

# Great Meadows

## 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

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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. Staff work at all 8 refuges in the complex.

#### Purpose

Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge was established primarily for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds.

#### Public Use Notes

- River fishing
- Visitor contact station
- Environmental education and interpretation
- Wildlife observation and photography
- Hunting

#### Management Activities

- Manage refuge lands to maintain the diversity of native plant and wildlife species
- Work cooperatively with partners to protect resources along the Concord and Sudbury rivers through land acquisition, cooperative management, research and education

#### U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1 800/344 WILD  
<http://www.fws.gov>

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*Sudbury River*

USFWS

#### Highlights

Twelve miles of two nationally designated wild and scenic rivers run through the refuge.

The refuge has an active invasive species management program to control purple loosestrife and water chestnut.

Since 1998, the refuge has been actively managing refuge pools to provide valuable shorebird, wading bird and waterfowl habitat.

The final comprehensive conservation plan was released in January 2005.

The refuge headquarters completed extensive remodeling in 2005.

Deer and waterfowl hunting were allowed in 2005.

The refuge's Urban Education Program is working to make life-long connections between the Service and inner-city Boston and Worcester students.

#### Issues

There continues to be some limited opposition to our decision to prohibit dogs from the refuge, charge an entrance fee, and establish a limited hunting program.

Some refuge neighbors disagree with our policy that does not allow mosquito control for nuisance reasons.

Options to acquire land within the approved boundary are expiring due to lack of funding.

