

# New Trail Opening!



What: Public Invited to hike new Esker Loop Trail at the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge in Shirley

Where: Meet at the entrance to the refuge off Walker Road in Shirley, north of the RR tracks.

When: Saturday, June 27th at 1PM

A new Esker Loop Trail will open on Saturday to the public at the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge in Shirley. The nearly 1,700 acre refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is open to uses compatible with its purpose as a wildlife refuge. Please join the Service, Friends of the Oxbow Refuge, and members of the Shirley Conservation Commission on a guided tour of the new trail.

This scenic trail winds parallel to the Nashua River and atop an esker, a natural ridge created millenia ago by the glaciers. We will look for birds and other wildlife that occupy a variety of habitats in the area including forest, vernal pools, and the river. This hike will introduce local residents and other interested parties to a new wildlife-dependent recreational resource now available in the area.

Wear comfortable hiking boots and clothing appropriate for outdoor activity. Water and bug repellent recommended. **Be prepared for moderate hiking for approximately 2 hours.** No dogs allowed.

For more information, contact - Susan J. Russo at 978-443-3661 x34 or [Susan\\_J\\_Russo@fws.gov](mailto:Susan_J_Russo@fws.gov). The Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1974 through a land transfer from the Department of Defense. Since then more lands have been added to protect additional wildlife habitat. Please note that bicycles and dogs are not allowed anywhere on the refuge and that this new open area is also open to seasonal hunting.