

# Wallkill River

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ)  
Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ)  
Rep. Scott Garrett (R-NJ-5th)  
Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY)  
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY)  
Rep. Sue W. Kelly (R-NY-19th)

### Contact

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Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge and Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge are administratively complexed under Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

### Purpose

The refuge is managed to protect species diversity, migratory birds, endangered species, water quality of aquatic habitats, wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation, environmental education and scientific research.

### Public Use Notes

- Wildlife observation on three nature trails and along Wallkill River
- The Appalachian Trail is located on the refuge (Wallkill River is the only refuge hosting this 2,167-mile trail)
- Permit hunt for white-tailed deer, waterfowl, wild turkey and American woodcock

### Management Activities

- Managing 350 acres of wetland habitat to benefit migratory waterfowl, shorebirds and grassland birds
- Restoring and managing grassland bird breeding habitat
- Use of hunting seasons to augment other wildlife management techniques
- Planning/building additional canoeing, fishing and wildlife observation facilities



USFWS

Bog turtle

### Highlights

The refuge includes nine miles of the Wallkill River valley, one of the region's few remaining high quality waterfowl habitats.

The refuge provides prime habitat for chestnut-sided warblers, scarlet tanagers and other songbirds.

The refuge provides habitat for the federally listed bog turtle and 48 other state-listed species.

Refuge headquarters completed in 1999; the building and surrounding land were purchased via the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Water control structures installed as part of a major partnership with Ducks Unlimited allow for improved migratory bird habitat.

### Issues

Development threatens the area's ecological integrity.

Water quality and the potential construction of further sewage discharge facilities

Illegal use of motorized vehicles

A planned commuter rail will bring more people and development.

A comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and land protection plan are in development.

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

January 2006

