

Shawangunk Grasslands

National Wildlife Refuge

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Charles E. Schumer (D)
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)
Rep. Maurice D. Hinchey (D-22nd)

Contact

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Profile

Established:	1999
Current acres:	566
Proposed total acres:	621
Staff:	0

Purpose

The refuge is managed for breeding grassland birds and wintering raptors. It has opportunities for wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation and scientific research.

Public Use Notes

- Wildlife observation
- Wildlife photography
- Environmental education

Management Activities

- Restoring and managing 450 acres of grasslands
- Invasive species control
- Biological inventories conducted since 1999

Highlights

Designated by Audubon New York as an "Important Bird Area."

Largest intact and protected grassland in southeastern New York; supports large numbers of breeding grassland birds and wintering raptors.

Visitors come from the tri-state area to view short-eared owls and other grassland birds.

Refuge opened for public use in spring 2000.

Issues

Comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) being developed for the refuge.

Without any permanent staff, environmental education and public use opportunities are hindered.

Illegal all-terrain vehicle use

Unauthorized land clearing and hunting by refuge neighbors

Model airplane flying was found to be incompatible in February 2002. Model airplane proponents continue to request congressional intercession to allow model airplane flying.

Impacts from soon-to-be developed town park may reduce grassland bird breeding success and reduce the quality of visitor experiences.

Development threatens the area's ecological integrity.



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