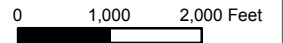


<http://www.masswildlife.org>

ROCHESTER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (ROCHESTER, MA.)



- P Parking
- Right of Way
- WMA Boundary
- Surrounding WMAs
- Boundary between land held in Fee and CE
- Conservation Easement held by the Dept. of Fish and Game.

Map features such as designated parking areas may not exist for all WMAs.

Print Date: April 04, 2005

Rochester Wildlife Management Area

*Rochester
70 Acres*

Latitude: 41 44 56 N Longitude: 70 51 39 W



The Rochester Wildlife Management Area (WMA) consists of 70 acres, with a majority of the property made up of shallow flooded impoundments that were formerly part of an active cranberry bog operation. The property was acquired in 1968 by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife from The Cape Cod Company. The area is managed for fisheries and wildlife habitat and open space. Common wetland vegetation on the property includes red maple, sweet pepperbush, water milfoil, water lily, reedgrass and buttonbush, with the upland portions dominated by white pine, red oak, black oak, red maple, black cherry and lowbush blueberry. The remnant dike roads on the property are dominated by upland grasses, and they are maintained by regular mowing by the Division to serve as walking trails to access the WMA. The Mattapoissett River flows through the WMA, with a small dam located at the south end of the property. There is also a bypass canal that was created to ensure passage of river herring that spawn upstream in Snipatuit Pond.

Access

The WMA is currently accessible via a small dirt parking lot located on the north side of Hartley Road, approximately 600 feet west of the intersection with Snipatuit Road. From that point, foot access is allowed throughout the property via the network of old cranberry bog dike roads.

History

The area that is now the Rochester Wildlife Management Area was originally part of an active cranberry bog operation dating back to the early to mid 1900's. At the time of the Division's acquisition of the property in 1968, the bogs had been abandoned for some time; however the entire cranberry bog infrastructure remained including flume (water control structures) and former bog units. The Division acquired the property primarily for wildlife habitat and wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation, but did briefly consider making use of the former cranberry bogs as a warmwater fish hatchery, although this plan never truly materialized. The property has been managed by the Division to provide a series of shallow impoundments to benefit warmwater fish, migratory birds, amphibians and other wetland-dependent wildlife species. "Grandma Hartley's Reservoir" on the WMA has served as the starting point for the annual Memorial Day Mattapoissett River canoe race since it began in 1934.

Outdoor Recreation

The flooded impoundments on the WMA provide an attractive location for warmwater fishing for species such as largemouth bass, chain pickerel, yellow perch, sunfish and brown bullhead. Hunting is not encouraged on the WMA and is limited to the middle portion of the WMA within the flooded impoundments. Please note the southwestern portion of the WMA (roughly the southern half of the impoundment just north of the dam) is closed to hunting due to the 500 foot discharge setbacks associated with the nearby Elementary School and residential houses. Signage has been erected on the WMA to assist hunters in identifying and avoiding this area. Wildlife viewing is also quite good due to the dike trails, habitat diversity and extent of open wetlands associated with the former cranberry bogs.

For More Information, contact: *Southeast Wildlife District, MassWildlife, 195 Bournedale Road, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532 (508) 759 – 3406* *MassWildlife Website: www.mass.gov/masswildlife*