

# Church Homestead Wildlife Management Area

*Rochester*  
*163 Acres*

*Latitude: 41 42 20 N    Longitude: 70 50 38 W*



The Church Homestead Wildlife Management Area (WMA) consists of 163 acres of mixed upland forest and red maple swamp in the Town of Rochester. The property was acquired in 2005 by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife from George and Katherine Church. The area is managed for fisheries and wildlife habitat and open space. Common vegetation on the property includes white pine, red oak, white oak, red maple, sweet pepperbush and common greenbrier, with a wide variety of upland and wetland herbaceous plants and grasses.

## ***Access***

The Church Homestead WMA is accessed via a small gravel parking area off Wolf Island Road just west of where the road crosses the Mattapoisett River. There is a small footpath along the western bank of the River that extends from the crossing at Wolf Island Road north into the WMA that is primarily used by anglers. An old gated woods road extends into the property from Wolf Island Road approximately 75 yards west of the gravel parking area and can be accessed by either walking the edge of the road from the parking area or cutting through the woods.

## ***History***

The Church Homestead Wildlife Management Area gets its name from an old homestead site located on an upland mound in the approximate center of the property, where evidence of old stone foundations can be observed. This property was one of several large parcels owned by the Church family along both sides of the Mattapoisett River where the family owned and operated a lumber mill, harvested sustainable timber products and maintained agricultural hay fields.

## ***Outdoor Recreation***

The WMA has over 4,000 feet of frontage on the Mattapoisett River, which serves as the WMA's entire eastern boundary and a portion of the northern boundary, extending from Wolf Island Road to the north. The River is stocked with trout annually by the Division and is easily accessible by the footpath mentioned above. The diverse forested uplands and wetlands and abundance of hard and soft mast producing species on the WMA support a large variety of game and nongame wildlife. Good hunting opportunities include white-tailed deer, wild turkey, coyote and some migratory waterfowl along the River. Trapping and wildlife viewing opportunities are also very good.

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