



# Eastern MA NWR Complex Position Description: **Volunteer Environmental Educator** Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge, Sudbury, MA



The Eastern MA NWR Complex (Complex) is comprised of eight national wildlife refuges (Assabet River, Great Meadows, Mashpee, Massasoit, Monomoy, Nantucket, Noman's 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 Assabet River NWR Visitor Center is a newly constructed, state of the art "green" building that will offer local community and tourists the opportunity to learn more about local wildlife and habitats, as well as the United States Fish & Wildlife Service. The Visitor 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 Assabet Visitor 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: Sat & Sun, 10am – 4pm. These hours will be expanded to Fri thru Sun, 10am – 4pm as soon as road construction is 100% complete. In January 2011 we will be open Thurs thru Sun, 10am – 4pm.

We are expanding our environmental education programs to reach out to suburban community schools, and schools in nearby urban environments where the children have little access to a natural environment. We need committed individuals who enjoy the company of children, are fascinated by the natural world, and would like to combine the two as environmental educators.

## **Role of the Volunteer Environmental Educator:**

- Regularly works with USF&W refuge staff and volunteers to facilitate environmental education programs
- All program material will meet State curriculum standards
- Every volunteer must sign a Volunteer Services Agreement and Natural Resources Agency Application, and regularly submit a timesheet
- Each individual shall work as an integral part of the Education Team
- Ability to work with children of diverse backgrounds and abilities, and of different age levels, (primarily elementary school)
- Flexibility to take on a variety of roles in order to conduct successful environmental education programming
- Ability to work outdoors for 2 – 3 hours at a time
- Possesses a team attitude and friendly demeanor
- Optional: assist in the development of new programs for additional schools

## **Time Commitment Required:**

- Educators are needed throughout the school year, late September through May or June
- Our existing Urban Education team meets approximately ten times during the school year. We are interested in expanding our environmental education program beyond our two current partner schools.
- We are looking for individuals who can commit to approximately 10-20 hours a month, primarily on weekdays when school is in session.

## **Training:**

- Educators will be trained and provided with orientation
- Newcomers will shadow experienced volunteers and staff until they are ready to be a team leader
- Attendance at the Eastern MA NWR Complex Annual Volunteer Orientation is highly recommended (typically held in March or April each year – approximately 2 hours long)

## **Incentives:**

- Contribute to your local community
- Share your interest in nature with children, and help insure that a respect for the natural world is passed on to future generations. Help children learn to become stewards of nature.
- Be part of a group of exceptional people- make new friends!
- Volunteers are greatly appreciated by the Refuge staff! Year end awards include official "US Fish and Wildlife Volunteer" insignia hats, shirts, jackets, etc. (depending on hours accrued)

**If interested, please contact [Susan\\_J\\_Russo@fws.gov](mailto: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.**