

Welcome to the Narragansett Bay Research Reserve based on Prudence I.

This booklet is intended to guide you in your explorations of the south end of Prudence Island by highlighting specific numbered “discovery stops” marked along a paved loop trail.

This 1.9 mile (3 km) hike will take about 1 hour.

You will be exploring the cultural and natural history of the island. Primarily, the beauty and biological diversity (biodiversity) of three habitat types found on the south end of Prudence Island – coastal scrub, forested wetland, and pine barrens.

Along the way you will learn how to “read the landscape” – how to see, hear, feel and smell the clues that tell you about the geology and biodiversity of this special place.

Watch out for ticks!



Due to the high tick density in the Reserve (and throughout Rhode Island) please observe the following guidelines:

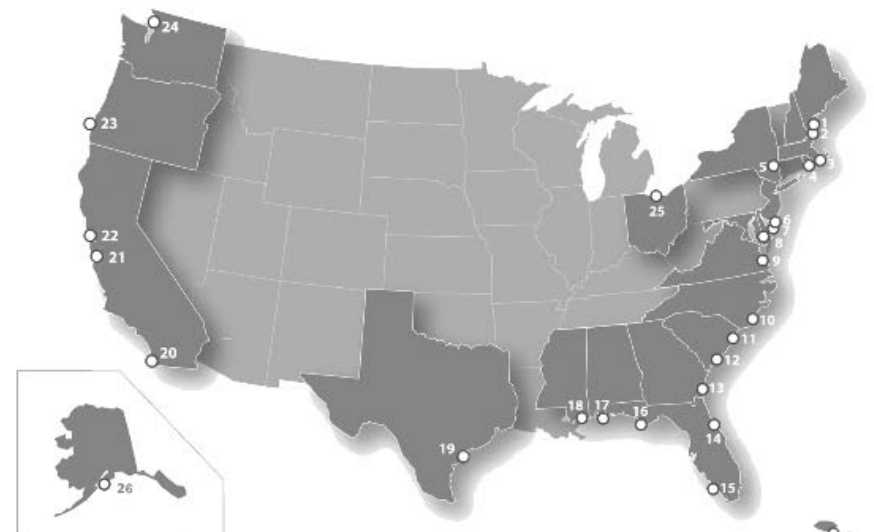
- Avoid tall grass, weeds, or shrubby areas.
- Keep to well-worn trails and roads.
- Wear long pants, tuck pants into socks and keep your shirt tucked in. Wear hats, and tight-weave socks.
- Wear light-colored clothing so that finding ticks is easier.
- Repellent will help, but follow instructions of product exactly.
- Check yourself and your children daily -- body and clothing.
- Do periodic tick checks if outside for a long time.



NATIONAL
ESTUARINE
RESEARCH
RESERVE
SYSTEM

The **Narragansett Bay Research Reserve** is one of 27 Reserves in the **National Estuarine Research Reserve System**. This is a network of protected areas established for long-term research, education and stewardship of estuaries; the places **where the rivers meet the sea**.

This partnership program between the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the coastal states protects more than one million acres of estuarine land and water. The Reserve System provides essential habitat for wildlife; offers educational opportunities for students, teachers and the public; and serves as living laboratories for scientists.



Thank you for taking the time today to explore the
Narragansett Bay Research Reserve.

Please return your booklet to the Ed Shed so we
can recycle and reuse it. ☺

A digital version can be found on-line at:
www.nbnerr.org

The Narragansett Bay Research Reserve
wants to acknowledge all our staff for
their valuable contributions to this guide.



Illustrations by
Chelsea Bureau
(Unless otherwise noted)

Sweet
Fern

Editor: Kristin Van Wagner, Education Coordinator

This version of the Self Guided Hike published July, 2009

Three important themes will recur during your
exploration of this trail today.

They are:

1. How distinct habitats support a diversity of
plant and animal species;
2. How the non-living environment (soil, water,
climate) determines what kinds of plants and
animals are found there; and
3. How humans interact with the land and how
our land use history has shaped our
environment.

Throughout your walk, look for the unexpected
animal track, listen for wildlife and enjoy
the challenge of finding features between the
“discovery stops” along the trail.

Take time between the marked stops to do your
own exploring. Most importantly...have fun!

*Directions for your exploration are indicated by this
symbol: ►*

Directions are given in italics.

*Please also refer to the trail map
on the back cover of this booklet.