



PUBLIC NOTICE

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Date: January 8, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE FORMER CHARLESTOWN NAVAL AUXILIARY LANDING FIELD FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is actively investigating the former Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (CNALF) under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program as a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS). CNALF, used for flight training from the 1940s to the 1970s, encompasses 631 acres, including Ninigret Park and the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge in Charlestown, Rhode Island.

This meeting will provide an overview of ongoing environmental investigations and cleanup efforts at the former CNALF site. USACE will also gather feedback on forming a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). Attendees are invited to participate in a brief questionnaire, available in person or online, to share concerns, suggest ways for future community involvement, and indicate how they prefer to receive updates about the cleanup project.

The meeting will take place from 5–8 p.m. on January 8, 2025, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Kettle Pond Visitor Center, 50 Bend Road, Charlestown, Rhode Island.

For more information about this project or to participate in the questionnaire, visit the project webpage at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics>.

Meeting Components: A. Poster session: Community members can view information and interact with the project team.
B. Presentation: An overview of environmental investigation findings, prior cleanup efforts, and planned future work.
C. Presentation: Information about forming a RAB, including the roles and responsibilities of board members and how these efforts serve the community.
D. Questionnaire: Attendees can participate in a brief questionnaire, in person or online. This feedback will help USACE create a plan of action to keep community members informed.

From the 1940s to the early 1970s, the Department of Defense used CNALF for training Navy pilots and aviation crews. In 1982, the property was transferred to the Town of Charlestown for recreational use as Ninigret Park and to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to manage the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a Remedial Investigation under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to understand the nature and extent of potential chemical and munitions-related concerns stemming from former U.S. Navy operations.