

Occoquan Bay

National Wildlife Refuge

Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator John W. Warner (R)
Senator George F. Allen (R)
Rep. Tom Davis (R-11th)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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<http://www.fws.gov>

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Contact

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The refuge is managed as part of the Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which includes Mason Neck, Occoquan Bay and Featherstone National Wildlife Refuges. Budget and staffing amounts reflect numbers for the entire complex.

Purpose

Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, formerly the Army's Woodbridge Research Facility, was established to protect migratory bird breeding habitat and to provide an outdoor classroom for wildlife studies.

Public Use Notes

- Refuge is open Thursday through Sunday
- Auto tour route
- Visitor contact station is open Saturday and Sunday, 12 to 4 p.m.

Management Activities

- Grassland, forest and wetland management and restoration
- Coordinate research and environmental education efforts
- Fire management
- Management of endangered species



Bill Wallen/USFWS

Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge fall colors

Highlights

The refuge is the result of the base realignment and closure effort.

Located within an urban area, the refuge harbors more than 300 animal species, birds, butterflies and mammals.

More than 50% of the refuge is wetland habitat, providing an important sanctuary for wildlife in a highly developed area.

The refuge hosts roosting bald eagles.

More than 200 species of migratory birds have been documented to use the refuge.

The refuge protects important wetland habitat at the confluence of the Potomac and Occoquan rivers, 20 miles south of Washington, D.C.

Issues

As a new refuge, expanding access is a key issue.

Providing public use and educational facilities is a challenge.

Providing resource protection and a visitor safety presence is an issue.

