

# Eagle Point Wildlife Management Area at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge

## General Description

Eagle Point Wildlife Management Area (WMA) at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge is a 420 acre parcel located along the eastern shore of Lake Memphremagog on the United States-Canada border, in Derby Vermont. The WMA is located approximately five miles north of Newport City on the Eagle Point Road. It is owned by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department in partnership.

The property consists of nearly a mile of lakeshore habitat, numerous wetlands, large meadows, hemlock and mixed forest. It supports a great diversity of wildlife including aquatic mammals, waterfowl, grassland birds, and many other wetland and terrestrial species. The parcel offers excellent wildlife-based public use opportunities, and angling access to Lake Memphremagog.

## History

The USFWS acquired the property in accordance with the terms of the Michael Dunn Trust, which offered the land to the federal government as a donation. Michael Dunn was a native of Montreal who emigrated to the family property in the 1970s and later became an American citizen. He passed away in 2007, leaving the property to the U.S. government for the purposes of conservation and use by the public. The Province of Quebec accepted an adjacent 420 acre parcel in Canada that Mr. Dunn left to the Canadian government for the same purposes.

## Common Fish and Wildlife

**Mammals** The wetlands are important habitat for several aquatic mammals, including muskrat, mink, river otter, and beaver. Red fox, eastern coyote, fisher, bobcat, skunk, raccoon, weasel, deer and occasionally moose can be found in the forested wetlands, upland fringes of the marshes and nearby fields.

**Birds** Similar to South Bay WMA located just a few miles to the south, Eagle Point WMA is an important waterfowl production and migration area, particularly for black ducks, mallards and wood ducks. It's also an important grassland bird production area. Short hay crop rotations and habitat loss to development throughout Vermont elevate the importance of the 200+ acres of grassland habitat on the WMA. Grassland species include bobolink, savannah sparrow, field sparrow, and possibly vesper sparrow. Also present are a variety of raptors including the northern harrier, osprey, bald eagle, kestrel, red-tailed hawk, barred and great horned owls. This WMA also provides excellent opportunities to see a variety of wetland and marsh

species. Herons, bitterns, snipe, pied-billed grebes, rails, common moorhens, and marsh wrens make up a large portion of the species you will most likely encounter in the marshes of the WMA.

**Reptiles and Amphibians** Painted, snapping and possibly wood turtles may be found in the wetlands and forests throughout the WMA. A diversity of frogs, including spring peepers, gray tree, bull, green, wood, and probably others inhabit the marshes and wetland pools. Red-spotted newts are common, and spotted, red-backed and northern two-lined salamanders are likely inhabitants of the forests.

**Fish** Largemouth and smallmouth bass, chain pickerel, yellow perch, bullheads and pumpkinseed sunfish may be caught in the Johns river mouth and in Hall's Creek. Large brown trout journey up the Johns River in the fall to spawn, as do rainbow trout in the spring.

## Public Uses

The property is open to public use for hunting, fishing (including access for ice fishing), hiking and wildlife watching. **Trapping is currently not allowed at this time**, but might be in the future as part of a Furbearer Management Plan.

**ATVs are prohibited on the property; it is unlawful to load or unload an ATV on the property for any purpose, including accessing Lake Memphremagog for ice fishing.**

**Camping is not currently allowed on the property**, but primitive camp sites will be established in the future.

**Planning for the future** The US Fish and Wildlife Service and Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department will be developing a Long Range Management Plan for this property to be completed by December 2013.

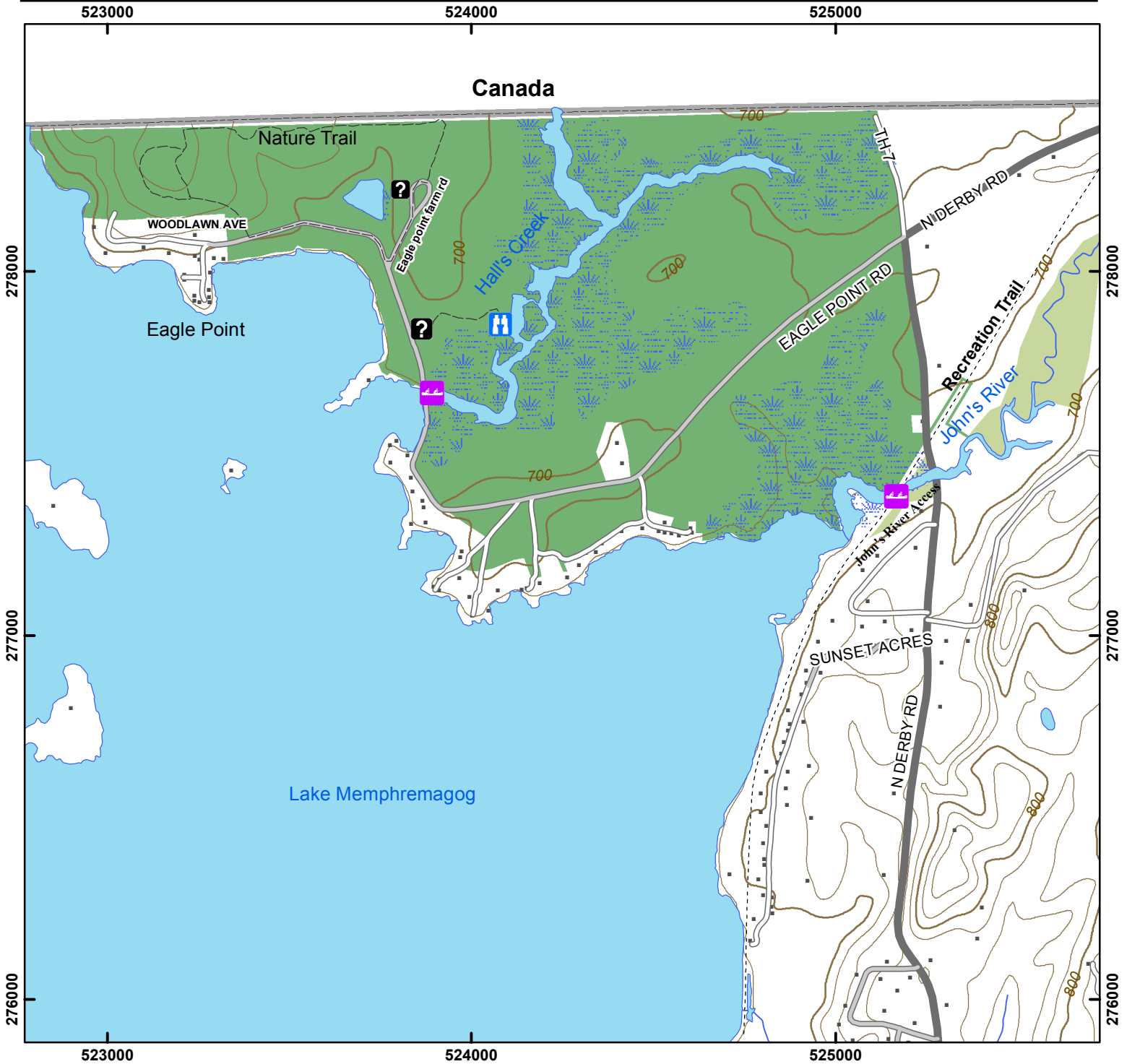


Eagle Point Wildlife Management Area (WMA) at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge provides excellent opportunities to see a variety of wetland and marsh species like green herons. Wayne Laroche, VFWD photo.

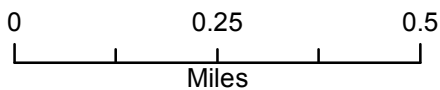


# Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

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### Eagle Point WMA: 457 acres



- Wildlife Management Area
- Other Public Land
- Private w/Public Access
- Wildlife Viewing Areas
- Car-top Access
- Proposed Parking Area
- Kiosk
- Boat Ramp
- Gate
- Designated camp site during Big Game Seasons only

This map is for illustrative purposes only. The accuracy of the data layers shown on this map are limited by the accuracy of the source materials. No warranty as to the accuracy or the usefulness of the data is expressed or implied.