

Brandt Island Cove Wildlife Conservation Easement

*Mattapoisett
109.5 Acres*

Latitude: 41.6417 N Longitude: 70.8256 W



The Brandt Island Cove Wildlife Conservation Easement (WCE) consists of 109.5 acres of land containing approximately 57 acres of salt marsh, 15 acres of forested wetlands and freshwater marsh and 37 acres of forested uplands in the Town of Mattapoisett. The conservation easement was acquired in 2008 by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife from the Mattapoisett Land Trust, and the property is managed for fisheries and wildlife habitat and open space. Common vegetation on the WCE includes red maple, white pine, red oak, sweet pepperbush, highbush blueberry, common greenbrier, saltmarsh cordgrass, saltmeadow cordgrass, high tide bush and sea lavender.

Access

The WCE is accessible via roadside parking along the south side of Anchorage Way. The property may also be accessed by canoe or kayak from Hammonds Cove or Brandt Island Cove. There are a few unmarked walking trails on the WCE, some of which extend to the salt marshes abutting both coves.

History

The Brandt Island Cove Wildlife Conservation Easement lies on Brandt Island Cove, a subembayment to Nasketucket Bay. A recent North America Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funded project is aimed at improving tidal flow to the area to improve the quality of the estuarine ecosystem. In fact, the WCE acquisition was partially funded through the NAWCA grant program as well due to the high quality freshwater and saltwater marshes located on the property. Many shorebirds, including common and roseate terns, utilize the area and all of Buzzards Bay as a foraging ground during spring and fall migrations and during the summer, as close to half of the North American population of roseate terns nests on nearby islands. Based on the location of the property and age structure of the forested habitat, it is likely that some portion of the land was once in active agriculture, whether crop production or livestock pasture, and the area likely was a significant hunting and gathering area for Native Americans.

Outdoor Recreation

The WCE provides ample opportunities for passive outdoor recreation including hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, kayaking and hiking. The aesthetic qualities of the property and surrounding views alone are outstanding. The forested uplands and freshwater wetlands on the property likely provide good opportunities to hunt deer, wild turkey and coyotes, while the saltwater marshes provide some waterfowl hunting opportunity and shoreline fishing. Wildlife viewing should be excellent throughout the WCE, based on the wide variety of habitats and expansive views out towards Nasketucket Bay.

For More Information, contact: *Southeast Wildlife District, MassWildlife, 195 Bournedale Road, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532 (508) 759 – 3406* *MassWildlife Website: www.mass.gov/masswildlife*