TRAIL MAP

Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Welcome to Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge! This refuge is one of five national wildlife refuges in Rhode Island. Established in 1970, it consists of 409 acres of diverse upland and wetland habitats including grasslands, shrub lands, wooded swamps and freshwater ponds. Formally part of Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, the refuge now provides visitors with over four miles of hiking trails. You may enjoy an excellent view of Ninigret Pond, the largest coastal salt pond in Rhode Island, from the observation platform at Grassy Point. For the birding enthusiast, over 250 species of birds have been recorded at the refuge. Also, refuge shores support a large diversity of marine life such as blue crab, bay scallop, and winter flounder.

Hiking Trails

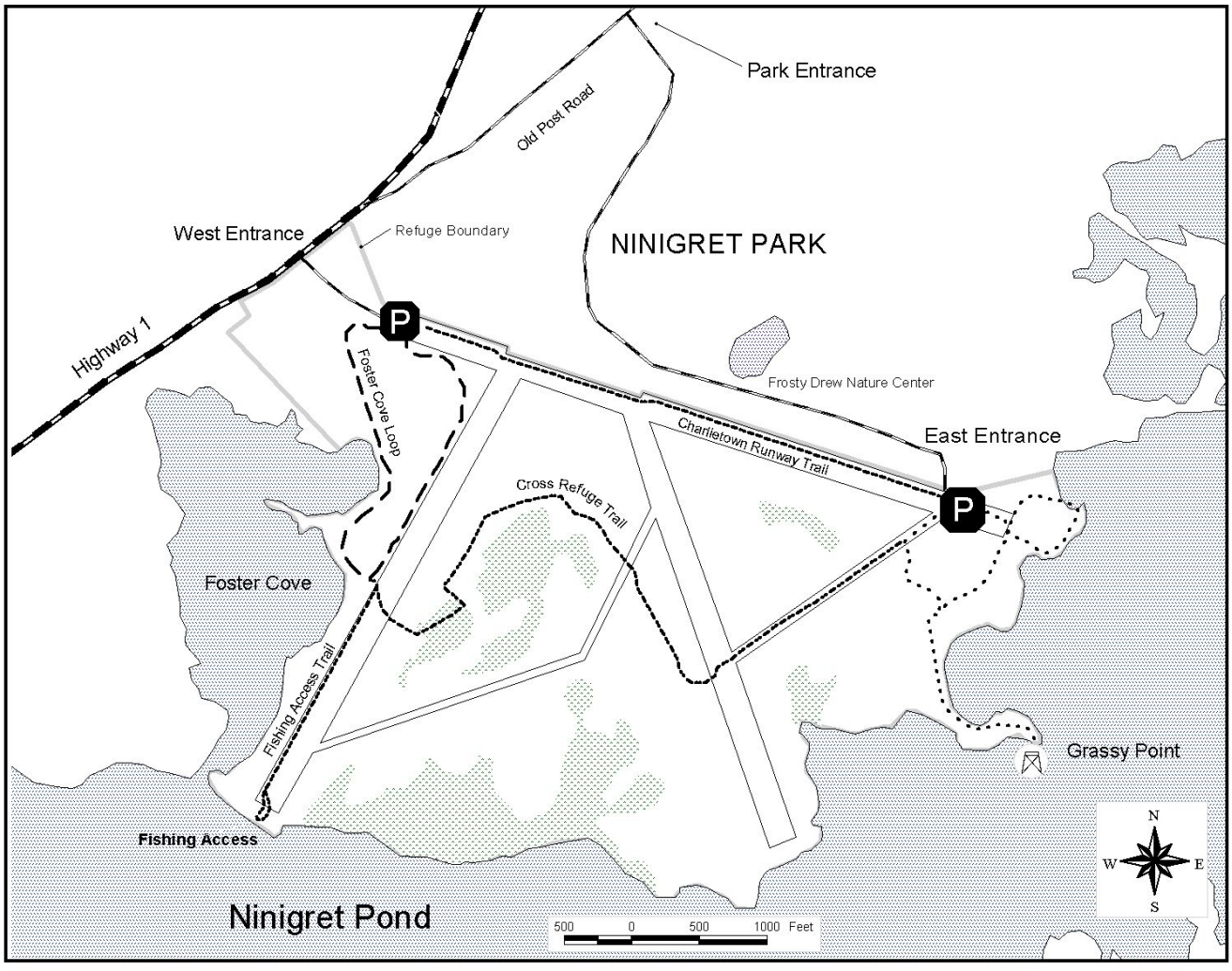
Grassy Point Nature Trail ·····
distance: 1.1 miles loops & spurs terrain: Mild and barrier free

Charlietown Runway Trail ·····
distance: 0.8 miles terrain: mild & paved, barrier free

Foster Cove Nature Trail - - - - - - - -
distance: 0.9 miles terrain: Mild Barrier Free

Cross Refuge Trail ·····
distance: 1.1 miles terrain: Mild

Fishing Access ·····
distance: 0.4 miles terrain: Mild



Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge

The National Wildlife Refuge System
Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex consists of five refuges which are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The NWRS is a network of lands and waters managed specifically for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat. It represents the most comprehensive wildlife management program in the world.

Public Use at the Refuge
Wildlife comes first on the national wildlife refuges. All human activities must be compatible with the needs of wildlife. Six priority public uses are encouraged when they do not interfere with the individual refuge's mission. These are*: hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental education, and interpretation*.

Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge Provides visitors with excellent opportunities for bird watching, hiking, photography and environmental education. Also, surf fishing is permitted from refuge shorelines in accordance with state and federal regulations. Currently, hunting is not permitted on the refuge

Refuge staff, along with volunteers and the Friends group manage these habitats, lead guided walks, and conduct environmental education classes. For more information, please contact the refuge.

Hours of Operation:
Refuge Trails: sunrise to sunset

Directions: From U.S. Route 1 North, take the Trustom Pond National Wildlife refuge exit (right) onto Moonstone Beach Rd. Follow 1 mile South to Matunick Schoolhouse Rd. and turn right. Follow 0.7 miles to the refuge entrance on the left.. From U.S. South, make a u-turn across the median and proceed north to Moonstone Beach Rd. exit..

Your Cooperation is Appreciated
To protect the refuge's wildlife and habitats, please comply with the following:

- Stay on designated trails.
- There are no picnic areas or campsites on the refuge. Fires are not allowed.
- Dogs, horses and other pets are not permitted.
- Bicycles are not permitted.
- Kite flying is not permitted. During bird nesting season, kites resemble larger birds that could prey on young chicks. This can frighten adult birds potentially causing them to abandon their nests.
- The disturbance, destruction, or removal of wildlife, vegetation, and facilities are prohibited.
- Please keep the refuge clean. Take your trash home with you.

For further information contact:

Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
50 Bend Road
Charlestown, RI 02813

Phone: (401) 364-9124
Fax: (401) 364-0170