



# MassWildlife Lands User Guide

## Southwick Wildlife Management Area

**Towns:** Southwick

**Acreage:** 265

**Wildlife Management Zone:** 4S

### Description of property:

This property which lies on the Connecticut border consists of former agricultural fields and grasslands. Most of the property was formerly owned and managed as intensive tobacco production by the General Cigar Company. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) acquired the property in 2008 because of its extensive sandplain grasslands, an uncommon habitat in the state. The wooded ridges surrounding the fields consist of upland forests of central hardwoods (oaks, hickory) mixed with white pine. This property represents a great example of DFW's effort towards habitat restoration of grasslands in order to support a variety of threatened birds such as Grasshopper Sparrow and other species of conservation concern that require open areas. Complementing this WMA, the state of Connecticut purchased the abutting 130 acres which they are also managing for grassland-dependent species.

### Location/Access/Parking

The WMA can be accessed from South Longyard Road. A small parking area exists on South Longyard Road that can hold around five cars. Parking areas are not maintained in the winter.

### Habitat Management

Extensive grassland restoration efforts have occurred since the acquisition of the property with the goal of maintaining around 170 acres of grassland habitat. This has included removal of encroaching trees in hedgerows and wooded areas, invasive control and reseeding fields with native grasses adapted to the site in 2015. Along the edges of the fields, 20 acres of early successional habitat is being created through tree removal with thinnings occurring in the upland forest to create an open woodland with a ground cover of heath. Prescribed fire and mowing will be used to maintain the grasslands and surrounding early successional habitat.

### Hunting Opportunities

This is a pheasant-stocked area. Other opportunities exist for deer, turkey, cottontail rabbit, and coyote.

### Wildlife Viewing and Other Features:

Due to the extensive grassland and shrubland restoration efforts, this WMA provides great opportunities for wildlife watching. Birders may be able to observe species such as Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark and American Kestrel. The grasslands also support a wide variety of Lepidoptera (butterflies & moths).

### Special WMA Regulations:

Southwick is a pheasant-stocked property and a "hunter orange" hat is required during the pheasant season except while night hunting for raccoons or opossums or while hunting waterfowl from within a blind or boat. No person shall hunt before sunrise or after sunset on any WMA where pheasant or quail are stocked during the open season on pheasant or quail, except for the hunting of raccoons and opossums between 9pm and 3am.

### 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)

### Connect with us

[Facebook.com/MassWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/MassWildlife)

### Get Your Orange On!

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

### Your local

#### MassWildlife office

341 East Street  
Belchertown, MA 01007  
(413) 323-7632