

# North Kingstown, RI Recreation Guide



Presented by **The North Kingstown Recreation Department  
and the Leisure Services Advisory Committee**

## A Special Place for Recreation

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The people of North Kingstown, RI, enjoy a tremendous scope of recreational opportunities, from vibrant sports fields to quiet neighborhood parks, from museums to nature preserves, and from golf to beaches, boating and fishing on Narragansett Bay. No matter what your age, abilities, or inclinations, North Kingstown possesses public recreation facilities to revive your body and refresh your spirit.

We hope residents will use this guide to discover and become familiar with parks and facilities they may have overlooked. We hope businesses will use it too, and consider the quality-of-life benefits conferred by such recreational opportunities when making site location decisions. Most of all, we hope everyone will enjoy themselves through the great variety of public recreation resources in North Kingstown.

Sincerely,

**The Leisure Services Advisory Committee**

### Notes

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- This Recreation Summary and edits have been funded by grants and the Quonset-Davisville Recreation Fund (i.e. an enterprise fund that captures profits from the North Kingstown Golf Course).
- Use Key numbers in the text descriptions to locate facilities on the street map on page 4.
- Many of the facilities listed are unsupervised. Participants may incur significant risk when hiking unmarked trails, swimming without lifeguards present, etc. Please exhibit care and discretion. Children should always be under adult supervision.
- All facilities listed are owned by government agencies or not-for-profit organizations. For information about commercially-run recreational opportunities, please check the Yellow Pages.
- Facilities, times of operation, and regulations change frequently. If in doubt, call ahead for details. All phone numbers listed are in the (401) area code.
- For questions concerning town-owned facilities, or to report corrections or additions for future editions of this guide, please call the Recreation Department at: (401) 294-3331, ext. 240.
- For updated information on the recreation facilities described herein, please visit our interactive web-based map at the following link: <http://www.northkingstown.org/healthy-places-design>

## Description of Facilities

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**Allen Harbor.** (Key #1) Allen Harbor Road, at end of Davisville Road. Set in a beautiful, well-protected harbor with immediate access to Narragansett Bay. Moorings, slips, pump out, boat ramp, picnic pavilion. Parking fee for boat trailers.

**Blue Beach.** (Key #2) Follow signs from Circuit Drive. Beautiful views of Wickford waterfront and the West Passage. Walking and seasonal rest rooms. Parking lot and bike racks are located 0.2 mile walk from beach.



**Calf Pasture Point.** (Key #3) Former site of a Seabee school for heavy equipment operators, now a de facto nature preserve with a long, wide beach on Narragansett Bay. Great walking and biking. Primary foot and bike access from parking lot at the end of Marine Rd. (off Davisville Rd.). Access by boat, with nearest launch site at Allen Harbor.

**Casey Farm.** (Key #4) Boston Neck Road. Working farm with a Colonial era (1750) house and 19th Century barns. Tours (free to NK residents) of house and farmyard, with chickens, horses, cows and garden. Organically grown vegetables, flowers and herbs for sale. Operated by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Open June 1 to October 15. (ph: 295-1030)

**Cocumscussoc State Park.** (Key #5) Heavily wooded and partly swampy. Some unmarked trails. Walking here may be difficult, however trail improvements planned for future years. Access and on-street parking near Richard Smith Grove off of Post Road. Alternative access at end of Juniper Drive. Exercise extreme caution during hunting season, when state law (and common sense) requires wearing blaze orange.

**Compass Rose Beach.** (Key #6) Roger Williams Way. This is a popular lunch destination for Quonset Business Park workers due to benches and views of Narragansett Bay. Walking, picnic areas, rest rooms, and seasonal parking. Entrance is located across from Eccleston Avenue on Roger Williams Way.



**Davis Memorial Wildlife Refuge.** (Key #7) Davisville Road. Woodland trails, open farmland, wetlands, and extensive hiking. Canoeing and kayaking on the Hunt River, with good birding. Fishing prohibited. Audubon Society of Rhode Island property. (ph: 949-5454)

**Devil's Foot Ledge.** (Key #8) Davisville Road. Unmarked and unclear trails. According to Native American legend, the Devil left his footprint in a stone ledge on the property. Parking and access to unpaved lot through cut in guardrail on overpass bridge for Post Road south."



**Donald Downs Park.** (Key #9) On Indian Corner Road, in the Slocum district. Featuring picnic sites, and the Paul F. Lischio Baseball Field—probably the prettiest ball field in Rhode Island.

**Eldridge Playground.** (Key #10) Miner Road. Small, attractive neighborhood playground includes a baseball backstop, historic cemetery, and picnic table.

Descriptions continued on page 9



## Facilities and Street Map Locator Key

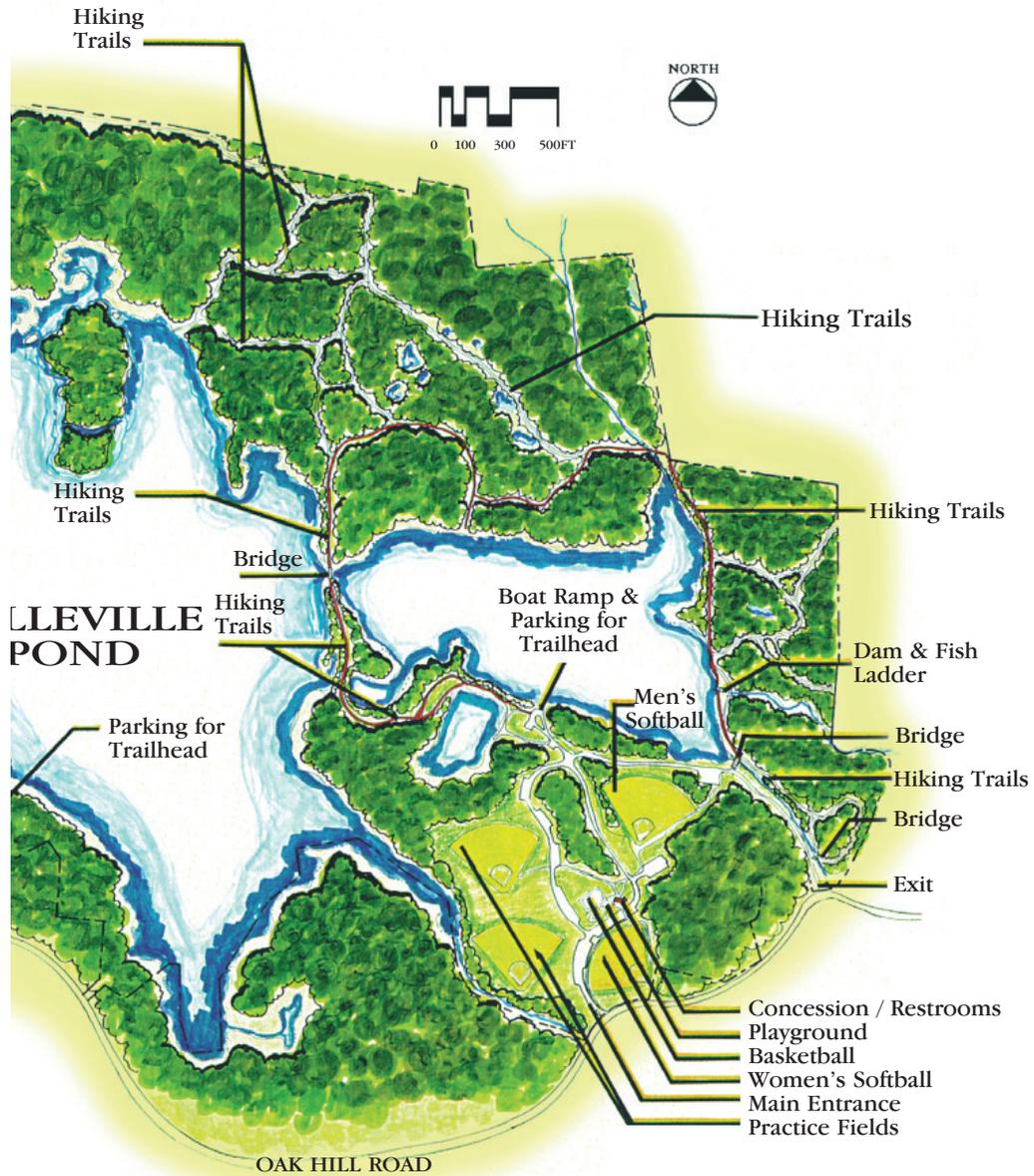
FACILITY	map #	owner	acres	parking	restrooms	food	baseball	basketball	tennis	picnic	playground	hiking	swimming	fishing	boating	historic	nature	Other Features & Notes
Allen Harbor	1	town	15	✗	✗	✗				✗				✗	✗			Boat ramp, moonings, slips, pumpout
Blue Beach	2	state	1	✗	✗									✗				Walking, views of Wickford waterfront
Golf Pasture Point	3	town	185											✗				Great walking and biking
Casey Farm	4	prvt org.	260	✗														Working Colonial-era farm
Cocumscussoc State Park	5	state	428	✗						✗								Unmarked trails; hunting
Compass Rose Beach	6	state	4	✗	✗					✗								Walking, picnic areas, seasonal parking
Davis Memorial Wildlife Refuge	7	prvt org.	97	✗										✗				Canoeing on Hunt River, birding
Devil's Foot Ledge	8	state	5	✗														Look for "devil's footprint" in rock
Donald Downs Park	9	town	64	✗	✗					✗								Hiking, beautiful baseball field
Eldridge Playground	10	town	6	✗						✗								Small park has backstop, picnic table
Feurer Park	11	town	29	✗														Good trails for mountain bikes
Forest Park	12	town	21	✗														Gentle walking trails through woods
Gilbert Stuart Birthplace	13	prvt org.	22	✗	✗					✗								Restored historic mill, lovely grounds
John H. Clafee Nature Preserve (Rome Point)	14	state	230	✗						✗								Hiking, views of bay and harbor seals
Lafayette Trout Hatchery	15	state	53	✗	✗													Fish hatchery, wildlife, seasonal tours
McGinn Park	16	town	25	✗	✗	✗			✗	✗								Night basketball, seasonal in-line hockey
North Kingstown Golf Course	17	town	135	✗	✗	✗												18 hole par 70 course, nice clubhouse
Pentaquamscut Pond	18	state	n/a	✗														Cameo/kayak access on Mettawee River
Pleasant Street Boat Ramp	19	town	<1	✗														OK for small boats, no parking on-site
Potomacut River	20	state	n/a	✗														Good for kayaking, parking very limited
Quonset Aviation Museum	21	prvt org.	n/a	✗	✗													Historic aircraft on display
Quonset Bike Path	22	state/town	n/a	✗						✗								4.1 mile path for bikers, joggers and walkers
Richard Smith Grove	23	state	3	✗														Roadside picnic area, historic marker
Ryan Park	24	town	435	✗	✗				✗	✗								Forest trails, boat ramp, sports fields, more
Secret Lake	25	town	47	✗														Good canoeing & fishing. No motors
Signal Rock	26	town	10	✗	✗					✗								Ex-Nike Missile site, old Indian signal point
Silver Spring	27	state	35	✗						✗								Stocked trout pond; canoeing, no motors
Smith's Castle	28	prvt org.	12	✗	✗													Historic home, gardens, gravesite, views
Spink's Neck Beach	29	state	5	✗	✗													Walking and views of bay and Allen Harbor
Town Beach Complex	30	town	11	✗	✗					✗								Community and senior centers, band shell
Town Dock Park	31	town	<1	✗	✗													Scenic Wickford harbor, summer concerts
Town Wharf	32	town	<1	✗														War memorial, near beach
Upelke Park	33	town	1	✗	✗													Scenic New England commercial fishing
Wickford Art Ass'n Gallery	34	town	<1	✗														Hearth of Wickford; brickwalk, war memorial
Wilson Park	35	prvt org.	<1	✗	✗													Changing exhibits, art classes
Yorktown Park	36	town	59	✗	✗	✗												Playground, bike trail, boat ramp, sport field
	37	town	15	✗														Soccer field, neighborhood playground



# RYAN PARK

NORTH KINGSTOWN,  
RHODE ISLAND 02852

DEDICATED MAY 18, 1997



# WILSON PARK

WICKFORD, RHODE ISLAND 02852



**Feurer Park.** (Key #11) Nice secluded baseball field on Lafayette Road, next to Ryan Park. Extensive series of dirt roads and utility right of way provide good opportunity for mountain biking. See color map on pages 6-7.



**Forest Park.** (Key #12) Nice woodland hiking behind Forest Park Elementary School, on Woodlawn Drive. Parts may be impassable in wet weather.

**Gilbert Stuart Birthplace.** (Key #13) Gilbert Stuart Road. Colonial-era, water-driven snuff mill on the Mettatuxet River, beautifully restored to working condition as a museum. Stuart was America's first major portrait painter; his works include the best-known portrait of George Washington. Annual events include annual herring migration (April), artist-in-residence week (July), and art sale (September). (ph: 294-3001)



**John H. Chafee Nature Preserve (Rome Point).** (Key #14) This 230-acre state-owned conservation area offers several hiking paths with tremendous views of the Bay and natural scenery. "Rome Point" is a popular destination located at the end of a peninsular along the shoreline. As one of the few remaining undeveloped stretches of shoreline along Narragansett Bay, this site is renowned for the harbor seal population which seasonally inhabits the emergent rocks that are viewable from Rome Point. Parking, trail head, and park map located on Boston Neck Road near the intersection of Gilbert Stuart Road.

**Lafayette Trout Hatchery.** (Key #15) Hatchery Road. Rhode Island has one of the best trout stocking programs in the Northeast, and this is the center of it. Tours in season. (ph: 294-4662)

**McGinn Park.** (Key #16) One of the town's premier sports facilities, with lights for late-night basketball, great tennis courts, baseball and soccer fields, an excellent playground for young children, and a (seasonal) in-line hockey rink. On School Street, next to Davisville Middle School.



**North Kingstown Municipal Golf Course.** (Key #17) Callahan Road. 18 beautiful holes (Par 70; 6,300 yards) in the Quonset/Davisville Commerce Park. Municipal course offers season passes and daily fee play. Available for tournaments. Cart rentals, putting greens, driving range. Beautiful, new clubhouse with lockers, showers, pro shop, restaurant/lounge. (ph: 294-4051)

**Pettaquamscutt Pond.** (Key #18) Gilbert Stuart Road. Sheltered canoe and kayak paddling site at the northern end of the Narrow River. Access on Mettatuxet River; parking across road from Gilbert Stuart Birthplace.

**Pleasant Street Boat Ramp.** (Key #19) Pleasant Street. This free boat ramp is easily mistaken for part of commercial boating establishments on either side. Due to limited room for turning around it's best suited for smaller boats.

**Potowomut River.** (Key #20) Forge Road. This short tidal river separating North Kingstown and Warwick is good for kayak-based birding. Just below Forge Road Fish Ladder and dam is roadside parking for just one car, with a short boat carry to the water, and a 1/2 mile paddle to Narragansett Bay. On Warwick side of bridge is a stone memorial to General Nathanael Greene.



**Quonset Aviation Museum.** (Key #21) Eccleston Avenue. Located in Quonset/Davisville Commerce Park, in the only brick hangar on the East Coast. Features World War II aircraft, a Russian MIG-17 fighter, an A-4 Skyhawk, Rhode Island aviation memorabilia, and airplane restoration work in progress. (ph: 294-9540)



**Quonset Bike Path.** (Key #22) This 4.1 mile paved path extends from the intersection of Post Road and Newcomb Road to the shoreline at Calf Pasture Point. The path is suitable for walkers, joggers, and bikers and offers remarkable views of the bay, marshes, and other wildlife scenes. Bike path has seasonal rest rooms and is open in the winter although it is not plowed. Parking in two locations; Quonset Gateway Plaza near Newcomb Road and at end of Marine Road (off Davisville Road). The shore terminus abuts Mount View neighborhood which is a Limited Residential Parking District.

**Richard Smith Grove.** (Key #23) Post Road. Roadside picnic area near Wickford, adjacent to Cocumscussoc State Park. Historical marker notes location of 17th Century Roger Williams Trading Post.



**Ryan Park.** (Key #24) Oak Hill Road and Lafayette Road. If you remember it only as the former Central Park, take another look. Ryan Park has undergone extensive redevelopment and it's now the jewel in the crown of North Kingstown's recreational facilities. Extensive walking trails, numerous ball fields, the North Kingstown Town Forest, boat ramp access to fishing on Belleville Pond (possibly the prettiest site in town—no motors allowed), and much more. See color map on pages 6-7.

**Secret Lake.** (Key #25) Across Oak Hill Road from Ryan Park and Belleville Pond, the lake offers good shore fishing and canoeing (no motors). Parking on side of road, and at nearby Ryan Park.



**Signal Rock.** (Key #26) Signal Rock Road. Named for the rocky heights from which Native Americans sent signals to neighboring tribes. Later a Nike Missile defense site; now a multi-use playground and sports facility. Some of the Nike buildings still stand.

**Silver Spring.** (Key #27) State-stocked trout pond with handicapped-accessible fishing pier, and ramp for small boat launching (no motors). Access on Silver Spring Road. Picnic benches, barbecue grills and shore fishing are located in the Shady Lea Grove area with access on Rte. 4 (Col. Rodman Highway).

**Smith's Castle.** (Key #28) Richard Smith Drive. Founded by Roger Williams and Richard Smith, this Colonial trading post was a center of military activity during King Philip's War. Historic 1678 home and furnishings, 18th Century herb and flower gardens, lovely setting on Wickford Cove. Open first weekend in May through mid-October. Special events include Strawberry Festival in June, and Harvest Fest in mid-October. Call for hours and tour information. (ph: 294-3521)

**Spink's Neck Beach.** (Key #29) Tidal Drive. Enjoy views of the Narragansett Bay and boats passing in and out of Allen Harbor. Walking and seasonal rest rooms. To get here follow Davisville Road to end, turn left onto Tidal Drive before entering fenced/guarded area. Bear right to get to the beach.

**Town Beach Complex.** (Key #30) Beach Street. Well-protected saltwater beach on Narragansett Bay, with lifeguards (summer only), playground, picnic areas with barbecue grills, and parking. Also site of Cold Spring Community Center, Beechwood House Senior Center, band shell concerts, and Wickford Art Association Gallery.



**Town Dock Park.** (Key #31) Brown Street. Small grass plot in the heart of historic downtown Wickford, behind Town parking lot on Brown Street. Lovely views of Wickford Harbor, and close to shopping and restaurants. Restrooms, short-term dockage, parking, summer concert series.

**Town Hall Memorial Park.** (Key #32) Boston Neck Road. Small open greenspace with war memorial, benches, flowering trees. Across street from Town Hall, short walking distance to Town Beach.

**Town Wharf.** (Key #33) Main Street. In the midst of scenic New England commercial fishing activities, with fishing and boating access, and a view of Wickford Harbor.

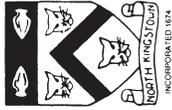
**Udike Park.** (Key #34) Brown and West Main Streets. At the very center of Wickford, this charming little park (also known as Memorial Park) features a war memorial, a brick walk with names of donors inscribed, plantings, and benches with a water view.

**Wickford Art Association Gallery.** (Key #35) Beach Street. Classes, demonstrations, and gallery exhibits, featuring talented local artists in all media. Association sponsors annual Wickford Art Festival. Adjacent to the Town Beach. (ph: 294-6840)

**Wilson Park.** (Key #36) West Main Street. Superb multi-use recreation facility in Wickford. Zeke Harris Playground, multiple sports fields, tennis and basketball courts, excellent boat ramp with free trailer parking on Wickford Cove. Access from Intrepid Rd., Short hiking/biking/skating trail. See color map on page 8.



**Yorktown Park.** (Key #37) Yorktown Road. Neighborhood playground with baseball, basketball, and soccer field and gazebo.



Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island  
80 Boston Neck Road  
North Kingstown, RI 02852-5762

## Acknowledgments

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