 335 Public Access Plan

Bristol

Stone Harbour Condominiums
Thames Street Landing
Weetamoe Farms Condominiums
Wharf Tavern

Little Compton

Sakonnet Point Club

Narragansett

Knowlesway Extension (at Point Judith Pond)

Newport

Casey's Marina
Newport Onshore
The Inn at Long Wharf (Marina)
West Wind Marina (Waite's Wharf)

North Kingstown

Blue Beach (R.I. Economic Development Corporation)
Compass Rose Beach (R.I. Economic Development Corporation)
Jamestown Bridge (R.I. Department of Transportation)
Keiffer Park (R.I. Economic Development Corporation)
North Kingstown Town Marina
Spink's Neck Beach (R.I. Economic Development Corporation)

Portsmouth

Carnegie Abbey
Melville Marina
Mount Hope Marine Terminal

Providence

Collier Point Park (Narragansett Electric)
Providence Place Mall
Shooters (Currently R.I. Department of Transportation property)

Tiverton

Village at Mount Hope Bay (Starwood)

Warwick

Dickerson's Marina
Greenwich Bay Marina



CRMC Rights-of-Way

Barrington		Steamboat Street	G3	Willow Street	Z13	Patterson Avenue	R3
Shore Road	P1	Spindrift Street	G4	Poplar Street	Z14	Harris Avenue	R4
Dauris R-O-W	P2	Eldred Avenue	G5	Elm Street	Z15	Shore Drive (3)	R6
Bristol		Mast Street	G6	Goat Island Connector (28-B)	Z16	Shore Drive (5)	R7
Beach Road	S1	Hull Street	G7	Goat Island Connector (28-A)	Z17	Shore Drive (6)	R8
Gibson Road	S2	Capstan Street	G12	Brown & Howard Wharf	Z18	Shore Drive (7)	R9
Fales Road	S3	Garboard Street	G11	Lee's Wharf	Z19	Road to Town Landing	R10
Constitution Street	S4	Champlin Way	G8	Howard's Wharf	Z20	Warwick	
Union Street	S5	Buccaneer Way	G9	Sisson's Wharf	Z21*	Bradford Street	J1
Walley Street	S6	Decatur Avenue	G13	Waites Wharf	Z22*	Elkins Avenue	J2
Low Lane	S18	Carr Lane	G10	Spring Wharf	Z23	Charlotte Drive (north side) #1	J3
North Street	S7	High Street ¹		North Kingstown		Charlotte Drive (north side) #2	J4
Butterworth Avenue	S8	Little Compton		Phillips Street	F5	Charlotte Drive (north side) #3	J5
Azalea Drive	S9	Continuation of Taylor's Lane	W1	Loop Drive	F6	Charlotte Drive #4	J6
Fatima Drive	S10	Town Way	W2	Loop Drive (2)	F7	Beachwood Drive (east side) #1	J7
San Miguel Drive	S11	Sakonnet Harbor Boat Ramp	W3	Town Wharf ¹		Beachwood Drive (east side) #2	J8
Sherman Avenue	S12	Middletown		Allen Harbor Complex ¹		Sylvia Drive	J9
Smith Street	S13	Tuckerman Avenue		Wilson Park ¹		Sheffield Street	J10
Kickemuit Avenue	S14	btwn Lots 104/105	Y1*	Pawtucket		Reynolds Avenue	J11
Narrows Road	S15	Shore Drive	Y3	Bishop Street	M1	North Shore Street	J12
Sunrise Drive	S16	Third Beach Road	Y4	Portsmouth		Waterfront Drive	J13
Annawamscutt Drive	S17	Southeast end of Esplanade		Mount View Road	V1	Cooney Street	J14
Poppasquash Road (beach lot)	S19	& Shore Drive	Y5	Anthony Road	V2	Progress Street	J15
Burton Street	S23	Taggarts Ferry Road	Y6	Narragansett Road	V3	Burnett Road (east side) #1	J16
State Street	S20	Kingfisher Avenue	Y7	Cedar Avenue	V4	Burnett Road (east side) #2	J17
Franklin Street	S21	Northwest end of Esplanade	Y8*	Point Street	V5	Burnett Road (east side) #3	J18
Oliver Street	S22	Western end of Purgatory Rd.	Y9	Green Street	V6	Shawomet Avenue (north side)	J19
Bayview (Clipper Way)	S25	Shore Drive, opp. Lot 107	Y10*	Seaconnet Blvd. (northeasterly	V7	Shawomet Avenue (north side)	J20
Narrows Peninsula	S26	Tuckerman Avenue,		corner of land of Wm. Herbert)		Bellman Avenue	J21
Platt Street	S27	opp. Wolcott Avenue	Y11*	Seaconnet Blvd.	V8*	Gaspee Point Drive (abandoned)	J22
Aaron Avenue	S29	Narragansett		Seaconnet Blvd. (northeasterly	V9	Butler Court	J23
Peck Avenue	S24	Knowlesway Extension	C1	corner of land of Don Ibbotson)		Nausauket Road	J24
King Philip Avenue	S28	Extension of Pilgrim Avenue	C2	Seaconnet Blvd. (northeasterly	V10	Ives Road	J25
Charlestown		Calef Avenue	C3	corner of land of Virginia Arruda)		Tiffany Avenue/Progress Street	J26
Breachway	B1	Black Point	C5*	Ruth Avenue	V11	Narragansett Bay Avenue	J28
East Beach Road	B2	Bass Rock Road	C6	Fountain Avenue	V12	Off Shawomet Avenue	J29
Cranston		Conanicus Road	C11	Aquidneck Avenue	V13	Off Ship Street (Ship Court)	J30
Aborn Street (south side)	K1	Conant Avenue Road End	C7	Atlantic Avenue	V14	Suburban Parkway-	
Aborn Street (westerly side)	K2	Foddering Farm Road Extension	C12	(Easterly end of East Corys Lane)		Formerly Delaware Avenue	J31
Seaview Avenue (west side)	K3	Hazard Avenue Road End	C9	Atlantic Avenue	V15	Peck Lane-Pawtuxet Village	J32
East Greenwich		Newton Avenue Road End	C13	(Easterly end of Tallman Avenue)		Off Cooney Street/Extension	
London Street	H1	Pettaquamscutt Avenue	C10	Child Street	V16	of Lilac Street	J33
Rocky Hollow Road	H2	South Ferry Road	C8	Morningside Lane	V17	Rock Avenue/Bromley Avenue	J34
Long Street	H3	Wandsworth Street Extension	C14	Providence		Off Reynolds Avenue	J35
King Street	H4	New Shoreham (Block Island)		Irving Avenue	L1	Priscilla Avenue	J36
Bridge Street	H5	Settlers' Rock	E1	Butler Avenue	L2	Masthead Drive-Old Courtland Ln.	J37
Division Street	H6	Scotch Beach Road	E2	South Kingstown		Ogden Avenue off Burnett Road	J38
East Providence		Scup Rock Property	E3	Static Drive	D1	Westerly	
Third Beachway	N4	Cooneymus Road	E4	Dawn Drive	D2	Avondale Road	A14
Fourth Beachway	N5	Coast Guard Road	E5	Daybreak Drive	D3	Bluff Avenue	A2*
Fifth Beachway	N6	Andy's Way	E6	Ocean Avenue	D4	Manatuck Avenue	A3*
Narragansett Beachway	N1	West Beach Road	E7	Tiverton		Atlantic Avenue (1)	A6
First Beachway	N2	Newport		State Avenue	T2	Atlantic Avenue (2)	A7
Second Beachway	N3	Webster Street	Z1	Carey Lane	T1	Atlantic Avenue (4)	A8*
Sixth Beachway	N7	Narragansett Avenue	Z2	Nannaquaket Bridge	T3	Atlantic Avenue (5)	A9
Seventh Beachway	N8	Ledge Road	Z3	Fogland Road	T4	Atlantic Avenue (6)	A10*
Eighth Beachway	N9	Ruggles Avenue	Z4	Land south of Sakonnet Bridge	T5	Atlantic Avenue (7)	A11
Ninth Beachway	N10	Seaview Avenue	Z5	Two Rod Way	T6	Atlantic Avenue (8)	A12*
Tenth Beachway	N11	Cypress Street	Z6	South of Stone Bridge	T7	Atlantic Avenue (9)	A13
Eleventh Beachway	N12	Van Zandt Avenue	Z7	Warren			
Riverside Drive	N13	Battery Street	Z8	Maple Street	R1		
Jamestown		Pine Street	Z9	Parker Avenue	R2		
Broad Street	G1	Cherry Street	Z10				
Spirketing Street	G2	Chestnut Street	Z11				
		Walnut Street	Z12				

*On appeal. Sites so noted indicate CRMC decisions that are being challenged through the courts. Sites that have been determined not public are not on this list. For more information, contact CRMC.

¹ Designation number pending

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Block Island

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