

## Missisquoi Delta and Bay Wetlands Ramsar Site

*Site Includes only federal and state land including Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Carmans Marsh Wildlife Management Area, Maquam Wildlife Management Area and Rock River Wildlife Management Area*

### Ramsar Convention Overview

- The Ramsar Convention is a 40 year old intergovernmental treaty, signed on by over 160 countries, to promote voluntary international cooperation for wetland and waterfowl conservation.
- The treaty recognizes the importance of wetlands and designates Wetland of International Importance based on one or more of nine official criteria.
- There are currently 35 designated sites in the USA and over 2,000 around the world.
- In the United States, sites awarded this designation have reported the recognition has helped in grant applications and funding requests, increased economic benefit for the area through increased tourism, and served to increase interest and appreciation of wetlands.
- Being recognized as a Wetland of International Importance does not impose restrictions on the management of the site.

### Site Overview

The Missisquoi Delta and Bay Wetlands meet seven of the nine official criteria for Ramsar designation.

- ❖ The Missisquoi River delta is the largest wetland complex in the Lake Champlain Basin and includes the largest and perhaps highest quality silver maple floodplain forest in the State of Vermont as well as natural and managed marshes of wild rice, buttonbush, and tussock sedge
- ❖ Hosts approximately 20,000 waterfowl during migration and the largest concentration of waterfowl in Vermont. The site is a critical link for migratory birds along the Atlantic Flyway.
- ❖ The site includes Shad Island great blue heron rookery, the largest rookery in Vermont.
- ❖ The site harbors rare birds, freshwater mussels, turtles, and fish and provides key spawning and nursery habitat for numerous aquatic species from Lake Champlain and the Missisquoi River.
- ❖ The site includes Maquam Bog, a mixed shrub-sedge bog which is one of the largest ombrotrophic bogs in New England as well as a Pitch Pine Woodland Bog, the only example of this natural community type in Vermont.

### More Information available at:

[www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org) or <http://www.fws.gov/international/wildlife-without-borders/ramsar-wetlands-convention.html>  
For questions, please contact Ken Sturm at [Ken\\_Sturm@fws.gov](mailto:Ken_Sturm@fws.gov) or 802 868-4781

