

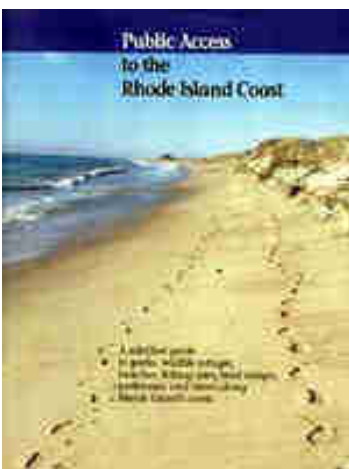
# A Daytripper's Guide to Rhode Island

Rhode Island's natural places, and bays, rivers, ponds and coastline are what make Rhode Island special. Recognizing this, Rhode Island Sea Grant

has published guides to help Rhode Islanders explore the natural beauty of their state. *Public Access to the Rhode Island Coast* (February 1993), [out of print](#)\*, is now available on-line, combined with portions of *A Guide to Rhode Island's Natural Places* (1995). This guide, including a detailed map, is available from Rhode Island Sea Grant.

[Order form.](#)

You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view sections of these publications. Click [here](#) to download this free software.



*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

*I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide*

*Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied.*

- John Masefield (1878-1967)

[guidecover.jpg](#) (15020 bytes)



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- |                                   |                                  |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Barrington</a>        | <a href="#">Glocester</a>        | <a href="#">Portsmouth</a>      |
| <a href="#">Block Island</a> (New | <a href="#">Hopkinton</a>        | <a href="#">Providence</a>      |
| <a href="#">Shoreham)</a>         |                                  |                                 |
| <a href="#">Bristol</a>           | <a href="#">Jamestown</a>        | <a href="#">Richmond</a>        |
| <a href="#">Burrillville</a>      | <a href="#">Johnston</a>         | <a href="#">Scituate</a>        |
| <a href="#">Central Falls</a>     | <a href="#">Lincoln</a>          | <a href="#">Smithfield</a>      |
| <a href="#">Charlestown</a>       | <a href="#">Little Compton</a>   | <a href="#">South Kingstown</a> |
| <a href="#">Coventry</a>          | <a href="#">Middletown</a>       | <a href="#">Tiverton</a>        |
| <a href="#">Cranston</a>          | <a href="#">Narragansett</a>     | <a href="#">Warren</a>          |
| <a href="#">Cumberland</a>        | <a href="#">Newport</a>          | <a href="#">Warwick</a>         |
| <a href="#">East Greenwich</a>    | <a href="#">North Kingstown</a>  | <a href="#">Westerly</a>        |
| <a href="#">East Providence</a>   | <a href="#">North Providence</a> | <a href="#">West Greenwich</a>  |
| <a href="#">Exeter</a>            | <a href="#">North Smithfield</a> | <a href="#">West Warwick</a>    |
| <a href="#">Foster</a>            | <a href="#">Pawtucket</a>        | <a href="#">Woonsocket</a>      |

\*Loan copies of all Sea Grant publications are available from the [National Sea Grant Library](#).



## Safety Tips

Many areas of Rhode Island's shoreline can be hazardous. Twice a day high tide floods the shoreline with over three 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.

- Always accompany children into the water, even if it is shallow.
- When exploring rocky shores, avoid slippery rocks, partially covered by algae in the warmer months, and 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. The state Department of Environmental Management 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. Divers are easily recognized by the required red flag with a white diagonal slash which 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.





# How to use this guide

## KEY TO MAP REGIONS

### A Block Island

### South Shore

B Westerly

C Charlestown, South Kingstown

D South Kingstown, Narragansett

### West Bay

E Jamestown, Narragansett, North Kingstown

F North Kingstown, East Greenwich, Warwick

### Upper Bay

G Warwick, Cranston, Providence, Pawtucket, East Providence

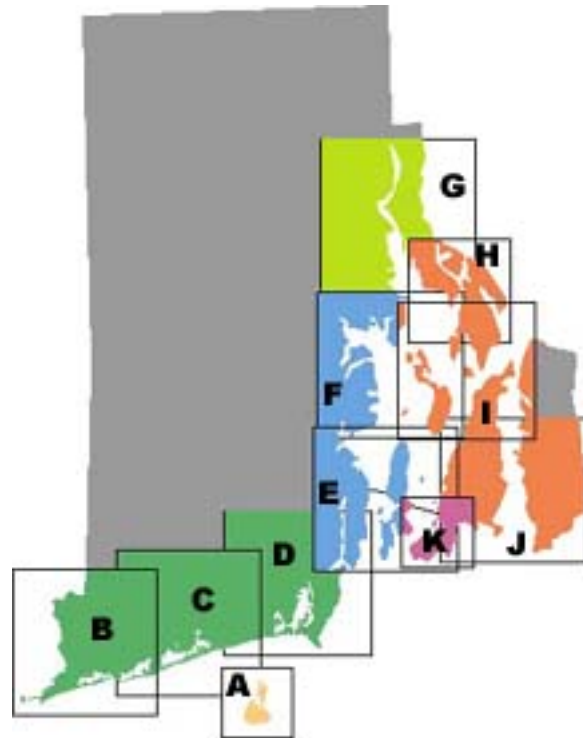
### East Bay

H Barrington, Warren

I Bristol, Portsmouth, Tiverton

J Portsmouth, Tiverton, Little Compton, Middletown

### K Newport



## 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 seashore. These 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, an accompanying matrix, and a description of each coastal access site. The sites are numbered sequentially on a map with a symbol designating its most popular

use. Each site is keyed to a matrix for each municipality that lists information about the facilities (parking, restrooms, fees, etc.), the environment (sandy beach, marsh, harbor, etc.), and popular uses (swimming, fishing, hiking, etc.). Rights-of-way designated by the Coastal Resources Management Council 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. A list of telephone numbers is included at the back of the guide for easy reference if you have any questions about fees, hours of operation, transportation, or ferry schedules.



## Matrix definitions

### FACILITIES

#### Path

There is a narrow pathway to the shore.

#### Fee

There may be an entrance fee, parking fee, or some other cost associated with the use of the site; generally, these fees are charged during the summer season.

#### On-Site Parking

There is on-site parking available. For additional parking information, see the corresponding site description.

#### Public Transportation

Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) buses stop near the site.

#### Handicapped Access

There are wheelchair-accessible restrooms or other facilities designed for the physically challenged.

#### Boat Ramps

There are boat ramps for launching hand-carried

### ENVIRONMENT

#### Sandy Beach

The beach has fine sand that is easy to walk on barefoot.

#### Cobble Beach

The beach is one of pebbles or rocks.

#### Rocky Shore

The shoreline is composed of bedrock, ledge, or boulder-strewn areas.

#### Steep Shoreline

Coastal cliffs, bluffs, and steep banks characterize this site.

#### Marsh

The site has coastal or brackish wetlands regularly flooded by the tide.

#### Bulkhead

There is a manmade shoreline structure along the shore.

#### Harbor Area

There is a waterfront area with a variety of

or trailered boats.

### **Docks/Piers**

There are docks or piers for boater pickup and/or dropoff.

### **Toilet**

Toilet facilities, flush or chemical, are available for public use.

### **Trash Receptacles**

Containers are available for trash disposal.

### **Public Telephone**

Public pay telephones are present.

### **Picnic Tables/Benches**

There are picnic tables, park benches, or shelters.

### **Concession**

Small to medium-sized concession stands, restaurants, or snack bars are either at the site or nearby.

activities related to tourism, recreation, and maritime commerce.

## **POPULAR USES**

### **View Site**

The site has a scenic view of the coast but may have no physical access to the water.

### **Swimming**

The site has lifeguards and designated swimming areas.

### **Picnicking**

The site is suitable for picnics and has tables, shelters, or grills.

### **Historical/Cultural Interest**

This area has historical or archaeological significance, is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, or is designated as historically or archaeologically sensitive by the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission.

### **Wildlife Observation**

This is a sensitive habitat, a stopover for migratory birds, or is a refuge for many species of fish, birds, or waterfowl.

### **Fishing**

The site is a popular fishing spot or is formally designated a state fishing area.

### **Walking/Hiking**

The site has hiking trails or is a good place for walking.



## Matrix Definitions

		Facilities										Environment					Popular Uses										
		Path	Fee	On-Site Parking	Public Transportation	Handicapped Access	Boat Ramps	Docks/Piers	Toilet	Trash Receptacles	Public Telephone	Picnic Tables/Benches	Concession	Sandy Beach	Cobble Beach	Rocky Shore	Steep Shoreline	Marsh	Bulkhead	Harbor Area	View Site	Swimming	Picnicking	Historical/Cultural Interest	Wildlife Observation	Fishing	Walking/Hiking
Town Name	Site Name																										

### FACILITIES

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#### Public Transportation

Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) buses stop near the site.

#### Handicapped Access

There are wheelchair-accessible restrooms or other facilities designed for the physically challenged.

#### Boat Ramps

There are boat ramps for launching hand-carried or trailered boats.

#### Docks/Piers

There are docks or piers for boater pickup and/or dropoff.

#### Toilet

Toilet facilities, flush or chemical, are available for public use.

#### Trash Receptacles

Containers are available for trash disposal.

#### Public Telephone

Public pay telephones are present.

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There are picnic tables, park

benches, or shelters.

#### Concession

Small to medium-sized concession stands, restaurants, or snack bars are either at the site or nearby.

### ENVIRONMENT

#### Sandy Beach

The beach has fine sand that is easy to walk on barefoot.

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The beach is one of pebbles or rocks.

#### Rocky Shore

The shoreline is composed of bed-rock, ledge, or boulder-strewn areas.

#### Steep Shoreline

Coastal cliffs, bluffs, and steep banks characterize this site.

#### Marsh

The site has coastal or brackish wetlands regularly flooded by the

tide.

#### Bulkhead

There is a manmade shoreline structure along the shore.

#### Harbor Area

There is a waterfront area with a variety of activities related to tourism, recreation, and maritime commerce.

### POPULAR USES

#### View Site

The site has a scenic view of the coast but may have no physical access to the water.

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The site has lifeguards and designated swimming areas.

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#### Fishing

The site is a popular fishing spot or is formally designated a state fishing area.

#### Walking/Hiking

The site has hiking trails or is a

**KEY TO SYMBOLS**

-  Path to the shore.
-  Scenic view.
-  Popular fishing site.
-  Public park.
-  Conservation area or wildlife refuge.
-  Beach with lifeguards during the summer.
-  Boat ramp.

## Public Saltwater Beaches

*Beaches with lifeguards open to public use as of June 1992. Many charge a fee.*

### **Barrington**

Barrington Town Beach (2)

### **Block Island**

Federick Benson Town Beach (Cresecent Beach)

### **Charlestown**

Blue Shutters Town Beach

Charlestown Town Beach

### **Jamestown**

Mackerel Cove Beach

### **Little Compton**

South Shore Beach (Goosewing Beach (1))

Town Beach

### **Middletown**

Atlantic Beach

Second Beach (Sachuest Beach)

Third Beach

### **Narragansett**

Roger Wheeler State Beach

Narragansett Town Beach

Salty Brine State Beach

Scarborough State Beach

### **Newport**

Easton's Beach (First Beach)

Ft. Adams State Park Beach

Gooseberry Beach

King Park Beach

### **North Kingstown**

Town Beach (2)

### **Portsmouth**

Sandy Point Beach

Teddy's Beach

### **South Kingstown**

East Matunuck State Beach

Mary Carpenter's Beach (1)

Roy Carpenter's Beach

South Kingstown Town Beach



**Tiverton**

Grinnel's Beach

**Warren**

Warren Town Beach (2)

**Warwick**

Warwick City Park Beach

Goddard State Park Beach

Oakland Beach

**Westerly**

Atlantic Trailer Beach (1)

Dunes Trailer Park Beach

Westerly Town Beach (2)

Misquamicut State Beach

(1) Privately owned but open to use by the public; (2) during the summer, parking is limited to local residents only

**Telephone numbers for questions about public access**

(Please e-mail [allard@gsosun1.gso.uri.edu](mailto:allard@gsosun1.gso.uri.edu) to update any of these numbers)

**Coastal Cities and Towns**

Barrington Town Hall, 247-1900	Jamestown Town Hall, 423-0200	Portsmouth Town Hall, 683-2101
Block Island Town Hall, 466-3200	Little Compton Town Hall, 635-4400	Providence City Hall, 421-7740
Bristol Town Hall, 253-7000	Middletown Town Hall, 847-0009	South Kingstown Town Hall, 789-9331
Charlestown Town Hall, 364-7718	Narragansett Town Hall, 789-1044	Tiverton Town Hall, 624-4277
Cranston City Hall, 461-1000	Newport City Hall, 846-9600	Warren Town Hall, 245-7340
East Greenwich Town Hall, 884-4410	North Kingstown Town Hall, 294-3331	Warwick City Hall, 738-2000
East Providence City Hall, 434-3311	Pawtucket City Hall 728-0500	Westerly Town Hall, 596-0341

**State Agencies**

Coastal Resources Management Council, 222-2476	DEM License Information, 222-3576
Dept. of Environmental Management, 222-2771	DEM Marine Fisheries, 294-4524
DEM Boat Registration, 222-6647	DEM Parks and Recreation, 222-2632
DEM Boating Safety, 222-2284	DEM Shellfish Closure Information, 222-2900
DEM Coastal Fisheries lab, 783-2304	Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission, 222-2678
DEM Division of Enforcement, 222-3070	Rhode Island Sea Grant, 874-6842
DEM Division of Water Resources, 222-3691	URI Coastal Resources Center, 874-6224
DEM Fish and Wildlife, 222-6925	

## State Parks

Bay Island Park, Prudence Island, Bristol, 683-4236	East Matunuck State Beach, Westerly, 789-8585
Beavertail State Park, Jamestown, 423-9941	Fishermen's Memorial State Park, Narragansett, 789-8374
Brenton Point State Park, Newport, 847-2400	Fort Adams State Park, Newport, 847-2400
Colt State Park, Bristol, 253-7482	Goddard Memorial State Park, Warwick, 884-2010

## Environmental Organizations

Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Smithfield, 231-6444  
friends of the Waterfront, Newport, 846-2074  
Save the Bay, Providence, 272-3540  
Rhode Island Tourism Council, Providence, 222-2601/1-800-556-2484

## Public Transportation

Bay Queen Tour Boat, Warren, 245-1350  
Block Island Ferry, Narragansett, 789-3502  
Old Port Marine Ferry Services, Newport, 849-2111  
Prudence Island Ferry, Bristol, 253-9808  
Rhode Island Public Transportation Authority (buses) Providence, 781-9400

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## Public Access Code of Conduct

Rhode Islanders are lucky to have several hundred public accessways to the shore. If we are to keep our constitutional "privileges to the shore" and not abuse them, we, the public, must act responsibly. Remember:

Leave only footprints. Dispose of litter in trash bins. If none is available, take trash back home with you. In many places there is no public trash removal.

Respect neighbors' property rights. Stay on the public pathway. Leave the area at nightfall. In many communities, the park closes at sunset and opens at sunrise.

Park so that you do not block the rights-of-way or neighborhood driveways and obey all local parking laws.

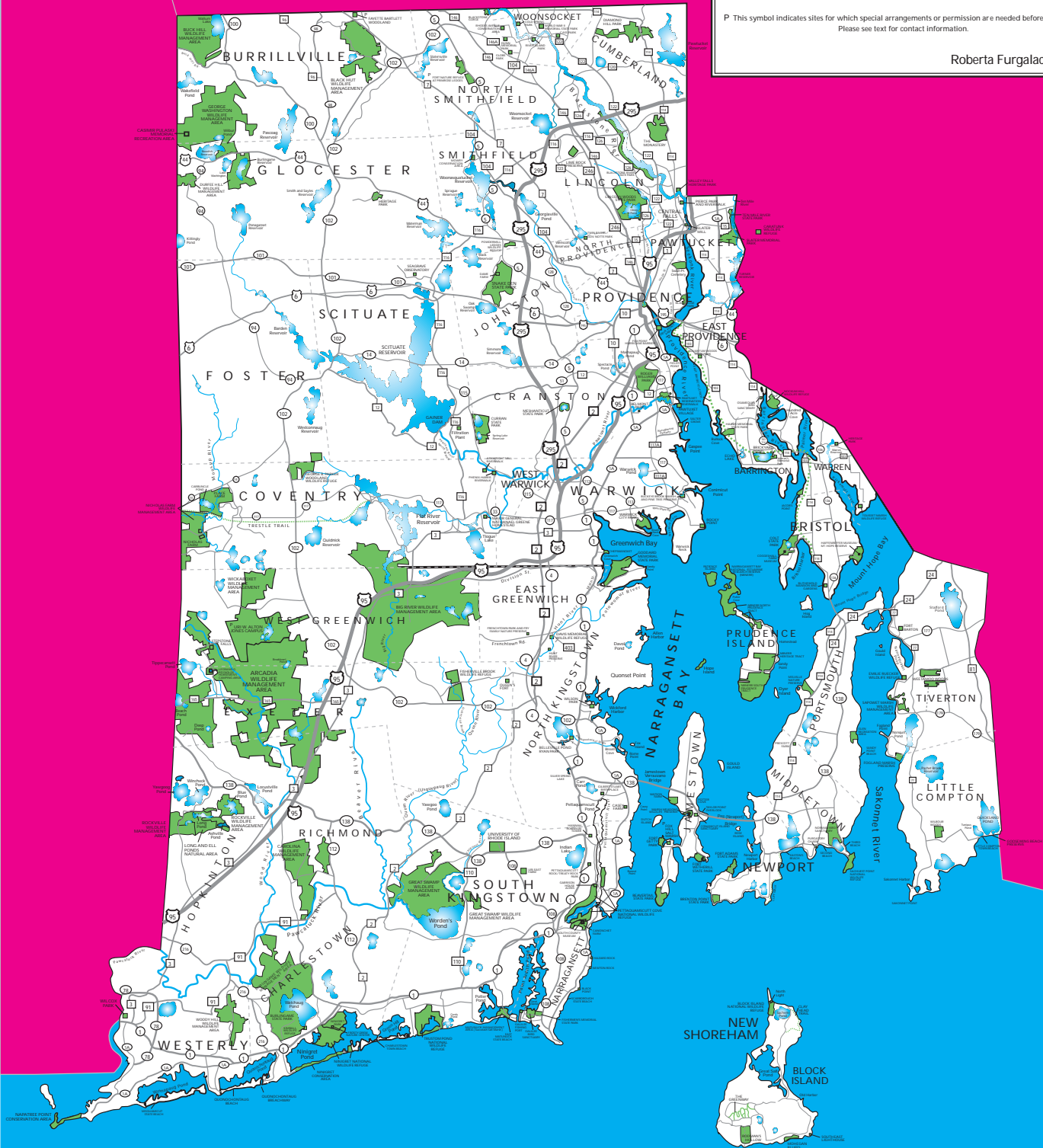
Protect environmentally sensitive areas. Walking on sand dune grass, marsh grasses, or bluff vegetation will destroy them and adversely impact creatures that live in these sensitive habitats.

Fish for only what you will eat. Release other fish unharmed. Be aware that some areas are seasonally closed to shellfishing to protect public health.

# A Guide to Rhode Island's Natural Places

P This symbol indicates sites for which special arrangements or permission are needed before visiting. Please see text for contact information.

Roberta Furgalack



# ***A Guide to Rhode Island's Natural Places***

This 216-page guide is a must for those visiting Rhode Island and those wanting to discover Rhode Island. The guide offers descriptions of and directions to over 180 sites throughout the state and gives suggestions about what to look for at the site. The guide comes with an accompanying map with all the sites and primary roads and most secondary roads depicted.

Write or telephone:

Rhode Island Sea Grant Communications Office  
URI Bay Campus  
Narragansett, RI 02882  
401-874-6842

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *A Guide to Rhode Island's Natural Places*

**\$15 each plus \$3 shipping and handling per copy**

***For shipping charges on more than 3 copies, please contact Rhode Island Sea Grant.***

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to *R.I. Sea Grant/URI*

[Daytripper's Guide to Rhode Island](#)

[Rhode Island Sea Grant](#)

# CRMC Designation of Public Right-of-Ways to the Tidal Areas of the State

*July 1999 through June 2000*

## Summary:

During the report period of July 1999 to June 2000, and in accordance with its legislative mandate at GLRI 46-23-17, the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) has continued to discover and designate public rights-of-way to the tidal areas of the state.

Beginning in 1978, the CRMC has been tasked by the legislature to carry out the continued discovery and designation of all public rights-of-way to the shore. To meet this charge, the CRMC created its Subcommittee on Rights-of-Way. Significant actions of the subcommittee during the report period July 1999 through June 2000 include the following:

- Review of eight (8) new potential ROWs in the town of Narragansett, with the decision that they were ripe for a public hearing scheduled for July 2000
- Review of three (3) new potential ROWs in the town of North Kingstown, with the decision to further investigate them during the next fiscal year as CRMC's funds for ROWs were expended at the time of this decision, April 25, 2000.

Any decision resulting in a public right-of-way designation by the Council is permanently recorded with the Secretary of State. The cumulative efforts of the CRMC and its ROW subcommittee are as follows:

Total Number of Potential ROWs Reviewed	348
Sites Designated as Public ROWs	216
Sites Found to Be Not Public	73
Sites That Are Not Resolved	35
New Sites Under Review	11
Sites That Are on Appeal	15

## Goal:

The goal of the CRMC is to designate at least one public right-of-way for each mile of shoreline. With 216 sites designated as public, and with 420 miles of Rhode Island shoreline, the CRMC is better than half-way to reaching its goal.

## Town-by-Town Analysis of the Council's Actions Regarding Site Designations and Public Rights-of-Way to the Shore

The following represents a town-by-town analysis of the Council's actions regarding the review of various sites and their potential designations as public rights-of-way to the shore. This is the official listing of the Council's actions regarding its designation process for public rights-of-way.

Where applicable, the following terms mean:

## Sites Found Not Public

The Council reviewed these sites and based on the evidence submitted into the record at the time of the hearing, found that insufficient evidence existed to designate these sites as public rights-of-way to the shore. However, further review may occur for these sites given new evidence.

## Sites Not Resolved

The Council previously investigated these sites and made no determination as to whether or not these sites are public rights-of-way to the shore. They are not currently being investigated by the Council; however, further review may occur for these sites given new evidence.

## Under Review

Sites which are currently being considered by the subcommittee.

## On Appeal

Decisions of the Council which are being challenged through the courts.

## Funding

Funding remains a chronic problem for the rights-of-way program. Current federal and state appropriation specifically earmarked for this task were level funded in response to state budget problems in past fiscal years. Original funding for the CRMC ROW program was designated at \$30,000; previous year's allocation have been approximately \$15,000. For the past few years, the Council's ROW program has been funded at \$5,000.

The reduced monies must still cover legal, stenographer, hearing officer, travel, advertising, and staff costs. This year, even with town assistance in the form of legal research, the ROW process has been hindered. This is evidenced by the fact that no new rights-of-way were designated during this report period.

Likewise, given previous report periods (1993/94 to date), the CRMC has only been able to designate, on average, just better than 6 public ROWs per report year. However, no new ROWs were designated during the past two report years (1998-1999 and 1999-2000). This is primarily due to funding constraints, which include comprehensive legal research, and time-consuming public hearings (the purpose of which is to exhaust evidence), resulting in site designations that span reporting periods. The CRMC has had to reduce funding to the ROW program due to overall decreased program funding.

Therefore, it is likely that due to further decreases in state appropriations, and the resulting decreases in federal monies (a 1:1 match is required with federal funding), it may be necessary for the Council to come close to zero-funding its rights-of-way program next fiscal year. As state appropriations dwindle, the Council is faced with using federal funding to cover operational costs, thereby losing such programs as the ROW designation process. Further, if one were to take into consideration the monetary cost of trying to purchase those CRMC-designated public access areas at current market value, it would easily amount in the millions. Thus the state has reaped a high rate of return for monies expended on this program. By demonstrating how successful the Council's efforts vis-a-vis rights-of-way designations and their impact to the state's quality of life, the Council will continue to lobby for additional state appropriations, especially those appropriations earmarked for public shoreline access.



## **CRMC-Designated Rights-of-Way**

<a href="#"><u>Barrington</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Newport</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Block Island</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>North Kingstown</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Bristol</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pawtucket</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Charlestown</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Portsmouth</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Cranston</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Providence</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>East Greenwich</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>South Kingstown</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>East Providence</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Tiverton</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Jamestown</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Warren</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Little Compton</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Warwick</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Middletown</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Westerly</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Narragansett</u></a>	

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# WOODLANDS

Rhode Island is the second most densely populated state in the country, yet 60 percent of its land is forested. Woodlands, with their thick growth of trees and understory shrubs and other low vegetation, cover more than 400,000 acres.

It wasn't always so. The sylvan acres that greeted Rhode Island's settlers were aggressively cleared for agricultural and urban use. By the mid-1700s, more than 69 percent of the state's deciduous, hardwood forest had been converted to farmland. Interestingly, it was the Industrial Revolution, not planned conservation, that sowed the seeds of reforestation. Agricultural fields and orchards abandoned to the economic changes of the industrial age were overtaken first by grasses, then by low-growing shrubs and shrubby trees, and by thickets of mixed species. In time, a "pioneer" tree species took root. In upland areas, the pioneer species was usually pine; eventually, the pine stand was shaded out by deciduous trees of the self-maintaining, or climax, forest. In coastal areas, pine outcompeted hardwoods as the climax species. This process of succession restored 30 percent of lost woodlands and continues in various stages throughout the state.

Virtually all Rhode Island's woodlands are second-growth forests, regenerated primarily from abandoned agricultural sites. Forests are most prevalent in the western part of the state, where communities such as [Glocester](#) and [West Greenwich](#) are more than 80 percent woodland.

In these upland areas, deciduous trees - those that lose their leaves at the end of each growing season - thrive. More than half the state's forests are deciduous, consisting of hardwoods such as oaks, maples, hickories, and birches. The less-plentiful but more flexible conifers, or evergreens, grow not only in the well-drained uplands, but also in sandier lowlands and the spongy soils of swamps. White pine, the most common of these softwoods, was the predominant south coastal species until forest fires began ravaging reverting farmland and diminished the pine's seed source. Today, white pine is again gaining prominence in coastal areas. Other common conifers include pitch pine, black spruce, Atlantic white cedar, and hemlock.

Altogether, about 2,000 species of plants have been identified in Rhode Island, and the forest floor offers an abundance of them: mountain laurel, azalea, and viburnum, along with berry bushes of all kinds, such as blackberry, blueberry, and huckleberry. Numerous ferns, club mosses, fungi, and lichens flourish beneath the forest canopy, and wildflowers, such as wood lily and pink lady's slipper, sprout throughout.

This rich environment supports scores of animal species, including more than 100 bird species. Along with familiar chipmunk, squirrel, cottontail, raccoon, skunk, and mink may be the rare bobcat. Deer, the largest game animal now found in Rhode Island, are abundant. Among woodland birds, warblers, thrushes, and woodpeckers abound, along with wild turkey, owls, and cuckoos.



Order the complete [Guide to Rhode Island's Natural Places](#)



## Salt Ponds

The salt ponds, or coastal lagoons, that lie along Rhode Island's ocean coast are shallow estuaries separated from the ocean by narrow barrier beaches. Their salinity, a mixture of salt and fresh water, results from fresh water flowing from streams and groundwater springs that feed the ponds from the landward side, and salt water flowing in from the sea through breachways in the barriers. Salinity determines the types of aquatic life each pond will harbor.

In ponds with higher salinity, quahogs, bay scallops, and finfish, such as striped bass and bluefish, flourish. For winter flounder, these ponds are particularly important as spawning grounds and nurseries. More brackish ponds - those with lower salinity - are home to white perch, alewives, smelt and oysters. The ponds also serve as feeding areas and stopover points for shorebirds and migratory waterfowl, including Canada goose and great blue heron.

Because salt ponds are shallow - 1.5 to 6 or 7 feet - sunlight can penetrate all the way to the bottom. This allows dense growth of eelgrass, which serves as a habitat and a source of food and shelter for shellfish and fish larvae and young.

Depending on size, depth, and salinity, salt ponds offer different uses and attractions. Ninigret Pond, with its high salinity, is the site of quahog aquaculture. Extensive archaeological remains and shell middens are found on its shores. [Trustom Pond](#), naturally but only intermittently connected to the sea, is a national wildlife refuge, and is totally undeveloped. Some 300 bird species, including the endangered piping plover and peregrine falcon, seasonally inhabit the refuge. Point Judith Pond, one of the state's largest and deepest, is the site of Rhode Island's primary fishing port. For recreational boating, Great Salt Pond on Block Island is a popular destination. And Briggs Marsh and Quicksand Pond in Little Compton are important habitat for waterfowl.

*In those vernal seasons of the year, when the air is calm and pleasant, it were an injury and sullenness against nature not to go out.*

*- John Milton (1608-1674)*

Order the complete [Guide to Rhode Island's Natural Places](#)

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# Rhode Island Environmental Links



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[Audubon Society of Rhode Island](#)

[Barrington](#)

[Bike Rhode Island \(RIDOT\)](#)

[Blackstone River Bikeway](#)

[Blackstone River Valley National Heritage](#)

[Corridor](#)

[Block Island](#)

[Block Island Ferry](#)

[Bristol](#)

[Brown Center for Environmental Studies](#)

[Charlestown](#)

[Coastal Eelgrass Habitats of Rhode Island](#)

[Coastal Resources Center](#)

[DestinationNewport.com](#) (Includes beaches,  
hiking, biking, boating)

[Discover Bristol](#)

[Greenwich Bay Web Site](#)

[Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology](#)

[Little Compton Historical Society](#)

[Livable Providence 2000](#)

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[Roger Williams National Memorial](#)

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[Salt Ponds Coalition](#)

[Save The Bay](#)

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[Boston Museum of Science](#)

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[The JASON Project](#)

[Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics](#)

[Monterey Bay Aquarium](#)

[Mystic Seaport](#)

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[National Weather Service](#)

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[NOAA Home](#)

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Division (OPSD) [Tide Predictions](#) from around  
the United States for the next six months

[SeaWeb](#)

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

[U.S. Naval Observatory](#) This site offers  
astronomical information, including sun and moon  
rise and set times

[US-World Wildlife Fund](#)

[A Voyage to Puna Ridge](#)

[WhaleNet](#)

[Daytripper's Guide to Rhode Island](#)

[Rhode Island Sea Grant](#)



## BARRINGTON

*Other Barrington pages on this site: [Barrington \(inset\)](#)*

■ **1 Nayatt/Daunis Road:** This public right-of-way consists of a path along Mussachuck Creek that leads to a cobble beach on Narragansett Bay. Parking is limited to about five cars.

■ **2 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.

■ **3 Watson, Clark, Bluff, and Waterway Extensions:** These four streets 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.

■ **4 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.

■ **5 Barrington Town Beach:** This is a long sandy beach with commanding views of Narragansett Bay. Lifeguard hours are 9 a.m.-6 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 \$5 permit fee. The beach is, however, open to anyone in the off season.

■ **6 Bourne Lane:** A grassy path at the end of the lane leads to 50 feet of sandy shore across



## BARRINGTON

■ **Brickyard Pond.** The primary access to Brickyard Pond is through the town's Veteran's memorial Park. There is a dirt road and walking trail, which winds through a deciduous forest, along the edge of the pond, providing some lovely views of the water. The trail also provides access to the pond for fishing. This pond can have large flocks of migrant waterfowl from fall through early spring, especially canvasback, ring-necked duck, American wigeon, and scaup. The East Bay Bike Path skirts Brickyard Pond at one end, providing a view of the length of the pond

### **For more information, contact:**

The Barrington Recreation Department, (401) 247-1925.

### **Directions:**

To Veteran's Memorial Park, take I-195 to Rte. 114 south and follow for 5.5 miles. Turn right onto Maple Ave., and follow 0.2 mile. Turn left onto West St., and follow park.

■ **Johannis Farm.** these 32 acres, owned by the Barrington Land Conservation Trust, border the Palmer River and are adjacent to several other open areas, including the Swansea, MA, Land Trust's 38-acre Barney/Bell Preserve. The site offers a diversity of habitats, including woodland, freshwater and saltwater wetlands, and farmland. Several rare species of plants grow on the site, and osprey nests are occupied in the summer. The site may be visited only during one of the several public tours offered each year. Tour arrangements for groups, such as classes, may be made through the land trust.


### **For more information, contact:**





from Blount Marine. Parking is limited to two or three cars on the grassy path.


### **7 Barrington Police Station Boat Ramp:**


This boat ramp is located on the Barrington River just north of Barrington Harbor. Trailer parking is available for town residents who have paid a fee. The ramp is adjacent to the East Bay Bicycle Path and right on the RIPTA Newport-Providence bus line.

 **8 Walker Farm:** This town land includes a boat ramp, gardening plots, and a dock which is suited for fishing. It is accessible from the RIPTA bus line on Route 114 and overlooks the west side of Hundred Acre Cove. For a \$20 fee, Rhode Island residents may rent a garden plot here.

 **9 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 in this town-owned sanctuary.

 **10 Knockum Hill Reserve:** This town-owned nature reserve is home to endangered bird species 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.

 **11 Acre Avenue:** Located on Hundred Acre Cove, this public right-of-way has a 50-yard path that crosses wetlands before reaching the water. The site is ideal for bird watching and shellfishing. Limited parking is available on the street.

 **12 Teed Avenue:** A ten-foot-wide gravel path leads from the end of Teed Avenue to a sandy beach on Hundred Acre Cove. It is accessible for hand-launched boats, and

The Barrington Land Conservation Trust, (401) 245-8467.

## WARREN

**Touisset Marsh Wildlife Refuge.** Touisset Marsh is an Audubon Society of Rhode Island refuge along the Kickemuit River. The area offers a mix of habitats, including deciduous woods, a swamp, old fields, extensive salt marsh, and a tidal river. A wide variety of birds and butterflies have been observed here. Nesting boxes have been erected in the fields and woods, along with a platform for osprey. A pause while walking the property will reward visitors with the sounds of many birds, including the cry of the ring-necked pheasant. A self-guided tour is available by contacting the Audubon Society in advance. Occasional programs are offered.

### **For more information, contact:**

[The Audubon Society of Rhode Island](#), (401) 949-5454.

### **Directions:**

From Rte. 136 in Warren, follow Rte. 103 east 1.2 miles to a right on Long Ln.; turn left on Barton Ave.; take first right on Touisset Rd. Entrance to marsh is 1.2 miles ahead, adjacent to fire station. Park in lot to right of fire station; entrance to refuge is through gate to right of lot.

**Heritage Park.** This site is owned by the town of Warren, and consists of 66 acres that include a freshwater marsh, fields, and forest. Many different types of waterfowl have been seen around the marsh. Regular visitors to the park, which abuts the Warren Reservoir, include ducks and geese. Deer and fox also inhabit the area. Heritage Park is great for walking and cross-country skiing. It should be noted that motor bikes are prohibited.

For more information, contact:

for shellfishing. No on-site parking is available.

■ **13 Juniper Street:** Don't let the "Private Property" signs posted by residents on the telephone poles at the end of this street fool you. The end of this road is a public right-of-way and a shellfishing spot. However, the "No Parking" signs posted by the town should be heeded.

■ **14 Wamsetta Avenue:** Hand-carry boat hauling and launching only is 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. Limited parking is available.

■ **15 Belvidere Avenue:** Located on the Upper Palmer River, this town right-of-way has a nice view of this quiet river and its wetlands. Parking is prohibited and there is no access to the water.



■ **16 East Bay Bicycle Path:** The path is ideal for walking, biking, rollerskating, etc. The bridges over the Barrington and Palmer Rivers are great locations for skipjack fishing. Motorized vehicles are prohibited on the bike path.

## WARREN

■ **17 East Bay Bicycle Path:** 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

The town of Warren, (401) 245-7340.

### Directions:

Take Rte. 136 south in Warren to left onto Schoolhouse Rd. Directly across Schoolhouse Rd. is pull-off for reservoir. Cross dam to reach Heritage Park. Continue across park to see marsh on eastern side of property, or turn left to walk down to reservoir.



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.

■ **18 Brown Street Extension:** Brown Street 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 to take a rest while bicycling along the bike path.

■ **19 Miller Street Extension:** Located next to Dyer Boats on the Warren River, this right-of-way has a nice pier from which to fish. Parking is permitted with permission.

■ **20 Wheaton Street:** At the end of Wheaton Street is the town boat ramp 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 good condition. Parking is limited to about 15 spaces. There is a small dock for quahog boats.

■ **21 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, and fires are allowed on the beach. Parking is restricted to town residents during the summer.

➦ **22 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.

■ **23 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 makes this a pleasant place to

stop while on the adjacent East Bay Bicycle Path. This site also has a nice boat ramp, but roadside parking is limited.

■ **24 Harris Avenue:** Located on the Kickemuit River, this town right-of-way ends in a small marshy and sandy area. This area gets mostly local use and there is limited roadside parking.

■ **25 Clark Street:** This town right-of-way ends in a mudflat on the Kickemuit River. The area is suitable for hand-launched boats, but there is no streetside parking.

■ **26 Patterson Avenue:** This right-of-way has a small path leading around a wetland on the Kickemuit River. The area gets mostly local use, and is a good spot for bird watching. There is no parking available.

■ **27 Parker Avenue:** Parker Avenue ends in a quiet dirt road that juts out into the Kickemuit River. This is a good place for bird watchers. Parking is limited to about ten cars.

■ **28 Barker Avenue:** Located at the end of Child Street, this right-of-way provides access to the Kickemuit River. This site is easily accessible as a canoe launch, and has limited onsite parking available. \*Update 2001, courtesy R. Lomas: "As of right now that access is blocked by a catch basin for runoff from [a] new development. This catch basin assembly denies vehicular access to the trestle columns ... but there will be foot access via a path the developer is supposed to install .... launching canoes ... will be very difficult."

■ **29 Chace Avenue Extension:** This right-of-way was marked and upgraded under the DEM Shoreline Access Program. There is a narrow gravel road that leads into the Kickemuit River and can be used for a boat launch for trailered boats. There is limited on-site parking.







## NEW SHOREHAM

➤ **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 Sachem Pond is a feeding area for a wide variety of waterfowl. 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.

🚰 **2 Settler's 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 of Block Island in 1661. Across the road is scenic Sachem Pond with a small sandy beach and a few picnic tables. The parking area is also the access point to Sandy Point, the Block Island National Wildlife Refuge, and the northern end of the Clayhead Nature Trail.

➤ **3 Clayhead Nature Trail:** This very 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



## NEW SHOREHAM

**Block Island National Wildlife Refuge.** This refuge contains 46 acres of coastal dune and beach habitat on the north end of the island. The primary importance of this site is as a breeding area for herring gulls and great black-backed gulls. The several hundred pairs of gulls nest on the ground amidst beach grass, bayberry, and poison ivy on the sandy dunes, and by mid-summer, downy young birds may be seen along the beach. This area is also a fine location to examine the topography of a beach/dune system. There are no developed trails. Foot travel only is allowed in this area, although walking on the dunes is discouraged during the nesting season.

### **For more information, contact:**

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), (401) 364-9124.

### **Directions:**

From Old Harbor, follow Corn Neck Rd. north to parking area at Sachem Pond. Walk west along beach to historic North Light, which sits at the edge of the refuge.

**Mohegan Bluffs and Southeast Lighthouse.** Rising 150 feet above the ocean, the magnificent bluffs that stretch for several miles along the southern shore of the island are best viewed at this location. An observation platform at the crest of the bluffs offers an opportunity for spectacular ocean views. Below the cliffs is a series of coves and rocky points which can be reached by descending along stairway. Looking up at Mohegan Bluffs gives a sense of geologic time passing before your eyes. Southeast Lighthouse, built in 1873 and once visited by President Ulysses S. Grant, has one of the more powerful electric beacons in the eastern United



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; no mopeds or bikes on the trail. This is an environmentally sensitive area.

■ **4 Mansion Drive:** At the eastern end of Mansion Drive, a sandy lane and right-of-way, is a beach below the bluffs that overlook the Atlantic Ocean. Limited parking is available. It is an excellent site for picnics and swimming in the summer and for wildlife observation off-season.

■ **5 Scotch Beach Road:** This right-of-way is located off Corn Neck Road with access to the northern end of Frederick Benson Town Beach.

■ **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, a pavilion, and lifeguards. It is managed by the town of New Shoreham.

■ **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.

■ **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 without fee. 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.

■ **9 Southeast Light:** Built in 1874, Southeast Lighthouse is a museum, open to the public for a

States. In 1993, this historic lighthouse was moved 245 feet farther inland because of the constant erosion of the cliffs, and will house a museum and interpretive center.

*Hint: Block Island is composed of sediments that were laid down by glaciers and other geological forces, and the steep face of Mohegan Bluffs has been created as wave energy has eroded some of these sediments away. Can you find some indication of the layering and folding processes that occurred as the sediments were moved by some of these forces?*

**For more information, contact:**

The Block Island Southeast Lighthouse Foundation, (401) 466-5009 for information on the lighthouse.


**Directions:**

From Old Harbor, follow Southeast Rd. along coast 3 miles to lighthouse.






nominal fee. 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.


 **10 Mohegan Bluffs (Payne Overlook):** 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.

■ **11 Black Rock Property:** A road leads to a gravel walk that extends from the south end of Pilot Hill Road to the top of the steep cliffs of Mohegan Bluffs overlooking the ocean.

 **12 Rodman's Hollow:** In a natural ravine located off 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.

■ **13 Southwest Point:** 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 Conneymus Road and West Side Road to a cobble beach bordering the ocean.

■ **14 Charleston Beach:** Located on the west side of the island, this right-of-way consists of a path extending from Coast Guard Road to Block Island Sound.

 **15 Block Island Coast Guard Station:** The town has recently acquired the old Coast Guard Station on the entrance to New Harbor. It is a popular small swimming beach in the protected waters of Great Salt Pond. Parking and trash receptacles are available.

🚢 **16 Champlin's Marina:** Located off West Side Road, this is a full-service marina on Great Salt Pond with guest slips available.

■ **17 O'Brien Property:** Located on the Great Salt Pond, this site consists of 11 undeveloped acres. The town hopes to provide public facilities such as showers, restrooms, and a boat ramp.

🚢 **18 Block Island Boat Basin:** A full-service marina, with guest slips available on Great Salt Pond, 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.

🚢 **19 Payne's Dock:** This is a full-service marina in Great Salt Pond located at the end of Ocean Avenue on New Harbor with guest slips available. For the non-boater, the docks offer a spectacular view of the pond.

■ **20 Indian Head Neck Road:** A right-of-way 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 landing, a launching ramp, and a public fishing area.

🚢 **21 Ocean Avenue Bridge ("Fort Indian"):** 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, and shellfishing.

🚢 **22 Beach Avenue/Dunns Bridge:** The bridge over the Harbor Pond Channel, this site has traditionally provided public access for fishing, scenic enjoyment, and shellfishing.

🚢 **23 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 characterized by salt marsh and beach. Shellfishing and landing small dinghies are traditional uses of this site.

■ **24 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.

■ **25 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 beach (West Beach) bordering Block Island Sound.



*CRMC Rights-of-Way for [New Shoreham](#)*



## BRISTOL

*Other Bristol pages on this site:* [Bristol Harbor](#)

*Other Portsmouth pages on this site:* [Portsmouth \(inset\)](#), [East Bay: Portsmouth](#), [Tiverton](#), [Little Compton](#), [Middletown](#)

**1 East Bay Bicycle Path:** 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 the Bay, passes just inland of Mill Pond, nearby Colt State Park, and winds north along the Bay into Warren. The path extends 10.4 miles to Riverside Square in East Providence with another four miles to Providence yet to be built. 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.

**2 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 northern Narragansett Bay. Parking is limited on the narrow streets.

**3 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 trailered boat launch, it offers a nice view of the Bay and is popular for shellfishing.



## BRISTOL

**Blithwold Mansion and Gardens.** This former summer estate, built in 1908, is now managed by the Heritage Trust of Rhode Island. Situated on 33 acres of landscaped grounds overlooking Bristol Harbor, Blithewold features gardens with a variety of native and exotic plants, including 200 blooming rose bushes, 50,000 naturalized daffodils, and a bamboo grove. Not to be missed is a giant sequoia, which, at a height of over 90 feet, is the largest east of the Rocky Mountains. It has been growing at a rate of approximately 1 foot per year since it was planted in 1911. The collections of Chinese and Japanese shrubs had only recently been introduced in the United States when they were planted at Blithewold. Today, mature specimens that can be seen include Chinese cedar, gingko, and the weeping pagoda tree. Guided and self-guided tours are available.

### **For more information, contact:**

Blithewold Mansion and Gardens, (401) 253-2707.

### **Directions:**

From I-195, take exit for Rte. 114 south; follow 13 miles south through Bristol to 101 ferry Rd., on right. For those coming south on Rte. 114, Blithewold is 0.5 mile north of Mount Hope Bridge, on left.

**Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology/Mt. Hope Reserve.** Mt. Hope, or Montaup, was the summer home of the Pokanoket people, who were named after the cleared fields found in the area. Before it was settled, an oak-hickory-chestnut forest grew on this site, but this was burned by native people to encourage the growth of grass to attract deer. Today, there are oak-hickory forests, swamps, and areas that have grown up from old pastures. The site offers great vegetative diversity, and is, perhaps, the best forest on the East Bay. A nature walk leads to King

■ **4 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, a playground, and basketball, tennis, and softball facilities. Lifeguards are on duty during the summer. Plenty of on-site parking is available. There is an admission fee during the summer.



■ **5 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. A passenger ferry runs from the north end of the park to Potter Cove on Prudence Island on weekends during the early summer and daily in midsummer. There is a nice dock at the ferry landing for getting out on the water and fishing, and a well-maintained, steep, concrete boat ramp at the northern end of the park with parking for trailered vehicles. The Coggeshall Farm Museum is located off the eastern side of the loop road (see description

Philip's seat - a depression in a rock outcropping where the Wampanoag sachem Pometacom (King Philip) sat. Part of Brown University, the Haffenreffer Museum features a collection that focuses on artifacts from the native peoples of the world. Outdoor exhibits include a wetu (wigwam), tipi (seasonal), and nature walk. group tours are available, and educational programs are offered for children and adults.

**For more information, contact:**

[Haffenreffer Museum](#), (401) 253-8388.

**Directions:**

From I-195, take exit for Rte. 136 south. Follow Rte. 136 (Metacom Ave.) south 7.2 miles through Bristol to Tower St.; watch for signs for Haffenreffer Museum on left.

## PORTSMOUTH

**Melville Nature Preserve.** This former Navy land features over 4 miles of trails through varied deciduous woodlands, with paths leading to a pebbly beach on Narragansett Bay, and to several freshwater ponds. A walk to the Bay shoreline provides views of Prudence Island (directly opposite), and Hog Island and Bristol to the north. The site is part of the 92-acre Melville Recreation Area, which includes the town-operated Melville Pond Campground.

**For more information, contact:**

The town of Portsmouth, (401) 683-3255. For camping reservations, contact the campground, (401) 849-8212.

**Directions:**

From Newport Bridge, take second exit, for Rte. 138. Turn left off ramp. Travel 1 mile to Rte. 138/114, and turn left. Travel 5.5 miles on Rte. 114 to turnoff for Melville Marine Center, and turn left. After 0.4 mile, turn right at sign for Melville Recreation Area. At end of road, turn left, then take first right to nature preserve.



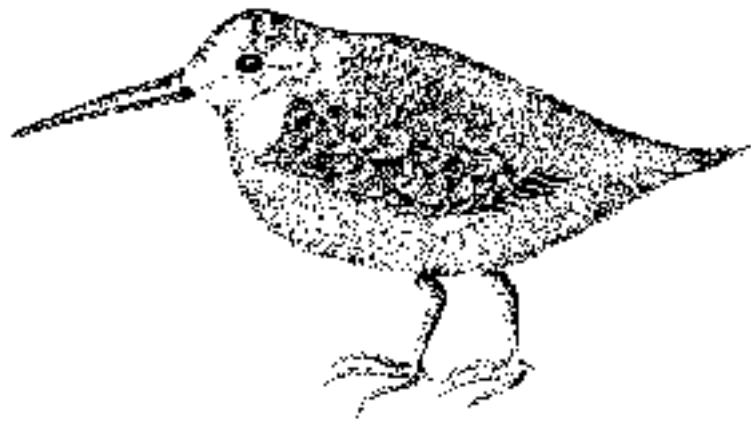
below). Admission to the park during the summer is \$1 for Rhode Island residents and \$2 for nonresidents.

**6 Coggeshall Farm Museum:** Located on Colt Drive, between Popasquash 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 eighteenth-century farm, a restoration project centered around an eighteenth-century farmhouse and barnyard complex, complete with livestock and a blacksmith shop. No direct access to the water, but there is a nice view across Mill Gut to the old stone bridge at the entrance to Narragansett Bay. Open daily; no admission fee, but reservations are necessary for group tours.

**7 Blithewold:** Located off Ferry Road (Route 114), the Blithewold Gardens and Arboretum features a 45-room mansion built in 1907 overlooking 33 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds situated on Bristol Harbor. There is an impressive collection of exotic and native plants and sweeping views of Narragansett Bay. Tours of the mansion and grounds are available, and there is also a self-guided tree tour. There is an admission fee for nonmembers. Special events include concerts by the Bay in the summer and Christmas at Blithewold. Open: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**8 Low Lane:** At the end of Long 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 the upper East Passage of Narragansett Bay. 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. Parking is available for one or two cars in the right-of-way, and there is limited additional parking on the street.

## TIVERTON



*American Woodcock*

**Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge.** This Audubon Society of Rhode Island property consists of 47 acres of fields, red cedar woodlands, and deciduous forests surrounding an undisturbed salt marsh. There are several trails totaling more than 1.5 miles. The secluded marshy coves are favored feeding sites for egrets and herons that nest at the nearby rookery on Gould Island. During low tide, many shore birds can also be observed feeding on exposed mud flats. among the mammals that have been seen at the refuge are the red squirrel - Ruecker is one of the few locations on the East Bay where it can be found - red fox, and short-tailed weasel. For patient observers, a photography blind is available near the edge of an island marsh. A map is available at the trailhead for self-guided tours, and occasional programs are offered. The Audubon Society of Rhode Island offers a summer day camp for children at this site.

### **For more information, contact:**

[The Audubon Society of Rhode Island](http://www.audubonrhodeisland.org), (401) 949-5454.

### **Directions:**

From Rte. 138, take Rte. 77 south 4.2 miles; turn right onto Seapowet Ave. Refuge is down road on right.

**Weetamoo Woods.** This 450 acre site is owned by

■ **9 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.

🚰 **10 Roger Williams University:** This is a small private university located off Ferry Road, just north of the Mount Hope Bridge. The campus offers views of Mount Hope Bay through buildings and trees but no direct public access to the shore is possible.

🏛️ **11 Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology:** At the end of Tower Street, a museum and research facility owned by Brown University features North American archaeological and ethnological materials, as well as traditional arts from around the world. Although there is no direct access to the shore, there is a wonderful view from here of Mount Hope Bay. There are nature trails, which can be used by permission. The museum is open to the public 1-5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, June-August; 1-5 p.m. weekends, March-May and September-December.

🚣 **12 Mount Hope Fishing Access:** Located off Annawamscutt Drive, this access has a single-width, concrete-slab boat ramp 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.

■ **13 Annawamscutt Drive:** Located at the east end of Annawamscutt Drive, off Metacom Avenue (Route 136), this site is a wide, paved right-of-way. While it is tricky getting down the bank, those who make the descent will find a cobble beach with a

the town of Tiverton, and features mixed deciduous forests, a hemlock forest, swamp, and freshwater streams. Hiking trails wind through the property, and not to be missed is a climb to the top of the high ricks that afford scenic views of the surrounding area. Some trails are also bordered by large stands of mountain laurel that are spectacular when they bloom in early June. Also at this site, the remnants of an old mill can be seen.

#### **For more information, contact:**

The Tiverton Town Hall, which has a brochure that includes a trail map, together with a partial listing of plant species found on the property. To get to the town hall, from Rte. 138, take Rte. 77 south to Lawton Ave. Follow to end of Lawton Ave. and its intersection with Highland Rd. Hall is straight ahead, across from Fort Barton.

#### **Directions:**

From Rte. 138, take Rte. 77 south to Tiverton Four Corners. Turn left onto Rte. 179 (East Rd.); sign for woods is 0.5 mile ahead on left. For an alternate entrance to Weetamoo Woods, take Rte. 77 south 4.2 miles. Turn left onto Lafayette Rd., proceed 1 mile to Weetamoo entrance.



Order the complete [\*Guide to Rhode Island's Natural Places\*](#)



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. There is a coastal access sign at the site. Limited parking is available.

■ **14 King Phillip Avenue:** Located off King Phillip Avenue, between Leahy Drive and Annawamscutt Drive, this is 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. The site is marked with a public right-of-way sign, and there is limited on-street parking available.

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

■ **16 Platt Street (Narrows Coastal Access):** This site is off King Phillip Avenue near the junction with Platt Street. There is a set of concrete stairs and a path leading 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. Parking is available on the street.

■ **17 Narrows Road:** At the end of Bristol Narrows Road, 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. Parking is limited.

■ **18 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 dirt shoreline of the Kickemuit River. No parking is permitted on the right-of-way but

there is limited street parking. A coastal access sign is located at the right-of-way.

■ **19 Smith Avenue:** Located at the extension of Smith Avenue, off Kickemuit Avenue, this right-of-way is a paved extension leading to a rundown concrete boat ramp, to a gravel path, and on through a fringing marsh on the Bristol Narrows section of the Kickemuit River. No on-site parking is permitted but there is limited parking. There is a coastal access sign located at the right-of-way.

■ **20 Sherman Avenue:** This site is a paved extension of Sherman Avenue with a newly constructed concrete boat ramp to the dirt beach on Kickemuit River. Boats can be launched here. There is no on-site parking, but limited parking is available on the street. There is a coastal access sign at the right-of-way.

■ **21 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 launched here, but it would be a bit tricky. There is no parking in the right-of-way, but there is room to park on the street. A coastal access sign is located at the right-of-way.

■ **22 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, but there is limited parking allowed on the street.

■ **23 Azalea Drive:** Located at the extension of Azalea Drive, off Hawthorne Street, this is a paved right-of-way located in a residential area between two houses, leading to a steep dirt 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. Limited parking is available.

■ **24 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 and only limited parking on very narrow streets. There is a coastal access sign at the site.

## PORTSMOUTH

➤ **25 North Prudence Bay Island Park (Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve):** Located at the northern end of Prudence Island in Narragansett Bay, this area, along with Hope and Patience Islands and the surrounding waters to a depth of 18 feet, was designated in 1980 as part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System to be preserved for research, conservation, and education. The North Prudence State Park includes the entire northern end of the island. The facilities are concentrated around Potter Cove on the east side where a passenger ferry from Colt State Park comes during the spring and summer. The cove is a picturesque, sheltered cove and fringing marsh, which is quite popular as a day and overnight anchorage during the summer. Shellfishing and fishing are popular in the cove. The upland area includes a picnic area, historic stone farmhouses, and a road through the woods to the northern tip of the island.

➤ **26 Home Beach:** Located off the main road west of the turnoff to North Prudence State Park, this is a beautiful, long, sand and cobble beach on Narragansett Bay with a pristine salt marsh behind the beach. 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. There is only enough room for about five cars to park at the end of the road.

**🚧 27 South Prudence Bay Island Park:**

Located at the southern end of Prudence Island, off Narragansett Road, the state park, a former navy base, occupies the entire southern end of the island. There are fields, a nature trail, a cobble beach, wetlands, and a large T-shaped dock extending into the Bay. There are picnic areas near the beach and in the woods. This is a nice spot for fishing or walking on the old roads or the self-guided nature trail. This area contains one of the densest populations of white-tailed deer in New England.

**🚧 28 Lehigh Hill Road:** Located off West Main Road, south of the junction with Bristol Ferry Road, this picnic area offers a spectacular view of the East Passage of Narragansett Bay with Prudence Island in the background. There is no direct access to the water.

## TIVERTON

**🚧 29 Sakonnet Bridge Access:** Off Riverside Drive, under the Sakonnet Bridge is a hard-packed sand boat launch ramp. 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.

**🚧 30 Old Stone Bridge Fishing Pier:**

Located off Main Road (Route 77) is the eastern abutment of the 1907 stone bridge that was destroyed by Hurricane Carol in 1954. On-site parking for fishing is

available.

■ **31 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, marked-off swimming area, and a lifeguard in the summer. There is a nice view of the Sakonnet River and Gould Island. It is possible to walk out to the stone bridge from here or to the World War II monument at the entrance to the beach and the bridge. There is parking for 75 cars and a fee in the summer.

🏰 **32 Fort Barton:** Located at the top of a hill on Highland Avenue, across from the Tiverton Town Hall, this area does not provide access to the shoreline but offers an excellent sweeping view of the Sakonnet River, Mount Hope Bay, and Aquidneck Island. This is the site of a Revolutionary War redoubt and a historic cemetery. Parking is available on Highland Avenue.

🌉 **33 Nannaquaket Bridge:** A bridge across the tidal inlet to Nannaquaket Pond provides good fishing access. There is a small parking area for 30 cars. There are also steps to the pond from a sidewalk along the pond.



CRMC Rights-of-Way for [Bristol](#),  
[Portsmouth](#), [Tiverton](#)



# BURRILLVILLE

**George Washington Wildlife Management Area.** Within this large management area, which includes portions of the towns of Burrillville and Glocester, are deciduous woodlands, Atlantic white cedar swamps, hemlock forests, and several ponds. The area covers 3,489 acres, and was the first state forest created in Rhode Island when the initial 244 acres were donated by the Edgewood Women's Club. The management area has hiking and skiing trails, fishing and boating, and forestry demonstration and experimental areas. In 1965, sailors from the Australian ship *Perth* constructed an 11-mile hiking trail that they named the Walkabout Trail. The area has 45 campsites for tent and trailer campers, and two shelters in a wooded area overlooking Bowdish Reservoir.

A wide variety of wildlife can be seen here. The Pulaski Wildlife Marsh covers 10 acres and creates excellent habitat for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent birds and mammals. Unfragmented forest cover provides habitat for forest interior species, including some neotropical migrants, such as warblers, thrushes, and flycatchers, and hawks and owls. During the winter, it is not unusual to see an otter running over the ice of Bowdish Reservoir. On the reservoir are several islands, which are actually floating bog mats. Atlantic white cedar and black spruce are the dominant trees of these mats, and several rarer plants typically found in northern climates are also found here.

*Hint: Put your boat in at the management area's boat launch and investigate some of the bog mats at the center of the Bowdish Reservoir (do not walk on these mats). Or, take your binoculars and hike the red dot trail to the Pulaski Wildlife Marsh to see what species of waterfowl you can find.*

## **For more information, contact:**

[R.I.DEM, Division of Forest Environment](#), (401) 624-3367, which has its headquarters at the George Washington Wildlife Management Area. Maps of the area can be obtained.

## **Directions:**

From I-295, take Rte. 44 west to management area on right, just 2 miles east of Connecticut state line.



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# CENTRAL FALLS

**Pierce Park and Riverwalk.** Central Falls' Riverwalk, completed in 1991, includes a river outlook, a walkway, and recreational facilities. A plaque describes a 1676 battle - part of King Philip's War - between a force from Rehoboth, led by Captain Michael Pierce, and Narragansett Indians. The Riverwalk is part of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.

**For more information, contact:**

The city of Central Falls, Planning Department, (401) 727-7480.

**Directions:**

Follow Rte. 114 in Central Falls north to High St. Just before Blackstone River, turn right onto High St. The park is 0.5 mile ahead on left, between High St. and Blackstone River.







## CHARLESTOWN

Other South Kingstown pages on this site: [South Shore: South Kingstown and Narragansett](#)

🚣 **1 Quonochontaug Fishing Area and 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 is badly eroded, is in extremely poor condition, and is very dangerous because the currents running through the breachway are quite swift. This site includes a DEM 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.

■ **2 Blue Shutters Town Beach:** Located near the end of East Beach Road, this recently acquired property is a town-owned property offering many amenities such as showers, on-site pay parking, and concessions. The beach is a beautiful wide sandy beach located just west of the Ninigret Conservation Area.

🏖️ **3 Ninigret Conservation Area:** 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 DEM shellfish management area. Winter flounder, clams, quahogs, blue crab, eel, and 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 DEM permit. Bring your binoculars: waterfowl, wildlife, and shore birds can be



## CHARLESTOWN

**Burlingame State Park.** A 2,100-acre state park bordering 1,000-acre Watchaug Pond, this site is primarily deciduous woodland with tracts of planted conifers. There are hiking trails, picnic areas, 755 campsites, and a freshwater bathing area in Watchaug Pond. During the winter, large flocks of waterfowl may be seen on Watchaug Pond, and it is not uncommon to see a bald eagle in the area during this season. Burlingame is also a good place for canoeing. *Note: The campground portion of the park is open only to registered campers.*

### **For more information, contact:**

[R.I. DEM, Division of Parks and Recreation](#), Burlingame Park, (401) 322-8910 (summer only), or (401) 222-2632.

### **Directions:**

From Rte. 1 in Charlestown, follow signs into park. You will turn onto unmarked Old Post Rd. After 0.5 mile, signs will lead north to Klondike Rd., which runs into park. To reach public bathing and picnic areas on Watchaug Pond, take Prosser Trail exit.

### **Burlingame Wildlife Management Area.**

North of Watchaug Pond, the Burlingame area is managed primarily as a wildlife habitat. Coyote, fox, muskrat, white-tailed deer, and wild turkey are among the animals that make their homes in the deciduous and coniferous forest, along with a wide variety of songbirds and other wildlife. This area abuts the Pawcatuck River on the west. Two man-made marshes on the north side support wetland species. While the management area is managed for hunting, Burlingame State Park, to the south, is closed to hunting.

found, especially during the fall and spring migrations.

**➤ 4 Charlestown Management Area:** This site is located just east of the Ninigret Conservation Area and is accessible only by four-wheel drive or a two-and-one-half-mile walk. Another access possibility is by boat via Ninigret Pond west of the breachway.

**➤ 5 Charlestown Breachway:** This state-managed parcel consists of approximately two 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 that is a popular fishing site at the east arm of the Breachway, and a wetland area bordering Ninigret Pond. A boat ramp, in very poor condition, is located at the north end of the breachway, on the pond. Activities include fishing, swimming, beach-walking, windsurfing, and camping for RVs. Ninety parking spaces are available on site and there is an entrance fee during the summer season.

**■ 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. There is a bathhouse with limited toilet and shower facilities. Pay parking is available for approximately 300 cars about 500 feet across the road from the beach.

**➤ 7 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 not suitable for boat launching due to the shallowness of the creek. Across the creek on the north side is a small area with a concession stand, bait shop, small boat docks, and a good view of Ninigret Pond.

**➤ 8 Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge:**

**For more information, contact:**

[R.I. DEM, Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Estuarine Resources](#), (401) 789-3094.

**Directions:**

Take Rte. 1 to Rte. 216. Follow Rte. 216 north 2.5 miles. Turn right onto Buckeye Brook Rd. Proceed 2 miles to entrance on left, leading to Clawson Trail.

## SOUTH KINGSTOWN

**Pettaquamscutt Cove National Wildlife Refuge.** The Pettaquamscutt Cove National Wildlife Refuge provides a valuable migration and wintering habitat for a variety of waterfowl and other birds, including shorebirds (sandpipers and plovers), waders (egrets and herons), terns, and gulls. It has been identified as one of the most important American black duck migratory and wintering habitats in Rhode Island. The refuge is also home to several state-listed rare and uncommon plant and animal species. The area is a fertile wetland ecosystem composed of salt marshes, tidal mud flats, and shrublands that provide an important upland buffer. Over 146 acres had been acquired for the refuge as of press time, out of a total of 460 designated. also as of press time, there existed no formal access or public trail system, although the refuge can be viewed from the trail on the abutting Garrison Acres property.

*Hint: Try taking a boat up the Pettaquamscutt River through the refuge. (Put in at a boat ramp on the south side of the river inlet, just west of Rte. 1A bridge. The ramp can be accessed from Starr Dr.)*

**For more information, contact:**

The [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), (401) 364-9124.

**Directions:**

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.

**9 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 activities 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. This is a great site for the family. Wildlife is abundant here, as seen from the nature trails. The Frosty Drew Nature Center offers a series of nature programs.

**10 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 Indians. 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 space is limited.

**11 Town Dock Road:** This is a town right-of-way that leads to the edge of Fort Neck Cove on Ninigret Pond. No parking is available.

**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

From Rte. 1 in South Kingstown, turn east onto Bridgetown Rd. at Hannah Robinson Tower (intersection with Rte. 138). At bottom of hill, veer right onto Middlebridge Rd. Follow to bridge.

**Garrison House Acres.** This 26-acre site features an open meadow and estuarine habitat abutting the Pettaquamscutt (Narrow) River to the west. A trail winds through low, brushy woodland to the meadow, providing a view of Pettaquamscutt Cove, an extensive salt marsh, and the Pettaquamscutt Cove National Wildlife Refuge (see above). In the spring, orchids bloom on the site, which is managed by the Narrow River Land Trust. Permission is required for groups of 10 or more.

**For more information, contact:**

The Narrow River Land Trust, (401) 783-6740.

**Directions:**

From Rte. 1 in South Kingstown, turn east onto Bridgetown Rd. at Hannah Robinson Tower (intersection with Rte. 138). At bottom of hill, veer right onto Middlebridge Rd. Follow to entrance to site, on right, just before bridge.



Pond in a very picturesque setting. In addition to a boat ramp, Ocean House also has a bait shop, coffee shop, picnic tables, boat repair, and trailer parking for customers.

## SOUTH KINGSTOWN

➤ **13 Green Hill Management Area:** Sixteen acres of state-owned conservation land is located on the Green Hill barrier beach. Wetlands and upland vegetation provides prime habitat for wildlife observation. There is no parking on site.

■ **14 Green Hill Beach:** Located off Green Hill Beach Road, this site is a sandy, dune-backed beach offering limited 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. There is limited pay parking available.



➤ **15 Trustom 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 Trustom 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, or motorcycling are prohibited. Parking is

available.

■ **16 Moonstone Beach:** Part of the Trustom 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 which nest on the beach fence. The end of Moonstone Beach is a public right-of-way.

■ **17 Roy Carpenter's Beach:** Hidden by the dense bungalow community south of Card's Pond Road, this private beach is open to the public for a fee. A wooden pavilion, restrooms, beach rentals, a general store, a snack bar, and parking for a fee are available.



CRMC Rights-of-Way for [Charlestown](#) and [South Kingstown](#)





# COVENTRY

**George B. Parker Woodland Wildlife Refuge.** Natural history programs, hikes, and field trips are available at this 700-acre site, which is primarily mixed deciduous forest, with some stands dominated by mature chestnut oak. Red maple swamps, streams, and open fields are also found on this property. This Audubon Society of Rhode Island refuge is also the site of an archaeological dig designed to study the stone remains of mills and the columnar-saped cairns - piles of stones - whose origin remains a mystery. There are charcoal mounds as well, where 18th and 19th century residents processed charcoal for cold-blast iron furnaces. North of Maple Valley Rd., in Foster, forest trails cross areas that were once farmed, and also pass two small quarries. Look for Pine Swamp Brook, which flows down a rocky ravine. The Isaac Bowen House, on this site, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

A variety of educational programs is available throughout the year. The Audubon Society of Rhode Island offers a summer day camp for children at this site.

**For more information, contact:**

[The Audubon Society of Rhode Island](#), (401) 949-5454, or the refuge office, (401) 397-4474.

**Directions:**

From Rte. 102, turn east onto Maple Valley Rd. Sign marks entrance to parking lot. Kiosk at head of trail offers maps and refuge information.







## WARWICK

*Other Warwick pages on this site: [West Bay](#):  
[North Kingstown](#), [East Greenwich](#), [Warwick](#)*

**1 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 launch small boats at high tide. The park has picnic tables and plenty of parking.

## CRANSTON

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

**3 Aborn Street Boat Ramp:** A brand-new 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.

**4 Ocean Avenue:** At the foot of Ocean Avenue, next to the Rhode Island Yacht Club, five steps in a concrete seawall lead to the beach which is accessible only at low tide. Parking is available on the street.

**5 Still House Cove:** A grassy area at the southern end of Narragansett Boulevard



## WARWICK

Named in honor of the Earl of Warwick, this 34.9-square mile city was founded in 1642 by Samuel Gorton, who, with a handful of followers, bought the land from the Mahament Indians, who called it Shawomet. Warwick was incorporated as a city in 1931, and is now the second largest city in the state.

For more information about Warwick's natural places, click [here](#).

## CRANSTON

**Pawtuxet Reservation Riverwalk.** The Pawtuxet Reservation is a lovely and largely undeveloped parcel of land in the middle of a heavily developed area. It is the remnant of a once far more extensive wetland at the mouth of the Pawtuxet River. The 3-mile hike is accessible from a number of surrounding locations in both Cranston and Warwick. Wildlife that has been seen in the area includes great blue heron and green-backed heron, hawks, opossum, muskrat, and snapping turtle. Fireflies can be seen at dusk in the open areas. The trail passes by areas of marshy field, mixed hardwood forest, and tall grass.




*Snapping Turtle*


**For more information, contact:**


The Pawtuxet River Authority, (401) 461-2618, or

overlooks the Rhode Island Yacht Club, Still House Cove, and the Providence River. There is an unmarked asphalt boat ramp leading to the Providence River. The ramp is situated on a muddy and rocky shore, and is usable only at extremely high tides. On-street parking is available.

 **6 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 one's lunch and enjoy the view of the river. On-street parking is available for a few cars.

## PROVIDENCE

 **7 Providence River Walk:** This reconstructed river walk is in the heart of downtown Providence along the historic waterfront. Parking and vegetation are sparse, but it is a pleasant waterside place to take a lunch break for downtown workers and visitors. The Capital Center Project construction will extend this walkway northward to link with promenades along the Moshassuck and Woonasquatucket Rivers and a new waterfront park at the foot of Capitol Hill.

 **8 Corliss Landing:** Off Interstate 195 East, at the Wickenden Street Exit, Corliss Landing is a city park 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. Sidewalks, benches, and an observation point from the towers of the hurricane barrier are scheduled for reconstruction. The park is surrounded by shops and restaurants of the Old Harbor District and is close to downtown Providence. Only streetside parking is available.

(401) 467-8271.

### Directions:

Take I-95 to Rte. 10/Park Ave. exit. Go right off ramp onto Park Ave., and follow about 1.1 miles to end. turn right onto Broad St., and proceed to Rhodes Place. Park at bottom of Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet lot, at bottom of Rhodes Place. Just beyond parking lot, you will see a concrete footbridge across a small stream, with river to left and a wooded area to right. Riverwalk begins here. Then, as trail enters Big Fay Field, bear left, hugging edge of woods; follow road to Little Fay Field and re-enter woods.

## PROVIDENCE

**Blackstone Park.** This 40-acre park runs along the Seekonk River and features walking paths on the opposite side of the river. It offers a good vista of this urban river, which begins as the Blackstone River in Worcester, Mass., and flows into the Providence River at India Point, south of this site. Some salt-marsh plants can be found along the shore, while a small pond in the western side of the road shows examples of cat tails and some other freshwater and marsh plant species.

### For more information, contact:

The Providence Parks Department, (401) 785-9450.

### Directions:

From I-195, take Gano St. exit and turn right onto Gano St. After 0.5 mile, turn right onto Pitman St. Follow Pitman for 0.7 mile, through Richmond Square, and onto River dr., which runs through the park.

**Swan Point Cemetery.** At Swan Point Cemetery, on the East Side of Providence, tall trees and abundant flowers have been enjoyed by generations of Rhode Islanders. Over 150 species of birds have been sighted at Swan Point, and it is an especially popular place for birdwatchers during the spring migration. For birds heading to northern nesting

**9 India Point Park:** This city park offers a view of downtown Providence and the city's working waterfront. A bulkhead provides protection for asphalt paths and grassy areas for jogging, walking, and fishing. India Point Park is a pleasant place to bring your 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. Take Exit 2 off Interstate 195 East and follow South Main Street southward to India Street, or follow the signs for the Block Island Ferry from downtown. Streetside parking only.

**10 Richmond Square Parking Lot:** The parking lot offers no facilities, but has a scenic view of the Seekonk River. A 10-foot-high bluff makes this a possible fishing spot.

**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.

## PAWTUCKET

**12 Max Read Field:** This athletic field complex is located on Pleasant Street and overlooks the Seekonk River. The 13.8-acre site contains football, baseball, and softball fields, and a quarter-mile running track. Concessions and restrooms are open only during games. On-site parking is available.

**13 Pawtucket Town Landing:** This boat launching ramp is located on Taft Street beneath the Division Street bridge. Off-street

grounds, the forested grounds of Swan Point are a haven within an otherwise urbanized landscape. Here, migrating songbirds can stop and feed before continuing on their northward journey. More than 20 species of warblers have been seen on "good days" at Swan Point, along with vireos, thrushes, and flycatchers. Persistent searching within the cemetery may uncover a resident screech-owl or great horned owl. Several roads in the cemetery allow views of the Seekonk River.

*Hint: Visit the cemetery between mid-April and mid-May to take advantage of viewing opportunities available during the spring migration. Bird walks are offered by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island in May. At other times of the year, visit just to see some of the resident and visiting wildlife in the urban oasis. Please be sure to respect cemetery guidelines for use when you visit.*

### **For more information, contact:**

Swan Point Cemetery, (401) 272-1314.

### **Directions:**

From I-195, take Gano St. exit; turn right, follow Gano St. 0.8 mile to right on Lloyd Ave. After 0.4 mile, turn left onto Blackstone blvd. Cemetery is 1.2 miles ahead, on right.

## PAWTUCKET

**Slater Memorial Park.** Slater Park, with 197 acres, contains a mixed deciduous forest, a freshwater pond, a swamp, and open fields. The Ten Mile River runs along the edge of the park, too, and the canal that was built along the river can be seen.

Additionally, the park offers a bike path, fitness trails, and picnic sites.

### **For more information, contact:**

The City of Pawtucket, Parks and Recreation, (401) 728-0500, Ext.257.

### **Directions:**

parking for boat trailers is available.

**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 operating textile machinery, a slide theater, classrooms, and a gift shop. Guided tours are given during museum hours. The museum is open every day during the summer and on weekends spring and fall. Nearby, the riverside Hodgson Rotary Park is a scenic spot for a picnic. Take exit 27 off Route 95, Pawtucket-North Providence, and follow signs.

**15 School Street Pier:** A steep cobblestone road leads from School Street (Route 114) to this facility on the Seekonk River, owned by the Pawtucket Redevelopment Agency. Also known as the state dock, the pier is currently used primarily for fishing. Parking is available on School Street. This site is subject to future private development, although public access to the river will be retained.

**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

From I-95 in Attleboro, Mass., take Rte. 1A south (Newport Ave.) exit; follow 1.5 miles to left on Armistice Blvd. (Rte. 15), then 0.6 mile to park entrance.

## EAST PROVIDENCE

**Turner Reservoir.** James V. Turner Reservoir is a good location within a metropolitan area to observe waterfowl. Also known as the East Providence Reservoir, it includes South, Central, and North Ponds. Fall and spring migration periods are the best times to visit, although the winter can also be productive. Some of the species regularly seen here include Canada goose, mallard, American wigeon, ring-necked duck, bufflehead, hooded and common merganser, and ruddy duck.

### For more information, contact:

The East Providence Water Department, (401) 435-7741.

### Directions:

From I-195, take Rte. 114 north 2.2 miles to Newman Ave. Turn right, and follow 0.3 mile east to causeway that separates Central and South ponds.





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nice lunch spot where you can relax, enjoy the river, and play ball.

## EAST PROVIDENCE

 **17 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 off Veterans Memorial Drive.

 **18 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 have recently been connected by the East Bay Bicycle Path.

 **19 Boyden Heights Conservation Area:** Maintained as a natural habitat for wildlife, this city land is undeveloped except for a few paths and walkways above a marsh area. The area contains woodland, wetland, and shore habitats, making it a great spot for nature study. No parking is available. This site is located at the end of Boston Pier Road at the intersection with Tangent Street.

 **20 East Bay Bicycle Path (Riverside Square):** This popular state bike path currently starts at Bold Point Park in East Providence and passes through 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. The best place to park is in Haines Park on the Barrington-East Providence border.

**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.

**22 Bullock Point Playground:** Located on Providence Avenue on the north end of Bullock Cove, this park has a baseball diamond, basketball courts, and several tennis courts. The waterfront area of the park has not been developed, but there are wooded paths leading to the shore. Plenty of on-site parking is available.

**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. Limited streetside parking is available.

**24 Carousel Park:** The town 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 Carousel, circa 1895. As of this year, the park has a newly constructed waterfront promenade, walking trails, landscaping, and plenty of on-site parking, as well as concessions and restrooms. The carousel runs 12-9 p.m. from Wednesday through Sunday in the summer. Access to the park is from Crescent View Avenue.



CRMC Rights-of-Way for [Warwick](#),  
[Cranston](#), [Providence](#), [Pawtucket](#), [East Providence](#)



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(4137  
bytes)

# CUMBERLAND

**The Monastery.** Site of a former Cistercian monastery, this 530-acre area in eastern Cumberland is now owned by the town. In addition to the monastery, made from stone quarried on the land, the site features well-marked trails passing through a deciduous forest, freshwater pond, vernal pool, swamp, streams, old fields, and apple orchards. Horseback riding is allowed.

**For more information, contact:**

The town of Cumberland, (401) 728-2400.

**Directions:**

From I-295 in Cumberland, take Rte. 114 south. Proceed 2 miles to Monastery on right.





## NORTH KINGSTOWN

*Other North Kingstown pages on this site: [West Bay: Jamestown, Narragansett, North Kingstown](#)  
Other Warwick pages on this site: [Upper Bay](#)*

**1 Smith's Castle:** Located on Richard Smith Road, off Route 1, one mile north of Wickford, Smith's castle is presently situated on 1.8 acres of land. At one time, however, this property encompassed 27 square miles of North Kingstown's coastal lands. Built by Richard Smith, Jr., the "Castle" was a trading center established by Richard Smith and Roger Williams in 1637. Open: April 15 to October 15, Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 1-5 p.m.

**2 Allen Harbor:** Within the Quonset Point Industrial Park, Allen Harbor is a well-protected harbor and an ideal site for the boater. Many public amenities are offered, including plenty of free public parking, bathrooms, showers, and picnic benches. There is no boat ramp. Access from Route 1 is only available from the Davisville/Quonset Access Road off Route 1.

## EAST GREENWICH

**3 East Greenwich Cove Landfill:** Believe it or not, this limited-access site offers a spectacular view of Greenwich Cove and neighboring Goddard State Park. Walking and bird watching are popular activities best suited for this site. Limited on-site parking is available.

**4 Bridge Street:** A street just north of the Harbor Heights condominiums, this public right-of-way offers pedestrians access to Greenwich Cove. There is no parking available.



## NORTH KINGSTOWN

In 1674, colonial Kings Towne included North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Narragansett, and Exeter. Due to rapid growth, in 1723, North and South Kingstown were established as separate towns, with North Kingstown the elder. Rich in local history, this 43.5-square-mile town has many landmarks. One such landmark is Smith's Castle, built as a trading post in the 1640s and later burned, rebuilt, and added to. Today, 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 late 18th century.

For more information about North Kingstown's natural places, click [here](#).

## EAST GREENWICH

**Davis Memorial Wildlife Refuge.** This 97-acre site bordering the Hunt River contains floodplain wetlands, a large abandoned sand pit, and white pine forest. Archaeological diggings have uncovered Indian artifacts from 3,500 years ago along the Hunt River, which is accessible by canoe from Davisville Rd. The refuge extends into Putts Bog, where bog mats with unusual plants can be seen.

**For more information, contact:**

[The Audubon Society of Rhode Island](#), (401) 949-5454.

**Directions:**

At intersection Rte. 1 (Post Rd.) and Rte. 403 (Davisville Rd.), follow signs off Rte. 1 for Davisville/Quonset. Make immediate right onto

### **5 East Greenwich Town Overlook and Boat**

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

**6 Tot Lot:** Off Water Street, just north of the municipal overlook, this newly built town-owned play area offers fun for the kids, picnic tables, and a spectacular view of Greenwich Cove and Goddard Park. Public parking is available.

**7 King 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 with a boardwalk open to the public (need not be a customer). No public parking.

**8 Division Street:** Recently designated as a public right-of-way, this site is located between the East Greenwich Yacht Club and the municipal parking lot on Water Street. This area is a 15-minute walk from downtown East Greenwich and is ideal for watching harbor activities. Goddard Park is located across the cove. Seafood restaurants are a short walk away. One-hour parking is permitted.

## **WARWICK**

**9 Potowomut Neck:** Eight right-of-ways 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 at all. 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

Rte. 403 heading north. Proceed 2 miles to pull-off on left. There is parking for several cars.

Trail begins at wire fencing. Canoes can be put in just north of small bridge north of pull-off. Another trail into refuge can be found at end of Hunt River Dr., off Rte. 403.

## **WARWICK**

Buckeye Brook Marsh and Pine Tree Preserve. This is a good place to look at a large salt marsh. Fresh water from Buckeye Brook empties into the southwestern end of Mill Cove, and here, fresh water mixes with salt water, giving rise to a salt marsh habitat rich with life. In addition to the herring that spawn in the brook, the mute swan nests in the marsh, and herons have been spotted. A portion of the salt marsh is bordered by a pine preserve.

### **For more information, contact:**

The city of Warwick, Parks and Recreation,  
(401) 738-2000, ext. 6805.

### **Directions:**

Take I-95 to Rte. 117 east exit. Follow 117 (West Shore Rd.) for about 5 miles to Draper Ave. on right; marsh is down Draper Ave. Continue east on West Shore Rd. to Tidewater Dr. for additional salt marsh viewing.

**Goddard Memorial State Park.** This 472-acre site, situated on Greenwich Cove and Greenwich Bay, was once barren sand dunes. In 1874, landowner Henry Russell began a tree-planting project that continued for 30 years. This process was continued by Colonel Goddard for another 20 years. Today, the park features a mixed deciduous forest, a pine forest, and shore access. The park offers many recreational activities, including a beach, saltwater fishing, bike paths, and sites for picnicking and games.

### **For more information, contact:**

of Greenwich and Narragansett Bays and the head of the Potowomut River. The nine right-of-ways located in this area are: 1) Bradford Avenue, 2) Elkins Avenue, 3) Charlotte Drive and Sidney Avenue intersection, 4) Charlotte Drive and Robert Avenue boat ramp, 5) Charlotte Drive and Collins Avenue intersection, 6) Charlotte Drive and Hopkins Avenue intersection, 7) Beachwood Drive, 8) Lakeside Drive intersection, and 9) Beachwood Drive and Baycliff Drive intersection.

**🚗 10 Goddard State Park:** Located on Ives Road, off Forge Road, this is a year-round facility managed by the state of Rhode Island. It is a wonderful park to escape to in the summer for swimming, in the fall for hiking 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 activities. There is a public boat launch ramp with plenty of parking for trailered vehicles, a public golf course, horseback riding, ball fields, a popular swimming beach, concessions, restrooms, and many picnic areas. There is also a concrete walk extending the length of the beach, which 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. A nominal entrance fee is charged during the summer.

**🚗 11 Masthead Drive:** One block to the east of Post Road, this interesting area has a shipyard, marinas, restaurants, dancing clubs, 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.

R.I. DEM, Division of Parks and Recreation,  
Goddard Park, (401) 884-2010.

### Directions:

From Rte. 4 south, take exit for Rte 401 east (Division St.). Follow Division St., bearing to right, onto First Ave. After about 2 miles, turn right onto Rte. 1 (Main St.). At next light, turn left onto Forge Rd. Follow for about 0.4 mile, bearing left onto Ives Rd. Park entrance is 2 miles down Ives Rd., on left.

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*The very shadows of the clouds  
Have the power to shake me as they pass.*

-William Wordsworth  
(1770-1850)



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**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 shellfish store, a boat ramp, a municipal dock, and a restaurant nearby.

**13 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 at the southern end of the cove.

**14 Ponaug Marina:** On Apponaug Cove, east of the railroad tracks, this privately owned marina has an asphalt boat ramp available for public use for a nominal fee. Trailer parking is available for approximately 60 trailered vehicles at the municipal dock on the south side of the marina. Boating facilities include two guest slips, one guest mooring, gas, electricity, water, ice, bait, tackle, telephones, beverages, and parking.

**15 Warwick City Park:** Located on Long Street, off West Shore Road (Route 117) about one-half mile east of Apponaug, this very large city facility has much to offer, from basketball, tennis, and ball playing to secluded nature walks, beach, and playgrounds. This is an excellent facility for the handicapped and those with bikes or strollers because there are benches and a newly renovated 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, running, or bicycling. There is a nominal entrance fee in the summer.



**16 Seaview Beach:** This site is located on Crockett Street, 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. The beach is also used to launch small boats from four-wheel-drive vehicles.

**17 Oakland Beach:** At the southern end of Oakland Beach Avenue, off Route 117 East, is a popular wide, sandy, municipal beach on Greenwich Bay. The beach extends about 900 feet along the shore and provides a safe, 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 rod and reel for fish. There is also a grassy commons area, a ballfield, nearby concessions, and port-a-johns available in the summer. Parking is sufficient for approximately 175 vehicles. There is a nominal parking fee during the summer.

**18 Rocky Point Park:** Located directly on Narragansett Bay, near Warwick Neck, this is a very popular amusement park and a shore dinner hall famous for its chowder and clam cakes. There is also a nice beach which is good for walking along the rocky shore to Rocky Point. Although plenty of parking is available in the amusement park, watch out for "No Parking" and "No Picnicking" signs. Park hours change according to time of the year. This site can be reached from Route 117 East to Warwick Neck Avenue, to Rocky Point Avenue. The region of the upper bay off Rocky Point is the most productive shellfishing area in the state and bullrakers can be seen fishing for quahogs (except after the area is closed to shellfishing due to potential sewage contamination from

combined sewer overflows at the head of the bay). \* Update 1998: The amusement park is no longer there.

■ **19 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.

■ **20 Longmeadow Beach:** At the end of Samuel Gorton Avenue, this long rocky beach is a good area for walking. There is a boat ramp in fair condition. Parking is available for approximately 50 cars, or for 25 cars with trailers.

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

■ **22 Conimicut Point:** 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 jetting 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 grassed picnic area. Restrooms and additional parking with 400 spaces 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.

**23 Shawomet Boat Ramp:** At the end of Shawomet Avenue, off Stokes Street, and adjacent to Conimicut Point Recreation Area on the Upper Narragansett Bay, this 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.



*CRMC Rights-of-Way for [North Kingstown](#), [East Greenwich](#), [Warwick](#)*



# EXETER

**Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge.** Fisherville Brook is the newest wildlife refuge of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, with 722 acres. Fisherville Brook empties into the Queen River after widening to a pond with a dam and waterfall. Trails pass through mixed deciduous forest, pine forest, by a swamp, and through fields. Turtles, including painted turtle and box turtle, can be seen at this site, and many birds nest here, including bluebird, for whom boxes have been set up in fields along the blue trail. Also note the use of lumber made from recycled plastic in the raised walkways. There is a historic cemetery on the property. Educational programs are available.

*Hint: Look for the large "glacial erratic" on the Outer Loop trail. Glacial erratics are scattered boulders that have traveled - usually less than a mile, but sometimes many miles - when they were picked up and carried by glacial ice, then dropped haphazardly as the ice melted.*

**For more information, contact:**

[The Audubon Society of Rhode Island](#), (401) 949-5454, or the refuge office at (401) 295-8283.

## Directions:

Take I-95 to Rte. 102 south. Follow for about 3.5 miles to Widow Sweets Rd., and turn left. Continue for 0.4 mile to right on Pardon Joslin Rd.; refuge is about 1 mile ahead on right.

*One sees great things from the valley; only small things from the peak.*

*- G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936)*





# FOSTER

**George W. Parker Woodland (Foster).** This Audubon Society of Rhode Island property features two sections, one in [Coventry](#) and one in Foster. The Foster section offers a walk of historic interest, past the remains of a farm, including stone walls, cellarholes, a well, and a stone fireplace. The Foster section should be accessed on foot from the Coventry section.

*Hint: At one point, most of Rhode Island was cleared for farmland. Today, areas such as parts of Parker Woodland show examples of how farmlands gradually return to forest. Read [Woodlands](#), then look for signs of these processes on your visit.*

**For more information, contact:**

[The Audubon Society of Rhode Island](#), (401) 949-5454.

## Directions:

Use directions to reach [Coventry](#) entrance, then take blue trail to yellow trail, following sign at yellow connector trail that says "To Foster Tract."



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# GLOUCESTER

**Heritage Park.** Town-owned Heritage Park offers several miles of walking trails, with fitness stations, and easy skiing in winter. On its 127 acres are several brooks, a mixed deciduous forest, and rocky ledges.

**For more information, contact:**

The town of Gloucester, (401) 568-6206.

**Directions:**

From I-295, take Rte. 44 west. Travel 5.3 miles past intersection of Rte. 44 and Rte. 5, to left on Chestnut Oak Rd. Park is 0.3 mile ahead, on left side of road.



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# HOPKINTON

**Long and Ell Ponds Natural Area.** This area is noteworthy as the only designated National Natural Landmark in Rhode Island. High bluffs and rocky overlooks offer stunning views of the forested landscape and the two ponds. The well-developed forests are unique for their extensive stands of rhododendron and some of the largest Eastern hemlock trees in the state. Of further interest is the floating or quaking bog at Ell Pond, which is completely surrounded by white cedar swamp, one of the best examples of this wetland type in Rhode Island. The strenuous trail around these ponds marks the end of Appalachian Mountain Club's Narragansett Trail. A wide diversity of wildlife can be found in this area. Nesting birds of note include hooded and worm-eating warblers. The area is managed in sections by [The Nature Conservancy](#), the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, and the state.

*Hint: Plan a visit in early June to enjoy rhododendrons in bloom.*

**For more information, contact:**

[The Audubon Society of Rhode Island](#), (401) 949-5454.

**Directions:**

From I-95, follow Rte. 138 west into village of Rockville. Turn left onto Wincheck Pond Rd. After 0.1 mile, turn left onto Canonchet Rd. Proceed 0.4 mile past post office and up hill. When road diverges into a "V," veer right onto unmarked North Rd. (paved for 0.4 mile and then unpaved). Proceed 1 mile to small parking area on left. Yellow dot trail to ponds begins at sign. End of yellow dot trail and another parking area are 0.6 mile beyond intersection of Canonchet and North roads.





## JAMESTOWN

*Other Narragansett pages on this site: [South Shore: South Kingstown and Narragansett](#)*

*Other North Kingstown pages on this site: [West Bay: North Kingstown, East Greenwich, Warwick](#)*

■ **1 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 entrance to Mount Hope Bay. In the early 1900s this was the location of a steamboat landing for travel between Providence, Jamestown, and Newport. There is parking for four to six cars.

■ **2 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, as there is no parking permitted directly on East Shore Road.

■ **3 Potter Cove/Taylor Point:** Located just north of the Newport Bridge off Bayview Drive, which is one-way, this site provides 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, or picnicking on the shale rock outcrops surrounding the cove and reached from the easternmost parking lot.

■ **4 East Ferry:** In the heart of downtown



## JAMESTOWN

**Watson Farm.** Long before European settlement, Conanicut Island was under cultivation as Native Americans planted their crops of corn and beans on the shores of the Narragansett Bay. Between 1789 and 1979, five generations of one family owned the 285-acre Watson Farm. As the market for their produce changed, they adapted their agricultural methods to meet new demands. Today, the property is still a working family farm. The farmers raise sheep and cattle for beef, lamb, and wool markets, grow grass for hay, and cultivate a large vegetable garden. visitors may take a self-guided tour through pastures, hayfields and woodlands. The farmers offer group tours for ages 8 and older.

### **For more information, contact:**

Watson Farm, (401) 423-0005.

### **Directions:**

From Rte. 138 in Jamestown, take North Main Rd. south. Farm is 0.4 mile ahead, on right.

**Fort Wetherill State Park.** The granite outcroppings that help fortify the walls of Fort Wetherill are the only formations of this type on the island. This 51-acre site is favored by scuba divers because of its superior representation of a temperate coastal environment in two sheltered coves facing south, and a rocky drop-off. Look for flounder, tautog, and squid, and, in the late summer and fall, tropical species of fish swept north by the Gulf Stream. Very near the shoreline, depths can range from 10 to 100 feet.

*Hint: strong swimmers would enjoy a snorkeling adventure at this site. Make sure it is a calm day. On the rocky shore one can find long*



Jamestown is the site of the old landing for the Newport-Jamestown ferry. There is a public fishing pier 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. Minimal public parking is available.

**5 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 and picnic tables 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 which provide spectacular views from 50-foot-high bluffs. The park has an access point for scuba divers anxious to view the outcrops from below sea level. This site also has a boat ramp. Plenty of on-site parking is available.

**6 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. There are lifeguards during the summer and trash cans and restrooms are available. On-site pay parking is available.

**7 Sheffield Cove Marsh:** While parked at Mackerel Cove, 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 the Audubon

*strands of sea kelp, waving sea lettuce, large sea anemones, and lobsters lurking in the crevices. In the ore western of the two coves, eelgrass beds provide shelter for flounder and a variety of crabs.*

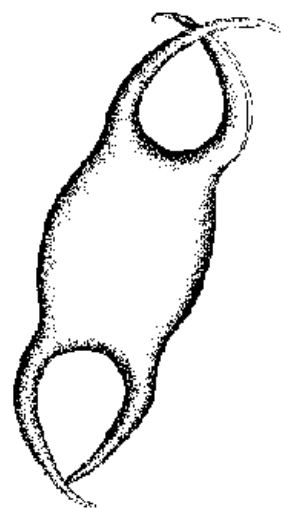
**For more information, contact:**

[R.I. Division of Parks and Recreation](#),

Beavertail, (401) 423-9941 (summer), or  
Goddard Park, (401) 884-2010 (year-round).

**Directions:**

From Rte. 138 in Jamestown, take North Main Rd. south 2.6 miles. Take left on Narragansett Ave. to end. Turn right onto Walcott Ave. After 1 mile, take left at fork onto Fort Wetherill Rd. Park is 0.2 mile ahead on right.



*Mermaid's Purse*

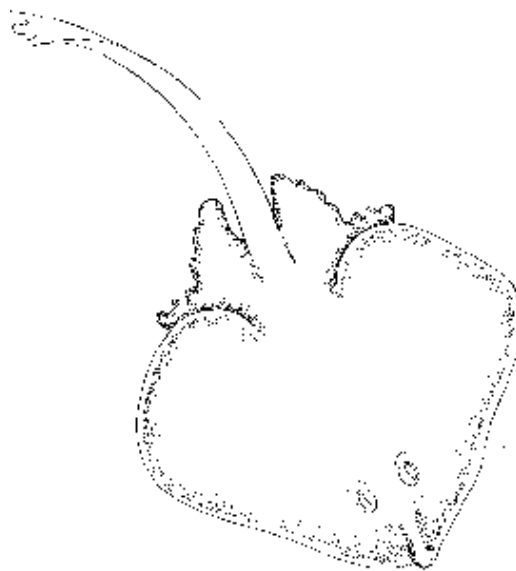
**Fort Getty Park.** This town-owned park has tide pools and a pebbly beach. It is an excellent place to learn about several marine environments and a great spot for beachcombing, especially after a storm or at low tide. Look for slipper shells, mermaid's purses (egg cases of the little skate), and clam, quahog, and whelk shells.

Society of Rhode Island, it is a place for birding, wildlife photography, and painting.

**8 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 Rhode Island's Atlantic coastline. This peninsula park is bordered by a rocky shore accessible 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. Portable toilets and ample on-site parking are available. The lighthouse museum is open from June to September, Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**9 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 125 campsites are available 25 for tents, 100 for trailers. The beach has bathroom and shower facilities. 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. 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.

**10 Fox Hill Salt Marsh:** At the entrance to Fort Getty Park is an Audubon Society of Rhode Island 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



*Little Skate*

**For more information, contact:**

The town of Jamestown, Recreation Department,  
(401) 423-7211.

**Directions:**

From Rte. 138 in Jamestown, take North Main Rd. south 2.6 miles, where it turns into southwest Ave. Continue on southwest and bear right onto Beavertail Rd. Turn right onto Fort Getty Rd. Proceed 0.5 mile to park entrance. Fee in summer.

## NARRAGANSETT

**Black Point.** This beautiful section of the Narragansett coastline provides an opportunity to look at both a beach ecosystem and a rocky intertidal zone. It is best to visit this area in the off-season, when summer crowds are gone and parking is available at Scarborough Beach, 0.25 mile south of Black Point. The point was slated for condominium development, until in 1989, it was acquired by the state through its power of eminent domain, to be set aside as open space. the path through the rocks at black Point affords spectacular vistas of the ocean. Water birds that can be seen on the ocean during the fall and winter months include cormorants, grebes, loons,

Fort Getty (seasonal fee). Entry with permission of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island.

**11 West Ferry:** At the end of Narragansett Avenue and adjacent to the Dutch Harbor boatyard, 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. There are sweeping views of Dutch Harbor, Fort Getty, Dutch Island, and the Jamestown Bridge to the north.

**12 Marsh Meadows Wildlife Preserve:** Surrounding the east end of Great Creek Marsh is a wetland wildlife conservation area. The marsh can be seen from North Main Road as it crosses over the marsh. Access is from Preece Street.

**13 Hull Street:** This right-of-way, situated 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 with parking for two to four cars. There is a very steep decline to a cobble beach which provides a spectacular view of the West Passage and the Jamestown Bridge.

**14 Spindrift Street:** Situated in a residential neighborhood just north of the Jamestown Bridge, this right-of-way is very difficult to locate because there are no street signs along Beach Avenue. However, look for the first street with a large, open, grassy area which has parking for four to six cars. Walk to the end of the grassy area, through some brush, and down a steep incline (about 15 feet) onto a cobble beach, for a breathtaking view of the West Passage, Jamestown Bridge, and Dutch Island to the south.

**15 Steamboat Avenue:** Although this right-of-way does not have a sign, access is westerly from Seaside Drive. It is in a residential neighborhood with scenic views of the West

scoters, mergansers, and other ducks. In tide pools at the base of the rocks live crabs, snails, mussels, and barnacles.

**For more information, contact:**

[R.I. DEM, Division of Planning and Development](#), (401) 222-2776.

**Directions:**

From Rte. 1, take Rte. 108 south to stoplight on Burnside st.; turn left and follow to intersection with Ocean Rd. Scarborough Beach is to right; Black Point is undeveloped area to left.

## NORTH KINGSTOWN

**Silver Spring Lake.** Purchased in the 1950s as part of the Federal Sportfish Restoration Program, Silver Spring Lake is managed by R.I. DEM, Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Estuarine Resources as a public fishing area. The lake is routinely stocked with trout, making angling rewarding. Canoeing and boating are allowed, but boats are restricted to electric motors only. A dock provides access for the handicapped. In addition to good fishing, this site shows the transition of freshwater pond habitats - from freshwater marsh to semi-bog habitat.

**For more information, contact:**

[R. I. DEM, Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Estuarine Resources](#), (401) 222-3075.

**Directions:**

Take Rte. 4 south into North Kingstown. Turn right off Rte. 4 into picnic area 0.5 mile past intersection with Allenton Rd. This site is also accessible farther south. Continue on Rte. 4 south until it merges with Rte. 1. At first street (Silver Spring Rd.), turn right. Fishing pier is located there.

Passage, Jamestown Bridge, and Dutch Island.  
Parking is limited to two to four cars.

## NARRAGANSETT

➤ **16 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 upon tidal conditions, this area can be quite populated with shore birds. This is a nice site for a picnic or a fishing excursion. Parking is available for a few cars on both sides of the river.

➤ **17 Pettaquamscutt Cove National Wildlife Refuge:** Along the southeastern shore of the Narrow River, this recently 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.

➤ **18 Middlebridge:** Seasonal fishing is popular from the causeway and bridge over the Narrow River. At the southwest end of the bridge there is a picnic grove 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.

➤ **19 Pettaquamscutt Rock:** 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. There is restricted parking along Middlebridge Road.

➤ **20 Rte. 1A Overlook:** A parcel of land owned by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation and known as the Overlook, extends from Boston Neck Road (Rte. 1A)



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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 parking is available.

■ **21 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 of Narragansett Bay. Dutch Island, Jamestown, and the Jamestown Bridge may be seen in the distance. This is a multi-use site for fishing, boating, and windsurfing. There is a boat ramp that is often covered by gravel, especially after winter storms. The site is adjacent to the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography.

## NORTH KINGSTOWN


➤ **22 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: mid-March to mid-November daily except Friday, 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. There is a small fee.


➤ **23 Bissel Cove:** Located off Waldron Avenue, on Worsley Avenue, this site, also called the Hummocks, is a state management area consisting of a fringing marsh, tidal flats, and a cobble beach. 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.


■ **24 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 three-foot-high bulkhead. Just behind the beach is a large grassy



area shaded by tall trees, with many picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, ball fields, and a basketball court. Just across the street is the senior center and the Wickford Art Association. There is handicapped parking and bathrooms. Access is restricted to town residents during the summer.

 **25 Wickford Municipal Wharf:** Three blocks down historic Main Street from Brown and West Main Streets, this municipal wharf is situated among other commercial piers. This wharf hosts both fishing and recreational boats. There is no public launching facility here. It is also a pleasant place to park and watch the activity of Wickford Harbor.

 **26 Pleasant Street Boat Ramp:** This municipal ramp is located at the end of Pleasant Street, off Main Street. Situated between two privately owned establishments (Wickford Yacht Club and Pleasant Street Wharf), this ramp is easy to miss, especially since there is no sign for the public. The gravel ramp is usable, but is poorly maintained, and there is limited on-street parking for cars and trailers, and no other facilities.

 **27 North Kingstown Town Boat Ramp:** Located at the end of Intrepid Drive, off Route 1, north of the police headquarters, this site has lots of parking and a good ramp for launching trailered boats. A small wooden dock is available for short-term landings (20-minute docking limit) but no fishing is permitted. To the west of the dock, is Mill Cove with a fringing marsh; a walking path winds around the cove, a nice walk for observing this marsh.



*CRMC Rights-of-Way for [Jamestown](#),  
[Narragansett](#), [North Kingstown](#)*





# JOHNSTON

**Dame Farm.** Built circa 1780, this historic site abutting Snake Den State Park continues to be a working farm, run by the Dame family. It offers the opportunity to compare exhibits of historic farm equipment (circa 1870 to 1915), with current farming practices.

A trail on the property runs past the family cemetery, through a former orchard, and past a pasture. Signs along the trail tell some of the history of the site.

*Hint: Call ahead to plan your visit during hours that you can see the display of farm equipment. Visit after a snowfall and bring your cross-country skis to explore the property.*

**For more information, contact:**

[R.I.DEM, Division of Parks and Recreation](#), (401) 222-2632.

## **Directions:**

From I-295 to Rte. 6. Go west for about 1.6 miles. Turn right onto Brown Ave. Entrance is 1 mile on right.



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# LINCOLN

**Lincoln Woods State Park.** This well-developed 627-acre forested park offers many opportunities to enjoy and learn about Rhode Island's environment, at a short distance from Providence. An abandoned limestone quarry is found here, and many large glacial boulders are scattered throughout the park. Olney Pond offers opportunities for boating and fishing, and the bathing beach is a popular summer attraction. During migrating periods, flocks of waterfowl can be seen on the pond. Among the more common species to be seen are double crested cormorant, mallard, American black duck, hooded and common mergansers, and ring-necked duck. fish include stocked trout and salmon, and several warmwater species. The pond is also a popular ice fishing area. There are many recreational activities, including horse trails (bring our own horse).

**For more information, contact:**

The [R.I. DEM, Division of Parks and Recreation](#), Lincoln Woods, (401) 723-7892.

**Directions:**

Take Rte. 146 to Lincoln Woods exit and park entrance.





## PORTSMOUTH

Other Portsmouth pages on this site: [East Bay](#):  
[Bristol](#), [Portsmouth](#), [Portsmouth \(inset\)](#)

**1 Melville Ponds Campground:** Located off Sullivan Road, a right turn off Stringham Road, one-half mile from Route 114, this town facility has sites for 57 tents, 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. There is on-site parking available.

**2 Bend Boat Basin:** Located at the end of Stringham Road, off Route 114, Bend Boat Basin is a manmade harbor on the East Passage of Narragansett Bay, now used as a recreational boatyard and marina specializing in sailing yachts. One can also drive or walk out to nearby Coggeshall Point for a sweeping view of the Bay. Marina facilities include 25 guest slips, gas, diesel, electricity, propane, water, ice, showers, telephone, toilets, parking, and a marine store.

**3 Carr Point Recreation Area:** This site is a naval facility but is available for public use by reservation only. There are picnic grounds, softball fields, and a playground. Although there is no direct access to the water, there is a scenic view of Narragansett Bay. Plenty of on-site parking is available.

**4 Glen Recreation Area:** Located off Glen Road, this area includes Glen Park and the Glen Manor House, both available for residents of Portsmouth by reservation only from the town of Portsmouth. The park includes facilities for horseback riding, softball, soccer, and picnicking, with a nice view across the fields to



## PORTSMOUTH

Portsmouth, whose Indian name was Pocasset, was the first settlement on Aquidneck Island, settled in 1638. It was the first community in the colonies to be founded by a woman, Anne Hutchinson. The town also had the first black regiment, which fought in the Battle of Rhode Island in the Revolutionary War.

The early activities of the town were farming and shipbuilding, followed by fishing. One of New England's best shipbuilders was located in Portsmouth, and was responsible for the design and construction of a large group of notable ships for the China trade. One of these was the *Ann and Hope*.

An 1881 observer offered this view of Portsmouth: "Among the most prominent features of the Portsmouth landscape today are the great windmills that surmount some of the loftiest hills of the town. No traveler passes by on the water of the Bay who does not admire their picturesque appearance as their long arms revolve against the eastern sky." The windmills are now gone, except for a few historically preserved, but Portsmouth's 23.3 square miles still remain largely rural and agrarian.

For more information about Portsmouth's natural places, click [here](#).

## TIVERTON

Tiverton was incorporated in 1694 in Massachusetts. Its Indian name was Pocasset. Tiverton was one of five towns received from Massachusetts and incorporated in Rhode Island in 1747. Tiverton covers 29.7 square miles, and has a long coastline on the Sakonnet River and Mt. Hope Bay.

the Sakonnet River. The Glen Manor House is an historic manor house fronting on the Sakonnet River with a terrace overlooking the river.

On-site parking is available.

■ **5 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 bath house with restrooms. This is a well-protected beach for swimming and a nice place for walking along the river. There is a parking fee for nonresidents.

## TIVERTON

➤ **6 Emily Ruecker Wildlife Refuge:** This 30-acre refuge owned by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island 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, and there is a photo blind near one of the marsh areas. A parking area and trailhead are located off Seapowet Road.



➤ **7 Seapowet Marsh and Seapowet 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 launch ramp south of the bridge which

For more information about Tiverton's natural places, click [here](#).

## LITTLE COMPTON

**Fogland Marsh Preserve.** Encompassing 140 acres, this tidal estuary is one of the only examples of an unditched salt marsh in Rhode Island. (Ditches were commonly dug for drainage in salt marshes to try to control mosquitoes.) Managed by The Nature Conservancy, this site is a fertile nursery ground for finfish and shellfish, and a feeding site for many shorebirds and waders (including snowy egret, great egret, and great blue heron). In the spring, alewives travel up Almy Brook to spawn above the dam at Nonquit Pond. The marsh is open to the public for scientific and educational uses, and for activities such as birding. Access is provided along a short section of beach along the Sakonnet River.

**For more information, contact:**

[The Nature Conservancy](#), (401) 331-7110.

**Directions:**

From Rte. 138, follow Rte. 77 south to a right on Pond Bridge Rd. Bear left onto Fogland beach and left again on High Hill Rd. Follow to end of road. Very little parking is available on road, especially in summer. You may want to park at town beach and walk to marsh.

**Wilbour Woods.** This 75-acre town-owned parcel is primarily deciduous woodland, with a unique understory of American holly. Several dirt roads circle through the woodland, and fishing is available in the stocked waters of Dundery Brook, which flows through the area.

**For more information, contact:**

The town of Little Compton, (401) 635-4400.

**Directions:**

provides access to an extensive salt marsh and tidal creek area.

■ **8 Fogland Road:** A right-of-way located at the end of Fogland Road, at the junction with High Hill Avenue, leads to an old concrete boat launching ramp on the Sakonnet River. The ramp is deteriorated and it could be difficult to launch trailered boats. There is a view of the Sakonnet River and Tiverton Beach from here. There is no parking on the site but parking is available at the Tiverton Town Beach about one-quarter mile away.

## LITTLE COMPTON

■ **9 Town Way:** At the western end of Town Way, off West Main and Old Main Roads, there is room for about 15 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 here one can walk partway up into Donovan's Marsh, a well-preserved tidal creek and unditched salt marsh. From the beach, there is a nice view of Sakonnet River and Sachuest Point. A sign is posted here indicating that this is not a public swimming beach and there are no lifeguards.

■ **10 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 room for about 10 cars to park 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.

■ **11 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

Form Rte. 138, follow Rte. 77 south 11.2 miles to left on Swamp Rd. Entrance is 0.3 mile ahead on left.

## MIDDLETOWN

■ **Purgatory Chasm.** Ten feet wide, 120 feet long, and almost 50 feet deep, this natural chasm offers fine examples of the effects of erosion and weathering on the conglomerate "puddingstone" bedrock of the area. A walk to the rocky cliff presents lovely views of Sachuest Beach, Sachuest Point, and the ocean. This site is near the Norman Bird Sanctuary and area beaches, so a visit here can be combined with other trips.

**For more information, contact:**

[R.I. DEM, Division of Parks and Recreation](#),  
Fort Adams, (401) 847-2400.

■ **Prescott Farm.** Aquidneck Island - especially Middletown and Portsmouth - features a long history of farming. In recognition of this heritage, which developed on some of the best agricultural soils in the state, the Rhode Island Agricultural Preservation Commission has purchased the development rights to a number of farms on the island. Prescott Farm is a privately preserved farmstead that offers a chance to view restored farm buildings and an operating windmill circa 1812.

**For more information, contact:**

The Newport Restoration Foundation, (401) 849-7300.

**Directions:**

From intersection of Rtes. 138 and 114 in Middletown, follow Rte. 114 (West Main Rd.) north 2.5 miles to farm, on right, at 2009 West Main Rd.





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.


#### **12 Sakonnet Harbor Fishing Access:**

Located off Sakonnet Point Road at the southern end of Route 77, there is a single-width concrete boat ramp across a beach into Sakonnet Harbor, a sheltered basin with access to the Sakonnet River and the Atlantic. 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.

#### **13 Little Compton Town 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 behind it, port-o-johns, and lifeguards. 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.


## MIDDLETOWN


 **14 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 parking for Middletown residents. This site has a sandy beach fronting on Easton's 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

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Easton's (First) Beach in Newport. Board sailing and surfing rentals are located nearby.

 **15 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, with ocean waves crashing into it. 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 up the rocks.

 **16 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 (Second) Beach overlooking Sachuest Bay (Atlantic Ocean) with access to the beach and to Purgatory Chasm (see description of Purgatory Chasm).

■ **17 Second Beach:** The main parking lot for this beach is located off Sachuest Point Road. This site has an 8,000-foot-long wide, sandy, 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.

 **18 Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge:** Located at the eastern end of Sachuest Point Road, this refuge forms the point between 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. Sport fishing for striped bass,

bluefish, and tautog is popular. A visitor center is open Wednesday through Sunday, and bird walks are held on most summer and fall weekends.

■ **19 Third Beach:** Located at the end of Third Beach Road, this site offers a nice, 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. A walk along the beach toward the Sachuest Point Wildlife Refuge provides a good opportunity for observing waterfowl.

■ **20 Taggart's Ferry Road:** This popular fishing spot is located off Indian Avenue and is a 50-foot-wide path leading to the Sakonnet River.

➤ **21 Norman Bird Sanctuary:** The parking lot and sanctuary headquarters are located on Third Beach Road, north of its junction with Hanging Rock Road and Indian Avenue. There is no direct access to the water from this site, but an extensive network of trails winds through open fields, forest, wetlands, and rocky outcrops. The diversity of undeveloped coastal ecosystems found here is unusual and they provide habitats for a wide variety of wildlife and birds throughout the year. Rocky outcrops within the sanctuary are fascinating, offering a sweeping view of the wetlands, beaches, ocean, and river. A natural history museum and shop are located in an old barn at the sanctuary headquarters. There is a trail fee for nonmembers. Guided bird walks are offered on weekends.



CRMC Rights-of-Way for [Portsmouth](#), [Tiverton](#),  
[Little Compton](#), [Middletown](#)



## SOUTH KINGSTOWN

Other South Kingstown pages on this site: [South Shore: Charlestown and South Kingstown](#)

Other Narragansett pages on this site: [West Bay: Jamestown, Narragansett, North Kingstown](#)

■ **1 South Kingstown Town Beach:** Where Matunuck Beach Road reaches the shore there is a town beach facility with picnic areas, boardwalks, and dirt paths leading to the beach. Several stores within walking distance carry food, sundries, and beach supplies. The newly renovated parking facility accommodates approximately 80 vehicles. The beach charges a fee in the summer season, but is open to town residents as well as nonresidents.

➤ **2 Deep Hole Fishing Area:** Located near the end of Matunuck Beach Road, this small pocket of sandy beach is set aside for Rhode Island's fishermen. However, compatible uses are allowed. Parking is available for approximately 30 cars.

➤ **3 Matunuck Management Area (Succotash Salt Marsh):** 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, the state Coastal Fisheries Division offers nature walks through the area. Parking is available at the state beach.

■ **4 East Matunuck State Beach:** Located south of Succotash Road, this state beach is popular during the summer season for swimming and off



## SOUTH KINGSTOWN

**Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge.** This 642-acre refuge features several types of habitat. The largest portion of the site is upland habitat, from open grassland to coastal deciduous hardwood forest. Fresh- and brackish-water marshes can also be found, as well as wooded swamp and several small freshwater ponds. The coastal habitat of the refuge includes the 161-acre [salt pond](#) for which the refuge is named, and a barrier beach, Moonstone Beach, which is a nesting site of the federally endangered piping plover and accessible only from Moonstone Beach Rd. (not through the refuge's main entrance). The brackish Trustom Pond is the only one of the south shore's coastal ponds that remains free from shoreline development. The refuge is one of the best places in Rhode Island for viewing waterfowl. Important as a feeding and resting area during spring and fall migrations, the pond also supports large numbers of wintering birds. Among the more common species to be seen here are Canada goose, American black duck, canvasback, redhead, greater and lesser scaup, common goldeneye, bufflehead, and common merganser. Osprey nest on platforms over the pond, and the piping plover and the state-threatened least tern nest on the barrier beach. Nesting birds in upland areas include gray catbird, brown thrasher, bobolink, red-winged blackbird, and eastern meadowlark. *(Please note that the beach area of this refuge is closed from late April through August to protect nest sites.)*

**For more information, contact:**

The [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), (401)

season for walking. From the pavilion, there is a beautiful view back 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 and for a fee in the summer.

📍 **5 Kenport Marina:** Located at 580 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, ship store, and engine repair services are also available. Restaurants are situated nearby.

📍 **6 Gooseberry Road:** A 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.

📍 **7 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, but on-street parking is limited. The ramp is next to private marina facilities.

📍 **8 Marina Park:** This municipal park is located at the head of Point Judith Pond on Salt Pond Road, across the street from several marinas, two town boat ramps, and a restaurant. A large grassy area known as Heritage Field is the site for a number of annual events such as carnivals and boat shows. There are benches available, and parking for 50-70 cars.

📍 **9 URI Sailing Club:** Also in Marina Park, this facility has 12 sailing dinghies, five slips, one mooring, an 80-foot pier, and one of the town's four boat ramps. Beginning and intermediate sailing classes are offered during the summer. The public can join the University of Rhode Island Sailing Club for a nominal fee.

364-9124.

### **Directions:**

From Rte. 1, take Moonstone Beach Rd. south approximately 1 mile and turn right onto Matunuck Schoolhouse Rd. Refuge entrance is 0.5 mile ahead on left. To visit barrier beach, follow Moonstone Beach Rd. all the way to end.

**Note:** Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, parking before 4 p.m. is restricted to South Kingstown residents.

## **NARRAGANSETT**

Rival Narragansett and Niantic tribes originally inhabited this coastal area, followed later by European settlers, who were to become the "Narragansett Planters" - a small group of wealthy landowners who developed a lifestyle similar to the plantation culture of the South. In the 19th century, Narragansett developed into a well-known summer resort with hotels, a casino, and a long pier that jutted out into the water so that vessels could discharge passengers and cargo. Although the pier is long gone, this area of Narragansett is still known as Narragansett Pier. All that remains standing of the casino, which burned, is "The Towers" - a stone arch across the road with towers on each side.

Narragansett's present 13.9 square miles run between the eastern bank of the Pettaquamscutt (Narrow)River and the shore of Narragansett Bay. Once a part of South Kingstown, Narragansett was incorporated as a special district in 1888 and as a town in 1901. The town's 12 contiguous miles of waterfront include the largest salt pond, or coastal lagoon, in the state - Point Judith Pond - four public beaches, and facilities for small-boat anchorage. The protected harbor of Galilee is the primary center for Rhode Island's fishing industry.

For more information about Narragansett's natural places, click [here](#).

# NARRAGANSETT



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■ **10 Long Cove Marina:** Located west of Route 108, approximately one mile south of Route 1, this privately owned campground consists of 200-300 campsites for tents, campers, and recreational vehicles. There is public access to the boat ramp which leads to Point Judith Pond.

■ **11 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 brush-covered bank and narrow dirt path to the pond. Only on-street parking is available.

■ **12 Fishermen's Memorial State Park:** West of Route 108, Fishermen'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 the 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, DEM holds evening nature education programs for the public.


■ **13 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, and parking is available only along the road.


■ **14 Bluff Hill Cove Access:** North of the Galilee Escape Road, is an area of wetlands and tidal flats which 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.


■ **15 Galilee Fishing Access at Great Island**




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

 **16 State Pier #3:** In the heart of the Galilee fishing community, 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.

 **17 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 the harbor activities. There is ample parking for a fee in nearby lots.

 **18 State Pier #4:** Across the breachway from the ferry terminal in Jerusalem, at the end of Succotash Road, is a state-owned property and pier that provides 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.

 **19 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.

■ **20 Roger Wheeler Memorial 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 also known as a safe place for swimming because of the long, wide, sandy beach and breakwater-protected, calm waters.

🚧 **21 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. With Block Island visible in the distance, this is a good spot for surf fishing. This site also provides access to the east arm of the Harbor of Refuge breakwater, a popular fishing area. On-site parking is available.

🚧 **22 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 fog horn sounding out to the passing ships on foggy days. Limited on-site parking. Open daily 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

■ **23 Pilgrim Avenue:** Just north of Point Judith, at Pilgrim and Calef Avenues (Pole #17), is a right-of-way that consists of a paved roadway about 50 feet wide and 166 feet long that extends eastward to a cobble beach. No public parking is available.

■ **24 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 Drive and Calef Avenue to a cobble beach.

On-site parking is limited to a few cars.

■ **25 Knowlesway Lot:** Located at the eastern end of Knowlesway, off Route 108, the site is presently not maintained, and the path contains construction rubble.

■ **26 Scarborough State Beach:** One of the state's most popular beaches, this newly renovated state facility has gazebos, picnic areas and benches, a wooden boardwalk with concessions, changing facilities, toilets, and showers. The wide, flat, sandy beach is ideal for swimming, walking, and a variety of oceanside activities. Ample on-site parking is available and accessible from Ocean Road.

■ **27 Black Point:** Located off Ocean Road, just north of Scarborough State Beach, this site is a long dirt path that extends toward the bay from the end of a cement retaining wall just east of the old stone carriage house ruins. The path leads to a dramatic rocky shore of boulders and tide pools. Parking is limited to a few roadside sites.

■ **28 Bass Rock Road:** A right-of-way off 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. Beware of treacherous wave conditions and dangerous rocky shoreline. Parking is limited to a few cars.

■ **29 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 the Narragansett Pier granite, surfaces. Fishing and wildlife observation are popular but dangerous due to treacherous waves and slippery rocks. Parking is limited to a few cars.

■ **30 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. Parking is limited to a few cars.

**31 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 10 cars. There is also a bulkhead with pilings to tie up to in a small, usually well-protected cove.




**32 Ocean Road:** A walkway extends eight-tenths of a mile from Narragansett Beach south along Ocean Road, under the Towers, to Tucker's Dock (State Pier #5). 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.

**33 Gazebo Park:** Located off Route 1A, across the street from Narragansett Town Beach, this grassy area 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 are nearby.

**34 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, and swimming. There is a parking lot for which a fee is charged during the summer daytime hours. A newly renovated beach pavilion and changing rooms are available, but there is a rental fee. A shopping area containing several restaurants, public rest rooms, and a grocery store are located nearby.

**35 Canonchet Farm:** Located off Route 1A,

opposite Narragansett Town Beach, Canonchet Farm offers hiking trails and fishing in salt ponds. South County Museum is located here and contains articles of early Rhode Island life and industry. There is 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.-4 p.m.

 **36 DOT Boat Ramp:** Just west of the Route 1A bridge, on the south side of the Narrow River inlet, is a public access site owned by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation. It is located on the old Seaview railroad bed, and there is a boat launch ramp in poor condition. Access is from Starr Drive off Route 1A.



*CRMC Rights-of-Way for [South Kingstown](#) and [Narragansett](#)*



# NEWPORT

**Cliff Walk:** the 3.5 mile Cliff Walk began as a footpath perhaps as early as the late 1700s. But today's mostly paved path is probably about 5 feet lower than the original path, due to centuries of erosion.

The Cliff Walk offers spectacular views of the sea, backyard glimpses of Newport's elegant "summer cottages," and a good look at the area's geologic history. From Memorial Blvd. to Ochre Point, south of the Breakers, the rocks are Coal Age black shale, sandstone, and conglomerate that has metamorphosed to slate, metasandstone, and metaconglomerate, respectively. The Coal Age (300 million-year-old) sedimentary rock is important scientifically because it alone of the major rock masses in the state contains enough fossilized plant remains to allow geologists to date geologic activity in this region. Ochre Point got its name from the yellowish (ochre) oxide of iron in the rock, although much of this has since been removed, covered, or eroded. Continuing south, toward Rough Point, one can see Precambrian metasedimentary rocks, which mainly consist of light-colored slate and metavolcanic rock. Past Rough Point occurs the Newport granite. The granite consists of several types: coarse-grained granite with large pink feldspar crystals; finer-grained, more evenly textured granite that cuts through the first type; and numerous quartz veins that can be seen in almost every rock type in the area.

Besides its geologic interest, the Cliff Walk is also a good place for tide-pool exploration, fishing, and birding - especially in the fall, when migrating birds can be seen. In the winter, ducks congregate off the coast.

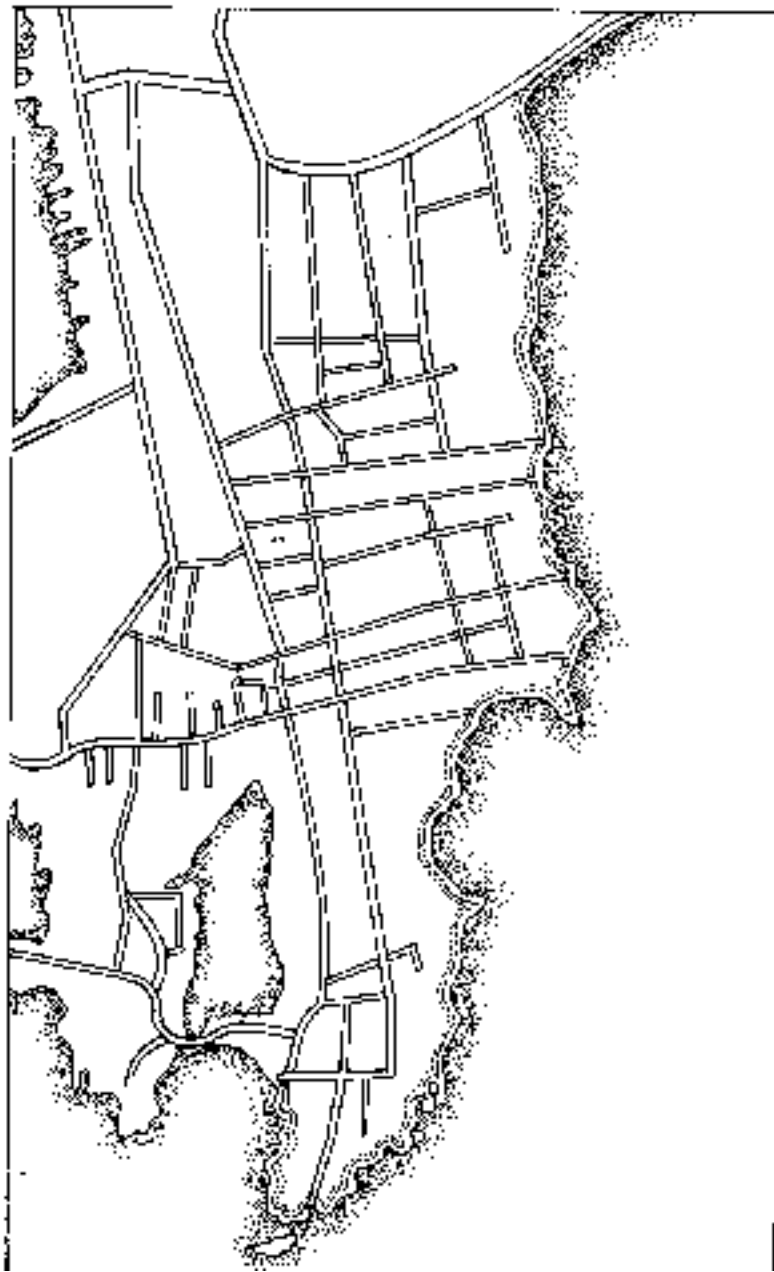
*Note: Caution is required in potentially dangerous portions of the walk and near tide pools.*

## **For more information, contact:**

The Gateway Visitor's Center, (401) 849-8098.

## **Directions:**

From Newport Bridge, take first exit for Newport. Turn right onto Farewell St. After 0.3 mile, turn right onto America's Cup Ave., which will turn into Memorial Blvd., and travel 1.7 miles to beginning of walk at Easton's Beach. walk is also accessible from streets shown on map. Limited parking is available on Shepard, Webster, and Narragansett. Parking is available on Memorial Blvd., but fills early in summer. Routine repairs and restoration of the Cliff Walk are a consideration. Contact the Gateway Center for closures.



*Cliff Walk*





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# NORTH PROVIDENCE

**Twin Rivers/Governor Notte Park.** Twin Rivers area and Governor John Notte Memorial Park border the Wenscott Reservoir to the southeast. A beach is maintained on West River, and a lovely picnic spot is available on the shore of Geneva Brook (West River), which flows from the reservoir. The river drains into the Moshassuck, which empties into the Providence River in downtown Providence (see page 116).

**For more information, contact:**

The town of North Providence, Recreation Department, (401) 353-5430.

**Directions:**

Take I-95 north to Rte. 146 north. Take Mineral Spring Ave. exit, and go left (Rte. 15). Proceed about 1.3 miles, and turn right at intersection with Rte. 7. Park is about 0.75 mile ahead on right.



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# NORTH SMITHFIELD

**Blackstone Gorge.** This popular overlook is part of a 100-acre, two-state corridor that runs along the Blackstone River and offers one of the most spectacular views in the state. The Blackstone cascades over Rolling Dam, past boulders and hemlocks, providing a rare glimpse of the heavily industrialized river as it looked 200 years ago. At some spots, stepping stones allow access across the river when water levels are low. Both Rhode Island and Massachusetts have purchased land around the gorge for a bi-state park. At press time, a trail system and parking were planned.

**For more information, contact:**

[The Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor](#), (401) 762-0250.

## **Directions:**

Follow Rte. 146 north to exit for Rtes. 5/102. Go right at end of ramp onto Rte. 146A. At first light, go left onto St. Paul St. Follow to end into Blackstone, Mass. Turn left onto Rte. 122 north, then bear left at next intersection. After 0.6 mile, cross over bridge, then go left onto County St. Park at end of street. Dam is straight ahead; gorge is through woods to left.



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# RICHMOND

**Carolina Wildlife Management Area.** This 2,375-acre management area contains a variety of vegetation in natural and managed habitats. Mixed deciduous forest, pitch pine forest, a white cedar swamp, and several small wetlands can be found here. The management area abuts the Pawcatuck River to the east, where a canoe campsite is available approximately 1 mile south of the village of Carolina. Diamond Pond, in the western part of the management area, is a diverse wetland complex that has been examined extensively as a University of Rhode Island study site. You may see a variety of wildlife in this area, especially in those sections that have been managed specifically for game species. Ring-necked pheasant, wild turkey, and ruffed goose are present. Nesting songbirds include red-breasted nuthatch, pine warbler, cedar waxwing, and eastern bluebird. Meadow Brook, accessible along Pine Hill Road, and Carolina Trout Pond in the northern part of the management area, are both popular fishing locales that are stocked with brook and rainbow trout.

**For more information, contact:**

[R.I. DEM, Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Estuarine Resources](#), (401) 789-3094. Maps are available through Field Headquarters at the Great Swamp Management Area, (401) 798-0281.

**Directions:**

From I-95, follow Rte. 138 east exit. Turn south onto Rte. 112; follow for 2.5 miles. Turn right onto Pine Hill Rd. Proceed 1.6 miles, and turn right into entrance at Meadow Brook Trail, which runs through the center of the management area. Check map for access to ponds at perimeter.



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# SCITUATE

**Seagrave Observatory.** The Seagrave Observatory is the headquarters of Skyscrapers, Inc., an amateur astronomical society. The group meets the first Friday of every month and offers "public" viewing the third Saturday of each month. Away from the city lights, planets, stars, and other celestial bodies are visible both to the naked eye and with the help of telescopes.

**For more information, contact:**

The observatory board, (401) 828-0702, for a schedule of nights that the observatory is open.

**Directions:**

From I-295, take exit for Rte. 6 west. Turn right at Rte. 116 and follow north 0.4 mile. Turn left onto Peep Toad Rd. Observatory is at 47 Peep Toad Rd.



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# SMITHFIELD

**Mowry Conservation Area.** This 26-acre site, maintained by the town of Smithfield, was once the site of a forge along the upper Woonasquatocket River. The forge is now gone, but careful examination reveals traces of coke, the remains of the coal once used as fuel. A bridge crosses the stream that runs through the property, and there is a blazed trail for walking.

A rock overhanging the stream and scenic rocky ledges are highlights. A mature white pine forest makes up most of the site, and a huge Eastern hemlock can be seen there. This tranquil site offers opportunity for a quiet walk along the river or a relaxing picnic.

**For more information, contact:**

The Smithfield town planner's office, (401) 233-1017.

**Directions:**

Follow I-295 to Rte. 7 north. Follow for about 0.7 mile to Rte. 116 and turn left. Continue for 1.2 miles to Rte. 5/104 and turn right. Follow for 1.2 miles to left on Old Forge Rd. Road is unmarked, but is directly across from Brayton Rd. Travel 0.2 mile on Old Forge Rd. to sign for conservation area.



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## WESTERLY

**1 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 10-12 feet wide and public parking is located one-half mile away. A restaurant, toilets, store, and public telephone are located on the premises.

**2 Margin Street Launch (Westerly Marina):** Located in the Westerly Marina, the Margin Street Launch is a town boat ramp and restricted to use by town residents. Parking is available on-site for 15-20 cars with trailers.

**3 River Bend Cemetery:** With an entrance at the corner of Beach (Route 1A) and Hubbard Streets, this beautiful old cemetery consists of rolling lawns, trees, and interesting gravestones along the Pawcatuck River. Although not an ideal site for physical 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.

**4 Lotteryville Marina:** Believed to be the oldest marina in the nation, this marina is located at 25 Avondale Road on the Pawcatuck River. It is privately owned and offers two black-topped boat ramps. Very little space is available for parking.

**5 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. Limited parking is available.



## WESTERLY

**Napatree Point Conservation Area.** The long sandy spit of Napatree Point is an excellent example of a [barrier beach](#). It is also one of the best places in the state to view migrating birds. During the fall, many species are funneled along the Rhode Island coast to Napatree before "jumping off" to Long Island and points further south. This area is especially noteworthy for hawk-watching. During September and October, many species of hawks, including the endangered peregrine falcon, are easily observed as they fly low over the dunes. The beaches and small marshes on the inland side of Napatree are important shorebird feeding locales. Some of the species regularly seen here include brant (winter), American oystercatcher (spring through fall), and roseate tern (summer). The Watch Hill Fire District requests that visiting groups walk on the beaches so that the fragile dune systems remain intact. (Do not bring dogs, which can disturb nesting birds.) Parking can be a problem during the busy Watch Hill tourist season, June through August.

### For more information, contact:

The Watch Hill Fire District, P.O. Box 326,  
Westerly, RI 02891.

### Directions:

Follow Rte. 1A south, off Rte. 1 to Watch Hill Rd. Park in village and walk west along Fort Rd. from yacht club out to Napatree Point.



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**6 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 Rhode Island Audubon Society and 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 bird stopover points on the East Coast and provides year-round habitat for a variety of species. 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.

**7 Watch Hill Lighthouse:** Two-tenths of a mile from the intersection of Bluff and Larkin Roads, the 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. The Rhode Island Saltwater Fishermen's Association has a fishing access site here, which is a popular spot for surf fishing.

**8 Jane Heminway Sanctuary:** This private conservation area, maintained by the Audubon Society, is located along the northern shore of Maschaug Pond, adjacent to the golf course on Ocean View Highway. Although no parking is available, it is enjoyable to drive by slowly and observe the many species of birds and wildlife. Call the Audubon Society of Rhode Island for permission to walk around the area, to do some nature photography or some bird watching.

**9 Misquamicut State Beach:** Located on the south side of Atlantic Avenue, Misquamicut Beach is Rhode Island's largest state-owned beach with 102 acres of land and

3,600 feet of beach frontage. The parking lot is open only in the summer season. It holds 2,700 cars and the fee ranges from \$2 on weekdays for Rhode Island residents to \$5 on weekends for nonresidents. Public changing facilities and bathrooms are available. Parking, bathrooms, and changing rooms for the handicapped are available. The parking lot is closed after Labor Day until Memorial Day weekend.

**🚗 10 Atlantic Beach Park:** Just east of the state beach, this commercial recreational facility includes a giant water slide, amusement park, miniature golf, and batting cages. Restaurants, motels, golfing, and tennis facilities are located nearby. Ample pay parking is available off Atlantic Avenue. There is an entrance fee during the summer months.

■ **11 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.

■ **12 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.

■ **13 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 limited to 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.

■ **14 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.

■ **15 Atlantic Avenue #9:** This right-of-way to the beach is located within Atlantic Beach Park on Atlantic Avenue, adjacent to Pole #91, between the Windjammer Lounge and the Sea View Apartments. It is a 12-foot-wide path extending south from Atlantic Avenue over a paved parking area and a short stretch of sand to the beach.

■ **16 The Dunes Trailer Park:** Located off Atlantic Avenue, near the breachway, this site consists of five acres on the beach and about 400 feet of ocean frontage. There are also 50 RV campsites and plenty of parking. Many amenities are available including concessions, lifeguards, toilets, and pay phones. It is closed off-season.

🚣 **17 Weekapaug Breachway:** Located at the corner of Atlantic and Wawaloam Avenues on the east side of the breachway, this is a state-managed fishing area. The breachway has concrete stairways built into the rocks at three different locations on each side of the breachway which serve as ideal areas to sit and fish. Fifteen to twenty parking spaces are available only to those who come to fish.

🚣 **18 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. The QBCC allows the public to park at this site during specified times and to gain access to the beach and pond via well-marked sandy trails. Swimming is allowed only in lifeguarded areas. A pamphlet of regulations and guidelines for use of the site is available from the QBCC.







# WEST GREENWICH

**Big River Wildlife Management Area.** This 8,600-acre management area was once planned to be a major reservoir. It features hills, deciduous and pine forests, swamps, streams, ponds, open fields, graveyards, stone walls, and old foundations. The Big River is one of several rivers available for canoeing and fishing. Canoe access is available off Burnt Sawmill Rd. There are miles of dirt road in the management area, but no marked trails for hiking. Please note that no vehicles are authorized in off-road areas due to the fragile aquifer environment.

**For more information, contact:**

The Rhode Island Water Resources Board, (401) 397-7053.

**Directions:**

From I-95, take Rte. 3 exit in West Greenwich. Follow Rte. 3 south for about 0.3 mile to left on Burnt Sawmill Rd. Sign at this point marks entrance. When road turns to dirt, look for parking area on right.



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# WEST WARWICK

**Phenix-Harris Riverwalk.** Located half in West Warwick and half in Coventry, the Phenix-Harris Riverwalk is a short but tranquil interlude separating the main business district from a residential neighborhood. The neatly maintained pathway skirts the Pawtuxet River along a tree-lined route that bridges developed and natural landscapes.

**For more information, contact:**

The town of West Warwick, Department of Parks and Recreation, (401) 822-9260.

**Directions:**

Take I-95 to Rte. 117 west. Follow Rte. 117, continuing as it briefly overlaps Rte. 33 south. After about 0.5 mile, turn right at stoplight onto Fairview Ave., and follow to end. Riverwalk is on left. There is limited parking on street.

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*I believe a leaf of grass is no less than  
the journey-work of the stars...*

-Walt Whitman (1819-1892)



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# WOONSOCKET

**River Island Park.** Newly developed River Island Park is part of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. Located on the edge of Woonsocket's downtown area, it combines city park amenities, such as attractive lighting, benches, and concrete sidewalks, with direct access to the Blackstone River for fishing, canoeing, or bird-watching. Boat tours along this stretch of the Blackstone provide an unusual view of the park. The handicapped-accessible overlook permits a view of the tiny island for which the park is named. At press time, plans were being considered for building a bridge to the island.

**For more information, contact:**

The city of Woonsocket, Deptment of Parks and Recreation, (401) 762-6400.

**Directions:**

Follow Rte. 146 north to Rte. 146A north to second set of lights (Park Ave.). Follow Park Ave. for 1.1 miles and turn left onto Bernon St. Bridge. Park is on left, just after bridge.

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*You can't step twice into the same river.*

*- Heracleitus (ca. 540-ca. 480 B.C.)*



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