

Description of Facilities

Allen Harbor. (Key #1) Allen Harbor Road, at end of Davisville Road. The only municipal marina in Rhode Island, set in a beautiful, well-protected harbor with immediate access to Narragansett Bay. Moorings, slips, pumpout, boat ramp, picnic pavilion. Parking fee.

Bush Hill Marsh. (Key #2) This scenic salt marsh is a town-owned bird sanctuary. Access via easement beside Wickford Gourmet on West Main St. Walking trail may be wet, and small footbridge is treacherous; exercise extreme caution! Trail crosses Newtown Avenue, then continues to Wilson Park.



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. The land is owned by the federal government, but will be turned over to the town soon. Great birding, unsupervised swimming. Foot access at the end of Pettee Ave., but no parking nearby. Easier 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 Brook/Eliason Tract. (Key #5) Adjacent to Cocumscussoc State Park: undeveloped nature tract with lovely brook. Access is hard to find: park at north end of Richard Smith Grove off Post Road and find stone historic marker: walk 100 paces south to a break in stone wall: property is only 50 ft. wide at this point and overgrown: walk back until you meet open paths. Because of hunting in adjacent Cocumscussoc State Park, exercise caution in season: wearing blaze orange is highly recommended. Audubon Society of Rhode Island property: call for written permission before using, and obey no-impact usage regulations. (ph: 949-5454)

Cocumscussoc State Park. (Key #6) Heavily wooded and partly swampy. Some unmarked trails: walking here may be difficult except in winter. Unmarked access in Richard Smith Grove, on Post Road: access corridor is 100 ft. wide, located 90 paces south of Cocumscussoc Brook access (see above). Alternate access at end of Juniper Drive. Exercise extreme caution during hunting season, when state law (and common sense) requires wearing blaze orange.



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) Unmarked walking trail leads to stone ledge where, according to Native American legend, the Devil left his footprint. It's still there. Parking and access on Post Road opposite Quonset Auto Body.



Donald Downs Park. (Key #9) On Indian Corner Road, in the Slocum district. Featuring basketball, picnic sites, and the Paul F. Lischio Baseball Field—probably the prettiest ball field in Rhode Island. A utility right of way provides good hiking and views along an unmarked trail.

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

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 Mettatumet 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)



Hunt River Swamp. (Key #14) Great trout fishing, with access and parking on Davisville Road and Frenchtown Road.

Isabel Bright Stearns Memorial Wildlife Refuge.

(Key #15) Pendar Road. No established trails, but walkable at some times of year: good site for nature observation. Audubon Society of Rhode Island property: written permission required for use. (ph: 949-5454)

LaFarge Point Park. (Key #16) Walmsley Lane. Small boat access on upper Narrow (Pettaquamscutt) River. Floating pier at bottom of Walmsley Lane is good for launching canoes and kayaks. Small, earthen ramp (turn off to left 100 feet before bottom) is okay for rowboats and small power boats, but may be muddy. Great birding, fishing, and access to secluded beaches and lower Narragansett Bay.

Lafayette Trout Hatchery. (Key #17) 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 #18) 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 #19) 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, brand-new clubhouse with lockers, showers, pro shop, restaurant/lounge. (ph: 294-4051)

Pettaquamscutt Pond. (Key #20) 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 #21) Pleasant Street. This free boat ramp is easily mistaken for part of commercial boating establishments on either side. Because room for turning around and parking is limited, it's best suited for smaller boats.



Potowomut River. (Key #22) 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 #23) 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)

Richard Smith Grove. (Key #24) Post Road. Roadside picnic area near Wickford, adjacent to Cocumscussoc State Park. Historical marker notes location of 17th Century Roger Williams Trading Post.

Rolling Rock. (Key #25) Walking trails in woodland setting, over gently hilly ground with large glacial rocks, numerous stone walls, foundation pits of buildings long-gone, and a small stream. Lots of briars make trails difficult. Limited parking on Sedgefield Road.

Ryan Park. (Key #26) 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 #27) 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.



Shady Lea Grove. (Key #28) Picnic benches, barbecue grills and shore fishing on Silver Spring Lake (see below), a state-stocked trout pond. Access on Rte. 4 (Col. Rodman Highway).

Signal Rock. (Key #29) 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 #30) State-stocked trout pond with handicapped-accessible fishing pier, and ramp for small boat launching (no motors). Access on Silver Spring Road. (See also Shady Lea Grove.)

Smith's Castle. (Key #31) 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 May 1 through first weekend in October. Special events include Strawberry Festival in May, and Plantation Days in October. (ph: 294-3521)

Town Beach Complex. (Key #32) Beach Street. Well-protected saltwater beach on Narragansett Bay, with lifeguards (summer only), playground, snack bar, 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 #33) Brown Street. Small grass plot in the heart of historic downtown Wickford, behind Earnshaw Drug 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 #34) Boston Neck Road. Small open green-space with war memorial, benches, flowering trees. Across street from Town Hall, short walking distance to Town Beach.

Town Wharf. (Key #35) 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 #36) 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 #37) 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 #38) West Main Street. Superb multi-use recreation facility in Wickford. Zeke Harris Playground, multiple sports fields, tennis and basketball courts, excellent boat ramp with trailer parking on Wickford Cove (free), short hiking/biking/skating trail. See color map on page 8. 

Yorktown Park. (Key #39) Yorktown Road. Neighborhood playground with baseball, basketball, and soccer field.