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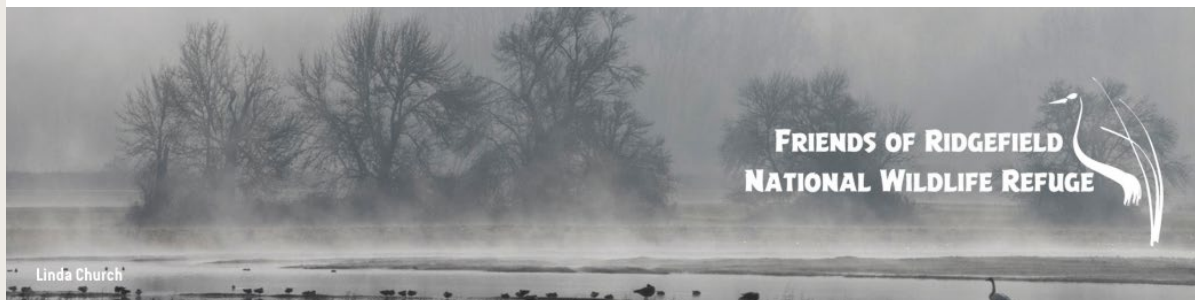


Image credit: Linda Church, 2023, Honorable Mention Landscape Category, Pro Photo Supply Refuge Photo Contest

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates | October 2024

Refuge Open Hours:

7:00 am - 7:30 pm*

*Times change quickly this time of year, check the website before heading out!

You can enter both RNWR units by paying an Entrance Fee or using an eligible Entrance Pass.

Youth 15 and under are always free.

Please note: Bicycles, off-road vehicles, & ATV driving are not permitted on the Refuge.

Entrance Fee:

- **Online: NEW!** Easily pay your entrance fee (or purchase an entrance pass) *before* you visit, by using [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov).
- **In-Person:** \$3.00 daily per vehicle, or up to four adults on foot. Cash or check only (for now!).

Entrance Pass Options:

- **Online: New!** Easily buy an Annual Pass *before* you visit, using [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov).
- **In-person** (or by mail): Purchase An Annual Refuge Pass or eligible Federal Lands Pass.
 - \$15.00 for an Annual Ridgefield NWR pass. Purchase at Ridgefield NWR Admin Office, M-F, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm; by mail; or place cash/check in an official fee envelope. Complete details [HERE](#).

RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

RIVER 'S' UNIT & CARTY UNIT

1071 S Hillhurst AVE

Auto Tour Route

Kiwa Trail

28908 NW Main AVE

Admin Office

Walking Trails

Cathlapotle Plankhouse

Become a Friends Member at \$60 or above.

- **Join here!** Opt-in when joining, and an Annual Refuge Pass will be mailed to you.
- **Use your current Federal Lands Pass.** [Check HERE](#) to see the list of eligible passes. Note: State Passes are *not valid for entry to the Refuge.

The Ridgefield NWR Admin Office is open weekdays, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.
Office phone number: 360-887-4106.

-To verify staff availability, please call the office before you visit the Refuge.

-For general inquiries, please call the office between 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex News



Habitat Management
PRESCRIBED FIRE

WHAT TO EXPECT

WHAT Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge has used prescribed fire as a habitat management tool since 2018.

WHO Prescribed fires are conducted by well-trained specialists who ensure that firefighter and public safety needs are met, and that the fire meets the Refuge's objectives.

WHY We use prescribed fires in several pastures on the Bachelor Island Unit of the Refuge to reduce thatch, control weeds like tansy ragwort and reed canary grass, and encourage the growth of young grass shoots that geese, Sandhill cranes, and Columbian white-tailed deer prefer.

WHEN The Refuge is proposing to burn up to 80 acres over a one or two day period between September 27th and October 4th.

The Auto Tour Route and hiking trails will be open as usual. It will not affect Birdfest (Oct 5th).

Questions?
360-921-2116

Prescribed Fire Planned for Bachelor Island - Two days between Sept 27 - Oct 4

Where: 80 acres of Bachelor Island, a closed unit at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

When: 2 days between Friday, September 27th and October 4th, pending weather conditions including rain and wind.

Why: To control invasive plants and encourage the growth of young grass that is preferred by geese, cranes, and white-tailed deer.

Who: Fire crews from WA Dept of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest

Service, National Park Service, and Refuge staff.

What to expect: Smoke plumes may be visible from town but will be shut down if it appears to be moving in the direction of the city.

Concerns during the fire? Contact Refuge Management: 360-921-2116

Learn More:

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield/what-we-do>

<https://www.fws.gov/program/fire-management/what-we-do>

<https://www.fws.gov/story/managing-fire>

Carty Unit Temporary Access Change


September 27 - 30: The Carty Unit access from Main Avenue will be CLOSED while asphalt is poured and allowed to cure. No vehicle access or parking at the Refuge

Administrative Office. The Office will remain closed these days.

The trails will remain open for walk-in visitation during this closure. We recommend visitors enter via the Port's Carty Lake Trail entrance or walk in from Downtown via Headquarters Trail. The River 'S' Unit and Kiwa trail will be open for all users.

Check out the Refuge's Fee-Free Days this fall, starting this weekend, September 28, to celebrate National Public Lands Day; and more!

For more information go to <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield/what-we-do>



Recreation Fee Program
FALL FREE DAYS

Mark your calendars! Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge has 5 remaining fee-free days for 2024. Enjoy your visit!

28 SEPTEMBER
Celebrate National Public Lands Day by visiting the refuge or another federal land.

5/6 OCTOBER
The BirdFest & Bluegrass Festival brings the Refuge to life. Enjoy the festivities on the 5th or visit the 6th for a quieter day on the Refuge, with no fee.

13 OCTOBER
In celebration of the beginning of National Wildlife Refuge Week, enjoy free entrance to all refuges nationwide!

11 NOVEMBER
In honor of all who have served, we offer free entrance on Veterans' Day.

QUESTIONS?
REFUGE OFFICE: 360-887-4106

BirdFest & Bluegrass Celebrating 25 Years

Join us for the highly anticipated BirdFest & Bluegrass Festival on October 5, 2024, in downtown Ridgefield and the beautiful Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. This annual event celebrates our vibrant community and the natural wonders surrounding us.

Friday, October 4, the festivities start with a special 25th Anniversary Event at the Ridgefield Waterfront. Guests can partake in a pre-registered sunset paddle on Lake River with the City of Ridgefield's Dragon Boats, following a welcoming blessing from the Chinook Indian Nation and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. Those not interested in paddling but want to celebrate the anniversary may stay by the water for hot chocolate, wine, desserts, and music. An area for those under 21 will include crafts and treats. Registration is required for the paddle, and participants should arrive by 5:30 PM for a 6 PM start. Entry to the celebration will require an ID check and a \$10 fee. Proceeds benefit the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge!



BIRD FEST & BLUEGRASS
RIDGEFIELD, WA

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5
DOWNTOWN RIDGEFIELD**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4
25TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENT
5:30 PM - 8 PM**
Join us at the Ridgefield Waterfront for a welcoming blessing with the Chinook Indian Nation and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, a ride in the City of Ridgefield's Dragon Boats on an evening paddle on Lake River, and/or stay for hot chocolate, wine, and music by the water!

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THE PADDLE.

9 AM - 2 PM **First Saturday Vendors & Family Crafts and Activities**
Explore over 60 local vendors, or make your own souvenir at Davis Park!

9 AM - 2 PM **Children's Entrepreneur Market**
Find exciting items and support young entrepreneurs at Overlook Park.

ALL DAY **Bluegrass Jamming**
Jam along with others at a dedicated jamming location throughout downtown!

10:30 AM **Paddle for the Wild!**
Register to paddle Dragon Boats at the Ridgefield Waterfront for FREE!

11 AM - 9 PM **Bluegrass Performances**
Overlook Park, Davis Park, The Sportsman's Public House, & Ridgefield Craft Brewing.

**ON THE REFUGE
FREE TO VISIT & SEASONAL TRAILS WILL BE OPEN!**

9 AM - 2 PM **Carty Unit Activities**
28908 N Main Avenue - Carty Unit

- Opening Blessing by Chinook Indian Nation at 9 AM
- Partner Booth Party
- Self-Guided Wander Walk
- Family Activities & Crafts
- Pro Photo Supply Photo Contest Display
- 6 hourly guided walks and talks on a variety of topics!
- Tu Refuge: Naturaleza, Musica, y Alegria

1071 S Hillhurst RD - River 'S' Unit Auto Tour

ALL DAY • Auto Tour & Kiwa Trail Open

9 AM - 2 PM • Spotting Scopes w/ Vancouver Audubon

\$5.00 BALD EAGLE BUTTONS FOR PURCHASE:

- SEASON'S COFFEE
- BACKYARD BIRD SHOP (VANCOUVER)

FRIENDS OF RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

RIDGEFIELD

Register for our Kick-Off Event, Friday, October 4, & pay \$10 fee

Click below for details, links, the full downloadable English, Spanish-translated, and screen-reader-friendly schedules, parking info, & more!

BirdFest & Bluegrass Info



From the Friends

Get on Board and Make Your Impact on the Future

FRIENDS OF RIDGEFIELD
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



We are looking for driven individuals to join our Board of Directors. Your role would involve guiding our fundraising initiatives, maintaining strong board governance, and representing the lively community connected to our cherished refuge. Your skills and commitment can have a profound influence on safeguarding this valuable habitat for future generations.

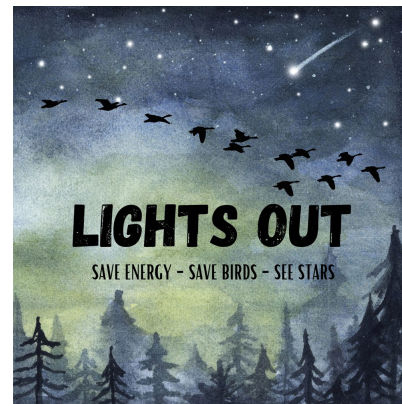
Interested? Do you know someone who might be a good fit? Let's chat! Email us to explore how to help preserve this natural treasure.

Contact Us to Get Started

Go Lights Out for Birds

Peak fall migration season began in September, and to assist millions of birds during their migration journeys, we are asking local businesses and residents to turn off or reduce any unnecessary overnight lighting until at least October 20 (safety and security lighting exempt).

Reducing skyglow is a collective effort, and this is an opportunity for homeowners, building owners, and managers to reduce energy usage, cut operational expenditures, and champion innovative angles of sustainability.



Learn More & Pledge to go Lights Out

World Migratory Bird Day with Vancouver Audubon Saturday, October 12, 2024

Vancouver Audubon Society is hosting an event in celebration of World Migratory Bird Day to recognize and bring attention to the important and



spectacular feat of bird migration. It's also an opportunity to learn about the conservation needs that support bird migration: clean and available water sources, insects, and habitats.

When: Saturday, October 12, 2024; 9am - 2pm
Where: McConnell Park, 918 NW 25th Ave, Battle Ground, WA 98604

Your day will include bird walks, games and interactive activities. This is a family-friendly event, with food, games, and more! There's no cost to attend and no registration necessary.

All ages welcome. We hope to see you there!

Volunteers Needed: If you or someone you know would like to help with this event, please contact Becky Boley, [HERE](#). No birding experience is necessary!



Birding Enthusiasts



Check out what species are being seen on the Refuge [here](#).



Ridgefield First Saturdays BirdFest & Bluegrass October 5, 2024

Spend time Downtown and on the Refuge during the annual Friends of the Refuge festival! BirdFest & Bluegrass is a joint event planned in partnership between the City of Ridgefield and the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge to celebrate the Refuge, the community, and everything nature has to offer. Find birding activities at the Refuge, vendors, kids crafts, Bluegrass performances, and a Pickers Festival.

Get the City Activity & Bluegrass Music Schedule Here

Stay Involved:

Benefits of Friends Membership



Join the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge in their mission to promote the enjoyment, understanding, and protection of native and endangered birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. We focus on our local community and the Pacific Northwest.

And now, we've teamed up with Zeffy to dodge those pesky platform fees, making sure every bit of your generosity goes straight to the Refuge. Sign up

today, and get a new digital membership card to use around town for discounts, special offers, and more!

[Learn More & Join the Friends Today!](#)

Support While You Shop



[Friends Amazon Wishlist](#)- You can directly support our work and the Refuge's initiatives! Whether it's habitat restoration or BirdFest & Bluegrass, we'll feature items essential to our many efforts toward achieving conservation and community outreach goals. Purchase from our list, and Amazon takes care of the rest! [Get started, HERE.](#)



When you link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Friends, you help us earn donations from Fred Meyer Community Rewards. It's easy to sign up. [Just click here.](#) Or search, Friends of Ridgefield NWR #PK822

Friends Online Store



photo cards!

Check out our online store to find the Chinookan Steller's Jay design, BirdFest & Bluegrass button art, and the 2023 Photo Contest winning images, on tote bags, sweatshirts, t-shirts, different mug styles, and

[Start Shopping](#)

*Psst...if you love a good
jigsaw puzzle...*

[Click Here for
Puzzles!](#)

Friends Board Meetings

Join the Friends of Ridgefield NWR Board for their monthly meeting. Meetings start at **5:00 PM** every second Monday of the month and will be

virtual, or in-person with a virtual option.
[Contact us](#) to join in!

Board Meeting Dates:

October 15*

November 11

December 9

(*moved due to federal holiday or special circumstance)



Become a Business Alliance Member

As a member of the Friends of the RNWR Business Alliance, you invest in one of our urban metropolitan area's most unique and diverse natural and cultural resources. [Find out more](#)

Sponsors:

Business Alliance Members:

In-Kind Support:



BirdFest & Bluegrass:



Granting Organizations & Partners:



FRIENDS OF RIDGEFIELD
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



[Contact Us](#) | [Website](#)

Want regular updates on Refuge events & happenings? Follow the Friends on social media by clicking the logos below to stay connected even when you are off the Refuge.



Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge | PO BOX 1022 | Ridgefield, WA 98642 US

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