



Great Bay *National Wildlife Refuge*



An Area Rich in Diversity

Great Bay was established in 1992 when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acquired 1,100 acres of the former Pease Air Force Base on Great Bay in Newington, New Hampshire. The refuge is most notable for its scenic Great Bay shoreline and abundant wildlife.

Great Bay supports a vibrant commercial shellfish industry, including oysters, clams, and lobsters. As the largest single unit of conservation land and water within the Great Bay Estuary, the refuge plays a significant role in protecting the Bay's water quality, while also supporting its diverse wildlife resources. The Bay, coupled with the refuge's Stubbs Pond, supports 50 to 80 percent of the State's wintering waterfowl population. Species commonly seen in the Bay and at Stubbs Pond include scaup, merganser, goldeneye, brant, coot, and black duck.

Raptors (or birds of prey) use the diverse habitats on the refuge throughout the year. In winter, bald eagles are common. Since 2011, a pair of bald eagles has nested on the refuge, the first nesting pair on the Bay in over 70 years! Many species of migrating raptors pass through the refuge during the spring and fall months.

During the summer, kestrel, osprey, red-tailed hawk, barred owl and great horned owl nest on the refuge.

The refuge is largely forested and supports a diverse array of songbirds, including wood thrush, ovenbird, and wood peewee. Young forest species, such as turkey, white-tailed deer, coyote, and woodcock, are abundant on the refuge. Extensive vernal pool complexes – a valuable type of seasonal wetland – support many species of frogs, salamanders, turtles, and snakes. The forests, fields, and wetlands on the refuge provide valuable habitat for important bat populations including the Federally listed northern long-eared bat, State listed small-footed myotis, and many other species. Other wildlife found on the refuge include river otter, red fox, painted turtle, snapping turtle, and American eel.

Public Use

The refuge is open daily for hiking, birdwatching, photography, and other activities that promote the public's understanding and appreciation of Great Bay's natural resources. Visitor amenities include two trails, parking lot, restroom, and an interpretive kiosk. Interpretive

programs are regularly offered at the refuge. Please check the refuge web site for the current schedule: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/great_bay/.

From either of the refuge's two trails, visitors may be lucky enough to observe and/or photograph wildlife, particularly during the early morning and late afternoon hours, when many wild animals tend to be more active. Cross country skiing and snowshoeing on these same trails are popular activities during the winter.

Upper Peverly Pond Trail

- Round trip: ½ mile
- Hiking time: 20 minutes
- Difficulty: easy

This boardwalk trail, which is fully wheelchair accessible, begins at the southeast corner of the parking lot. After passing through a beautiful forested area, the trail continues to a wildlife observation blind at the edge of Upper Peverly Pond. From there, the trail loops back to the parking lot, after meandering by several (seasonally wet) vernal pools.

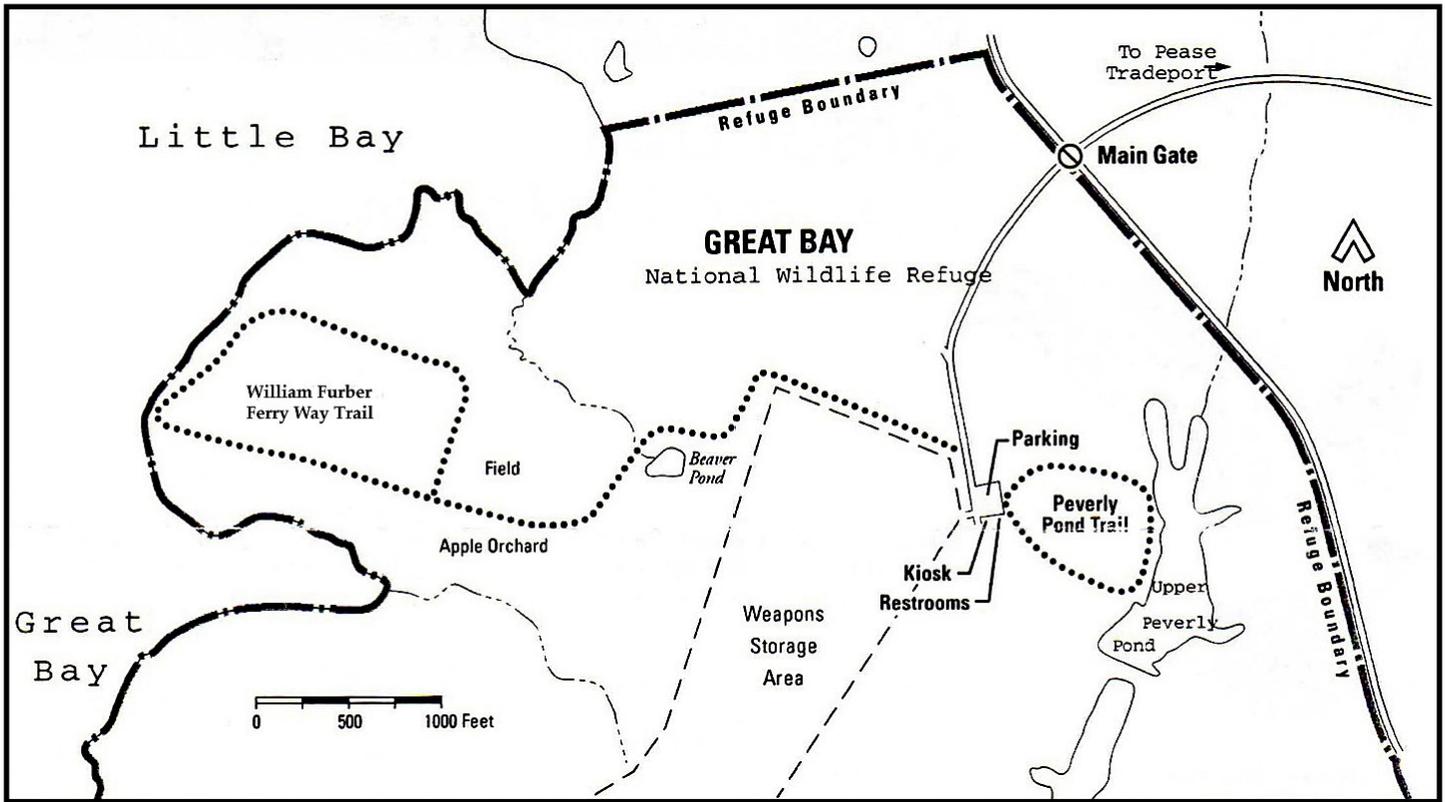
William Furber Ferry Way Trail

- Round Trip: 2 miles
- Hiking Time: 1 hour
- Difficulty: moderate

This trail follows along the outside of the old chain link fence located across the road from the parking lot. Before long, the trail turns toward the woods, beginning a loop that will take the visitor through or along the edge of a beaver pond, a large field, an old orchard, and



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marsh. At about the halfway point, an observation deck provides a sweeping view of Great Bay itself. A self-guided interpretive brochure for this trail is available at the trailhead or via download from the refuge web site. (Note: Because this trail can be muddy during the wetter months of the year, refuge visitors are advised to wear waterproof boots during such periods.)

As a visitor to this national wildlife refuge, please be aware of and abide by the following rules and regulations, including:

- ◆ Stay on marked trails and observe all "Area Closed" signs
- ◆ Be alert for refuge boundary signs and be respectful of our neighbors
- ◆ Bikes and motor vehicles are limited to the refuge entrance road and parking lot
- ◆ Pets are prohibited to prevent excessive wildlife disturbance
- ◆ Fishing is prohibited due to the presence of contaminants in Upper Peverly Pond
- ◆ Do not collect or disturb any wildlife or vegetation

questions about the refuge, please call (978) 465-5753.

For Further Information

Refuge Manager
 Parker River NWR
 6 Plum Island Turnpike
 Newburyport, MA 01950
 Phone: (978) 465-5753
 Email: greatbay@fws.gov
 Web: www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay

Federal Relay Service
 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
 1 800/877 8339

Getting to the Refuge

Visitors can get directions to the refuge parking lot by entering the following address into an online route finder: 4 Arboretum Drive, Newington, NH, 03801. Directions can also be found online here: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 1 800/344 WILD



Great Bay NWR is administered by the staff of Parker River NWR, headquartered in Newburyport, MA. If interested in volunteering at Great Bay and/or if you have

