

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **NINIGRET RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD FOR CHARLESTOWN NAVAL AUXILIARY LANDING FIELD FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE TO HOLD FIRST PUBLIC MEETING**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New England District invites everyone to the first public meeting of the Ninigret Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The meeting is free and scheduled from 5:00-6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at the Kimball Pavilion inside Ninigret Park, 5 Park Lane, Charlestown, Rhode Island.

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

Federal regulations require installations that are undergoing environmental restoration to ask their communities every 24 months if interest exists in forming a RAB. The USACE New England District found sufficient and sustained support for forming

a RAB to advise USACE on environmental restoration of the former CNALF in February 2025.

The Ninigret RAB comprises 12 members, which include community members, a representative of the municipality of Charlestown, a representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a USACE representative. Since convening in November 2025, the RAB has been undergoing organizational efforts in accordance with federal regulations to adopt operating guidelines and to establish an organizational structure. As a communitybased advisory board, the Ninigret RAB will meet regularly with USACE to review progress and provide input on environmental restoration at the former CNALF.

This meeting will provide an opportunity for members of the Charlestown community to meet RAB members, hear from the USACE team, ask questions, and explore opportunities for participating in the RAB.

### **What is the Ninigret RAB?**

The Ninigret RAB is a community-based board that will meet regularly with USACE to review progress and provide input about environmental restoration at the former CNALF. The RAB acts as

a liaison between the restoration team and the community.

### **More about the CNALF Project**

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

For additional information about this project, visit the project webpage at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Former-Charlestown-Naval-Auxiliary-Landing-Field/>.

### **U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS -**

#### **NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT**

696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751

[www.nae.usace.army.mil](http://www.nae.usace.army.mil)