

# Fairlee Marsh Wildlife Management Area

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## General Description

Fairlee Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located in the east-central Vermont town of Fairlee. The WMA is 59 acres in size (33 acres of wetland and 26 acres of upland) located where the outlet of Lake Morey empties into the Connecticut River. It is bounded by the Connecticut River on the south, the Boston and Maine Railroad on the west, and agricultural fields on the north and east sides. It is owned by the State of Vermont and is managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

Access is by boat from the Connecticut River, where an undeveloped canoe campsite is located at the river's edge. This primitive campsite is maintained as a stop along a designated canoe trail, and requires registration with the [Upper Valley Land Trust](#).

## History

Situated on the Connecticut River, Fairlee had very productive soil that was prized by early settlers. The Connecticut River was an important travel way for Native American people and many encampments were present all along the river.

The land for Fairlee Marsh WMA was purchased in 1992 from the Nature Conservancy with Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's Waterfowl Fund, which derives interest from a principal produced by the sale of Vermont waterfowl stamps and prints.

## Habitat Features

The marsh located on the WMA has a permanent water regime because it is directly connected to the Connecticut River and fed by the Lake Morey outlet brook. Water depths vary from 6-8 feet in the channel to several inches at the margins, with the majority of the wetland in the 12-24 inch depth range. This creates a diversity of plant and animal habitat. Principal emergent aquatic vegetation includes cattail, bulrush, sedge, iris and pickerelweed. Shoreline areas consist of alder, sedges, and nettle. Tree species include aspen and birch, elm and oak occupy the higher ground adjacent to the north and south extremities.

The area is particularly attractive to waterfowl because of its situation along the Connecticut River migration corridor and proximity to agricultural land. Alder cover and moist loam soils along the wetland border offer excellent habitat for woodcock. Excellent habitat exists for furbearers and the wetland provides a good fishery in both open water and ice fishing seasons.

## Common Fish and Wildlife

**Mammals** Game animals include white-tailed deer, beaver, muskrat, otter, mink, and raccoon. Expect to find many smaller non-game species as well.

**Birds** Expect to find woodcock, black ducks, mallards, wood ducks, blue-winged teal, Canada geese, great blue heron and ospreys. Occasional sightings of bald eagle have occurred. Wood duck nesting boxes, maintained by the Department, are frequently utilized by wood ducks and hooded mergansers. Songbirds associated with freshwater marshes, lakes, ponds and rivers can be found here, such as swallows, kingfishers and cedar waxwings.

**Reptiles and Amphibians** Eastern newts, gray treefrogs, and spring peepers are known to occur on the WMA, as well as painted and snapping turtles. Snake species include ring-necked, smooth green, red-bellied and garter snakes. Other species of reptiles and amphibians might also be found.

**Fish** Fairlee Marsh provides fishing during the open water and ice seasons for bass, yellow perch, chain pickerel, northern pike, bluegill and brown bullhead.

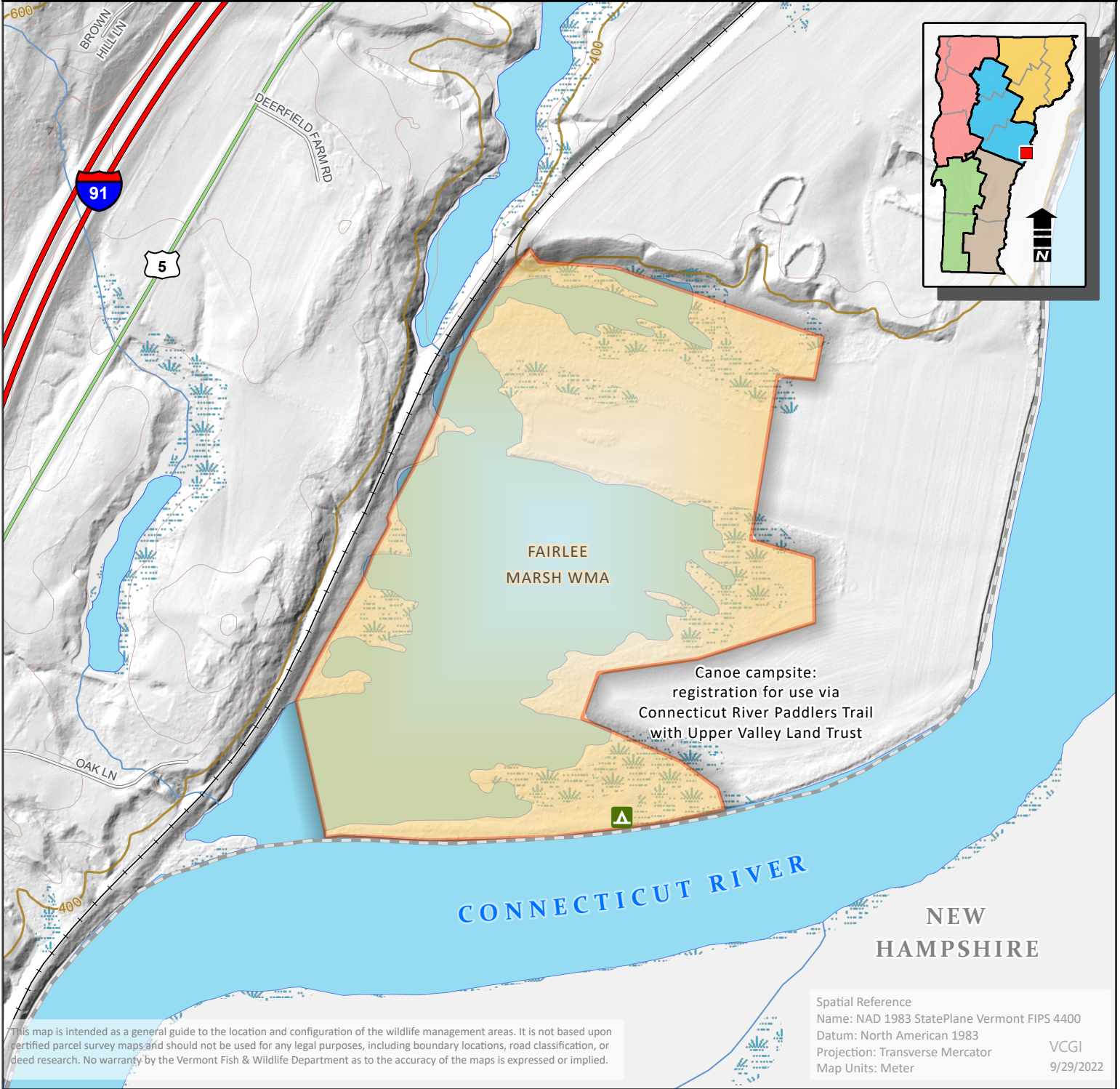


Fairlee Marsh offers excellent opportunities to watch and hunt waterfowl. USFWS photo.

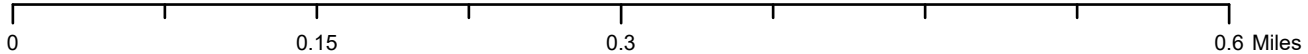


# Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

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This map is intended as a general guide to the location and configuration of the wildlife management areas. It is not based upon certified parcel survey maps and should not be used for any legal purposes, including boundary locations, road classification, or deed research. No warranty by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department as to the accuracy of the maps is expressed or implied.



<b>Fairlee Marsh WMA</b>			<b>Map Number: 5</b>		
Parking	Shooting Range	Fishing Access	Trails	Refuge (no public access)	Federal Land
Boat Ramp	Wildlife Viewing Area	Visitor Information	Town Boundary	Special hunting/trapping restrictions	State Land
Cartop Access	Campground	Gate	Wildlife Management Area	Streambank Management Area	Town Land
Park Office	Vista	Rail Lines	WMA Hunting Rights Only	Controlled Hunting Area	