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BURRAGE POND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (HANSON & HALIFAX, MA.)

0 1,000 2,000 Feet



- P Parking
- Right of Way
- WMA Boundary
- Surrounding WMAs
- Boundary between land held in Fee and CE
- 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 : 1/12/2004

Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area

Hanson/Halifax
1625 Acres

Latitude: 42 00 51 N Longitude: 70 52 16 W



The Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is 1625 acres of open water, marsh, Atlantic white cedar and red maple swamps and former cranberry bogs located on the border of Hanson and Halifax. It was purchased in 2002 by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife from the Northland Cranberry Company. The area is managed for fisheries and wildlife habitats and open space. A management plan to protect, enhance and restore the varied natural habitats on the site is currently being developed.

Access

The area is accessible through parking areas at Hawks Avenue in Hanson and at 149 Elm Street in Halifax. One of the attractions of the area is its wide open vistas and easy access over numerous cranberry bog dikes. The regional headquarters for the Massachusetts Environmental Police is also located on the Burrage Pond WMA.

History

The area that is now the Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area was originally known as the Great Cedar Swamp. The outlet from Monponsett Pond, known as Stump Brook or Herring Brook, was dammed for water power and created an artificial pond called Stump Pond. In this area in 1905, industrialist Albert C. Burrage started digging peat for fuel and later developed cranberry bogs. The area was purchased by the United Cape Cod Cranberry Company from Hanson Cedar Company in 1931. The area was later bought by Cumberland Farms, Inc. who developed some of the wetlands into more cranberry bogs between 1977 and 1990. These actions resulted in an enforcement action by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The current USGS topographic maps and this WMA map still show wetlands in some of the areas that were developed into cranberry bogs. The property was eventually purchased by Northland Cranberry Company and known as Bog 18.

Fishing

Upper and Lower Burrage Ponds offer excellent warmwater shoreline fishing from the main dike. The fish populations of Upper and Lower Burrage Ponds were sampled in June of 2003 and contained bluegill, yellow perch, largemouth bass, pumpkinseed sunfish, chain pickerel, golden shiner, black crappie, brown bullhead and white perch. The ponds are very fertile, shallow (average depth 3 to 4 feet) and weedy which can make fishing difficult during the summer months. Canoes and small cartop boats can be carried in with difficulty.

Hunting and Wildlife Viewing

The Burrage Pond WMA supports a large variety of game and nongame wildlife and is particularly noted for its waterfowl. Hunting opportunities include waterfowl in the marsh and bog areas and deer hunting in the forested areas. The area is also noted for its birdwatching opportunities; a June 2003 bird survey found over 81 species using the area.

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