

TRAIL MAP

Kettle Pond Visitor Center & Northern section of Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Welcome to Kettle Pond Visitor Center and the northern section of Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge! This parcel of Ninigret National Wildlife refuge is referred to as the headquarters unit. Ninigret refuge is one of five National Wildlife Refuges in Rhode Island. Purchased in 2001, this parcel of forested uplands is home to pitch and white pines, black and white oaks, blueberry shrubs, sweet fern, and princess pines. Hiking along the trails offer visitors a chance to witness visual reminders of the great ice sheet, see changes in the seasonal vernal pool, and enjoy great views of Watchaug Pond.

Hiking Trails

Watchaug Pond Trail

A favorite among birders, this ½ mile trail travels over gentle up-and-down terrain as it leads you to Watchaug Pond. Visitors are encouraged to stop along the way and listen for the calls of the many migrating, resting and nesting songbirds.

Toupoysett Pond Trail

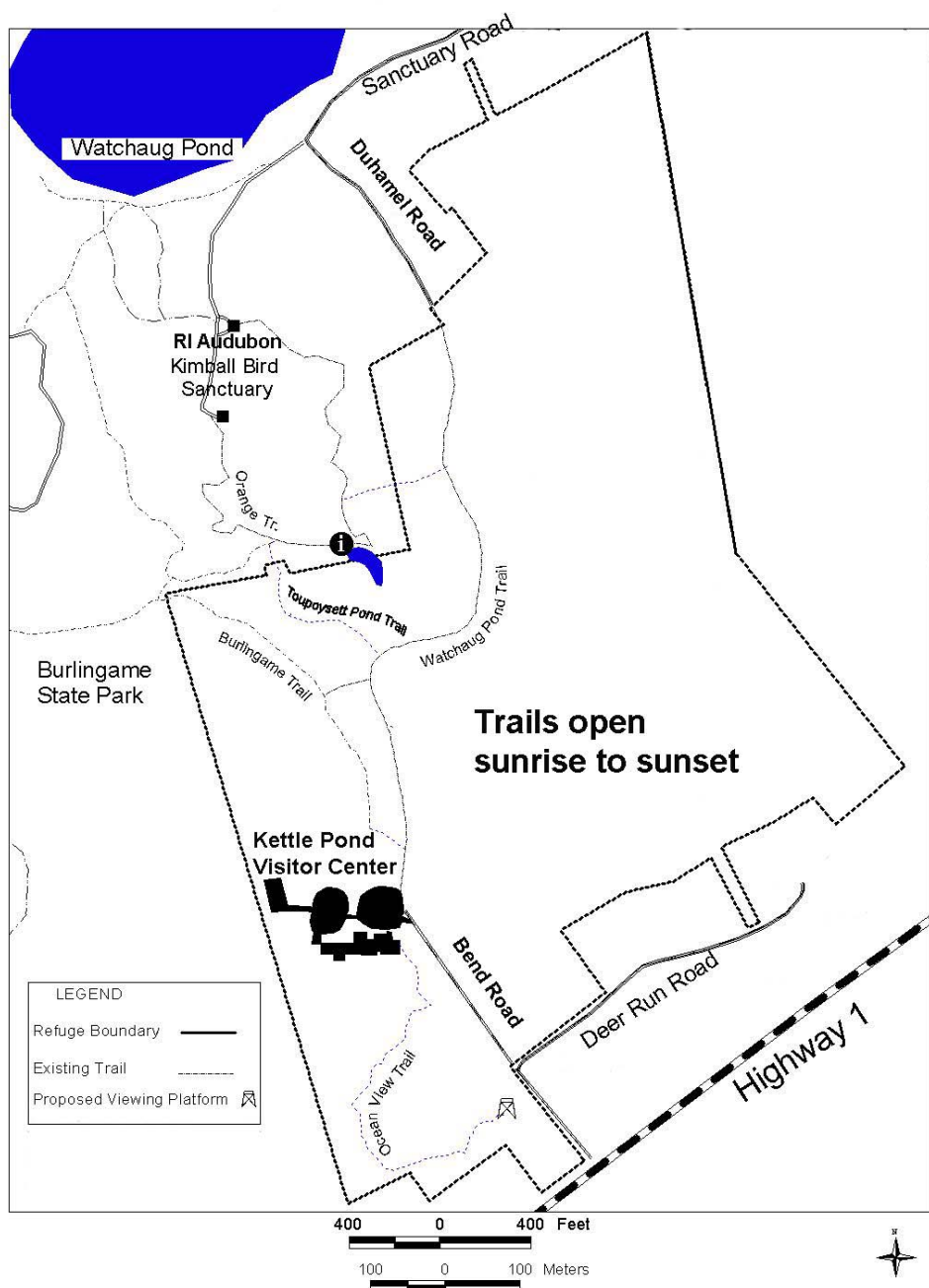
This ¼ mile trail provides good views of a vernal pool, an important ecological feature and place of quiet beauty in all seasons. The stone walls that crisscross the trail are the only signs that the surrounding land was once used for sheep farming.

Burlingame Trail

This ½ mile trail connects the Kettle Pond Visitor Center with 3,100 acres of Burlingame State Park. The Park offers camping, picnic facilities, swimming, fishing and nature walks.

Ocean View Trail

Step back in time 15,000 years as you walk this ½ mile trail marked by ridges and depressions shaped by the great ice sheet. See giant boulders that were carried here from hundreds of miles away by an "ice bulldozer." At the end of the trail, visitors are treated to a view of Ninigret Pond, the barrier beaches, and Block Island.



Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex Kettle Pond Visitor Center & northern section of 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.

Facilities at Kettle Pond Visitor Center are available for public use for wildlife oriented programs. Please contact Janis Nepshinsky (364-9124 x 28) or Chuck Bullington (364-9124 x 44) during business hours to inquire.

Hours of Operation:

Visitor Center: daily 10am-4pm

Refuge Trails: sunrise to sunset

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.
- 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 Refuges
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
50 Bend Road
Charlestown, RI 02813

Phone: (401) 364-9124

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