

# Carmans Marsh Wildlife Management Area

Last edited: 9/30/22



## General Description

Carmans Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is an 91-acre parcel in Swanton located on a point of land north of the Route 78 causeway between Swanton and Alburg. There is a boat launch on the north side of the road. Access to the rest of the property is via a small, gated camp road or by boat. The land is owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. The northern end of the WMA is known as Sandy Point and is a prominent feature on the shore of Lake Champlain.

## History

The historically significant buildings on Sandy Point once housed a walleye hatchery. It was run by the former Federal Bureau of Sport Fisheries. It operated from the turn of the century to the 1940's. Walleye were caught and stripped of their eggs, and the eggs were hatched. The hatchery supplied fish fry for the entire northeast. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is now charged with managing the hatchery property for wildlife purposes.

Several private summer camps are located near Sandy Point. The marsh was part of a large farm owned by Mr. Carman. Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department bought it from Mr. Carman in 1976.

## Habitat Features

Carmans Marsh has a variety of habitat types contained within its small area. It is mostly comprised of scrub/shrub wetland with lakeside floodplain forest inclusions. Near Route 78 there are intermittently flooded fields that support warmwater fish spawning in the spring. North of the fields is a buttonbush shrub marsh. There is a forested swamp on the east side of the property. At the northeastern edge is a marshy area along the shore of Lake Champlain, which is sheltered in a small bay.

The western shore is a river cobble shore community that provides important habitat for many invertebrate and vertebrate species. This natural community type is rare in Vermont, and the WMA is actively managed to benefit wildlife. Please obey posted signs, and do not disturb or harass wildlife.

## Common Fish and Wildlife

**Mammals** Muskrats inhabit the marshy areas of the WMA. Gray squirrels occur in the forested portions. Minks hunt in the wetlands and along the shore. Interesting small mammal species that are present, but not likely to be seen, are long-tailed weasel and star-nosed mole.

**Birds** Carmans Marsh is excellent waterfowl habitat and is, therefore, a popular waterfowl hunting area. The WMA offers good birding for wetland species. The buttonbush marsh and forested swamp provide cover for many small songbirds. For instance, the beautiful Baltimore oriole prefers woodlands adjacent to water. Ruffed grouse occur in the forested section.

**Reptiles and Amphibians** Many amphibian species use this WMA, including spotted, Jefferson's, northern two-lined, and eastern red-backed salamanders and American bullfrogs, gray treefrogs, and northern leopard and wood frogs.

**Fish** Northern pike are a particularly important game fish that spawns here. There is good fishing also for walleye, large and smallmouth bass, perch, bullhead, carp, crappie and other warmwater fish just offshore from the WMA.



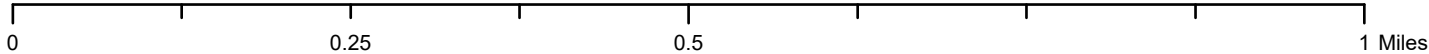
Photo of Sandy Point by Dan Lovell



# Carmans Marsh Wildlife Management Area



73°12'W



<b>Carmans Marsh WMA</b>		<b>Map Number: 33</b>	
Parking	Shooting Range	Fishing Access	Trails
Boat Ramp	Wildlife Viewing Area	Visitor Information	Town Boundary
Cartop Access	Campground	Gate	Wildlife Management Area
Park Office	Vista	Rail Lines	WMA Hunting Rights Only
		Refuge (no public access)	Special hunting/trapping restrictions
		Streambank Management Area	Controlled Hunting Area
		Federal Land	State Land
		Town Land	