

MassWildlife Lands User Guide

Great Swamp Wildlife Management Area

Towns: Deerfield, Hatfield, Whately

Acreage: 706

Description of property:

This WMA is composed of a multitude of parcels that lie in the relatively flat floodplain of the Mill River. The property mainly consists of a large black gum-pin oak-white oak swamp that contains red maple, black gum, swamp white oak, and pin oak. The surrounding uplands are made up of central hardwoods (oak, beech, birch) and white pine. Two parcels at the southern end of the WMA contain manmade ponds which are remnant borrow pits that were used during the construction of Highway 91.

Location/Access/Parking:

The property can be accessed from State Road (Route 5), Swamp Road, and North Road. A grass parking area for two cars exists off of North Road. Parking areas are not maintained in the winter.

Habitat Management:

This property is not currently in active management but is reviewed annually regarding the need for forest cutting plans.

Hunting Opportunities:

Hunting opportunities exist for White-tailed Deer, Black Bear, fox, Eastern Coyote, Gray Squirrel, Raccoon, and aquatic furbearers. This area is stocked with Ring-necked Pheasants during the pheasant season.

Fishing Opportunities:

Mill River provides fishing opportunities for native Brook Trout, reproducing Brown Trout, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and stocked trout species. Roaring Brook provides fishing opportunities for native Brook Trout and reproducing Brown Trout. Esther Brook provides fishing opportunities for native Brook Trout. Go to [Mass.gov/Trout](https://www.mass.gov/trout) for more information.

Wildlife Viewing and Other Features:

Most of this WMA is mapped as Core Habitat in *BioMap2*, the state's comprehensive biodiversity plan, as it contains a large example of a black gum-pin oak-swamp white oak "perched" swamp natural community which is unusual to find in Massachusetts. The Mill River supports rare freshwater mussels and dragonflies.

Special WMA Regulations:

During the pheasant season, a "hunter orange" hat is required for all hunters except while night-hunting Raccoons or Opossums or while hunting waterfowl from within a blind or boat. No person shall hunt before sunrise or after sunset during the open season on pheasant, except for the hunting of Raccoons or Opossums between 9pm and 3am.



Useful Links:

[WMA Regulations](#)

[Habitat Program](#)

[Hunting & Fishing](#)

Fishing/Hunting Licenses:

[Mass.gov/MassFishHunt](https://www.mass.gov/massfishhunt)

Learn more:

[Mass.gov/MassWildlife](https://www.mass.gov/masswildlife)

Connect with us:

[Facebook.com/MassWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/MassWildlife)

Get Your Orange On!

All outdoor users are encouraged to wear blaze orange during hunting seasons.

MassWildlife

Connecticut Valley District

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