



MassWildlife Lands User Guide

George L. Darey Housatonic Valley Wildlife Management Area

Towns: Lee, Lenox, Pittsfield

Acreage: 677

Wildlife Management Zone: 2,3

Description of property:

This relatively narrow, elongated property is comprised of several parcels of flat, floodplain habitat. Most portions of the area border or contain various segments of the Housatonic River, and elevation varies no more than approximately 50 feet. The area supports seasonally flooded wooded swamps, shrub swamps, deep open marshes and shallow open marshes. There are also a number of abandoned fields, which are being invaded to various degrees by woody shrubs. The Housatonic River flows through the area from north to south. There are a number of oxbow ponds and backwaters, including Woods Pond at the southern end of the area. There are also segments of several tributary streams, including Yokun Brook. October Mountain State Forest borders the WMA on the eastern side.

Location/Access/Parking:

Dirt parking lots can be found on both sides New Lenox Rd in Lenox. Parking can also be found on the side of Roaring Brook Rd in Lenox.

Habitat Management:

Fields off of Meadow Street are maintained for pheasant cover.

Hunting Opportunities:

Waterfowl and aquatic furbearers frequently occupy the area. White-tailed Deer and American Woodcock can be found in the woodier areas. The fields off of New Lenox Rd are stocked with Ring-necked Pheasants in the fall.

Fishing Opportunities:

The Housatonic River provides fishing opportunities for species such as Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Chain Pickerel, Carp, sunfish, Smallmouth Bass and bullheads as well as native Brook Trout, reproducing Brown Trout and stocked trout species. Woods Pond offers warmwater fishing opportunities. However, see special regulations below. There is a boat ramp off of New Lenox Rd. Go to [Mass.gov/Trout](https://www.mass.gov/trout) for more information.

Wildlife Viewing and Other Features:

Numerous nongame species associated with the lowland habitat can be found in this area. There is boat access that allows for spectacular canoeing and kayaking as well as photographic opportunities.

Special WMA Regulations:

A "hunter orange" hat is required wear for hunters during the pheasant season. Anglers should note that, due to PCB contamination, a Public Health Advisory has been issued on the consumption of fish from this portion of the Housatonic River.

Useful Links

[WMA Regulations](#)

[Habitat Program](#)

[Hunting & Fishing](#)

Fishing/Hunting Licenses

[Mass.gov/MassFishHunt](https://www.mass.gov/massfishhunt)

Learn more

[Mass.gov/MassWildlife](https://www.mass.gov/masswildlife)

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Get Your Orange On!

All outdoor users are encouraged to wear blaze orange during hunting seasons.

Your local

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