

SQUANNACOOK RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

(Ayer/Groton/Shirley/Townsend~West Townsend)

- GENERAL :** This **947** acre area is composed of several scattered parcels of mostly flat, valley bottomland that follow the Squannacook River from just below its origin at the confluence of Willard and Trapfall Brooks in West Townsend, downstream to just above where it flows into the Nashua River in Ayer. It is accessible from Route 119, Townsend Road, Harbor Road, Shirley Road, Meetinghouse Road and others.
U.S.G.S. Quads: Townsend, Ayer
- VEGETATION:** The area is mostly wooded. Its sandy soils support unusually fine stands of white pine interspersed with less dominant oaks and maples. There are very few open fields, but an abandoned power line runs from a sandit on Harbor Road to route 225.
- WATER:** The Squannacook River is a fine coldwater stream that receives several annual stockings of trout. It is about 30 feet wide throughout the reach, which borders or runs through the management area. There are three dams within this stretch, one located just below Route **119** in Townsend Center, another at the junction of Harbor Road and Route **119** in Townsend, and the last one at Route 225 in Groton. The ponded areas harbor some panfish in addition to trout.
- WILDLIFE:** Beaver, muskrat, raccoon and waterfowl are found along the river. There are wood duck boxes above the Route 225 dam, but waterfowl hunting is limited. The upland areas support small populations of ruffed grouse, deer, red fox and coyote. Bear and moose are occasionally reported. A small number of pheasant are stocked on the area during the season.
- SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** Note that a "hunter orange" hat is required wear for hunters during the pheasant season.