







SALT PONDS COALITION: GREEN HILL POND











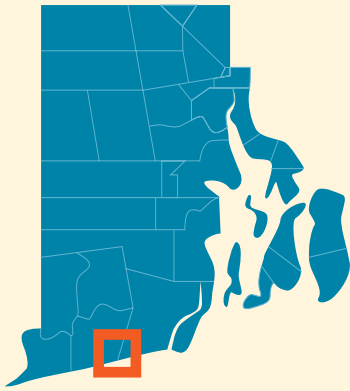
LEVEL	Beginner/Intermediate (wind)
START/END	Charlestown Beach launch ramp
RIVER MILES	6 miles round trip
TIME	Approximately 2 hours
DESCRIPTION	Flatwater
SCENERY	Coastal woodlands, coastal barrier, salt marshes, and birds
ACCESS	Charlestown Town Beach (fee to park in season) or The Kayak Centre of Charlestown

CIRCLE THE POND

Launching and parking are available at the Charlestown Town Beach , and restrooms are in the beach pavilion. Travel under the Creek Bridge  and follow the channel into Green Hill Pond. As the pond widens travel north by Allen Cove  and follow the shoreline along the Ocean Ridge community to Indigo Point . There are oyster beds and small islands all over the pond. Go around Indigo Point to the northern part of the pond where Factory Brook and Teal Pond provide fresh water to the pond. Travel south along Twin Peninsulas  to Flat Meadow Cove . Much of that area is lush salt marshes, islands and more oyster beds. Return along the south shore of the barrier beach, under the bridge and return back to your launch site.

MAP LEGEND

 WATER ACCESS	 POINTS OF INTEREST	 PARKING
 WATER	 WATER TRAIL ROUTE	 ROADS
 CAUTION	 CONSERVATION LAND	



GREEN HILL POND

Green Hill Pond is a 439 acre enclosed lagoon in South Kingstown, although access is in Charlestown. It connects with Ninigret Pond to the west through a narrow channel. It is quite shallow with small islands, rock outcroppings and interesting creeks, and has a combination of wooded areas and summer colonies along the shore. Bordered by a barrier beach along the south with vast areas of salt marsh, Green Hill Pond provides a great spot for birding.



GREEN HILL POND

Green Hill Pond, like most of the salt ponds is a lagoon estuary. The Green Hill barrier beach separates it from the ocean. Tidal water flows from Ninigret Pond under the Creek Bridge into Green Hill. Two major tributaries, Teal Pond and Factory Brook bring fresh water into the pond. These two streams supported a smelt run, one of the last along our south coast. The bottom was once gravelly, and that combined with the low salinity waters was a perfect habitat for oyster reproduction. Green Hill oysters were once abundant, but due to low salinity never as tasty as Charlestown (Ninigret) oysters. Before high bacterial levels closed Green Hill to shellfishing, aquaculturists would collect juvenile oysters (spat) and transplant them to better growing areas.



The most significant oyster grower of that time (1980's) was Luther Blount. He was the son of Byron Blount owner of the last operating large-scale oyster company in Narragansett Bay (now Blount Seafood). Among his many accomplishments, Luther developed an oyster farm on Prudence Island. Spat oysters collected from Green Hill were transplanted to the Prudence Oyster Farm. After Luther's passing the Prudence Island oyster farm was passed to Roger Williams University, one of the leading aquaculture schools in the nation. After MXS and Dermo disease devastated our local oyster resource, the Roger Williams group developed a Green Hill Hybrid disease-free strain of oysters used in our aquaculture throughout the state. So despite Green Hill's water quality woes, its oyster legacy continues.

Green Hill Pond is a fun place to kayak. There are lots of islands and coves to explore. Boat traffic is minimal. In addition, there are two kayak rental companies within a mile of the pond.

DIRECTIONS:

From Route 1 take the Charlestown Beach exit (Dunkin Donuts and Phil & Ann's Motel on the corner), which is Narrow Lane. Stay on Narrow Lane until it ends at Matunuck School House Road. Turn left and then take a quick right turn onto Charlestown Beach Road. At Creek Bridge, the Kayak Centre will be on the right just before the bridge, and the town launch will be on the right just after the bridge.

ALWAYS WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET AND CARRY A WHISTLE OR OTHER SOUND PRODUCING DEVICE, PREFERABLY ATTACHED TO YOUR LIFE JACKET. PADDLERS SHOULD CHECK WATER LEVEL AND TIDES, WEATHER, AND WATERWAY CONDITIONS PRIOR TO EVERY TRIP. REMOVE WHAT YOU BRING, CLEAN UP MORE IF YOU CAN. PLEASE RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY. REPORT ANY PROBLEMS YOU ENCOUNTER TO CHARLESTOWN HARBOR MASTER AT 401-641-3083 AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IF APPROPRIATE.



Salt Ponds Coalition (SPC), incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation in 1985, is the oldest continuously operating volunteer marine water-quality monitoring program in the nation. SPC conducts public outreach programs and works to focus legislative and regulatory attention on protecting our valuable salt pond resources for the benefit of wildlife and people. www.saltpondscoalition.org

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP) protects and preserves Narragansett Bay and its watershed through partnerships that conserve and restore natural resources, enhance water quality and promote community involvement. NBEP supports the RI Blueways Alliance which is dedicated to creating a comprehensive water trail network to link Rhode Island's rivers, lakes and ponds to Narragansett Bay and to the rivers in Massachusetts that flow into the bay. The trail will be used to promote safety, conservation, recreation and economic development. www.ExploreRI.org



Watershed organizations throughout the Narragansett Bay watershed showcase paddling opportunities on downloadable paddle maps. The full list of maps is available at ExploreRI.org.

