

Visitor Center

The Visitor Center at the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge is located at 680 Hudson Road in Sudbury off of the Refuge's entrance road known as Winterberry Way. It is approximately three quarters of a mile from our main entrance on Hudson Road. The 5,000 square foot Visitor Center was designed and built with the goal to be as "green" as possible. Therefore, many of the supplies used during the construction was either recycled or re-used from other recycled products and the building encompasses many sustainable features.

The Visitor Center houses a multipurpose room, wildlife exhibits, a nature store and office space for staff and the Friends of the Assabet River NWR.

The Visitor Center is open Thursday – Sunday from 10 am to 4pm. The trails are open sunrise to sunset and so the gate at the main entrance off Hudson Road will be open to accommodate this. To get to the Visitor Center from the main entrance simply go up Winterberry Way. School group visits and other tours can be arranged outside of the established open hours as well.

Front Desk

For questions or concerns come inside and ask our welcoming staff or volunteers at the front desk! Stop in to get oriented with the trails or find out about upcoming programs!

Wildlife Exhibits of the Eastern Mass Complex

The Visitor Center serves to teach about the eight refuges in the Eastern Massachusetts Complex, but emphasizes is given to the local wildlife and habitats you will find at Assabet River NWR. There are interactive exhibits, such as pull out drawers with specimens inside, wildlife sounds and question/answer panels. If you are bringing kids, ask for a scavenger hunt to match the taxidermy animals with their habitat! Children also love the "Night Room" which is an interactive showing of the wildlife you will see and hear at night.

More information on Exhibits

Aside from local wildlife exhibits, the Visitor Center also features indoor and outdoor panels that examine the history of the area. These exhibits focus on early Native American inhabitation of the SUASCO Watershed, European farming settlements of the area, and the military occupation of the former Fort Devens Sudbury Annex which covered the land which is now the refuge. Various artifacts found in the refuge are also on display.

The exhibits also highlight the green features of the Visitor Center, as well as conservation heroes that have shaped the environmental movement. The panels will show what goes into your carbon footprint, but also hopes to inspire you to take action.

Multipurpose Room

The multipurpose room serves as a meeting space at the Visitor Center. For large meetings and presentations it can accommodate over 75 people. The room comes with movable chairs and tables and can be set up in a variety of different ways. State of the art audio-visual equipment

including projectors, a Blu-ray player, wireless microphones and interactive white board are also available. The room can also be divided in half to provide for multiple meetings at once. The room is currently available for rental for mission related organizations. For a complete list of room regulations visit: ([LINK TO ROOM USE POLICY ON WEBSITE](#))

Nature Store

The Assabet Nature Store is operated by the Friends of the refuge and features items highlighting local wildlife and history. Field guides ranging from birds to animal tracks, to wildflowers are available as well as great wildlife themed toys and activities for children. Books on the surrounding area and historic maps of prior uses of the refuge can also be purchased.

Restrooms inside

Environmentally friendly restrooms are located inside the visitor center, next to the Nature Store.

Programs

If you would like to plan a environmental-based program at the refuge or if you would like to schedule a visit, please contact us at 1-978-562-3527.

DIRECTIONS TO THE REFUGE

Three main parking areas:

1. Old Marlborough Road in Maynard
A parking area at this site may be constructed in the near future.
2. White Pond Road in Stow
From Route 2, take Exit 42 (Route 27) south towards Acton and through Maynard. Turn Right at lights that junction with route 117 in Maynard and follow 117 West. Follow straight through lights that junction with Route 62, and follow into Stow. Turn left onto White Pond Road. Follow to end. This route is approximately 6.5 miles.
3. Hudson road in Sudbury for vehicle access to the Visitor Center (main entrance) – From Route 2, take Exit 42 (Route 27) south towards Acton and through Maynard. Go Straight through lights at junction with Route 117 in Maynard, following Route 27 south until you see Fairbank Road on the right. Take Fairbank Road to the end. Turn right off of Fairbank Road onto Hudson Road. Follow Hudson Road for about one mile, main refuge entrance is on right. This route is approximately 8 miles.

From Hudson/Stow area, follow Route 62 East to Main St. in Hudson, onto State Road in Stow, which turns into Hudson Road, Sudbury. Main Refuge Entrance is on left near Department of Fire Services Headquarters.

If using any navigation system, it is advised to use 680 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA.