

Sachuest Point

National Wildlife Refuge

Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Jack Reed (D)
Senator Lincoln D. Chafee (R)
Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy (D-1st)

Contact

Charlie Vandemoer, Refuge Manager
Rhode Island National Wildlife
Refuge Complex
50 Bend Road
Charlestown, RI 02813-2503
Phone: 401/364 9124, ext. 11
Fax: 401/364 0170
TDD: 800/877 8339
E-mail: charlie_vandemoer@fws.gov

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

Purpose

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

Public Use Notes

- Two observation platforms
- Three miles of nature trails
- Visitor center
- Frequent guided walks/tours
- Wildlife/nature photography
- Surf fishing (nighttime permit required)

Management Activities

- Implementing the approved comprehensive conservation plan (2002) to enhance wildlife habitats, control invasive species, eliminate non-compatible uses and increase visitor services
- Monitoring wildlife and habitat
- On-going project to control invasive plant species and restore grassland habitat on nearly 35 acres
- Protecting the threatened piping plover
- New complex-wide \$2.6 million office and visitor center building in Charlestown opened in fall 2005
- Ongoing reclamation of landfill was completed in 2004
- Salt marsh restoration

Highlights

Sachuest Point is home to over 200 species of birds.

The refuge is renowned for excellent surf fishing opportunities and manages a nighttime fishing permit system.

The waters at Sachuest Point are known for a wintering population of the rare and colorful harlequin duck.

The first piping plover nest on Aquidneck Island since the 1950s was found on the refuge in 2002.

The refuge has received grants to begin the design phase of exhibitry.

The refuge continues to develop a solar electric system to reduce energy demand.

The landfill remediation will safeguard environmental quality, has created 18 acres of salt marsh



Harlequin duck

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

May 2006

and will restore 15 acres to native grasses.

The newly renovated visitor center attracts thousands of people.

Issues

Serious shoreline litter and pollution problem

Increasing public use and demands on limited staff

Reducing the spread of invasive species

Management of barrier beaches in high public-use area

Managing and eliminating inappropriate public uses, including jogging and illicit nighttime activities

