

RHODE ISLAND'S COAST: 10 PLACES WORTH PROTECTING

Like all Rhode Islanders, we love our state's coastline. Here is our list of the top ten places along the coast that deserve protection from development:

1. **Block Island National Wildlife Refuge (New Shoreham)** -- The Block Island National Wildlife Refuge is among the most important stopover points for migratory birds on the Atlantic Coast, with over 250 species of birds passing through. The refuge is also home to several endangered species, such as the Endangered American Burying Beetle.
2. **Prudence Island (Portsmouth)** -- Accessible by ferry, Prudence Island is the third largest island in Narragansett Bay but home to just over 200 residents. The island has its own zip code and is a mix of private and public land, with beaches, coves, and views up and down Narragansett Bay.
3. **Beavertail State Park (Jamestown)** -- With panoramic views of Narragansett Bay, Beavertail State Park is known by many as the best place to watch the sunset over the water in Rhode Island. The park is also home to the third oldest lighthouse in North America.
4. **John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge (Narragansett)** -- Also known as Pettaquamscutt Cove, the John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge is a critical habitat for the largest population of black ducks in Rhode Island.
5. **Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge (South Kingstown)** -- The only pond near Rhode Island's coast that does not have a developed shoreline, the Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge is home to diverse vegetation including barrier beaches, red maple swamps, grass fields, forests, and tall shrublands. In addition, it is home to nearly 300 bird species.
6. **Fort Wetherill (Jamestown)** -- Fort Wetherill is a destination for activities such as scuba diving, fishing, hiking, and cliff-jumping, in addition to offering beautiful views of Newport Harbor and Narragansett Bay as well as underground tunnels to explore. Scenes from the Wes Anderson film *Moonrise Kingdom* were filmed here.
7. **Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge (Middletown)** -- Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge is a popular destination for both saltwater fishing and bird watching. It is also home to the second largest population of harlequin ducks on the East Coast.
8. **Conimicut Point Park (Warwick)** -- Surrounded on three sides by Narragansett Bay, Conimicut Point offers excellent views as well as opportunities to swim, fish, and relax. The park is also home to a historic lighthouse.
9. **Fort Adams State Park (Newport)** -- Fort Adams is the largest coastal fort in the United States, perhaps best known as the location of the world famous Newport Folk Festival and Newport Jazz Festival.
10. **Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge (Charlestown)** -- As old airfield from World War II, the refuge has been restored to its natural habitat with diverse vegetation and wildlife. Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge is also home to the Frosty Drew Observatory.

Rhode Island's Senators can help ensure our coast is protected for generations as part of our natural heritage by supporting full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

1(<http://www.fws.gov/blockisland/>)(<http://www.recreation.gov-/recAreaDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&recAreaId=1310&agencyCode=127>) 2 (<http://factfinder2.census.gov/>) 3 (<http://www.beavertail-light.org/>) 4(<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=53547>) 5 (<http://www.fws.gov/trustompond/>) 6 (<http://www.ri-parks.com/Locations/LocationFortWetherill.html>) (<http://www.examiner.com/article/the-dark-tunnels-of-fort-wetherill>) 7(<http://www.fws.gov/sachuestpoint/>) 8(<http://www.fortadams.org/>) 9 (<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=53542>)

