

# Plymouth Town Forest Wildlife Conservation Easement

*Plymouth  
296 Acres*

*Latitude: 41.9182 N    Longitude: 70.6762 W*



The Plymouth Town Forest Wildlife Conservation Easement (WCE) consists of 296 acres of mixed upland forest and forested wetlands in the Town of Plymouth. The Division acquired the conservation restriction in 2008 from the Town of Plymouth, which holds the underlying fee. The area is managed for fisheries and wildlife habitat, open space and associated passive outdoor recreation. Common vegetation on the property includes white pine, white oak, scrub oak, red maple, lowbush blueberry, huckleberry, sweet pepperbush and common greenbrier. Pitch pine is also present throughout the area. The WCE contains frontage on both Great South Pond and Little South Pond and abuts the Division's Cooks Pond Natural Heritage Area (NHA) and South Triangle Pond NHA.

## ***Access***

Access to the WCE is limited by the terms of the conservation restriction to the following: a two-car parking area to be developed in Spring 2009 near the western end of Drew Road adjacent to the pumphouse on Little South Pond and a second small parking area to be created near the eastern end of Drew Road, just south of where the powerline easement crosses the road. The two-car parking area adjacent to Little South Pond is intended to provide car-top boat access to both Little and Great South Ponds. Internal combustion engines of any kind and electric engines that exceed 10 horsepower are strictly prohibited on both ponds.

There is also a small parking area/pull-off at the intersection of Drew Road and Long Pond Road, as well as four parking spaces dedicated as access to the Cooks Pond NHA at the back of the Armstrong Ice Arena parking lot near the gate on Cooks Pond Road that can be used to access the area courtesy of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, which owns and manages the Arena. The Town otherwise prohibits roadside parking on Drew Road.

## ***History***

The Plymouth Town Forest WCE was acquired as one of the final pieces of the so-called "Plymouth Challenge." The Division acquired the WCE from the Town following a previous acquisition of a similar conservation restriction in Plymouth known as the Plymouth Pine Hills WCE on Old Sandwich Road. Since this property was acquired, the Division and the Town have worked cooperatively on the management of the area and the protection of the many sensitive species and habitats found therein. Controlling vehicular access and illegal dumping has been a primary focus, as has the ongoing protection of Great and Little South Ponds, which once served as public drinking water supplies.

## ***Outdoor Recreation***

This WCE offers excellent outdoor recreational opportunities including hiking, biking, wildlife watching, canoeing, kayaking, hunting, fishing and trapping. Common game species are abundant throughout the area and the many old roads and trails on the property provide ample foot access. Great and Little South Ponds offer superb warmwater fishing opportunities, however please keep in mind that access to these ponds is limited to the two-car parking area. Respect private landowners on the ponds and be sure to do your part to prevent the spread of invasive/exotic plant and animal species by thoroughly cleaning your boat and fishing equipment both before and after using this sensitive resource.

**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)*