



Eastern MA NWR Complex Position Description – Trail Steward

The Eastern MA NWR Complex (Complex) is comprised of eight national wildlife refuges (Assabet River, Great Meadows, Mashpee, Massasoit, Monomoy, Nantucket, Nomans Land Island, and Oxbow) with a headquarters building at Great Meadows NWR, a visitor contact station at Monomoy NWR, and a newly constructed visitor center at Assabet River NWR which is located at 680 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA.

The Center is a newly constructed, “green” building that the local community and tourists will visit to learn more about local wildlife and habitats, as well as the United States Fish & Wildlife Service. The Center is the primary location refuge visitors can obtain information about the Refuge, as well as the Eastern MA NWR Complex and the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Center also houses interactive, hands-on educational exhibits, a multi-purpose meeting room, and a Friends Group nature store. It is open year-round with starting hours as Sat & Sun, 10am – 4pm; these hours will be expanded to Fri thru Sun, 10am – 4pm as soon as road construction is 100% complete and then to Thurs thru Sun, 10am – 4pm by January 2011.

Role of a “Trail Steward”:

- Interact with visitors when on the trails
- Enhance the enjoyment and safety of visitors to the refuge
- Notify Refuge staff of any law enforcement situations
- Communicate regularly with Refuge staff about problems seen on trails
- Possess a friendly demeanor
- Carry a small trash bag to pick-up litter on trails
- Encouraged o wear durable and comfortable footwear, and bring a pair of gloves, snack and water
- Limbing and trimming trees upon completion of hands-on training provided by staff
- Check trail for the following conditions:
 - major obstructions (fallen logs, etc.)
 - minor obstructions (small branches, twigs, etc.)
 - encroaching branches or other vegetation that needs trimming
 - hazardous sharp branch ends that poke into the trail from the sides or from the ground
 - leaning or hanging trees or large branches over the trail
 - poor footing (loose gravel, erosional ruts, tripping hazards, etc.)
 - mud holes

Time Commitment Required:

- Minimum of walking assigned trail(s) once a week; twice a month during the winter
- Report to refuge staff BEFORE and AFTER each time trail is scouted
- Availability to be on-call after any major storms pass through the area
- Optional: participate in “work parties” hosted by the Friends of Assabet River & Oxbow NWR’s

Training:

- Trail Stewards will be provided an orientation prior to his/her first official assignment
- Attendance to the Eastern MA NWR Complex Annual Volunteer Orientation is highly recommended (typically held in March or April each year – approximately 2 hours long)
- Study guide located at <http://www.landtrust.org/Stewardship/TraILStewardGuide09.pdf>

Incentives:

- Contribute in your local community
- Assist in the protection of wildlife habitat
- All volunteers earn nonmonetary awards as they build the # of hours they contribute
- Make new friends

**If interested, please contact Susan_J_Russo@fws.gov or 978.562.3527 today!
The more volunteers we have working with us, the more we can provide to the community.**