

# Community Relations Plan

Former Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field | 2025



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
New England District

**Prepared by:**  
Hana Engineers  
and Consultants, LLC



# **FINAL**

# **Community Relations Plan**

# **Former Naval Auxiliary Landing Field**

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Charlestown, Rhode Island

**Prepared for:**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

New England District

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**Contract Number:** W912WJ24C0017

**April 2025**

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### Acronyms

CERCLA .....	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CNALF .....	Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field
COPCs .....	chemicals of potential concern
CRP .....	Community Relations Plan
DERP .....	Defense Environmental Restoration Program
DoD .....	Department of Defense
EPA .....	Environmental Protection Agency
FS .....	Feasibility Study
FUDS .....	Formerly Used Defense Sites
GSA .....	General Services Administration
HTRW .....	Hazardous Toxic and Radioactive Waste
MEC .....	munitions and explosives of concern
MMRP .....	Military Munitions Response Program
NPL .....	National Priority List
PAHs .....	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
PCBs .....	polychlorinated biphenyls
PFAS .....	polyfluoroalkyl substances
POET .....	point-of-entry treatment
PP .....	Proposed Plan
RAB .....	Restoration Advisory Board
RCRA .....	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RI .....	Remedial Investigation
RIDEM .....	Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
ROD .....	Record of Decision
TCRA .....	Time Critical Removal Action
USACE .....	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS .....	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Community Relations Plan (CRP) for the Former Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (CNALF) Environmental Restoration Project is a site-specific strategy to enable meaningful community involvement for the former defense site that was used to train pilots, support crews, and other Navy personnel during World War II.

By giving consideration to a range of views and information, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New England District Project Team can facilitate quality decision-making and increase the legitimacy of the decisions reached by establishing and maintaining channels of communication with stakeholders through the duration of the project.

#### 1.1 Community Relations Strategy

Four overarching strategic goals define the CNALF CRP. We consider these four goals to be in common with the community interest, and each part of the CRP will fulfill one or more of these goals:

**GOAL 1 — Outreach to keep the Charlestown Community Informed:** The USACE Project Team will provide stakeholders with clear, concise, and timely information about past, current, and proposed activities at the former CNALF. The Community Outreach section of this CRP provides tools and opportunities to inform the Charlestown community of activities and investigations at the former CNALF.

**GOAL 2 — Engagement with Community Stakeholders:** USACE will engage with stakeholders within the Charlestown community that want to be involved in the environmental restoration process. Engagement ensures that these interested stakeholders are able to meaningfully participate in direct and indirect ways. The Community Engagement Activities section of this CRP includes methods and tools to identify community needs and concerns and describes opportunities for interested



World War II Navy aviators walk out of a building onto the CNALF grounds. The inscription on the inert bomb by the doorway can be found on the CNALF memorial located in Ninigret Park. (Photo/Charlestown Historical Society)



Pilots affectionately referred to CNALF as "Charlietown," a name memorialized in this trail sign on the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge, which leads to remains of one of the former runways. (Photo/Hana Engineers)

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stakeholders to engage with project staff, environmental scientists, and other subject matter experts, along with access to primary sources of data and information delivered in a clear, nontechnical format. This allows the USACE Project Team to learn from stakeholders with diverse perspectives and incorporate that information into the process of environmental cleanup, if possible.

### **GOAL 3 — Collaboration and Partnership:**

The Charlestown community and the USACE Project Team are partners with each playing a vital role in community relations. By partnering on efforts to engage and inform the community, USACE will serve as a conduit by connecting stakeholders to sources of information that will provide contextual answers to questions and concerns. The Collaboration and Participation section of this CRP describes opportunities for partnership including the possible formation of a CNALF Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). Collaboration and coordination must be conducted with the understanding that USACE retains final decision-making responsibility for actions within the scope of its authority regarding the former CNALF.

**GOAL 4 — Continuous Feedback:** USACE invites continual feedback on every aspect of the former CNALF project and will respond in a timely manner to acknowledge and address feedback to refine our restoration approach and community relations, if possible. The CRP provides several avenues to provide feedback on the Restoration Project's work in Charlestown and in providing opportunities for effective community engagement.

### **1.2 Key Messages**

A Communications Strategy provides the structure for communication between the USACE Project Team and the community about activities at the former CNALF, including site investigations, cleanups, and restoration. This CRP, in accordance with the Superfund

Community Involvement Handbook (EPA, 2020), serves as a guideline for deploying this strategy to facilitate two-way communication. Furthermore, the USACE Project Team will ensure the communication strategy clearly conveys the actions taken to protect the health and safety of people and the environment. This includes engaging key stakeholders during communication sessions to allow information about the site and community concerns to be introduced into the conversation.

### **Key Messages Checklist**

- Outline the objectives or goals of communication efforts.
- Identify key stakeholder groups and audiences.
- Identify and list the concerns of key stakeholders.
- Define key messages to convey.
- List information that could be collected.
- Identify possible communication methods and vehicles for communicating information for a specific purpose with the understanding that urgency should dictate medium.
- Determine a method for collecting and evaluating feedback

### **1.3 Community Relations and the environmental cleanup process**

The former CNALF provides recreational and educational opportunities as Ninigret Park and Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge. As such, the restoration and use of the area is of great concern to public officials, residents, and other stakeholders.

The CRP reflects community needs, concerns, and expectations that have been identified through one-on-one interviews with stakeholders, question-and-answer sessions during a public meeting, and a months-long community information questionnaire, the



## CERCLA Process\*

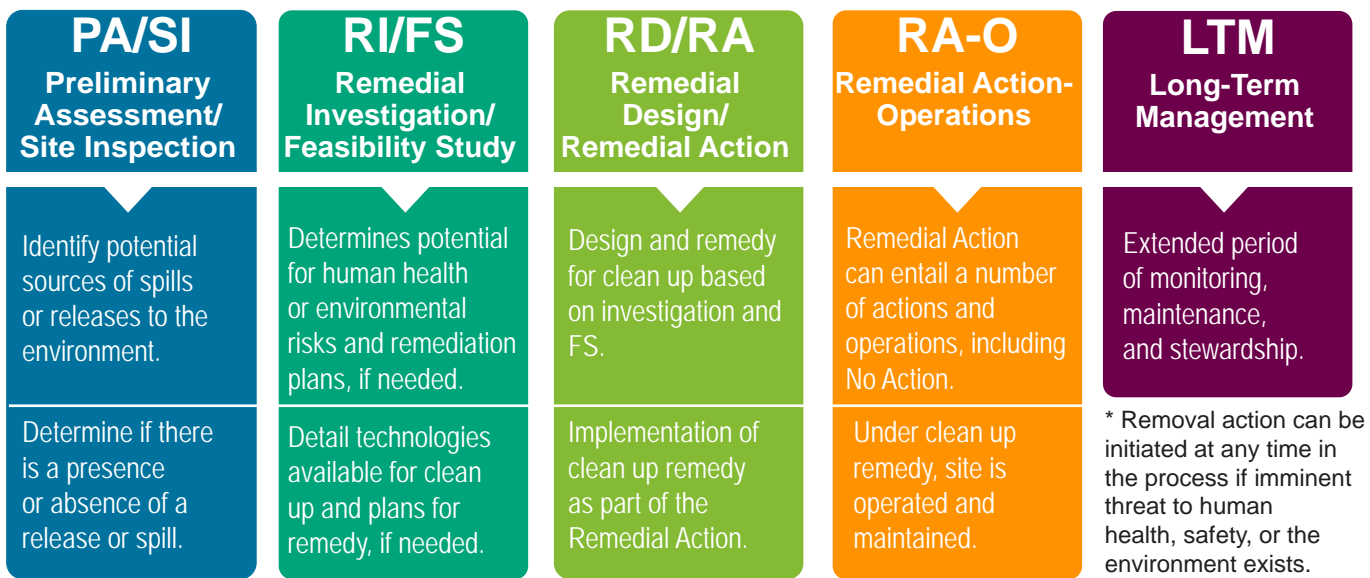


Figure 1 (EPA, 2024)

results of which can be found in **Appendix D** and are referenced throughout the CRP.

Throughout the restoration process for the former military site, the CRP serves as a living document, intended to be updated as community needs and concerns change and as the remediation plans for the former CNALF progress.

The environmental investigation and remediation of the former CNALF is under the direction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District. The former CNALF is not listed on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Priority List (NPL), which is commonly known as "Superfund Sites" and identifies the most critical sites in need of environmental remediation. Similar to NPL, the CNALF Restoration Project follows the same Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) regulation and process for environmental remediation (**Figure 1**).

This CRP follows the process for community engagement, involvement, and ongoing outreach using specific guidance from the EPA's Superfund Community Involvement Handbook

(EPA, 2020), including providing information about the following:

1. CERCLA cleanup process.
2. How, when, and where USACE will provide site-related information to the public.
3. How the public can be actively involved in the cleanup process.
4. Key points in cleanup process and the ways in which USACE takes public input into consideration during interim and final decisions.

The CRP is both a document and the culmination of a process that relies on input from stakeholders throughout the Charlestown community. Therefore, the CRP provides a critical roadmap for community involvement and serves as a useful resource for the community and for the USACE Project Team to use during the environmental restoration process for guidance and advice on appropriate activities for community involvement. This CRP serves as a living document and should be revised and updated when site conditions or community concerns, needs, or desires significantly change.

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An undated photo shows a view of CNALF from above looking toward the Atlantic Ocean. (Photo/Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management)

### 2.0 FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE PROGRAM AT CNALF

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) is responsible for environmental restoration of Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) that were formerly owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the U.S. under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense.

The former CNALF is being investigated under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) as FUDS Project Number D01RI0008. USACE has been tasked with performing a Remedial Investigation (RI) in accordance with CERCLA to understand the nature and extent of chemicals of potential concern (COPCs) and munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) relating to former U.S. Navy operations.

The Army is the executive agent for the FUDS program and USACE is the organization that manages and directs the FUDS program's administration. The USACE FUDS program:

- Determines whether contamination is present and whether it resulted from DoD activity.
- Determines the nature and extent of the contamination.



A U.S. Geological Survey map shows the site boundary of the former CNALF. The full size map and photo can be found in Appendix A of the CRP. (USGS Image)

- Evaluates the potential for current and future human health and environmental risks.
- Cleans up the property to reduce potential risks to human health and the environment.

### 2.1 Site Description and History

Between 1940 and 1942, the Navy acquired approximately 630 acres in Charlestown, Rhode Island, for CNALF to support the country's effort during World War II. Pilots, flight crews, and support personnel trained extensively at the landing field, including night flying training using a variety of aircraft. President George H. W. Bush trained as a Navy aviator at CNALF, flying training missions at night.

During the operation of the CNALF, 61 pilots lost their lives. Their names and contributions are memorialized near the entrance of Ninigret Park along with an inscription that was known to have been posted outside one of the buildings when the former CNALF was in operation:

**"Thru these portals pass  
the hottest pilots in the world"**

The defense site served as a support facility to Quonset Point Naval Air Station located in North Kingstown on Narragansett Bay.



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The CNALF memorial holds the names of each pilot who died at the former defense site. The memorial is near the entrance to Ninigret Park and within view of the former runways, which are part of the park. (Photo/Hana Engineers)

CNALF closed in the early 1970s with ownership of the land transferring to the Town of Charlestown and the USFWS in 1981 to be used for the benefit of the community and the citizens of Rhode Island. Today, the former CNALF site serves as Ninigret Park, owned and operated by the town, and Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge under the direction of USFWS.

### 2.2 Previous environmental investigations and remediation

Since the former CNALF facility closed, several environmental and military munitions investigations have been performed by various agencies. The RI underway began in 2023 and consists of the collection, testing, and evaluation of surface and subsurface soil samples, sediment samples, surface water samples, and groundwater samples to evaluate potential current and future human health and environmental risks related to former U.S. Navy uses of the CNALF site. The RI approach was created in collaboration with the Town

of Charlestown, USFWS, and Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), as documented in the RI Work Plan (March 24, 2023). The RI is expected to continue into 2029.

#### 2.2.1 Projects 08 and 09

In 2017, two new projects, Project 08 and Project 09, were created by the Department of the Army from the original site-wide Hazardous Toxic and Radioactive Waste (HTRW). The purpose of these new projects was to separate the work into individual projects on the site. Project 08, which resulted in the removal of several structures and remediation of the surrounding site, is nearing completion in 2025.

Project 09 consists of three landfills and a former fire training/burn pit area. Project 09 areas are located in Ninigret Park and Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge.

The landfills in Project 09 were used for disposal of military debris, including airplane and vehicle

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parts, scrap metal, small to medium caliber ammunition, inert practice bombs, construction debris, appliances, tires, cans, bottles, and drums. These landfills are not capped or lined; however, at most locations the landfill debris is covered by surficial soil fill. The former burn pit area in Project 09 was used by the U.S. Navy for fire and rescue training exercises in which discarded aircraft fuselages were doused with fuel or other combustible liquids and ignited. The fires were then extinguished using a variety of fire-fighting agents.

Project 09 will be investigated and, if necessary, remediated in accordance with the requirements of CERCLA. In addition, the landfills of Project 09 are also being investigated for munitions under the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP).

### 2.2.2 Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

During the recent CNALF RI, groundwater within and downgradient of a former fire station and a former landfill was found to contain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS also was found in soil and groundwater at and downgradient of the former burn pit area. (**Appendix E** contains information about origins and potential dangers of PFAS from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.)

Soil and water data was collected between 2021 and 2023 with additional sampling conducted in 2024 and planned for 2025. This Remedial Investigation work was a collaboration with USACE, the Town of Charlestown, USFWS, and RIDEM. The agreed plan was finalized on 24 March 2023. Based on the results, additional fieldwork beyond 2025 could be required to determine the full extent of COPCs and MEC.

Because groundwater is source to both residential and town water supply wells, the U.S. Army issued Time Critical Removal Actions (TCRA) directing USACE to install and maintain point-of-

entry treatment (POET) systems on existing water supply wells and to provide bottled water delivery service in the interim. The USACE installed POET systems at three water supply wells in 2022 [i.e. RW-4 (the “beach pavilion well”); RW-6 (the “festival well”); and a residential well]. Additionally, the USACE is providing bottled water delivery service and preparing to install POET systems at three more water supply wells in 2025 (i.e., RW-1: the “Frosty Drew Observatory and Science Center well,” and two residential wells).

### **2.3 Previous Site Studies and Response Actions**

CNALF decommissioning activities were performed in the 1970s and 1980s and included removal of buildings, transformers, underground storage tanks and above ground storage tanks.

After CNALF closed, the General Services Administration (GSA) prepared an Environmental Impact Statement based primarily upon reviews of existing data. The first environmental contamination assessment was not conducted until 1987. The environmental and munitions investigation reports associated with Project 09 that have been conducted since that time are summarized below:

- Contamination Evaluation (E&E, 1987): Investigation for the USACE Engineering Support Center, Huntsville, AL under the Defense Environmental Restoration Account to make a preliminary determination concerning the presence or absence of chemical contamination which may have been caused by DoD activities. The scope of the investigation involved a records review and evaluation, a site survey, and groundwater and soil sampling.
- Field Investigation Report (RIDEM, 1993): Preliminary Assessment performed by RIDEM under a multi-site cooperative agreement between RIDEM and EPA. It included two rounds of sampling in areas identified where waste disposal activity had the potential to impact human health and the environment.



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- **Phase I Remedial Investigation (RI) (ITC, 1993):** Investigation under DERP to determine the presence of DoD-related contamination at the former CNALF UST sites and perform a preliminary assessment of the human health and environmental risks related to site contamination. The scope of work included the collection of soil, groundwater, and surface water samples and the performance of a site-wide ecological inventory.

- **Phase II Remedial Investigation (URS, 1996):** An environmental investigation of the three landfills and the burn pit area to investigate the nature and extent of potential soil and groundwater impacts. The scope of work consisted of test pit excavation, soil, groundwater, surface water, sediment, macroinvertebrate sampling, habitat assessment, unexploded ordnance detection, and human health and ecological risk assessments.

- **Ordnance and Explosives Archives Search Report (USACE, 1999):** Historical records search and site inspection for ordnance and explosives presence at the former CNALF by the USACE Rock Island District for the USACE Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, AL under DERP.

- **Site Inspection Report (Weston, 2000):** A site investigation for USEPA under the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team contract which included a review of historical sampling data, evaluation of the groundwater, surface water, soil exposure and air pathways, and sediment sampling in Ninigret Pond.

- **Supplemental Phase II RI (Weston, 2001):** A study for USACE New England District under DERP to fill data gaps remaining from the 1996 Phase II RI. The scope of work consisted of soil and groundwater sampling and water level monitoring.

- **Site Inspection Report (Alion, 2008):** An evaluation for USACE Engineering Support Center, Huntsville, AL, and the USACE Baltimore District under DERP of the presence of munitions and explosives of concern or

munitions constituents related to the historical use of former CNALF prior to transfer. Includes munitions history, site inspection activities, and a risk assessment.

During these investigations, a relatively small number of samples were collected given the size and heterogeneity of some of the investigation areas. However, these limited investigations found no indication of gross contamination or high concentrations of constituents in soil, groundwater, surface water or sediment. The most commonly identified contaminants across Project 09 locations included metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and/or pesticides which may be typical of background concentrations across the former CNALF, but a background study has not been performed. Future investigations will address data gaps.

### 2.4 Current and Future Site Activities

USACE New England District recently generated a Remedial Action Work Plan to address remedial investigation activities at Project 09. The field investigation will include sampling and analysis of soil, sediment, groundwater, surface water, and pore water at the former CNALF and in Ninigret Pond, as well as, at off-site locations to establish background conditions.

The Remedial Investigation will also include human health and ecological risk assessments, which evaluate whether contamination found at the site poses an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. If necessary, a RI/Feasibility Study (FS) Report will be prepared in which the existing Project 09 environmental conditions and related risks will be discussed, and a range of cleanup alternatives for Project 09 will be evaluated. This step would be followed by issuance of a Proposed Plan (PP) released for public comment. USACE will consider the public comments it receives and then issue a final decision document called a Record of Decision (ROD), which describes the response action that will be taken at Project 09.





A parkgoer walks along the rock jetty at Charlestown State Beach near Ninigret Pond. (Photo/File)

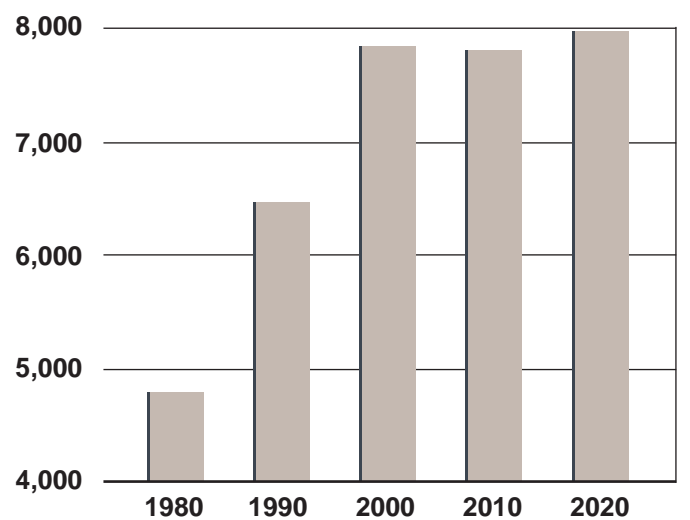
### 3.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE

Charlestown is a seaside municipality in Washington County covering 36.5 square miles in southern Rhode Island with just under 8,000 residents as of the 2020 Census. Charlestown is also the location of the headquarters of the Narragansett Indian Tribe, which has approximately 2,400 members.

Charlestown was chartered in 1738 when the town of Westerly was divided into two towns by the Rhode Island General Assembly, mostly as a matter of convenience so that people having business would not have to travel over rivers that were considered “very large, so that the way to said meeting is rendered difficult as well as dangerous” (Tucker, 1877).

Today, Charlestown operates under an Administrator-Council form of government, one of four types of municipal charters under the Rhode Island General Laws. In this form of government, an administrator serves as an executive officer and conducts the day-to-day operations of the municipality. Charlestown Town Council consists of a 5-member board elected at large during even numbered years, including two members who serve as the council

**Charlestown population over 50 years**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (Census, 2020)

**Figure 2**

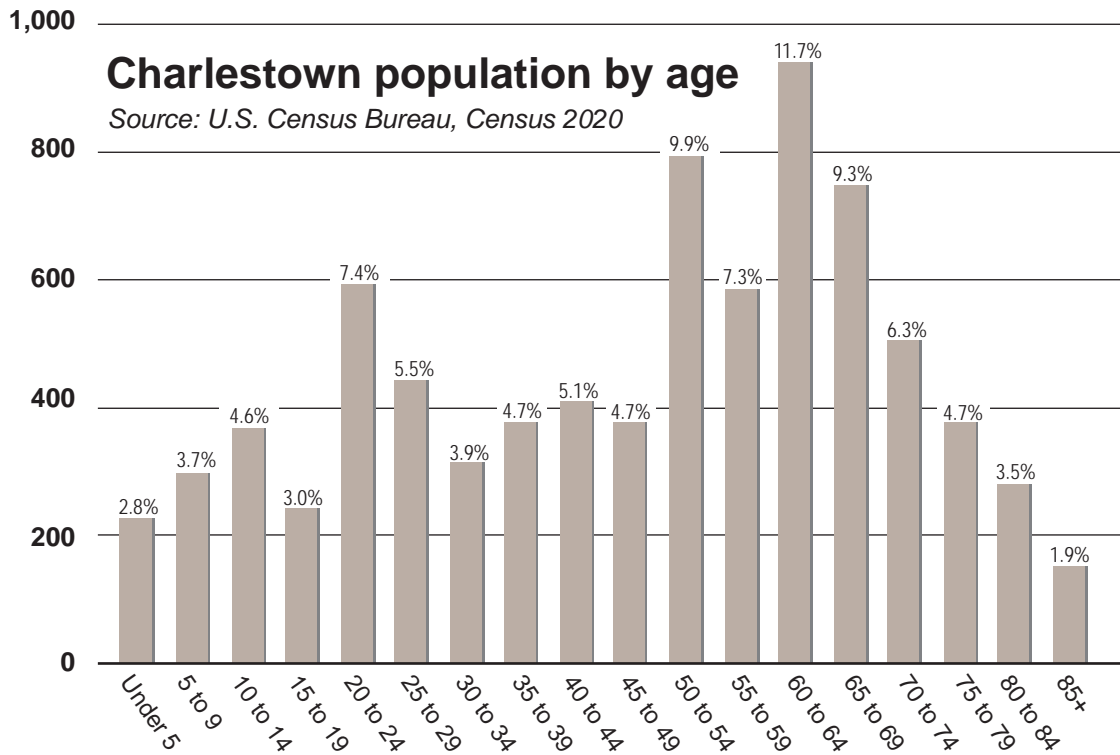
president and vice-president. Rhode Island has five counties, but none have a county-level government.

### 3.1 Population

Charlestown is home to permanent residents, secondary homeowners, and business and industry professionals, which provide economic infrastructure supporting a robust tourist season that can quadruple the annual population during

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Source: Census 2020

**Figure 3**

the summer months to around 30,000, data from the Town of Charlestown show.

Charlestown has 5,334 housing units with a permanent population of 7,997 data from the 2020 Census show.

The median age of Charlestown residents is 53 years with the largest percentage of residents (11.7%) to be 60 to 64 years of age. The majority of residents (54.6%) are over the age of 50 (Census, 2020) (**Figure 3**).

Charleston has experienced a 66.6% population increase over the last 50 years, Census data show (**Figure 2**). From 1980 to 2020, Charlestown population went from under 5,000 to nearly 8,000. Over the last 30 years, the area held fairly steady with a slight population decrease of 2.1% from 2010 to 2020 after a 0.4% decrease from 2000 to 2010. Census data show from 2000 to 2020, Charlestown's actual population decreased by 138.

Charlestown residents are 94.3% white. Other representative ethnic groups include Hispanic



The Narragansett Indian Church, originally constructed in 1789, has been rebuilt several times after fires damaged the building. The church is on a parcel of land continuously held by the Narragansett people, the Tomaquag Museum said. (Public Domain Photo)

(2.5%), Asian (0.9%), American Indian/Native (0.6%), African American/Black (0.5%) (Census, 2024).

The Narragansett Indian Tribe, which has a

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2,000-acre reservation in the municipality and became a federally recognized tribe in 1983, includes 2,400 tribal members.

For nearly 200 years, the Narragansett people worked through state and federal courts and lobbying efforts to receive recognition as a sovereign nation and ownership of tribal lands. The Narragansett have tribal government, administrative, education, health, community planning, law enforcement, environmental, and other offices and departments in Charlestown (Narragansett, 2022).

The former CNALF is located less than a mile south of the Narragansett Indian Reservation. CNALF is known to hold Native American burial sites, including an intact burial ground under the north-south runway. USACE investigations of historical records indicate that other burial sites likely exist and have documented the existence of archaeological and culturally significant sites and artifacts. (USACE, 1999)

### 3.2 Employment and Income

Census Bureau data show Charlestown contains 3,481 households. Residents have a median household income of \$103,147, significantly higher than the state median household income of \$84,972 and the national median household income of \$77,719 (Census Bureau) (**Figure 4**). The town's average unemployment rate was 4.5% in 2024, slightly above the state's average rate of 4.3% (DLT, 2024). Charlestown's labor force of 4,436 is closely split between males and females, with 2,388 (53.8%) men and 2,048 (46.2%) women (Census, 2020).

Most people live above the poverty line with 6.6% of Charlestown's households living below the poverty line, which is 40.5% lower than the national average. In Charlestown, 8.4% of households receive food stamp benefits, compared to 14% statewide, and 11.8% nationally (Census, 2020).

More than half of Charlestown's residents have income of more than \$100,000, data from the

Census Bureau show. Income derives from a combination of wages and salaried workers, investment, rental, retirement, and Social Security income. Workers 16 years of age and over in Charlestown work primarily in five industry sectors:

- Educational services, and health care and social assistance: 27.4%
- Manufacturing: 13.9%
- Arts, entertainment, and recreation, hospitality and food services: 13.3%
- Retail trade: 8.4%
- Construction: 7.8%

### 3.3 Housing

Charlestown has 5,334 housing units with a 2.7% vacancy rate. This includes 4,796 single-family detached residential homes and 538 categorized as multi-family, RV, or mobile home. (Census, 2024)

Over 10 years, from 2013 to 2023, Census data show that a net 270 housing units have been added to the Town of Charlestown. While the town saw an increase in overall housing, the number of multi-family, RV, and mobile home units decreased by 78.

The majority of home values range between \$300,000 and \$1 million, with 41.9%, the largest percentage, valued at \$300,000 to \$499,999. (Census, 2020)

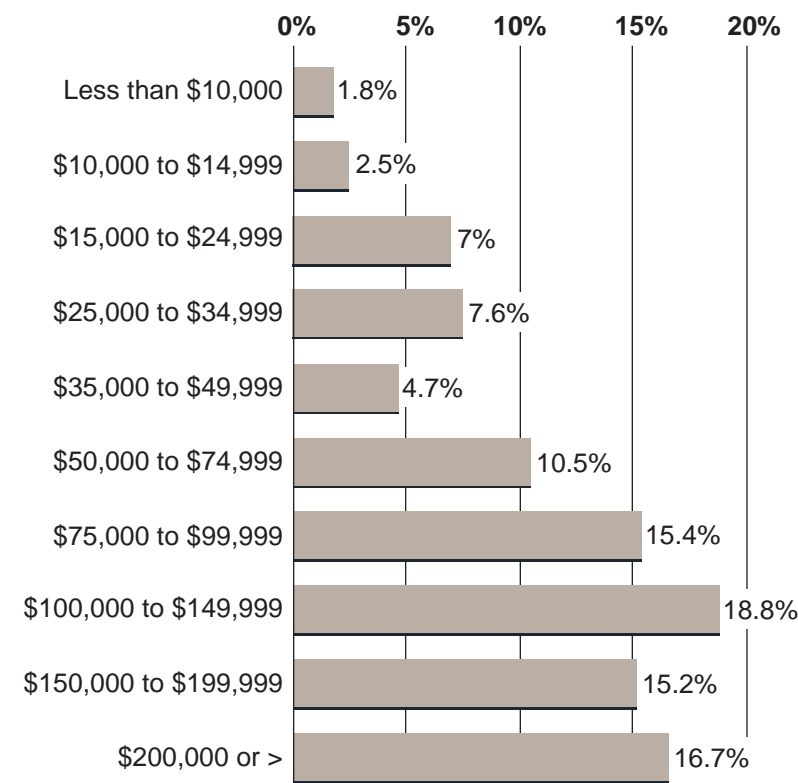
Charlestown continues to have a strong housing market with increases in year-over-year pricing and closings when comparing 2023 to 2024, data from the Rhode Island Association of Realtors show.

The municipality had 96 closings in 2024, up from 86 the previous year, and a surge in median sales price. Though a relatively small community with a population around 8,000 residents, Charlestown's single-family residential prices saw the third-highest percentage increase among all municipalities in Rhode Island in 2024.



Household income in Charlestown, Rhode Island

Percentage of households inside each income range measured by U.S. Census Bureau in 2023.



U.S. Census Bureau Sources: Income in the United States: 2023, QuickFacts Rhode Island, Washington County Subdivision Data (Census 2023; BLS, 2024)

>50%  
More than half of households in Charlestown have annual income of over \$100,000.

\$103,147  
Median household income in Charlestown.

\$86,372  
Median household income across Rhode Island.

\$80,610  
Median household income nationally.

Figure 4

3.4 Education

Nearly 94% of Charlestown residents graduated from high school with most going on to higher education. With 41.8% of residents attaining a bachelor's degree or higher, Charlestown has a higher education attainment rate than the state of Rhode Island overall at 39% and lower than Washington County at 54.3% (Table 1). Charlestown residents have a higher education rate of nearly 5 percentage points above the national average (Census, 2020).

The Chariho Regional School District operates 8 schools in the region, including Charlestown Elementary School, which has an enrollment of approximately 250 students, data from the Rhode Island Department of Education show. Charlestown Elementary teaches kindergarten through fourth grade and has been recognized

Table 1: Education Attainment

Highest level of education	Percentage
Bachelor's degree	24.5%
Some college but no degree	23.8%
High school diploma or equivalent	19.3%
Graduate or professional degree	17.3%
Associate's degree	8.9%

Source: Washington County Subdivision Data, (Census 2020)  
for excellence statewide and nationally. Per pupil spending of \$22,985 in the Chariho Regional School District was slightly below the Rhode Island state average of \$23,357 (RIDE, 2024).

The Narragansett Tribe's Education Department has collaborative agreements with public learning institutions, K-12 schools, higher education institutions, and adult learning centers to provide opportunities for members.

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Stars paint the night sky at the Frosty Drew Observatory in Ninigret Park, which previously served as the former CNALF. Many residents say protecting the night sky from light pollution is a priority. (Photo/Hana archives)

### 4.0 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Public outreach efforts provide communication that can facilitate community engagement and collaboration. By providing community updates, informational material, primary administrative documents, website updates, and public notification of meetings of community interest, the USACE Project Team will identify stakeholders and use existing lines of communication with public officials, media, and other organizations along with an ongoing cultivation of new avenues of communication through relationship building between the community and USACE New England District. When used consistently and effectively, stakeholders and community organizations become information conduits for significant updates and provide information that can be passed along to their networks.

#### 4.1 Community Interviews

USACE conducted a community questionnaire, online and in person, in late 2024 and early 2025 as part of an effort to gauge community interests, needs, and concerns (**Figure 5**). Additionally, information was gathered during one-on-one conversations and community question and

answer sessions during a 8 January 2025 public meeting at the Kettle Pond Visitor Center. The results of the questionnaire, which can be found in **Appendix D**, forms the basis of community outreach efforts outlined in the CRP.

#### 4.2 Fact Sheets

Typically two pages, front and back, Fact Sheets can be used to provide a general update and overview of the entire project (**Appendix B** for example), including a timeline, site history, and other information specific to the former CNALF. Fact Sheets also can be produced in response to events, findings, or milestones that require context and detail. Fact Sheets should present information in non-technical terms where possible and must provide contact information for community members to ask questions or provide information. Fact Sheets should be distributed during public engagement events, meetings, Restoration Advisory Board meetings, and when such distribution could help inform a stakeholder requesting information. Fact Sheets will be made available as part of the Administrative Record at the Cross' Mills Public Library and online at the USACE New England District website for the former CNALF.

## How concerned are you that land used as the Former CNALF might be harmful to each of the following? (Check one for each item)

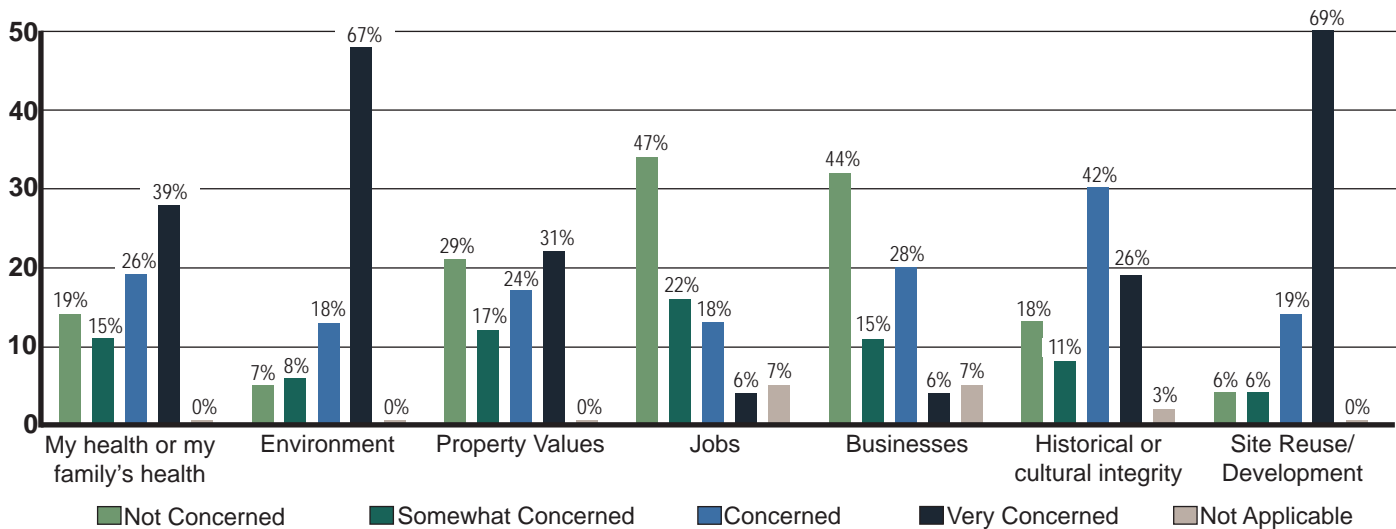


Figure 5

### 4.3 Posters

Posters should have a purpose that can be identified, articulated, and used to provide broader context and understanding to the project and efforts to remediate. Posters should generally be 36 inches x 24 inches. Posters can stand alone or be used to provide context and emphasis to an overall message or presentation. Posters should be legible, include contact information, and have relevant pieces of information clearly labeled (example shown in **Figure 6**). Subject matter experts should provide feedback and oversight to pare down posterized information, allowing for quick consumption by a viewer but also to provide a specific entry point to understanding an aspect of the overall project. Posters will be made available as part of the online Administrative Record as outlined in section 6.2 Administrative Record of the CRP.

### 4.4 Public Notice

A public notice serves as a public record and legal notification of a meeting or event. The notice also provides specific information that can be replicated for a variety of community outreach opportunities. Creating an effective public notice sets the stage for effective

community engagement and outcomes, which builds two-way communication between the community and USACE. The public notice should state specifically what will occur, including time, date place, and purpose. The start time should be thoughtfully considered to give community members time to engage with staff, supporting informational tools such as poster sessions, and to provide enough time for questions and answers. The scheduled end time for the venue should take into account additional time after presentations for one-on-one public engagement. Insertion and timing: The public notice should be inserted in two print newspapers, typically The Westerly Sun and The Providence Journal at least 30 days before an event, but no less than 2 weeks before an event. The public notice should be part of the Administrative Record on the CNALF website.

### 4.5 News Media

Engagement of media, including news releases about activities or meetings, should be provided to journalists and media outlets identified in the CNALF Stakeholder and Contact Directory (**Appendix F**) along with community and civic organizations to use in social media or



## Former Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field

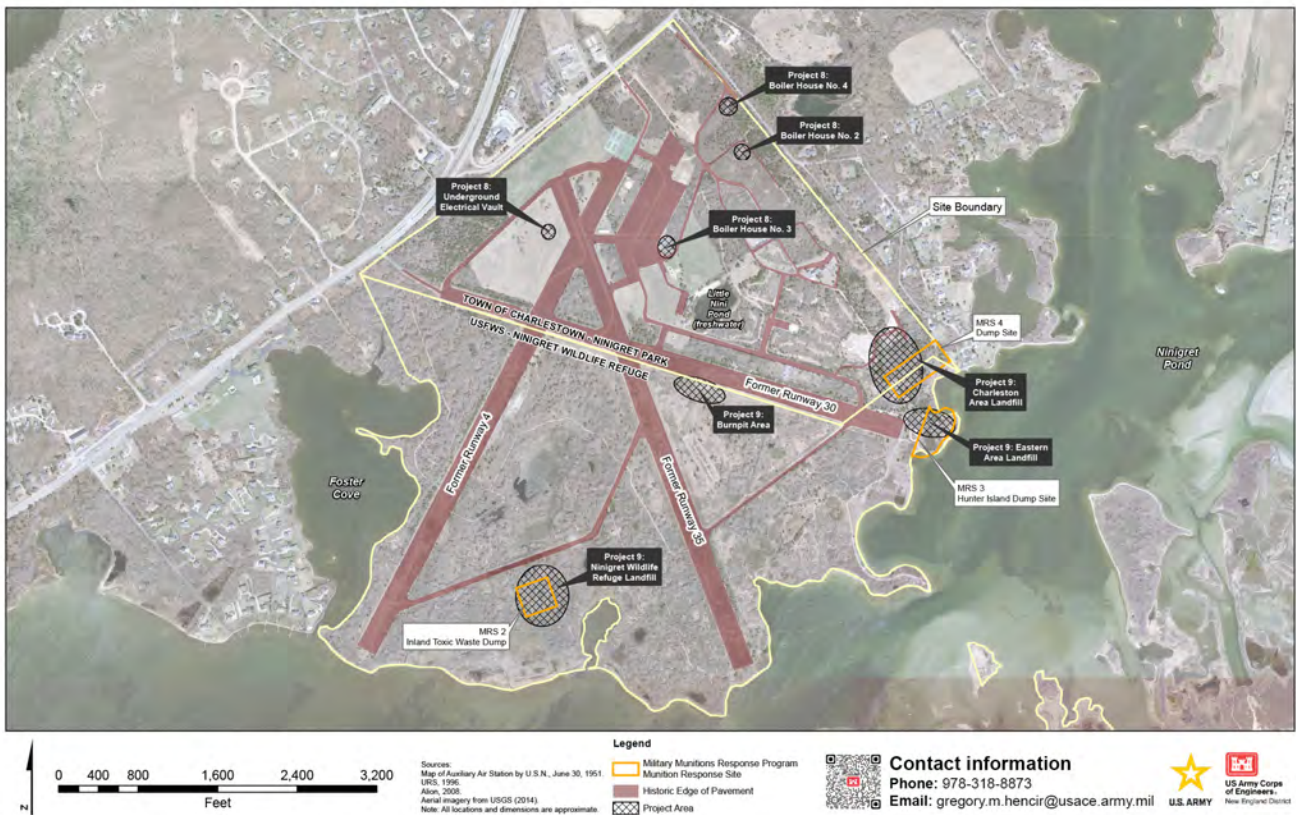


Figure 6

in email newsletters for their constituencies. A USACE spokesperson should be identified and available to answer questions, which can help identify other community concerns or data gaps. Insertion and timing. Ten to 14 days before an event, USACE New England District should contact media stakeholders to give assignment editors time to reach out with questions or plan coverage, including pre-event coverage. This also gives time for civic organizations to notify their constituencies.

While only 6% of Charlestown respondents to a community questionnaire (**Appendix D**) said they relied on newspapers for information, the inclusion of local and statewide media is critically important to ensure restorations efforts undergo public transparency. Additionally, Charlestown provides secondary residences for many property owners who rely on outside sources of information to stay up to date. This also applies

to the areas robust tourism industry, which provides a crucial source of economic activity.

### 4.6 Town website and social media

News releases and public notices should be provided to the Town of Charlestown, which has been identified as a primary source of information for the community. Notify and coordinate with the Town Administrator's office. Additionally, USACE requests that the town keep the news release on the home page of the town's website and pinned to the top of social media postings, which stakeholders have indicated they use to stay informed about area events.

### 4.7 Stakeholder Outreach

USACE will directly contact community members and organizations identified in the Stakeholder and Contact Directory (**Appendix F**) and from an email list of individuals who have

## Community Relations Plan

Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (CNALF), Charlestown, Rhode Island

expressed interest in receiving updates and notifications of community outreach efforts and activities regarding the former CNALF. Forty-four percent of respondents to a recent questionnaire said they would prefer to receive direct communication from USACE about the former CNALF either with at-home delivery of information or through email updates.

While the timing for such updates should depend on the nature of the information — critical information should go out immediately — and the needs of the community, residents selected monthly or quarterly updates as the most preferred time frame for periodic updates.

For public meetings such as a RAB meeting, a time frame of at least two weeks prior along with a reminder a few days from an event is recommended. Stakeholder outreach efforts should include contact information and a link to the CNALF web page to continually engage residents who prefer more frequent updates.

Because the list of stakeholders changes and likely will continue to grow, additional outreach efforts should be undertaken to ensure the list of stakeholders is accurate, up to date, and reflective of the changing needs and concerns of the community. This can be achieved through the identification of new stakeholder organizations within the community, asking existing stakeholders for updates, and interviewing community members as an ongoing effort or when opportunities present themselves such as invitations to speak to community groups. A critical component of community engagement at this level is to appoint someone to be responsible for updating stakeholder information. This activity should only end when the project is closed as an ongoing interest for remediation and environmental investigation.

### 4.8 Physical Postings

A printed flyer based on the public notice and/or news release should be provided to the following

recommended physical locations in adherence to their public posting policy, along with hard copy handouts if allowable.

- Charlestown Town Hall  
4540 South County Trail
- Charlestown Senior Community Center  
100 Park Lane Ninigret Park
- Charlestown Police Department  
4901 Old Post Road
- Charlestown Elementary School  
363 Carolina Back Road
- Charlestown Chamber of Commerce  
4937 Old Post Road
- Cross' Mills Public Library  
4417 Old Post Road
- Frosty Drew Observatory & Science Center  
62 Park Lane
- Kettle Pond Visitor Center  
50 Bend Road
- Narragansett Indian Tribe, Tribal  
Headquarters, 4533 South County Trail
- South County Tourism Council  
4160 Old Post Road
- Ninigret Park  
5 Park Lane



Danish artist Thomas Dambo selected Ninigret Park for a series of larger-than-life trolls made from reclaimed wood and other objects. (Photo/Hana Engineers)





Naval aviator William Meyer (seated, center) talked about flying for the Navy at the Charleston Auxiliary Landing Field during a public meeting in January 2025 at the Kettle Pond Visitor Center. About 55 community residents attended the meeting, which included a poster session and two presentations about the former FUDS. (Photo/Hana Engineers)

5.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Community engagement, including public meetings, RABs, attendance at events such as the Charlestown Seafood Festival, or activity where USACE will come into contact with the public with the expressed purpose of engaging about past, current, and future activities for the former CNALF should include a strategic approach to community relations. This should include notification of the community and updated documentation for hand out material. Additionally, the identification and dissemination of key messages ensures the community receives accurate and timely information and is able to engage with USACE subject matter experts and project leaders as an ongoing effort.

5.1 Public Meeting and Accessibility Events

Public meetings provide valuable engagement opportunities for the former CNALF Restoration Project and community stakeholders. Three types of meetings typically will be held: public meetings facilitated by USACE, meetings or events that USACE representatives are invited to attend or speak at, or RAB meetings. A fourth type of opportunity also is critically important to community engagement, which are meetings and events attended by USACE staff as an attendees where they attend to learn and, if called upon, to answer questions.

5.1.1 USACE planned meeting

If USACE New England District is conducting or facilitating a meeting, a venue should be

Table 2: Available public meeting venues<sup>1</sup>

Venue	Organization	Capacity
Charlestown Elementary School	Chariho Regional School District	>300
Kettle Pond Visitor Center	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	110
Cross' Mills Public Library	Cross' Mills Public Library	80

<sup>1</sup>Other available venues did not meet capacity or scheduling requirements. Sources: Respective organizations



identified and booked that will accommodate the anticipated attendance. See **Table 2** for available venues and capacity.

How to anticipate attendance: In early 2025, community engagement at the former CNALF was identified as high. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated attendance at a January 8, 2025, public meeting to be between 50 and 60 individuals at the Kettle Pond Visitors Center at the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, responses to a community questionnaire indicated a high-level of engagement among community members with 75% of respondents indicating they were aware of environmental concerns at the former CNALF. Additionally, 79% of respondents indicated that the level of interest or concern about ongoing environmental investigations and cleanup at the former CNALF were “Very High” or “Somewhat High.” A meeting space to accommodate more than 100 community members and other stakeholders should be anticipated.

### 5.1.2 Another organization’s meeting

USACE attendance at a different organization’s event: If USACE New England District’s staff is attending an event as a speaker/presenter or has a booth/table exhibiting at the event, several community engagement activities should be done in preparation in advance, including coordinating with event organizers, subject matter experts, and support staff.

## 5.2 Site Tours

Even though Ninigret Park and Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge are open to the public, USACE guided site tours allow citizens to get a sense for where the former CNALF remediation activities are occurring and what environmental cleanup looks like before, during, and after RI/RA activities. This also offers USACE to position themselves as subject matter experts on environmental remediation and emphasize the vital role FUDS played in the defense of the country and support of men and women in uniform.

## 5.3 Informal Meetings

One-on-one or meetings in small groups to keep key groups and citizens informed of site activities and to answer questions can be invaluable in disseminating information establishing connections in the community. Informal meetings can take place between USACE employees and citizens or can be limited only to key points of contact.

## 6.0 COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

The Charlestown community has indicated significant support for forming a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) as a collaborative effort with USACE New England District (**Figure 7**) in a community questionnaire conducted in late 2024 and early 2025. Results reflected an overwhelming support for engagement with a RAB, including a large number of respondents who said they would be interested in serving as board members.

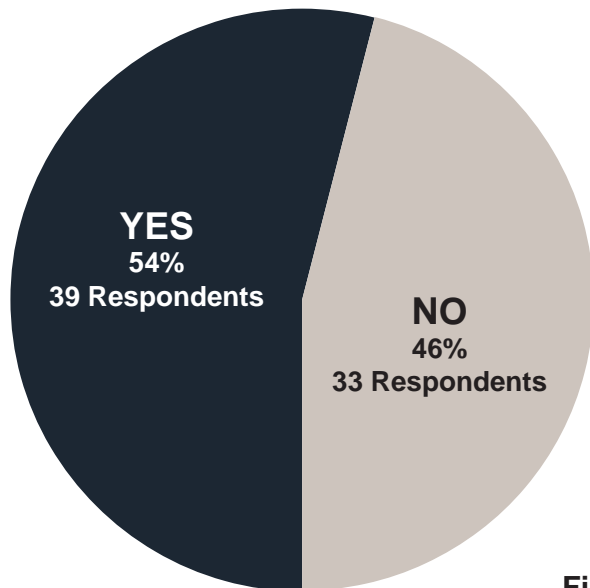
### 6.1 Forming a RAB

A RAB is one of several methods USACE uses to facilitate public participation by providing a collaborative forum for community stakeholders to discuss and identify concerns, opportunities, and goals for land use and remediation efforts for FUDS. A RAB exchanges information between USACE and community stakeholders.

Presently, organizational efforts are underway to form a RAB. The guidelines in this CRP will be used to update the community on organizational efforts and to conduct outreach and engagement for participation in the formation of a RAB, serving as a board member, or attending RAB meetings as an interested member of the community.

Next steps include forming a selection committee, selecting board members, establishing guidelines for operating a RAB, scheduling and updating the community about RAB membership and regular meetings.

## Would you be interested in becoming a RAB board member?



## Would you have interest in attending a RAB meeting if a board is formed?

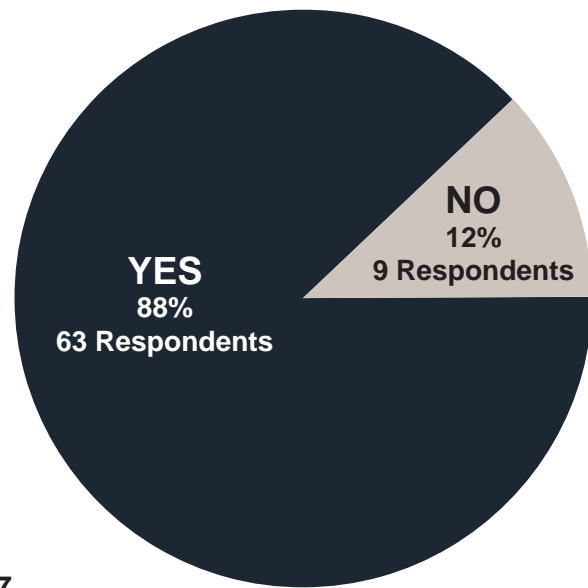


Figure 7

## 6.2 Administrative Record

The Administrative Record provides an online public repository of documents and information to allow future generations of residents and other stakeholders to understand the historical record of the former CNALF site, including how decisions were made along with providing the scientific, community, and cultural basis for those decisions. The Administrative Record contains environmental investigations, reports, and other information related to the former CNALF, including technical documents, Fact Sheets, Posters, and other information that helps provide understanding of the past, present, and future of CNALF. The electronic file is maintained on the USACE New England District website for the former CNALF: [nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Former-Charlestown-Naval-Auxiliary-Landing-Field](http://nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Former-Charlestown-Naval-Auxiliary-Landing-Field)



The CNALF web page also provides up-to-date information about ongoing work at the site, including public notices about meetings related to investigations and remediation.

## 7.0 CONTINUOUS FEEDBACK

USACE New England District is committed to taking into account the needs, interests, and concerns of the Charlestown community and the various stakeholder organizations involved in the former CNALF. By inviting continuous feedback as part of the CRP, USACE hopes to establish an ongoing, enduring relationship to allow citizens to provide input as the restoration process progresses.

Residents are invited to contact the USACE team using the Stakeholder and Contacts Directory in **Appendix F** of the CRP. Each team member's name and email address is available along with many other agencies, community organizations, and governing bodies. The USACE Project Team will incorporate a variety of tools such as surveys, question and answer sessions, and comments during meetings and special events in a combination of one-on-one discussions and more formalized data collection measures.

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# Appendix A

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## CNALF Site Maps



Aerial imagery from USGS (2014).

**SITE LOCATION**  
**FORMER NAVAL AUXILIARY LANDING FIELD**  
**CHARLESTOWN, RHODE ISLAND**


100 State Street, Suite 600  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
(802) 229-4600

Drawn by: DEB      Date: 03/27/2019  
Reviewed by: DVR      Date: 03/27/2019

Scale: 1 in = 2,000 ft      Project: 1-2128-17









0 400 800 1,600 2,400 3,200


Feet

Sources:  
Map of Auxiliary Air Station by U.S.N., June 30, 1951.  
URS, 1996.  
Alion, 2008.  
Aerial imagery from USGS (2014).  
Note: All locations and dimensions are approximate.

**Legend**

-  Military Munitions Response Program Munition Response Site
-  Historic Edge of Pavement
-  Project Area

**SITE LAYOUT**  
**FORMER NAVAL AUXILIARY LANDING FIELD**  
**CHARLESTOWN, RHODE ISLAND**

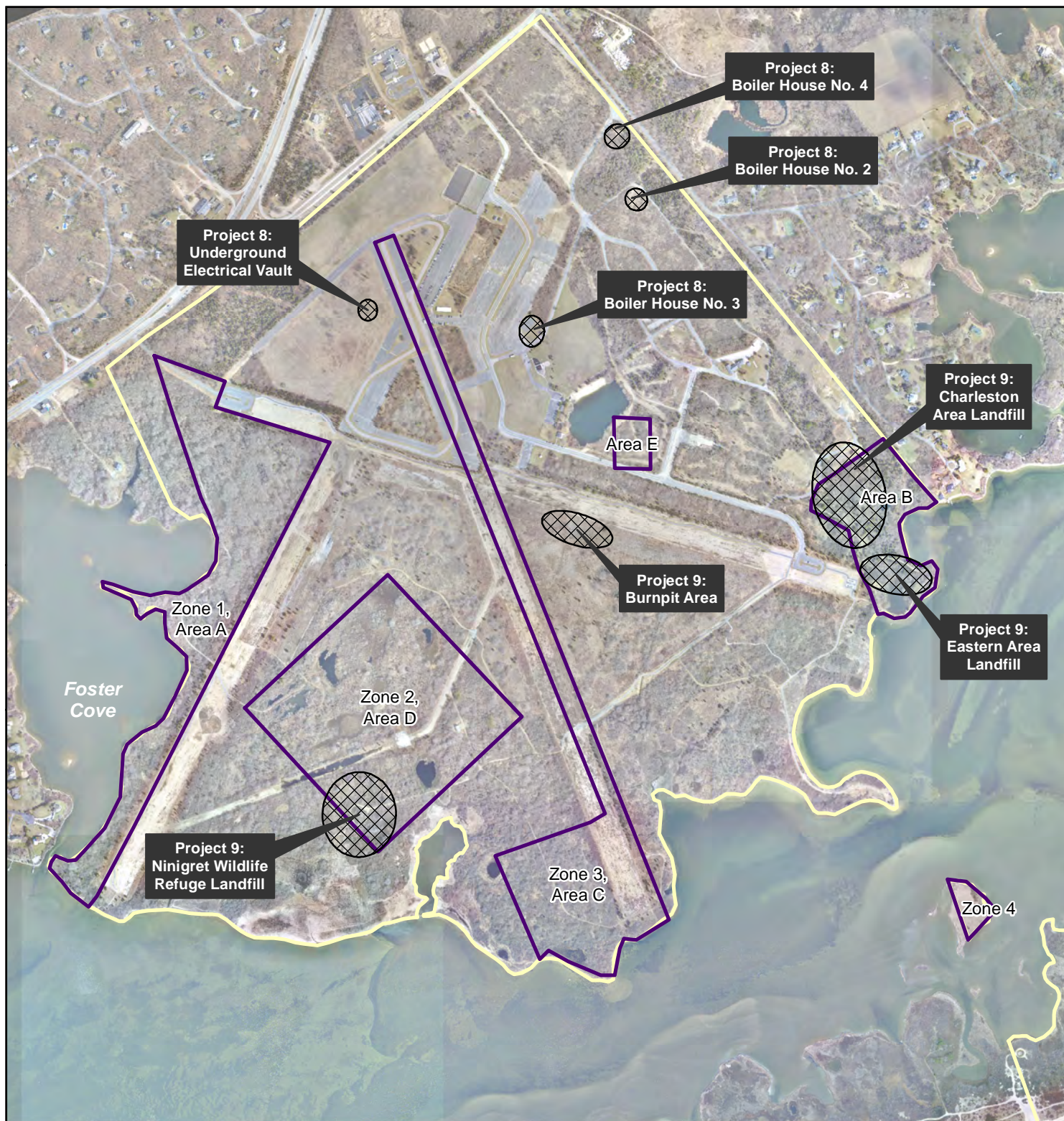


100 State Street, Suite 600 Montpelier, VT 05602 (802) 229-4600	
Drawn by: DEB	Date: 06/19/2018
Reviewed by: DVR	Date: 06/27/2018
Scale: 1 in = 800 ft	Project: 1-2128-17

K:\1-2128-17 CNALF\GISMXDs\Figure 1-2 Site Layout.mxd

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0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000  
Feet

Sources:

URS, 1996.

Aerial imagery from SkyResearch (2007).

Note: All locations and dimensions are approximate.

Area Designations are archaeologically sensitive sites defined by

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 1974.

Zone Designations are archaeologically sensitive sites defined by  
the Public Archaeology Laboratory, 1992.

### Legend



Project Area



Archaeological Sensitivity Area/Zone



Site Boundary

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY ZONES FORMER NAVAL AUXILIARY LANDING FIELD CHARLESTOWN, RHODE ISLAND



100 State Street, Suite 600  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
(802) 229-4600

Drawn by: DEB Date: 08/01/2018  
Reviewed by: DVR Date: 08/07/2018

Scale: 1 in = 1,000 ft Project: 1-2128-17

# Appendix B

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## CNALF Fact Sheet January 2025





Students learn about the environment of the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge during an educational visit. The refuge was part of the Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field in World War II. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Photo)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District (USACE) provides ongoing support and updates to the community about efforts to preserve and protect the formerly used defense site.

This Fact Sheet provides information about ongoing work and efforts to help the community be more informed about the beneficial reuse of the refuge and park area formerly used as the Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (CNALF).

## Introduction

CNALF is actively being investigated under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) as Formerly Used Defense Site Project Number D01RI0008. USACE has been tasked with performing a Remedial Investigation (RI) in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to understand the nature and extent of chemicals of potential concern and munitions and explosives of concern relating to former U.S. Navy operations.

## Background

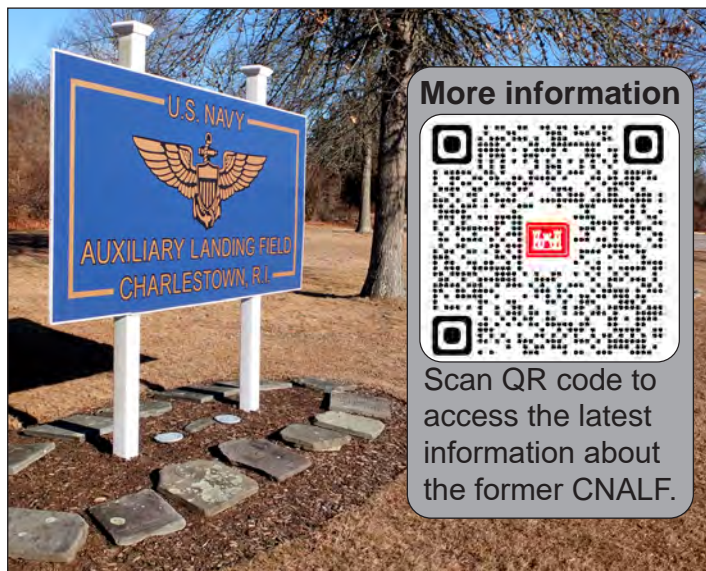
During World War II, between 1940 and 1942, the Navy acquired approximately 630 acres for the CNALF in Charlestown, Rhode Island. Pilots, flight

crews, and support personnel trained extensively at the landing field. The area also served as a support facility to Quonset Point Naval Air Station located in North Kingstown on Narragansett Bay.

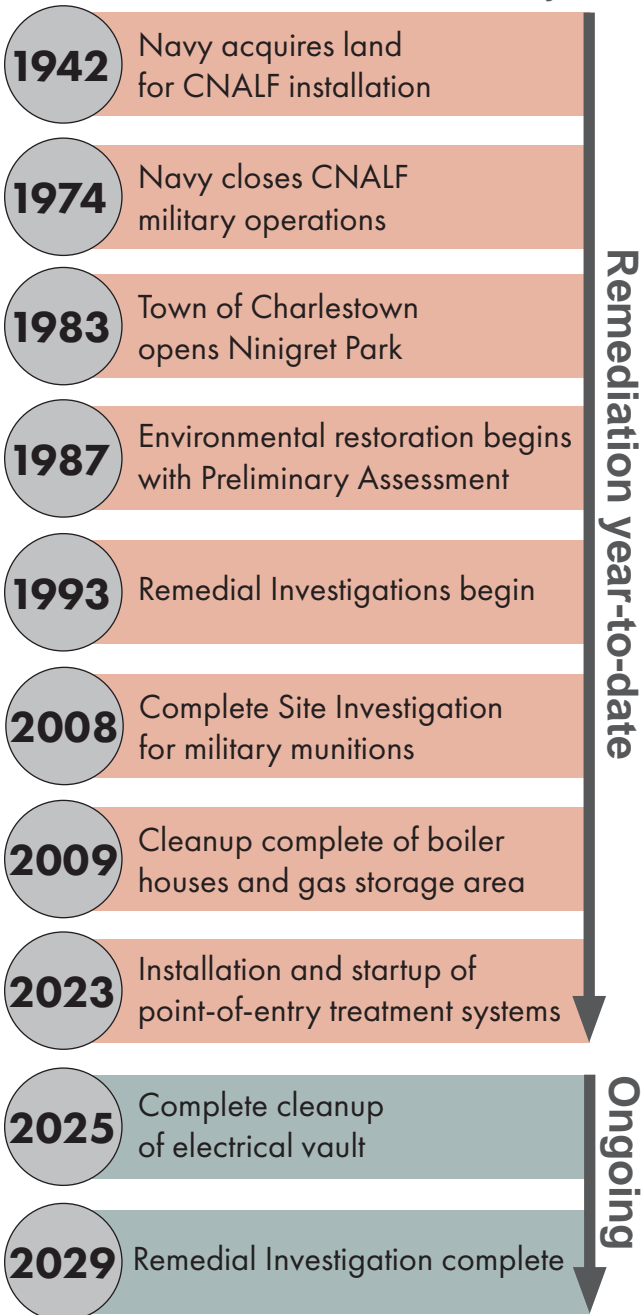
CNALF closed in the early 1970s with ownership of the land transferring to the Town of Charlestown and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1981 to be used for the benefit of the community and the citizens of Rhode Island. Today, the CNALF site serves as two areas for conservation and recreation: Ninigret Park and Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge.

## Environmental Investigations

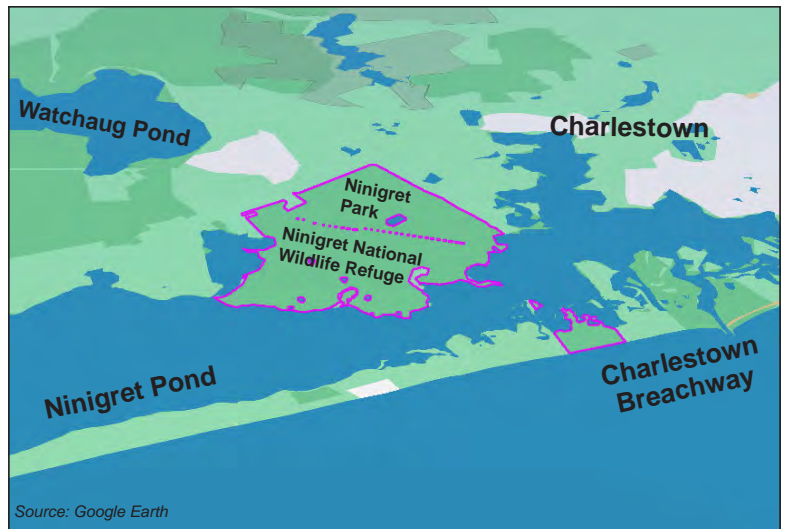
The RI consists of the collection, testing, and evaluation of surface and subsurface soil samples, sediment samples, surface water samples, and groundwater samples to evaluate potential current and future human health and environmental risks related to former U.S. Navy uses of the site. The RI approach was developed in collaboration with the Town of Charlestown, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, as documented in the RI Work Plan (March 24, 2023). The RI is planned to continue into 2026.



## CNALF Formerly Used Defense Site Timeline: 1942 to Present Day



The Grumman F6F-5N Hellcat night-fighter was one of the aircraft used to train pilots at CNALF in the 1940s. (National Archives Photo)



■ Boundary of CNALF Formerly Used Defense Site

### Restoration Advisory Board

A Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is one of several methods USACE uses to facilitate public participation by providing a collaborative forum for community stakeholders to discuss and identify concerns, opportunities, and goals for land use and remediation efforts for formerly used defense sites.

A RAB exchanges information between USACE and community stakeholders. RAB members review and comment on technical documents and plans related to environmental studies and restoration activities. RAB members serve as a liaison between the community and USACE and are available to meet with community members and groups to answer questions.

USACE held a public meeting on January 8, 2025, at the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge Kettle Pond Visitor Center and conducted a questionnaire to determine community concerns, interest in the RAB process, identify volunteers who might serve on a board, and to answer questions about work and future plans at the former CNALF.

### Contact us

Please contact us with questions or comments about the CNALF FUDS:

#### USACE, NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

Gregory Hencir  
696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742

**Phone:** 978-318-8873

**Email:** [gregory.m.hencir@usace.army.mil](mailto:gregory.m.hencir@usace.army.mil)

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**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
New England District



**U.S. ARMY**

# Appendix C

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## CNALF Posters January 2025



## CNALF Historical Photos



**Contact information**

Phone: 978-318-8873

Email: gregory.m.hencir@usace.army.m

### Water Supply Area



### Burn Pit used for Firefighting Training



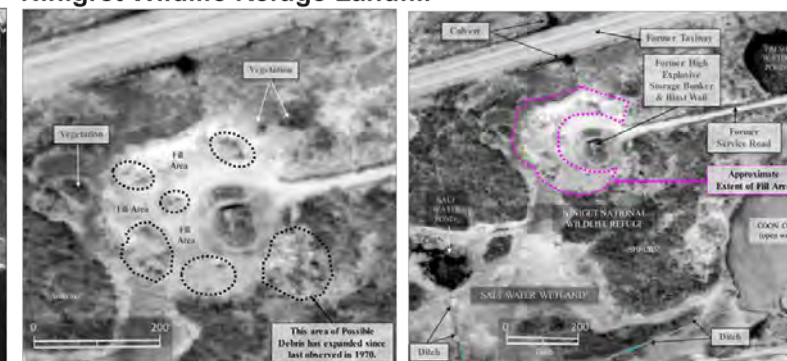
### Eastern Area Landfill



### Charlestown Landfill



### Ninigret Wildlife Refuge Landfill



Source: Historical Environmental Photographic Analysis prepared by U.S. Army Geospatial Center, August 2018





# Federal Cleanup Program



**Contact information**  
**Phone:** 978-318-8873  
**Email:** gregory.m.hencir@usace.army.m

Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (CNALF) is a Formerly Used Defense Site under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program. The cleanup process follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

## CERCLA Process\*



*\*A removal action may be initiated at any time during the process if imminent threat to human health, safety, or environment exists.*



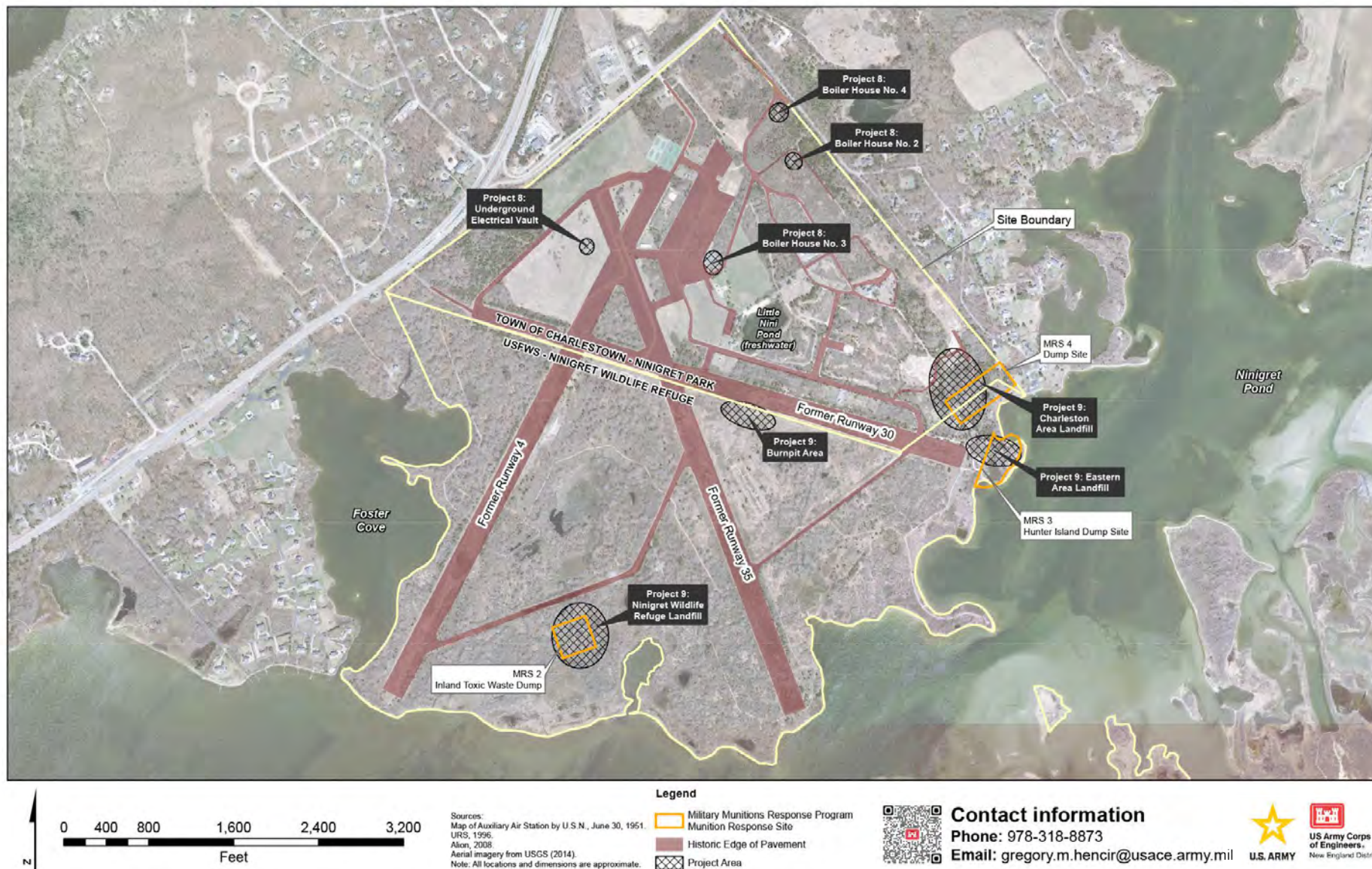
## Remedial Investigation Tasks

- Wetland Delineation
- Vegetative Cover and Invasive Species Surveys
- Mobilization, Demobilization
- Vegetation Clearing
- Geophysical Surveying
- Tapwater Sampling
- Test Pit Excavation and Soil Sampling
- Surface and Subsurface Soil Sampling
- Sediment, Surface Water, and Porewater Sampling
- Background Soil, Sediment, and Surface Water Sampling
- Monitoring Well Installation, Well Rehabilitation, Bedrock Borehole Geophysical Logging
- Monitoring Well Sampling and Water Level Monitoring
- Groundwater Modeling, Data Validation, Analysis, and Reporting
- Public Communication





# Former Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field







# What is a Restoration Advisory Board?

**A RAB is a community-based board that meets regularly with USACE to review progress and provide input about environmental restoration**

- Made up of community volunteers and government members
- Have Community and USACE Co-Chairs as equal partners with the authority to undertake RAB chairperson responsibilities
- Establish a mission statement with goals and described purpose
- Develop and implement operating procedures to guide RAB members and RAB governance



## RAB Roles and Responsibilities

Facilitator	Public	Tribal	State Regulatory Agency	USFWS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neutral</li> <li>• Provide technical advice</li> <li>• Ensure all viewpoints are considered</li> <li>• Ensure all agenda items are addressed</li> <li>• Monitor the progress of action items between RAB meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in community RAB meetings</li> <li>• Observe rules and operating procedures at meetings or when interacting with RAB members</li> <li>• Ask questions to ensure understanding of RAB activities and impact on the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend RAB meetings</li> <li>• Ensure tribal env. standards and regulations are identified and addressed</li> <li>• Educate RAB members regarding tribal sovereignty, tribal laws and their application to the property</li> <li>• Assist with RAB member education and training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend RAB meetings</li> <li>• Ensure state env. standards and regulations are identified and addressed</li> <li>• Serve as an information, referral and resource</li> <li>• Assist with RAB member education and training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend RAB meetings</li> <li>• Ensure federal environment standards and regulations are identified and addressed</li> <li>• Assist with RAB member education and training</li> </ul>

### Contact information

Phone: 978-318-8873

Email: [gregory.m.hencir@usace.army.mil](mailto:gregory.m.hencir@usace.army.mil)



# Appendix D

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## Results of Community Questionnaire December 2024-February 2025



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New England District

## Community Questionnaire Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (CNALF) January 2025



### RESPONDENT INFORMATION

Personal information will not be made public.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How long have you lived or worked in this community?

2. Are you familiar with the history of Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, which today consists of Ninigret Park and Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

### COMMUNITY CONCERNS

3. Are you aware the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting environmental investigations and cleanup at the site?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

6. Are you aware of any environmental concerns at the Ninigret Park or at the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

4. Are you aware that from the 1940s to the 1970s, military munitions (such as bombs and ammunition) were used for training and were stored at the Former Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

7. Rank in order of importance the issues that seem of the greatest interest or concern by assigning a number (1-10) with 1 being the most important.

- |                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| ___ Crime       | ___ Health Care         |
| ___ Drug Abuse  | ___ Housing             |
| ___ Economy     | ___ Land-Use            |
| ___ Education   | ___ Taxes               |
| ___ Environment | ___ Other (Please list) |

5. Have you ever found any unidentified item on your property or in Ninigret Park or the Wildlife Refuge that caused concern?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

If you were to find such an item, which statement is most accurate?

- ☐ I would know how to report the item.  
☐ I would not know how to report the item.

8. Have any of your friends or neighbors talked with you about any concerns at Ninigret Park or the Wildlife Refuge?

- ☐ Yes If yes, do you recall the concerns?  
☐ No \_\_\_\_\_

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US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New England District

## Community Questionnaire

### Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (CNALF)

January 2025

9. How would you characterize the community interest or concerns about the ongoing environmental investigations and cleanup at Ninigret Park and the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge?

☐ Very High    ☐ Somewhat High    ☐ Neutral    ☐ Somewhat Low    ☐ Very Low

10. How concerned are you that the land used as the Former Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field might be harmful to each of the following? (Check one for each item)

Concern	Not Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Concerned	Very Concerned	Not Applicable
My Health or My Family's Health					
Environment					
Property Values					
Jobs					
Businesses					
Historical or Cultural Integrity					
Site Reuse/ Development					

#### COMMUNITY INFORMATION

11. How frequently would you like to receive updates about the work being conducted at Ninigret Park and the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge?

☐ Monthly                      ☐ Annually  
☐ Bi-monthly                  ☐ Only when something significant happens.  
☐ Quarterly                    ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New England District

## Community Questionnaire Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (CNALF) January 2025

### 12. How would you prefer to receive information about investigations and environmental cleanup at Ninigret Park and the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge?

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> USACE Updates sent to your home or email | <input type="checkbox"/> Websites (not Radio, TV or Newspaper) | <input type="checkbox"/> USACE Fact Sheets sent to your home or email |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Organizations                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Television                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Visits                           |   |

### 13. What individuals or organizations do you consider most trustworthy when it comes to environmental issues? (Check all that apply)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Charlestown                            | <input type="checkbox"/> State Elected Officials              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Officials Elected to National Office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Law Enforcement                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Media (Newspaper/TV/Radio)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Fire and Rescue                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Organizations                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Groups                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency           | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Owners Associations (HOA)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Elected Officials                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                          |

### 14. Could we add you to an e-mail list to receive updates about USACE's environmental restoration project at Ninigret Park and the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge land?

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### 15. Can you suggest anyone, such as a friend, neighbor, group, or community leader, who we should possibly add to an email list? Their information will not be made public.

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### RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

### 16. One goal of this questionnaire is to determine if the community would like to form a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the environmental cleanup at the former Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field. A RAB is a community-based panel that meets quarterly with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to review progress and provide input.

Would you attend a quarterly RAB meeting if a board is formed?

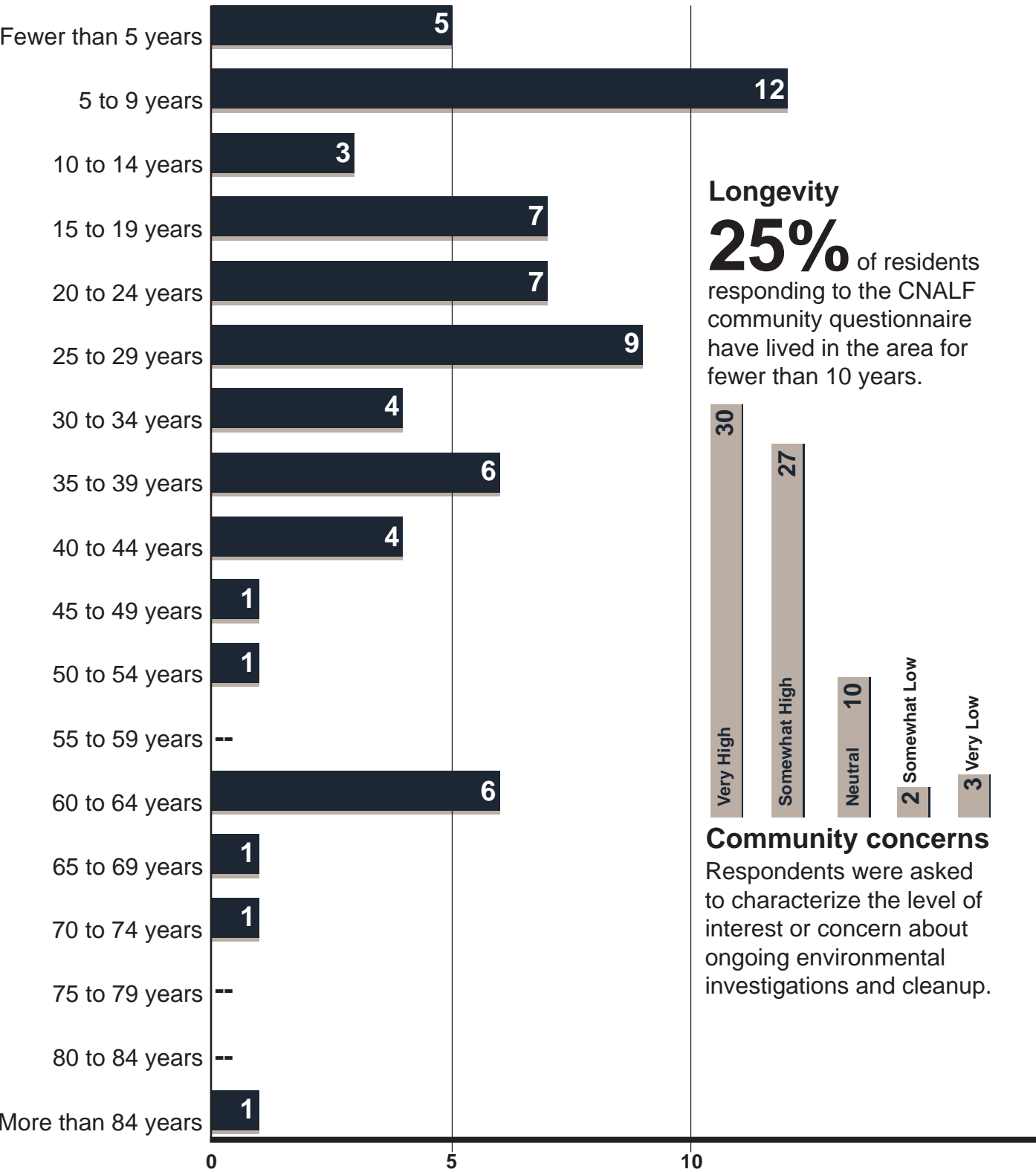
- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

Would you be interested in becoming a RAB board member?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

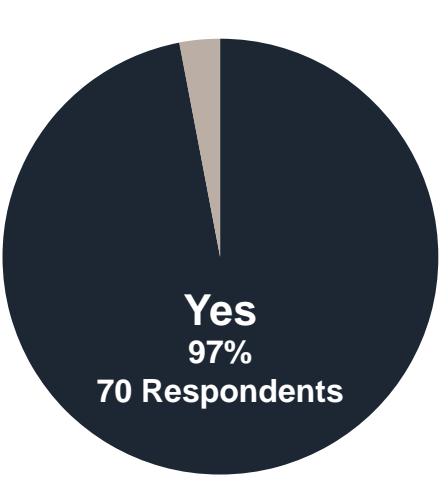
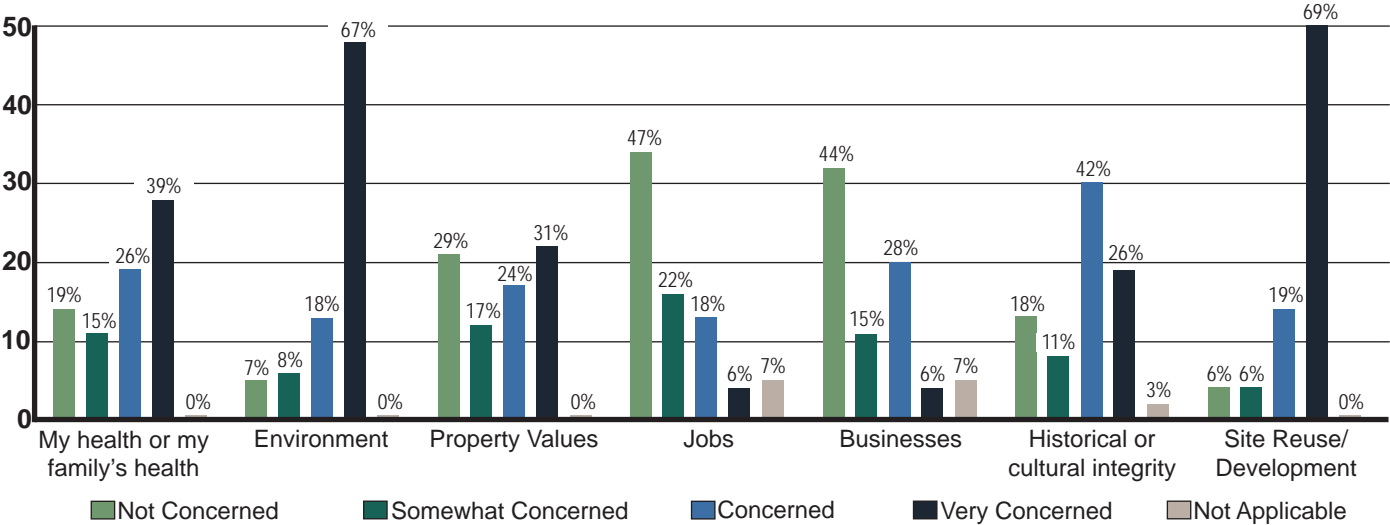
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## How long have you lived or worked in this community?

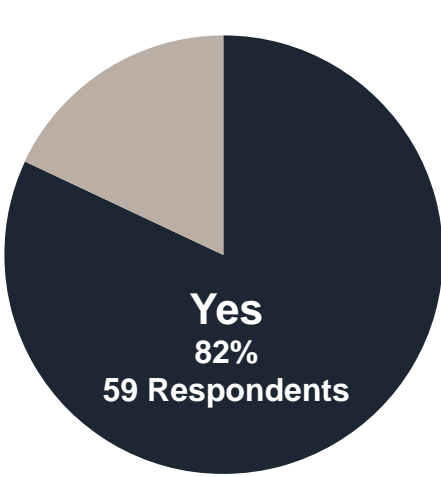




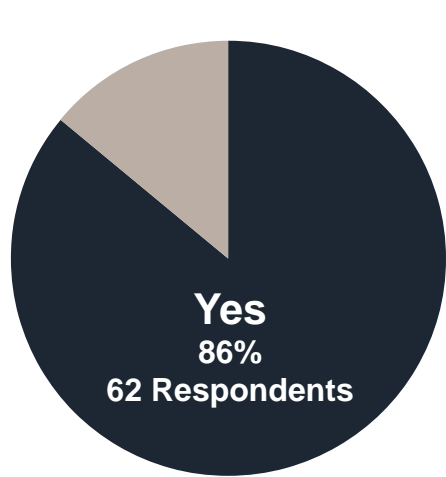
How concerned are you that land used as the Former CNALF might be harmful to each of the following? (Check one for each item)



Are you familiar with the history of Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, which today consists of Ninigret Park and Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge?

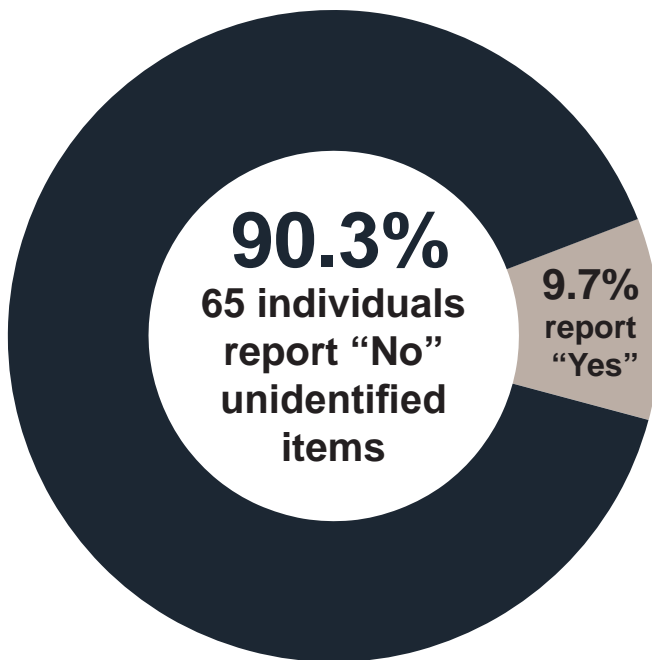


Are you aware the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting environmental investigations and cleanup at the site?

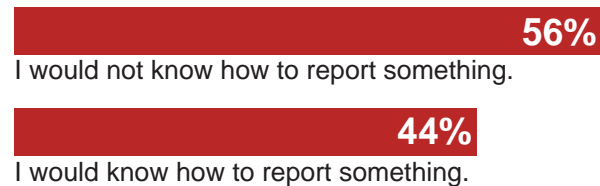


Are you aware that from the 1940s to the 1970s, military munitions were used for training and stored at the Former Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field?

## Have you ever found any unidentified item on your property or in Ninigret Park or the Wildlife Refuge that caused concern?



### If you were to find such an item, would you know how to report it?



## Follow the 3 Rs when encountering possible munitions or munitions debris

Munitions are dangerous and may not be easily recognizable. Never touch, move or disturb munitions or suspected munitions. Munitions, including their components (e.g., projectiles, fuzes, rocket motors), could contain high explosives, propellant or pyrotechnics. Munitions should never be collected as souvenirs or "trophies." No matter how old or damaged a munition may look, it can still be as or more dangerous than the day it was made.

### Recognize

Recognizing when you may have encountered a munition is key to reducing the risk of injury or death. If you encounter or suspect you may have encountered a munition, consider it extremely dangerous. Remember, munitions are sometimes hard to identify.

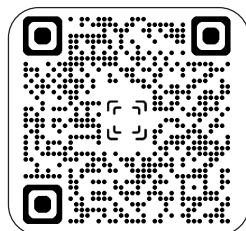
### Retreat

If you encounter or suspect you may have encountered a munition, do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but immediately and carefully — do not run — leave the area following the same path that you entered from. If you can, mark the general area, not the munition itself, with a hat, piece of cloth, or tie a marker to a branch.

### Report

When you think you may have encountered a munition, notify local law enforcement — call 911.

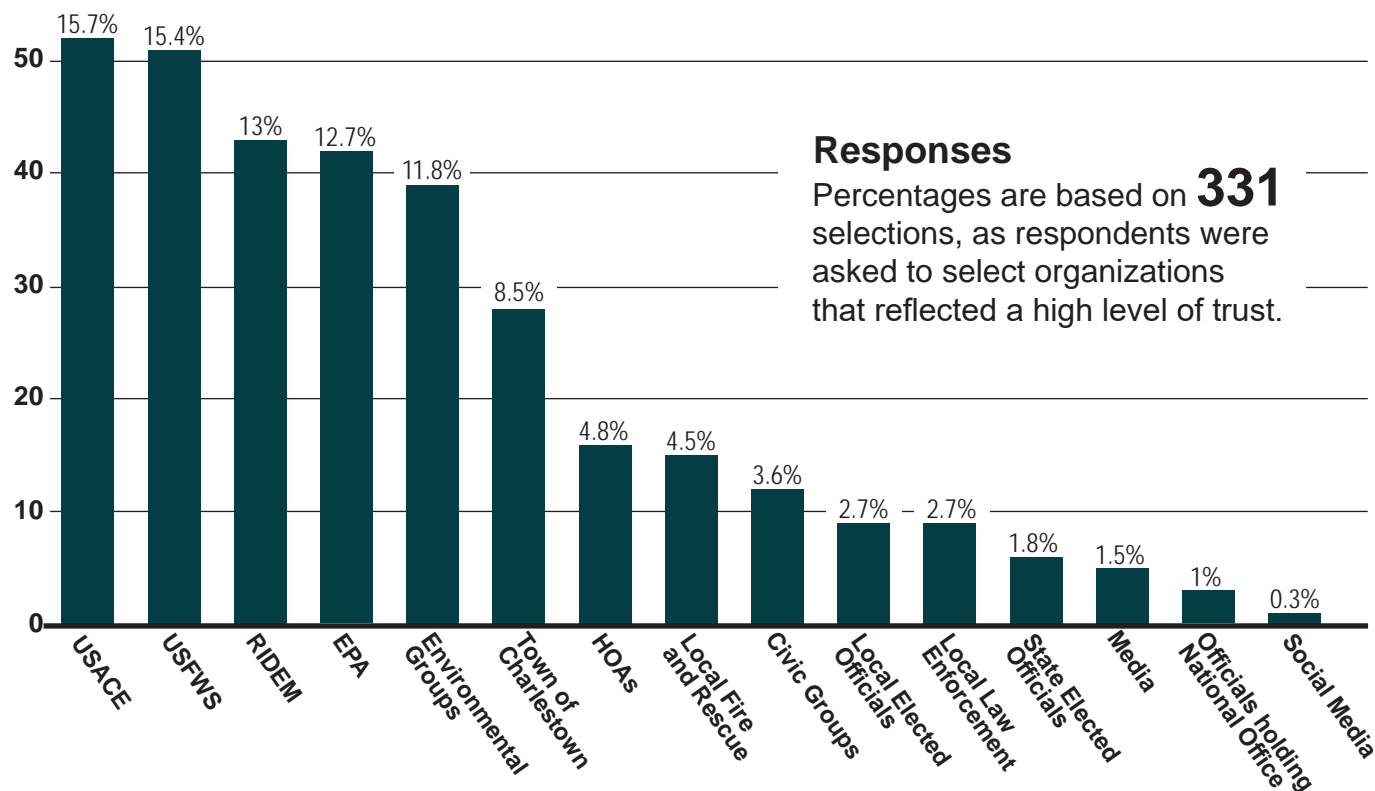
## Don't forget the 3 Rs



Scan code to connect to <https://3rs.mil/>



## What individuals or organizations do you consider most trustworthy when it comes to environmental issues? (Check all that apply)



### Other responses

Respondents provided the following additional "Other" responses:

- Charlestown Citizens Alliance (3)
- Save the Bay
- Salt Ponds Coalition
- URI/academic organizations
- Local leaders who are focused on environmental issues.
- Local Political Organizations Focused on Environmental Preservation of Ninigret Park and the Wildlife Refuge.

### Organizational acronyms

**USACE** ..... U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

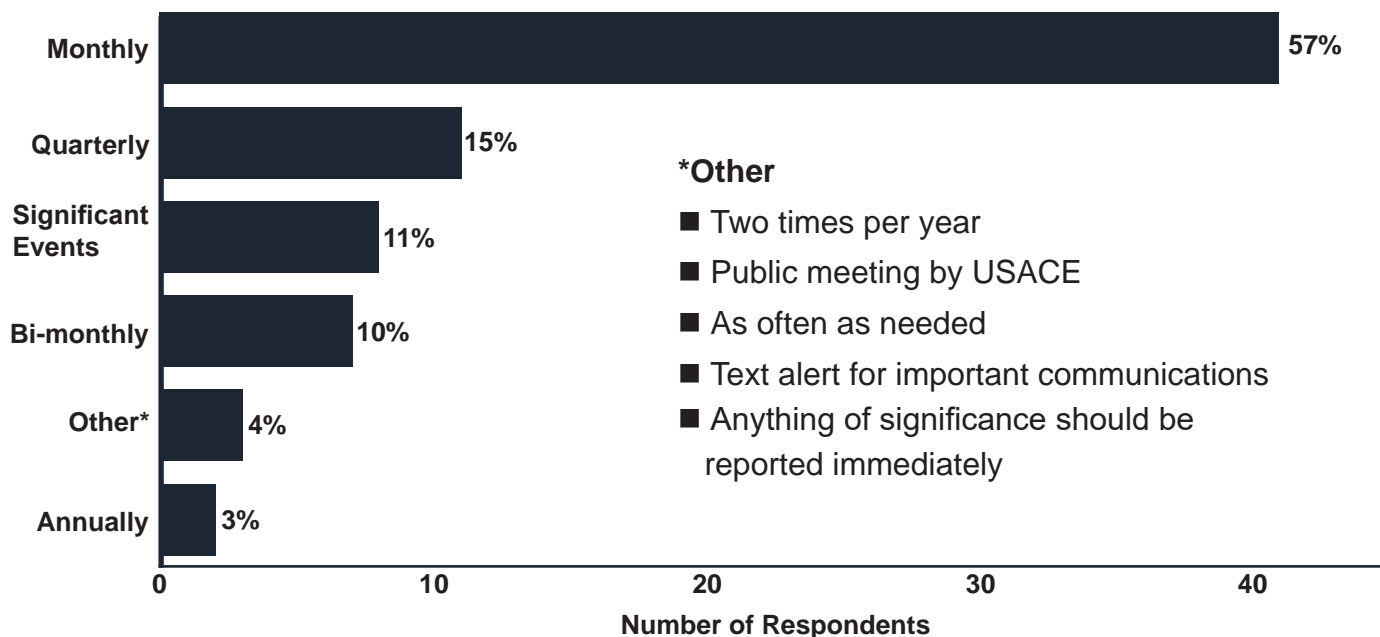
**USFWS** ..... U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**RIDEM** ..... Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

**EPA** ..... U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**HOAs** ..... Home Owners Associations

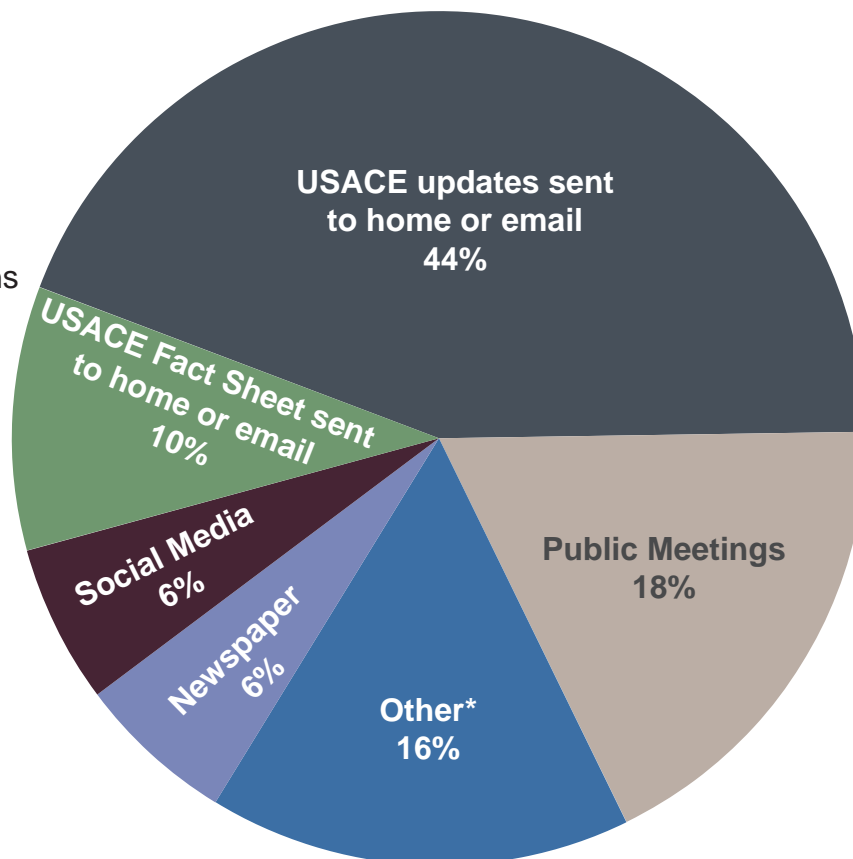
## How frequently would you like to receive updates about the work being conducted at Ninigret Park and the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge?



## How would you prefer to receive information? (select top 3)

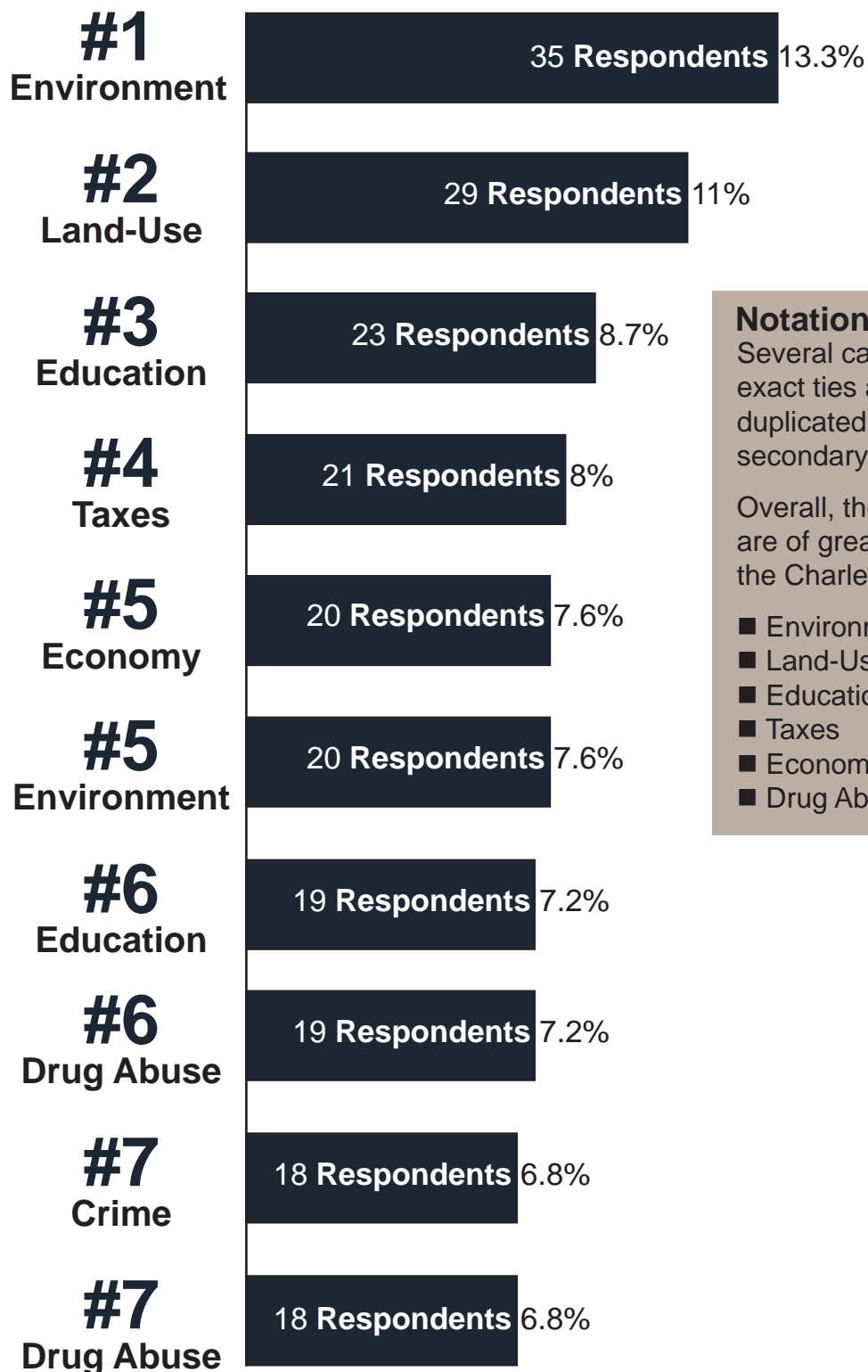
### \*Other Selections Receiving clicks

- Community Organizations
- Websites (non-news)
- Home Visits
- Television
- Signage inside park
- Text Updates/Facebook
- Radio





## Rank in order of importance the issues that seem of the greatest interest or concern



### Notations on data

Several categories were exact ties and several were duplicated as primary and secondary concerns.

Overall, the following issues are of greatest importance to the Charlestown community:

- Environment
- Land-Use
- Education
- Taxes
- Economy
- Drug Abuse

## Are you aware of any environmental concerns at the Ninigret Park or at the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge?

### Please provide any details

*Comments from respondents have not been edited.*

Water quality from fire fighting foam

Must keep all the wildlife, especially the birds safe!

I'm aware that the burn products from the burn pits have polluted soil in the park, as well as some water wells close to the park

An effort to turn to ruin Ninigret Park & turn it into a \$30M Entertainment, Ice Skating etc monstrosity and ignoring the Dark Skies, Native flora & fauna, Birds etc - essentially ruining Mother Nature.

PFAS contamination

Concern about the sources and extent of PFAS contamination, possible unexploded ordinance in two Navy dumps, other possible contaminants in waste dumps and in areas not yet investigated, and residual aviation fuel in area of former tank farm (ELUR needed).

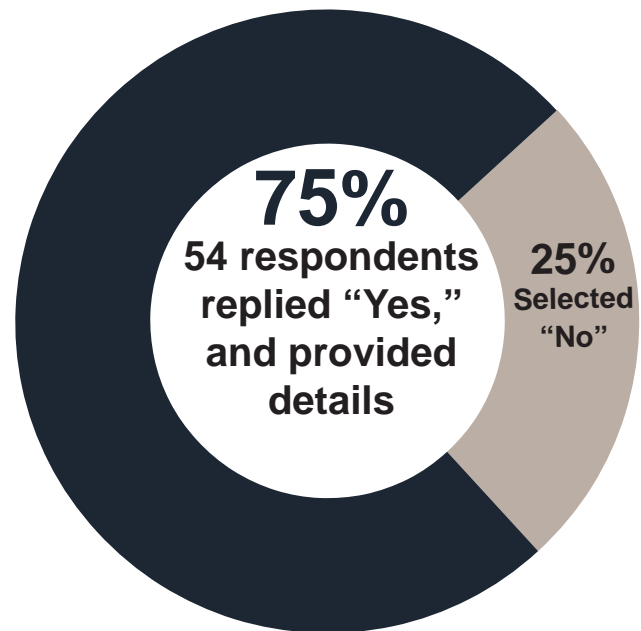
Some poor water quality concerns (like high nutrients and sometimes bacteria) in Ninigret Pond

Contaminates from various sources from when it was a landing field and PFAS

PCB

Resident in the nearby community, Arnolda, have a polluted well.

That no digging, or building should be done without prior notice to Army Corps. PFAS in



wells is being monitored. Lots of invasive plants. Does their removal at any time cause you concern.

Toxic waste, disruption of wild life by human activity

The kayak boar launch area is orange. This is NOT a normal water color

buried 50 gallon drums of chemicals when base was closed - used on the runways for crash landings

I understand that PFAS are in the ground water

Myself and neighbors have issues with our water. I have also been told of other areas of the park that can have jeeps and other equipment buried underground during the Navy moveout.

Several items are buried throughout the park.



## Community Relations Plan

Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (CNALF), Charlestown, Rhode Island

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### (Details continued from Page 47)

*Comments from respondents have not been edited.*

water quality concerns Not allowed to disturb the soil in areas of concern

Toxic waste Compromised groundwater All the ramifications of the previous use as a naval base.

Waste from military operations needs to be removed

I have hazardous chemicals in my well water. They exist now and could potentially get worse, especially if there is future development in the park.

Undocumented burial of hazardous materials which was a common practice at military bases historically. Your records may not tell you accurately where to look or how much to look for.

I know that some drinking wells near Ninigret Park have been contaminated with PFAS. I don't have any other details.

Concerns include It's former use by the military and unknown chemical/storage at the facility. I have no specific knowledge regarding use by the military that has impacted the environment except the obvious infrastructure impact.

PFAS contamination in groundwater, Little Nini pond and possibly in Ninigret Pond. Unexploded ordinance buried onsite and in the pond.

I'm aware of PFAS contamination found in the groundwater and that munitions may exist in certain areas.

Because of how the CNALF was used in the past, there are concerns about potential environmental impact around the development

of the park and the clean up of both the park and the wildlife refuge. Importantly, the presence of "forever chemicals" impacting the ground water and drinking water in our community needs to be better understood.

checking for oil refuge at the landing site and not to mention the drag racing bottom line protecting our "pristine environment" and our precious water supply keep up the good work

There are toxic wastes in various locations that include some PFAS's. I believe that some of these wastes may have infiltrated the ground water, although more study is probably required. There are possibly munitions from many decades ago. At a different level of concern (but still important), there has been a massive growth of invasive species in the park that has had a significant impact on the wildlife, particularly in a reduction of the diversity of bird species.

The water is poisoned with PFAS and there are potential dumpsites and other debris buried.

PFAS is in my water source. My property is extremely proximate to the Ninigret Park.

Ongoing issues associated with increased severity and volatility of extreme weather, adaptation, resiliency and mitigation challenges associated with climate change. Nothing particularly acute or specific outside current long term planning taking place.

Groundwater contamination, degraded asphalt

Our property borders the east side of the park. I have spent many hours over the years exploring the neighboring property. Among other things I have found under ground septic tanks, numerous cement foundations, old fifty gallon drums, under ground electrical box, fluid hydrant and piping, mounds of building

## Community Relations Plan

Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (CNALF), Charlestown, Rhode Island

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### (Details continued from Page 48)

*Comments from respondents have not been edited.*

materials, wires, pipes, metal scraps and assorted garbage.

Disturbing wildlife in adjacent USFW nNational Refuge. Disrupting migration sites. Disrupting spring breeding terr.

I am a regular visitor to the park. 1. I did notice the covered dumpster at the far end of the bicycle track - I assume there is hazardous material in it. 2. When walking on the paved area that is parallel to the soccer fields, I've noticed a moderately heavy fuel/oil/bitumin odor which I suspect emanates from the ground or the metal-capped cement wells.

I know there are high levels of contamination that have been explored for many years.

possible development of recreational facilities in Ninigret Park that will negatively impact bird migration and use of observatory due to light pollution. growth of invasive plant species near kayak launch impact on dune resilience and habitat due to vehicles allowed to drive on beachface lack of environmental public education programs on site ex: nature center remains closed

There is contamination from fire suppression, buried ammunitions, old dump, and asphalt.

Ground water pollution Surface pollution  
Potentially buried toxic chemicals Potentially buried munitions/materials

We have our water tested and I have been involved attending town meetings regarding these issues. I've also mapped out various sites that might be of concern and have shared them with Greg.

safety/health. Overuse Impact on town and flyway.

In the SoEast sector there is residual toxins buried - and affecting drinking water of certain Arnolda colony residences. It is a matter of record. Please review the original documentation which 'stated' purpose and use of the original acquisition of the Park. Commercialization of the parcel(s) was not the original intent of the community. And the intent of the citizens, and the community in general. Keep it defined as 'open space' and 'recreational' use as it was intended



## Have any of your friends or neighbors talked about any concerns at Ninigret Park or the Wildlife Refuge?

### Please provide any details

*Comments from respondents have not been edited.*

Water quality and noise from the summer concert series

Keeping it as natural as possible.

There is a land use/study going on for improvements to Ninigret Park to provide enhanced facilities. While many of the proposed enhancements are good, one concept shows a music venue at the north end, which is closest to the housing community, both existing and in development. This makes no sense. Put it closer to the center or south end of the park.

Our neighborhood abuts Ninigret Park, so we are very concerned about the water quality issues. Additionally, the town is considering developing areas of the park which could potentially disturb polluted soil and/or remediation work you have planned

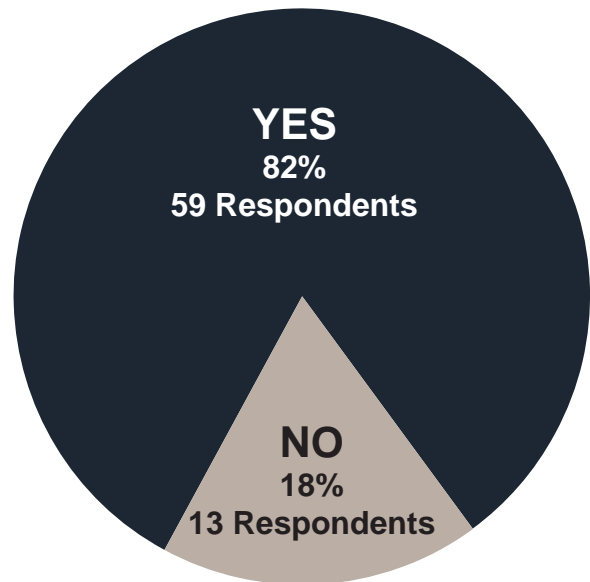
As above including safe drinking water.

Concerns that development proposals for the park would be detrimental to the goals of the refuge by disrupting bird migration and ignoring the dark sky status. Pollution from contaminants due to any excavation of the park and the potential cost to the town is a great concern. The lack of concern on the part of some town officials is disturbing.

Invasive plant, groundwater

Water wells not potable

Creating a permanent music venue would be devastating to the neighborhood. The local infrastructure just can't handle the little excessive use of the park as it is. Any increase



in use of park should require an increase of local infrastructure

Recent investigations by Army Corps have raised awareness of issues PFAS contamination and use of the property by the Navy. Discussion has centered on a need for education regarding the investigations (and what is not being investigated) and discussion about the remediation warranted.

further development

Concerns over water quality, public access, open space, green space, what to do about the big expanse of parking lot/impervious surface at the Park

When the town first considered a location for one of the Thomas Dambo trolls, there was hysteria over one of the locations that there were unexploded munitions in that area. For many years, town staff have been dumping rocks in that same area with no concern. Once a new location was found for the troll, no one has expressed any concern about the munitions. I don't recall seeing any proof these large explosives were ever there.

## Community Relations Plan

Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (CNALF), Charlestown, Rhode Island

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### (Details continued from Page 50)

*Comments from respondents have not been edited.*

health and safety

My brother and family live adjacent to Ninigret Park

Use of Ninigret Park for more concerts is a major concern for many reasons.

permanent venue and lighting

Most residents do not want to develop the Park, yet Town Council is proceeding with a \$40 Million master plan for development

Neighbors along edge of Park have poluted wells from the old air base

When large events are held at the park it causes traffic and noise issues in the area. We do not need additional large events.

Concerns about contamination of drinking water

environmental issues abandoned old ugly air field invasive plants all over the place soil and water concerns

What would happen if it becomes a super fund sight and how the toxic waste will affect the ground water and the pond

They want it restricted and not used

We are concerned about overdevelopment of the park. We like it as it is now. We are not interested in trying to make the park a revenue generator, especially with the ideas that are being floated without much research into their potential for success.

Undocumented burial of hazardous materials which was a common practice at military bases historically. Your records may not tell you accurately where to look or how much to look for.

Concerned about any future entertainment development at Ninigret Park that would draw large crowds, increasing traffic and impacting the environment; concerned about the pollution in the park from the military use of the park; and concerned that the PFAS will/are polluting our drinking wells and polluting Ninigret Pond.

TC attempts to commercialize Ninigret Park (music & food truck venue, sports and entertainment). Inappropriate given adjacency to FW refuge.

safety/health. Overuse Impact on town and flyway.

Recreational use vs habitat disturbance  
Safety of using this space for recreation given military use history Visitor use impact to wildlife sanctuary

Soil and groundwater contamination

No one wants the plan being considered, especially the entertainment venue. This will draw crowds and crime. No one has mentioned pollution.

Excessive sound during events

I've talked about the issues with friends, and also heard these issues brought up at town meetings regarding Ninigret Park. I was with a friend recently who grew up in the area and played in the abandoned buildings at Ninigret as a kid! Re my answer to #9 - I don't think there's enough concern in town about these issues, particularly from the town council. In my opinion, they seem very blase about the potential for harm to residents and the environment. And based on the fact that they were overwhelmingly elected over the more environmentally concerned candidates, I am guessing many people in town aren't concerned, or are simply uninformed. (P.S. - I retired from the EPA lab in Narragansett 2 years

## Community Relations Plan

Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (CNALF), Charlestown, Rhode Island

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### (Details continued from Page 51)

*Comments from respondents have not been edited.*

ago, so maybe I have heightened awareness of PFAS compared to most people).

The park and its environmental concerns have been a topic of discussion in our neighborhood.

water and land contamination. Lack of balance between development of park and preservation and quality of land, water and ponds

water and lights

Yes, we would like to see long-term commitment by Federal, State and Local government agencies to the implementation of constructive, science-based actions to address the problems I have identified in question 6 above. There are multiple agencies involved at the different levels of government, creating a complex problem-solving environment. Therefore, effective and coordinated communication, as well as community engagement, are crucial. We believe the creation of a Restoration Advisory Board would contribute to more action and more success.

PFAS, what the town might do to disturb the dumpsites and create further clean up, too much development and too many loud activities at the park disturbing both wildlife and neighbors.

PFAS and the development of the park are our major concerns

water quality. Our daughter has MS and we would like to know if the water we have been drinking for 40 yrs has something to do with it.

Excessive night time light disturbing bird migration and astronomical science and education at Ninnigret Park observatory

The future use/preservation of the Park is a "hot topic" in Charlestown and an issue that is part

of the political landscape. ~80% of the people responding to a recent survey about the Park expressed opposition to other than passive recreational activities at the Park - including opposition to creating a concert/event arena and to adding towers and lights to the various fields at the Park.

misuse of lights. Interfering with bird migration. Cleanup of pollution at airfield

With housing going in and it being so close to Ninigret pond we question whether the area has been completely evaluated for risk. I don't trust the current Town council to represent the needs of the entire town. The the best recent survey taken suggested that the majority of taxpayers in the town did not want Ninigret developed yet they continued to make plans to do so.

beauty of this nature refuge and the town park. concerns that Charlestown will ignore its Dark Skies designation

We have an ongoing relationship with the Army Corps.

My neighborhood association, the Arnolda Improvement Corp, is very concerned with the possible development of Ninigret Park based on the recent town plan.

Development of Park into a major events center - not the intended use of this space at the time of its transition to the Town of Charlestown nor consistent with the wildlife refuge

safety/health. Overuse Impact on town and flyway.

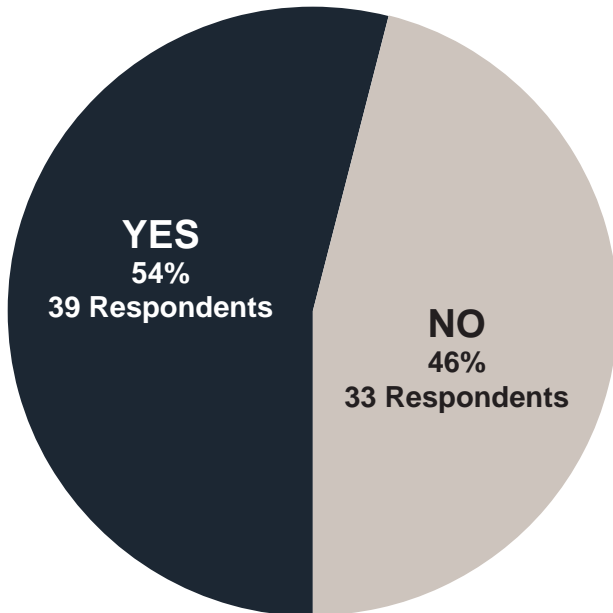
AIC as an association has historically advocated maintaining the space as 'open'; not to be commercially developed.

PFAS, Oil and fuel unknown hazmat

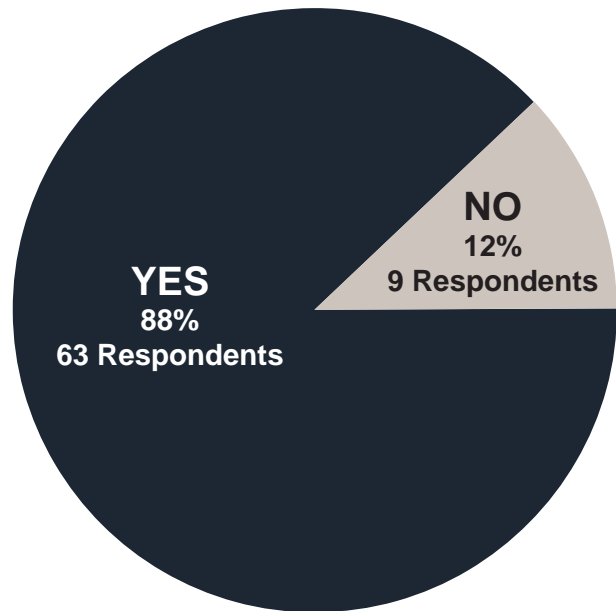


### Interest in RAB participation

**Would you be interested  
in becoming a RAB board  
member?**



**Would you have interest in  
attending a RAB meeting  
if a board is formed?**



## Appendix E

### Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Fact Sheet

# Perfluoroalkyls - ToxFAQs™

## What are perfluoroalkyls?

Perfluoroalkyls are a group of man-made chemicals that are not found naturally in the environment. Some chemicals that are in this group include: perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA).



The two perfluoroalkyls made in the largest amounts in the United States were PFOA and PFOS. Perfluoroalkyls were used to protect products like carpet and fabric, and as a coating for paper and cardboard packaging. They can also be found in some firefighting foams.

## Where are perfluoroalkyls found in the environment?

Perfluoroalkyls can be found in air, soil, and water as a result of manufacture and use. They do not break down in the environment very easily. Perfluoroalkyls can seep through the soil into groundwater.

## How can I be exposed to perfluoroalkyls?

You may be exposed to perfluoroalkyls in the air; in indoor dust, food, and water; and in some home products. However, the main sources of exposure to perfluoroalkyls, such as PFOA and PFOS, are usually from eating food and drinking water that are contaminated with these chemicals. Because exposure is widespread, blood tests can find PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, and PFHxS in most people. However, in general, human blood levels of these chemicals are going down as exposures in the environment goes down.

Babies born to mothers exposed to PFAS can be exposed during pregnancy and while breastfeeding. However, nursing mothers should continue to breastfeed. Based on current science, the benefits of breastfeeding appear to outweigh the risks for infants exposed to PFAS in breast milk. To weigh the risks and benefits of breastfeeding, mothers should contact their doctors. Children can be exposed to perfluoroalkyls in carpet since they are closer to the ground and play on the floor.

**Exposure to perfluoroalkyls is widespread. The main sources in the environment is contaminated food and water.**

Workers in facilities that make or use perfluoroalkyls can be exposed to higher amounts of these chemicals and may have higher levels in their blood. Some communities near factories that made PFOA and PFOS were exposed to high levels of these substances in drinking water.

## How can perfluoroalkyls affect my health?

A large number of studies have examined possible relationships between levels of perfluoroalkyls in blood and harmful health effects in people. However, not all of these studies involved the same groups of people, the same type of exposure, or the same perfluoroalkyls, resulting in a variety of observed health outcomes. Research in humans suggests that high levels of certain perfluoroalkyls **may** lead to:

- increased cholesterol levels (PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFDA);
- changes in liver enzymes (PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS)
- decreased vaccine response in children (PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFDA);
- increased risk of high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women (PFOA, PFOS);
- small decreases in infant birth weights (<20 grams (0.7 ounces) decrease in birth weight per 1 ng/mL increase in PFOA or PFOS in blood).



# Perfluoroalkyls

One way to learn about whether perfluoroalkyls will harm people is to do studies on lab animals. Most of these studies have tested doses of PFOA and PFOS that are higher than levels found in the environment. These animal studies have found that PFOA and PFOS can cause damage to the liver and the immune system. PFOA and PFOS have also caused birth defects, delayed development, and newborn deaths in lab animals.

Humans and animals react differently to perfluoroalkyls, and not all effects observed in animals may occur in humans. Scientists have ways to estimate how the exposure and effects in animals compare to what they would be in humans. What they learn from this process helps them decide how to protect people from chemical exposures.

## Can perfluoroalkyls cause cancer?

Studies do not clearly show whether perfluoroalkyls cause cancer in people. People exposed to high levels may have increased risk of kidney cancer or testicular cancer. However, these studies are not consistent and may not have looked at other factors like smoking.

Studies in animals have shown that PFOA and PFOS can cause cancer in the liver, testes, pancreas, and thyroid. However, some scientists believe that humans may not develop the same cancers as animals.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has classified PFOA and PFOS as having suggestive evidence of carcinogenic potential in humans. The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified PFOA as possibly carcinogenic (causing cancer) to humans, but it has not evaluated whether other perfluoroalkyls may also cause cancer. The Department of Health and Human Services has not yet evaluated whether PFOA and other perfluoroalkyls can cause cancer.

## Can I get a medical test to check for perfluoroalkyls?

A blood test can measure perfluoroalkyls in your blood, but this is not a test routinely done in a doctor's office. If you have perfluoroalkyls in your blood, you have been exposed to these chemicals and absorbed them into your body at some time. Most people have some level of perfluoroalkyls in their blood. The blood test can't predict if you will have health problems from exposure to perfluoroalkyls.

## How can I protect myself and my family from perfluoroalkyls?

If you do not know about perfluoroalkyls levels in your water, ask your local health department. Do not use consumer products that contain perfluoroalkyls. Drink or cook with bottled water or install activated carbon water filters if your tap or well water contains perfluoroalkyls.

### For more information:



Call **CDC-INFO** at 1-800-232-4636, or submit your question online at <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/dcs/ContactUs/Form>

Go to ATSDR's Toxicological Profile for perfluoroalkyls: <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/ToxProfiles/ToxProfiles.aspx?id=1117&tid=237>

Go to ATSDR's Toxic Substances Portal: <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/index.aspx>

Find & contact your ATSDR Regional Representative at [http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/DRO/dro\\_org.html](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/DRO/dro_org.html)

# Appendix F

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## Stakeholder and Contacts Directory

## Stakeholder and Community Contacts Directory

The directory contains individual contacts and organizations identified as key stakeholders in the Charlestown community that have indicated interest in staying informed about activities at the former CNALF and that serve as pathways for community

engagement, including members of governing bodies and supporting organizations and agencies that serve in legislative and executive roles, and business and community organizations. Please email any changes and updates to [gregory.m.hencir@usace.army.mil](mailto:gregory.m.hencir@usace.army.mil)

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Organization	Primary Contact	Role	Email/Phone	Website
USACE New England	Greg Hencir	Project Manager Contracting Officer's Representative	<a href="mailto:gregory.m.hencir@usace.army.mil">gregory.m.hencir@usace.army.mil</a> 978-318-8873	<a href="http://www.nae.usace.army.mil">www.nae.usace.army.mil</a>
USACE Baltimore	Todd Beckwith	Technical Manager	<a href="mailto:todd.T.beckwith@usace.army.mil">todd.T.beckwith@usace.army.mil</a>	<a href="http://www.nab.usace.army.mil">www.nab.usace.army.mil</a>
USACE New England	Tracy Dorgan	Geologist	<a href="mailto:tracy.h.dorgan@usace.army.mil">tracy.h.dorgan@usace.army.mil</a>	<a href="http://www.nae.usace.army.mil">www.nae.usace.army.mil</a>
USACE New England	Nicole Brennan	Assistant Geologist	<a href="mailto:nicole.m.brennan@usace.army.mil">nicole.m.brennan@usace.army.mil</a>	<a href="http://www.nae.usace.army.mil">www.nae.usace.army.mil</a>
USACE New England	Amy Rosenstein	Risk Assessor	<a href="mailto:amy.b.rosenstein@usace.army.mil">amy.b.rosenstein@usace.army.mil</a>	<a href="http://www.nae.usace.army.mil">www.nae.usace.army.mil</a>
USACE New England	Michael Narcisi	Ecologist	<a href="mailto:michael.j.narcisi@usace.army.mil">michael.j.narcisi@usace.army.mil</a>	<a href="http://www.nae.usace.army.mil">www.nae.usace.army.mil</a>
USACE New England	Constance Lapite	Chemist	<a href="mailto:constance.d.lapite@usace.army.mil">constance.d.lapite@usace.army.mil</a>	<a href="http://www.nae.usace.army.mil">www.nae.usace.army.mil</a>
USACE New England	Beth Gosselin	Chief Public Affairs	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.d.gosselin@usace.army.mil">elizabeth.d.gosselin@usace.army.mil</a> 978-318-8657	<a href="http://www.nae.usace.army.mil">www.nae.usace.army.mil</a>
USACE New England	TJ Atwell	Deputy Public Affairs	<a href="mailto:tj.atwell@usace.army.mil">tj.atwell@usace.army.mil</a>	<a href="http://www.nae.usace.army.mil">www.nae.usace.army.mil</a>
USACE New England	Sheandra Sterling	Outreach Coordinator	<a href="mailto:sheandra.c.sterling@usace.army.mil">sheandra.c.sterling@usace.army.mil</a>	<a href="http://www.nae.usace.army.mil">www.nae.usace.army.mil</a>
USACE New England	Marc Paiva	Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison — Regional Technical Specialist - Archaeology	<a href="mailto:marcos.a.paiva@usace.army.mil">marcos.a.paiva@usace.army.mil</a>	<a href="http://www.nae.usace.army.mil">www.nae.usace.army.mil</a>

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Organization	Primary Contact	Role	Email/Phone	Website
Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge	Karrie Schwabb	Refuge Manager	<a href="mailto:karrie_schwabb@fws.gov">karrie_schwabb@fws.gov</a> 401-364-9124	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ninigret">www.fws.gov/refuge/ninigret</a>
Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge	Janis Nepshinsky	Visitor Services Manager	<a href="mailto:janis_nepshinsky@fws.gov">janis_nepshinsky@fws.gov</a> 401-364-9124	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ninigret">www.fws.gov/refuge/ninigret</a>



## Community Relations Plan

Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (CNALF), Charlestown, Rhode Island

### Local Public Officials

Organization	Primary Contact	Role	Email/Phone	Website
Town of Charlestown	Jeffrey Allen	Administrator	jallen@charlestownri.gov 401-364-1210	charlestownri.gov
Town of Charlestown	Deborah Carney	Town Council President	deb.carney@charlestownri.gov 401-533-2811	charlestownri.gov
Town of Charlestown	Rippy Serra	Town Council Vice President	richard.serra@charlestownri.gov 401-525-4876	charlestownri.gov
Town of Charlestown	Craig Marr	Town Council Member	craig.marr@charlestownri.gov 401-201-2391	charlestownri.gov
Town of Charlestown	Peter Slom	Town Council Member	peter.slom@charlestownri.gov 401-603-9137	charlestownri.gov
Town of Charlestown	Stephen J. Stokes	Town Council Member	stephen.stokes@charlestownri.gov 401-525-4875	charlestownri.gov
Charlestown Fire District	Don Rathbone	Fire Chief	chief@charlestownfd.org 401-641-1488	www.charlestownfd.org
Charlestown Fire District	Joe Weeden	Assistant Fire Chief	chair@charlestownfd.org 401-954-0315	www.charlestownfd.org
Charlestown Ambulance Rescue (EMS)	Andrew Kettle	Chief of Department	chief@charlestownrescue.org 401-364-3742 x22	www.charlestownrescue.org
Charlestown Police Department	Michael J. Paliotta	Chief of Police	chief@charlestownpolice.org	www.charlestownpolice.org
Charlestown Emergency Management	Kevin R. Gallup	Director	cema.director@charlestownri.gov 401-641-1217	charlestownri.gov/emergencymanagement
Charlestown Economic Improvement Commission (EIC)	Robert Beggs	Person of Contact	eic@charlestownri.gov 401-364-9867	charlestownri.gov/businessinformation
Narragansett Indian Tribe	Anthony Dean Stanton	Chief Sachem	401-364-1100 x203	narragansettindiannation.org
Narragansett Indian Tribe	Antone Monroe	Chief of Police	401-409-2054	narragansettindiannation.org
Narragansett Indian Tribe	Dinalyn Spears	Director of Planning & Natural Resources	401-364-1100 x210	narragansettindiannation.org
Chariho Regional School District	Gina M. Picard	Superintendent of Schools	gina.picard@chariho.k12.ri.us 401-364-7575	www.chariho.k12.ri.us
Charlestown Elementary School	Jennifer Poore	Principal	jennifer.poore@chariho.k12.ri.us 401-364-7716	charlestown.chariho.k12.ri.us

## Community Relations Plan

Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (CNALF), Charlestown, Rhode Island

### Rhode Island State Officials

Organization	Primary Contact	Role	Email/Phone	Website
Governor's Office	Daniel Mckee	Governor	<a href="http://governor.ri.gov">governor.ri.gov</a> 401-222-2080	<a href="http://governor.ri.gov">governor.ri.gov</a>
Lt. Governor's Office	Sabina Matos	Lt. Governor	<a href="mailto:mark.gray@ltgov.ri.gov">mark.gray@ltgov.ri.gov</a> 401-222-2371	<a href="http://ltgov.ri.gov">ltgov.ri.gov</a>
Rhode Island General Assembly - House	Tina Spears	State Representative	<a href="mailto:rep-spears@rilegislature.gov">rep-spears@rilegislature.gov</a> 401-480-8237	<a href="http://www.rilegislature.gov/representatives/spears">www.rilegislature.gov/representatives/spears</a>
Rhode Island General Assembly - Senate	Victoria Gu	State Senator	<a href="mailto:sen-gu@rilegislature.gov">sen-gu@rilegislature.gov</a> 401-388-0696	<a href="http://www.rilegislature.gov/senators/gu">www.rilegislature.gov/senators/gu</a>
Rhode Island General Assembly - Senate	Elaine Morgan	State Senator	<a href="mailto:sen-morgan@rilegislature.gov">sen-morgan@rilegislature.gov</a> 401-222-2708	<a href="http://www.rilegislature.gov/senators/morgan">www.rilegislature.gov/senators/morgan</a>
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management	Terrence Gray	Director	<a href="mailto:terry.gray@dem.ri.gov">terry.gray@dem.ri.gov</a> 401-537-4173	<a href="http://www.dem.ri.gov">www.dem.ri.gov</a>
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management	Nicholas Noons	Environmental Engineer IV	<a href="mailto:nicholas.noons@dem.ri.gov">nicholas.noons@dem.ri.gov</a> 401-537-4352	<a href="http://www.dem.ri.gov">www.dem.ri.gov</a>
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management	Patricia Burke	Project Manager, Environmental Scientist II	<a href="mailto:patricia.burke@dem.ri.gov">patricia.burke@dem.ri.gov</a> 401-537-4311	<a href="http://www.dem.ri.gov">www.dem.ri.gov</a>
Rhode Island Department of Health	Zachary Shepard, Ph.D	Principal Environmental Health Risk Assessment Toxicologist	<a href="mailto:zachary.shepard@health.ri.gov">zachary.shepard@health.ri.gov</a> 401-222-5960	<a href="http://health.ri.gov">health.ri.gov</a>

### Rhode Island Officials Elected to National Office

Organization	Primary Contact	Role	Email/Phone	Website
U.S. House	Seth Magaziner	Representative	202-225-2735	<a href="http://magaziner.house.gov">magaziner.house.gov</a>
U.S. Senate	Jack Reed	Senator	202-224-4642 401-528-5200	<a href="http://www.reed.senate.gov">www.reed.senate.gov</a>
U.S. Senate	Sheldon Whitehouse	Senator	202-224-2921 401-453-5294	<a href="http://www.whitehouse.senate.gov">www.whitehouse.senate.gov</a>

## Community Relations Plan

Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (CNALF), Charlestown, Rhode Island

### Business Organizations

Organization	Primary Contact	Role	Email/Phone	Website
Arnolda Improvement Corporation	Ted Mitchell	President		
Charlestown Chamber of Commerce	Heather Paliotta	Executive Director	heather@charlestownrichamber.com info@charlestownrichamber.com 401-364-3878	www.charlestownrichamber.com
South County Tourism Council	Louise Bishop	President and CEO	lbishop@southcountyri.com info@southcountyri.com, 401-789-4422	www.southcountyri.com

### Community Organizations

Organization	Primary Contact	Role	Email/Phone	Website
Cross' Mills Public Library	Sarah Ornstein, MLIS	Director	staff@crossmills.org 401-364-6211	www.crossmills.org/library
Charlestown Historical Society	Pam Lyons	President	info@charlestownhistorical.org	www.charlestownhistorical.org
Charlestown Land Trust	Kathan Teepe	Executive Director	CLT@charlestownlandtrust.org 401-213-4422	charlestownlandtrust.org
Salt Ponds Coalition	Alicia Schaffner	Executive Director	alicia@joinsaltponds.com 401-322-3068	saltpondscoalition.org
Westerly Land Trust	Jennifer Fusco	Executive Director	info@westrlylandtrust.org 401-315-2610	westerlylandtrust.org
Save the Bay	Topher Hamblett	Executive Director	401-272-3540	savebay.org
Shelter Harbor Conservation Society	Susie Carter	President	shelterharborconservation@gmail.com	shelterharborconservationsociety.org
Charlestown Citizens Alliance	Leo Mainelli	President	mail@CharlestownCitizens.org	charlestowncitizens.org
Frosty Drew Observatory & Science Center	Scott MacNeill	Director	astronomer@frostydrew.org 401-859-1450	frostydrew.org
Southern Rhode Island Volunteers	Lindsay Bush	Executive Director	lbush@southernrivol.org 401-552-7661	southernrivol.org

### Other organizations

Organization	Primary Contact	Role	Email/Phone	Website
Washington County Regional Planning Council	Stephen Stokes	President	president@wcrpc.org 401-525-4875	wcrpc.org



## Community Relations Plan

Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (CNALF), Charlestown, Rhode Island

### Media Contacts

Organization	Primary Contact	Role	Email/Phone	Website
Providence Business News	Katie Castellani	Staff Writer	castellani@pbn.com 401-680-4830	pbn.com
The Valley Breeze	Ethan Shorey	Chief Editor	ethan@valleybreeze.com 401-334-9555 x701	www.valleybreeze.com
The Independent	Vincent Gallo	News Reporter	narragansett@independentri.com 401-789-9744	www.independentri.com
Newport This Week	Lynne Tungett	Editor	news@newportthisweek.net 401-847-7766	www.newportthisweek.com
The Warwick Beacon	John Howell	Editor	johnh@rhodybeat.com 401-732-3100	warwickonline.com
The Westerly Sun	Ryan Blessing	Staff Writer	rblessing@thewesterlysun.com 401-348-1000	www.thewesterlysun.com
The Providence Journal	Alex Kuffner	Environmental Reporter	akuffner@providencejournal.com 888-697-7656	www.providencejournal.com
EcoRI News	Bonnie Phillips	Editor	bonnie@ecoRI.org 617-785-7369	ecori.org
WLNE-TV / ABC6			news@abc6.com 401-453-8000	www.abc6.com
WPRI-TV / CBS12			desk@wpri.com 401-228-1799	www.wpri.com
Rhode Island PBS	Jan Boyd	Chief Content Officer	jboyd@ripbs.org 401-222-3636 x400	www.ripbs.org
WJAR-TV / NBC10	News Director		news@wjar.com 401-455-9105	turnto10.com
101.5 WWBB			b101.iheart.com/contact	b101.iheart.com
106.3 WWKX	Nick Giuliano	Programming	nick.giuliano@cumulus.com 401-433-4200	www.thewolf1063.com
630 WPRO	Programming Manager		doug@997wpro.com 401-433-4200	www.997wpro.com
920 WHJJ			newsradiori.iheart.com/contact 844-844-4432	newsradiori.iheart.com
1230 WBLQ	Chris DiPaola	Owner	chris@wblq.net 401-322-9091	www.wblq.net
1290 WRNI	Jeremy Bernfeld	Senior Editor	jbernfeld@ripr.org 401-351-2800	thepublicsradio.org
1540 WADK			wadk.com/contact/submit-press-releases 401-846-1540	wadk.com