

TYRINGHAM WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EASEMENT

(Monterey & Tyringham)

Size: 780 acres. Includes land owned by Berkshire Natural Resource Council and Monterey Preservation Land Trust under Conservation Restriction held by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. This property will be open to wildlife recreation such as fishing, hunting, hiking, birdwatching and other passive wildlife related recreation.

Access: There are no formal parking areas. The property can be accessed via road frontage on McCarthy Road and Tyringham/Monterey Road.

Vegetation: The upland forest is comprised of mature northern hardwoods such as red & sugar maples, red oak, yellow birch, American beech, and white ash. The WCE contains areas of rich mesic forest found on slopes with calcium-rich soils such as limestone. This environment provides an abundance of nutrients and generally moist soils. The forested areas are part of some of the largest interior forest blocks in Massachusetts.

Water: The aquatic habitat features on the property include Steadman Pond as well as stream and associated riparian habitat. Steadman Pond supports a warm-water fishery including native fish and aquatic invertebrates. Walk-in access to the pond is available from Tyringham Road. The stream that flows from Steadman Pond into Hop Brook is exemplary stream habitat which contains clear water flowing over and around cobbles and boulders. This tributary to Hop Brook supports a healthy community of ecologically sensitive aquatic invertebrates such as mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies.

Wildlife: The upland forest, combined with the adjacent meadows and Stedman Pond, provides a highly varied and productive habitat for many native species, including whitetail deer, eastern black bear, wild turkey, snowshoe hare, ruffed grouse, red and gray fox, among many other species.

Special Regulations: None