

Great Swamp

National Wildlife Refuge

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Jon S. Corzine (D)
Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D)
Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-11th)

Contact

Bill Koch, Refuge Manager
Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
241 Pleasant Plains Road
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 9615
Phone: 973/425 1222
Fax: 973/425 7309
TDD: 800/852 7887 (NJ relay)
E-mail: fw5rw_gsnwr@fws.gov
<http://greatswamp.fws.gov>

Purpose

The refuge was established to protect and manage habitat for migratory birds, to conserve wetlands and natural resources, to allow incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreation and to protect threatened and endangered species.

Public Use Notes

- Wildlife auto tour route
- Permit hunt for white-tailed deer
- 9.7 miles of hiking trails
- Wildlife observation center with blinds, displays, boardwalk trails and restrooms
- Interpretation, environmental education, nature study, photography

Management Activities

- Routine mowing and/or prescribed burning of up to 600 acres of grassland to provide early successional habitat
- Rotational cutting of 1,000 acres to maintain forest diversity
- Regulating water levels to enhance habitat for water dependent species
- Improving habitat by restoring wetlands, controlling invasive plant species and providing nesting boxes for wood ducks and bluebirds
- Managing deer to ensure population health and prevent overbrowsing
- Monitoring one remediated Superfund site and one remediated municipal landfill
- Conducting biological and water quality monitoring
- Supporting wildlife research on the refuge
- Working in cooperation with watershed partners and stakeholders to preserve the ecological integrity of the Great Swamp and its watershed

Highlights

Through citizen efforts, the refuge prevented destruction of the swamp from construction of jetport with nearly 3,000 acres donated to the refuge; became a registered Natural National Landmark in 1966.

Located 26 miles from Times Square, the refuge offers habitat protection and recreational opportunities in a densely populated area.

About half of the refuge was designated as DOI's first wilderness area in 1968.

Diverse mix of over 600 plant species from northern and southern botanical zones and 300 vertebrate species.



Provides habitat for 26 state/federal endangered species.

Issues

Extensive development in the surrounding watershed causes flooding and water quality issues.

A large municipal landfill abutting and partially on the refuge became a Superfund site.

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
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March 2004

