

# Assabet River

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex

#### Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D)  
Senator John F. Kerry (D)  
Rep. Martin T. Meehan (D-5th)

#### Contact

Debra Kimbrell-Anderson  
Refuge Manager  
Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge  
73 Weir Hill Road  
Sudbury, MA 01776  
Phone: 978/443 4661 ext. 16  
Fax: 978/443 2898  
TDD: 800/877 8339  
E-mail: fw5rw\_emnwr@fws.gov  
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/assabetriver>

The refuge is part of the Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which has a fiscal year 2006 budget of about \$2 million and a staff of 15.9 people.

#### Purpose

Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge was established for its particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program.

#### Public Use Notes

- Wildlife observation and photography
- Hunting
- Fishing

#### Management Activities

- Conservation and management of migratory bird species
- Restoration of wetland, grassland and forest habitats
- Mapping and control of invasive plant species is a major priority; almost 1,100 acres infested

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1 800/344 WILD  
<http://www.fws.gov>

January 2006



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#### Highlights

Once known as the Fort Devens Sudbury Training Annex, this land was transferred from the U.S. Army to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2000.

The final comprehensive conservation plan was released in January 2005.

The refuge was opened to the public in March 2005. Over 12 miles of trails are available for wildlife observation and photography.

Hunting programs were established in 2005. Deer, turkey, upland game and woodcock hunting was allowed.

Fishing will be allowed in Puffer Pond in 2006.

A \$3.2 million visitor center for the refuge complex will be located at

the refuge. Construction will begin in late 2006.

A \$500,000 project to upgrade gates and the North Gate entrance road and parking area was funded in the 2005 Federal Highway reauthorization bill.

The refuge habitats include freshwater wetlands, forested uplands and grasslands.

The refuge is home to a number of state-listed rare plant, bird, reptile and amphibian species.

The Friends of Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge are very active in support of the refuge.

#### Issues

There may be some opposition to our proposal to allow limited bicycling on the refuge.