

CAMP EDWARDS NATURAL RESOURCES

Maintain and enhance soldier training lands and opportunities through ecosystem conservation, stewardship, and partnership.

Natural Resources & Training Lands

Surveys, planning, and management for:

- Ecosystem/habitat health
- Endangered species
- Training land condition
- Integration of training and conservation
- Training needs for land and habitat management
- Trails, campsites, dig-sites
- Wildland fire
- Climate change
- Wetlands
- Outreach to soldiers
- Pest management
- Hunting/recreation
- Erosion and soils
- Environmental review



MA National Guard training
Photo: T. Andriski (dvids)



Walsh's Digger Bee on Claspig Milkweed; Photo: M. Penella

Why Army Conservation?

Natural resources conservation supports soldier training by managing for healthy environments that can train generations of soldiers to come.

- Healthy habitats provide both biodiversity and diverse training landscapes.
- Cross compatibility:
 - Army training blends well with and provides funding for conservation efforts.
 - Conservation reduces regulatory conflict and increases training opportunities.

"Camp Edwards combines a culture of training with a culture of conservation." - Colonel Matthew Porter



Prairie Warbler, Wood Lily, & Eastern Box Turtle; Photos: J. McCumber

Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)

Under the federal Sikes Act, Camp Edwards is required to have a long-term INRMP:

- Developed with and approved by US Fish and Wildlife Service and MassWildlife
- Ecosystem based conservation planning:
 - Recover rare species, support common ones
 - Priorities for regional conservation
- Ensures integration of training mission and environmental efforts
- Available online; includes resources, regulations and conservation goals projects

<https://www.massnationalguard.org/ERC/publications.htm>

Our Team

Seven highly trained people specializing in:

- Ecology
- Rare species conservation
- Conservation planning
- Wildland fire
- Wildlife biology
- Plants and wetlands
- Land management
- Habitat restoration
- Forestry



Prescribed fire for habitat; Photo: K. Kolva

The Natural Resources & Training Lands Program is:

- Within the MA Army National Guard's Environmental Program
- Based at Camp Edwards Training Site



Guarding the Environment Supporting the Mission

Habitat - Training Lands - Natural Heritage



Camp Edwards and the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve

Two areas that overlap in land and in mission. Environmental regulations set a path to success and a foundation of long-term sustainability with award winning programs.

- Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) is about one-tenth of Cape Cod's land area (22,000 acres)
- Northern 15,000 acres has dual designation:
 - Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve (The Reserve): established by state law to protect groundwater and wildlife habitat and provide compatible military training.
 - Camp Edwards: critical training site for the National Guard in the northeastern states
- Collaborative environmental protection overseen by state commission and regulators

The Reserve <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/environmental-management-commission-emc>
Camp Edwards <https://www.massnationalguard.org/index.php/about-us/installations/camp-edwards.html>

Foundation of Science

Conservation is built on resource monitoring and science. Our program:

- Uses standard methods to track populations of plants and animals to understand ecosystem health and guide management;
- Conducts and facilitates key research efforts;
- Partners on state, regional, and national survey efforts;
- Has identified an impressive diversity of species including 145 bee species and 908 moth species;
- Supports 43 state-listed species, one federally-listed species, and many species and habitats of regional or global concern.



Scarlet Tanager
Photo: P. Trimble

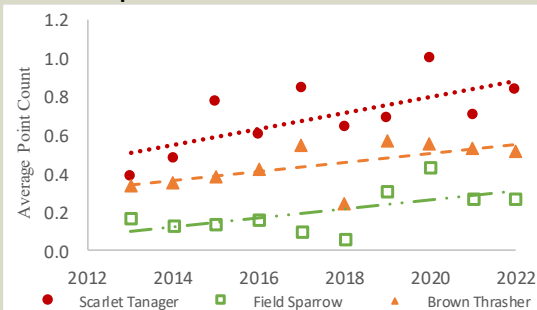


Frosted Elfin
Butterfly; Photo:
J. McCumber

Results and Reporting

Camp Edwards' monitoring data is reported in a variety of ways. One is the Annual State of the Reservation Report - available online - including summaries of survey efforts and results.

- Habitat quality at Camp Edwards is reflected in monitoring and research results tracking populations and communities.
 - Many rare species thrive here thanks to active habitat stewardship with fire and forestry.
 - Long-term bird monitoring is just one of many efforts showing positive ecosystem results.
- Bird species of conservation concern across a



Sample bird population trends reported in 2022

variety of habitat types show increasing population trends at Camp Edwards.

North Atlantic Coastal Pine Barrens

Camp Edwards is a large remnant of a globally rare coastal pine barrens ecosystem, which:

- Is a mosaic of dry woodland and shrubland dominated by pitch pine and scrub oak;
- Supports a wide diversity of species and habitats, including many that are quite rare;
- Relies on stewardship action such as forestry and prescribed fire in the absence of natural processes. These management tools are critical to long-term climate resilience and persistence of this rare natural community.

Camp Edwards' high quality pine barrens thrive thanks to soldier training and National Guard conservation efforts.



Pitch pine and oaks
Photo: J. McCumber



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