

Ninigret

National Wildlife Refuge

Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Jack Reed (D)
Senator Lincoln D. Chafee (R)
Rep. James Langevin (D-2nd)

Contact

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

Purpose

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

Public Use Notes

- Observation platform
- Four miles of nature trails
- Frequent guided walks/tours
- Wildlife/nature photography
- Waterfowl hunting from boat
- Surf fishing

Management Activities

- Implementing the approved comprehensive conservation plan (2002) to enhance wildlife habitats, control invasive species, eliminate non-compatible uses and increase visitor services
- Land protection plan targets 500 acres for land acquisition
- Grassland/shrubland restoration
- Prescribed burning program
- Monitoring wildlife and habitat
- Controlling invasive exotic species
- Protecting the threatened piping plover
- New complex-wide \$2.6 million office and visitor center building in Charlestown opened in fall 2005

Highlights

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

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

The refuge enjoys strong partnerships with non-government organizations.

The refuge is initiating wetland restoration on 15 acres in 2006.

The refuge is restoring over 75 acres of runways to early successional habitat.

The refuge offers an environmental education program for school-aged children that is expected to increase with the opening of the Kettle Pond Visitor Center.

A \$290,000 trail improvement program will be implemented in summer 2006.



Piping plover chick

Richard Kuzminkski

Issues

Water quality is affected by multiple landowners

Increasing public use and demands on limited staff

Reducing the spread of invasive species

Management of barrier beaches in high public-use areas

Eliminating incompatible public uses

Impacts from the adjacent town park

Lead contamination mitigation at former military gunnery station

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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