



EarthWatch Rhode Island



Topic: Camping Locally: DEM's Burlingame Campground and State Park

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With high gas prices, many Southern New England families may be vacationing closer to home this summer and it's a good reason to re-discover some of Rhode Island's natural resource areas. The 3,100-acre Burlingame State Park and Campground, located in Charlestown, Rhode Island, is a wonderful place to start. Burlingame is home to the largest campground run by DEM. A total of 755 campsites, 11 cabins and one yurt are available in the park. Families can fish, swim, picnic, boat, bike and hike.

The Campground borders the 1,000-acre Watchaug Pond which has exceptionally clean and clear water. The Pond is ideal for canoeing and kayaking as well as fresh water fishing. Twenty canoes are available for rent through the park on a first come first serve basis for \$30 a day. There is a freshwater beach with a sandy bottom for swimming. The park is serviced by an excellent camp store with everything needed for camping along with a large selection of souvenirs. The Park includes a playground and a recreation room with video games and pool tables help keep both younger and older children entertained. Facilities include restrooms, showers, fireplaces, picnic tables, and running water.

Burlingame State Park also serves as a wonderful jumping off point to a couple of the state's saltwater beaches. Misquamicut State Beach in Westerly with its nearby attractions and East Beach in Charlestown are only 10 minutes away.



Top, beach goers at Burlingame State Park enjoy the sun and the sand on Watchaug Pond. Below, Cabins like the one shown here are available for rental at Burlingame Campground.

Camping at Burlingame is wallet friendly as well. The cost is \$14/day for residents and \$20/day for non-residents. No reservations are required for campsites, but the Campground fills fast on good weather weekends – strongly recommend Thursday evening check-in. Cabins and the yurt fees are somewhat higher and do require reservations. The campground is open through October. For more information, visit DEM's web site: www.riparks.com.

History of Burlingame

Named in honor of Edwin A. Burlingame, chairman of the former Metropolitan Park Commission during the 1930's, originally opened in 1934 and has a long and colorful history. It was within the borders of Burlingame that the first Civilian Conversation Corps camp in the state of Rhode Island was erected. During World War II military units were stationed here serving on beach patrol along Rhode Island's coast, and at one point also served as a prisoner of war camp.

Interviews:

- Dick Jaques, DEM Regional Park Manager (Below, left)
- Amos Burdick – Campground Operator (Below, right)

