

# Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge (Salt Pond Unit)

## Youth Deer Hunting Brochure

December 7 – December 22, 2024

*By Special Permit Only*



Welcome to the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge, along with the John H. Chafee, Block Island, Sachuest Point, and Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuges, are part of the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex.



**Specific Units of the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge are open by special permit for the regulated hunting of white-tailed deer. Be familiar with the hunt map and regulations to ensure you are hunting in an open area of the refuge.**

### Unit Description:

The Salt Pond Unit is 348 acres of coastal shrubland. This unique National Wildlife Refuge was once an auxiliary airfield for the U.S. Navy during World War II. Since the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began managing the property in the 1970's this once upon a time concrete jungle is now a thriving wildlife refuge that is primarily used by migratory birds as a stopover site.

Please respect and observe refuge regulations, boundaries and safety zones. A lack of responsibility on your part could result in a reduction or closure of refuge hunting opportunities in the future.

**NOTICE:** The refuge will be conducting management activities in the Salt Pond Unit during the week days. Staff will wear orange vest and hat. Always know your target. Group one will be permitted to hunt December 7 – 14, 2024. Group two will be permitted to hunt December 15 – 22, 2024. All permittees may scout November 23 – December 6, 2024. Archery hunting will be active during this period.

### How to Apply:

Permit applications are available [www.fws.gov/refuge/Ninigret/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Ninigret/).

A total of 8 permits will be issued for the youth deer hunting season on a first come basis. Limited to 1 permit per youth hunter for the season. Valid permit allows 1 licensed adult mentor to assist youth hunter. Lottery winners will be notified by email. A virtual youth hunter information session will be offered in November.

**White-tailed deer hunting is permitted on designated areas of the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge in accordance with Federal (50 CFR Parts 25, 26, 27 & 32) State regulations and subject to the following conditions:**

- We require hunters to submit a Big/Upland Game Hunt Application to hunt on the refuge. This is done through the refuge website.
- We require hunters to possess a valid Rhode Island hunting license, valid photo identification, and a valid refuge hunting permit at all times while on refuge property.
- Hunters must hunt in the zone assigned to them on their permit.
- Youth hunters and accompanying adults must wear fluorescent orange in accordance with state regulations.
- We prohibit hunting within 100 feet (30 meters) of a refuge trail.
- Hunters must mark portable tree stands/blinds with their refuge permit number.
- We allow tree stands for the duration of the permit but all stands and blinds must be removed by the last day of the permit (50 CFR §27.93).
- Hunters are not permitted to take wildlife other than white-tailed deer (50 CFR§27.51).
- We prohibit marking (including, but not limited to, the use of flagging, bright eyes, tacks, and paint), cutting and/or removal of trees or vegetation (50 CFR § 27.61).
- We strongly discourage hunters from field dressing animals in parking areas or within 100 feet of public use walking trails.

***Hunters with Disabilities:***

Please contact the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex at: 401-364-9124 for information regarding access and hunting.

***Closed Areas:***

Not all areas of the refuge are open for hunting. Please refer to the map in this brochure to ensure that you are hunting where hunting is allowed.

***Roads, Trails and Surrounding Properties:***

Public roads and trails are located around the refuge in areas where hunting is allowed. Other outdoor enthusiasts may be using these. Please exercise caution when hunting near them. It is your responsibility to know where roads and trails are located. Also realize that some people may wander off roads and trails. Please be aware that non-hunters may not know that hunting is allowed on some parts of the refuge.

***Refuge Management Activities:***

Refuge staff, volunteers, and contractors may be working at any time on any of the refuges during hunting season. Our management activities for wildlife and habitat management are important and will continue to be conducted during the hunt season. We apologize if our activities disturb your hunt, but some disturbance will be unavoidable.

***Scouting:***

We allow scouting with valid permit on 11/23/2024 to 12/06/2024. Only the permit holder and one mentor is allowed to scout. Stay clear of other hunters during archery season, and zones/trails marked as closed.

***Parking:***

Parking is available in designated lots. Vehicles may be towed at owners expense if your vehicle blocks gates, roads or buildings. Please close gates after entering parking lot.

***Refuge Boundaries:***

Refuge boundaries have official Refuge Boundary Signs. Please refer to the refuge maps and call the refuge headquarters if you need clarification on a refuge boundary.

***Reporting Requirements:***

In addition to the State of Rhode Island Deer Season Kill Report Cards, each Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge Hunt permittee is required to submit a Big Game Harvest Report after the season ends to the refuge. This data will be used to help make biological/management decisions and to help gain a more accurate count of visits to the refuge.

***Law Enforcement:***

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by federal or state law enforcement officers.

Our wildlife is a valuable resource. Laws and regulations are intended to promote wildlife conservation. The future of hunting on the refuges requires ethical hunter behavior and compliance with regulations. You can help us by complying with these regulations, reporting unethical hunter behavior, and providing us with feedback.

For additional information on State of Rhode Island hunting regulations, please contact the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management at 401-222-6800 or [www.DEM.RI.gov](http://www.DEM.RI.gov).

Questions about refuge regulations, permits or for additional information, please contact us at:  
**Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex**  
**50 Bend Road**  
**Charlestown, RI 02813**  
**401-364-9124 ext.4402**

***Thank you. Have a safe and enjoyable hunting experience.***

**[RIDEM 24 Hour Enforcement Hotline 401-222-3070](tel:4012223070)**