



MassWildlife Lands User Guide

Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area

Town: Halifax, Hanson
Acreage: 1,886
Wildlife Management Zone: 11

Description of Property

This property consists of open water, marsh, Atlantic white cedar and red maple swamps as well as former cranberry bogs located on the border of Hanson and Halifax. One of the attractions of the area is its wide open vistas and easy access created by the numerous cranberry bog dikes.

Location/Access/Parking

The area is accessible through the main parking area at Hawks Avenue in Hanson, on the east side of Elm Street across from the Town of Hanson's Smith-Nawazelski Conservation Area and at several roadside pull-offs on the east side of Elm Street about .3 miles south of the intersection with Hudson Street in Hanson. The regional headquarters for the Massachusetts Environmental Police is also located on the Burrage Pond WMA.

Habitat Management

This WMA is managed for fish and wildlife habitats and for open space. MassWildlife conducted an extensive wetland restoration project in 2013, funded by a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant. The former cranberry bogs are now managed to provide a variety of emergent wetland habitats that attract and provide essential habitat for many species of wildlife and plants.

Hunting Opportunities

The area supports a large variety of game species and is a popular spot for waterfowl hunters. Hunting opportunities include waterfowl hunting in the marsh and bog areas and White-tailed Deer hunting in the forested areas. Wild Turkeys are also present on the WMA.

Fishing Opportunities

Upper and Lower Burrage Ponds offer excellent warmwater shoreline fishing from the main dike. The fish populations of Upper and Lower Burrage Ponds are known to contain Bluegill, Yellow Perch, Largemouth Bass, Pumpkinseed Sunfish, Chain Pickerel, Golden Shiner, Black Crappie, Brown Bullhead and White Perch. The ponds are very fertile, shallow (average depth 3 to 4 feet) and weedy. There are good ice fishing opportunities on the WMA. Canoes and small cartop boats can be carried in.

Wildlife Viewing and Other Features

The area supports many types of wildlife and is also noted for its bird watching opportunities; past surveys have found over 81 species of birds using the area. Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area was originally known as the Great Cedar Swamp. The outlet from Monponsett Pond, known as Stump Brook or Herring Brook, was dammed for water power and created an artificial pond called Stump Pond and later many of the wetlands were developed as cranberry bogs. The majority of the area was purchased in 2002 by The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Special WMA Regulations

None

Useful Links

[WMA Regulations](#)

[Habitat Program](#)

[Hunting & Fishing](#)

Fishing/Hunting Licenses

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MassWildlife

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