

# Richville Wildlife Management Area

Last edited: 9/30/22



## General Description

Richville Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located in west central Vermont in the towns of Orwell and Shoreham. It consists of 181 acres of wetland and shoreline of the Lemon Fair River, which has been dammed near the Richville Road. The dam created an impoundment known as the Richville Dam. The WMA is owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. The State owns hunting and flowage rights only on an upland parcel south of the impoundment. There is a parking lot and improved boat access on Richville Road just east of the dam. There is a smaller parking area and canoe access along Shoreham Depot Road south of the bridge crossing the impoundment.

The purpose of this WMA is to provide a waterfowl nesting and migration area, and also to provide hunting, trapping and fishing opportunities.

## History

This portion of the Lemon Fair River has been dammed since Revolutionary times. A Colonel Doolittle built a sawmill in 1783 that was powered by a dam. In 1785, Thomas Rich established himself and built a house, sawmill and gristmill. There was a big fire in 1797 that destroyed these structures, but the Rich family prevailed. By 1860 there were more mills, a forge and a blacksmith shop, mostly owned by Thomas' descendants. Today there is little evidence of those activities. The last commercial operation in the 20th century was Borden's Dairy.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department made its first acquisition in 1951 from the Borden Company. The latest purchase was in 1997. Most purchases were funded with Pittman-Robertson monies, which are generated from an excise tax on firearms and ammunition. The present dam was begun in 1954; its purpose was to enhance wildlife habitat.

## Habitat Features

This WMA consists of an impoundment and associated wetlands on the Lemon Fair River. The river arises in Orwell and flows north to empty into Otter Creek in Weybridge. The wetland portion includes cattails, shallow emergent marsh and open water. The buffer areas are uplands consisting of old fields and shrubby edges.

## Common Fish and Wildlife

**Mammals** White-tailed deer, cottontail rabbit and



White-tailed deer, photo by VT FWD

raccoon may be found in the upland portions of the WMA. Muskrat, beaver and river otter live in the wetlands. Smaller upland and wetland mammals – rodents, shrews, and moles – live mostly unnoticed, except by predators such as red fox and eastern coyote.

**Birds** Richville provides excellent duck breeding habitat. Expect to see wood duck, mallard, black duck, blue and green-winged teal, and hooded merganser. Other duck species pass through during migration. Wetland birds such as great blue and green herons may be seen. Wetland-dwelling songbirds such as belted kingfishers and eastern kingbirds are also present on the WMA.

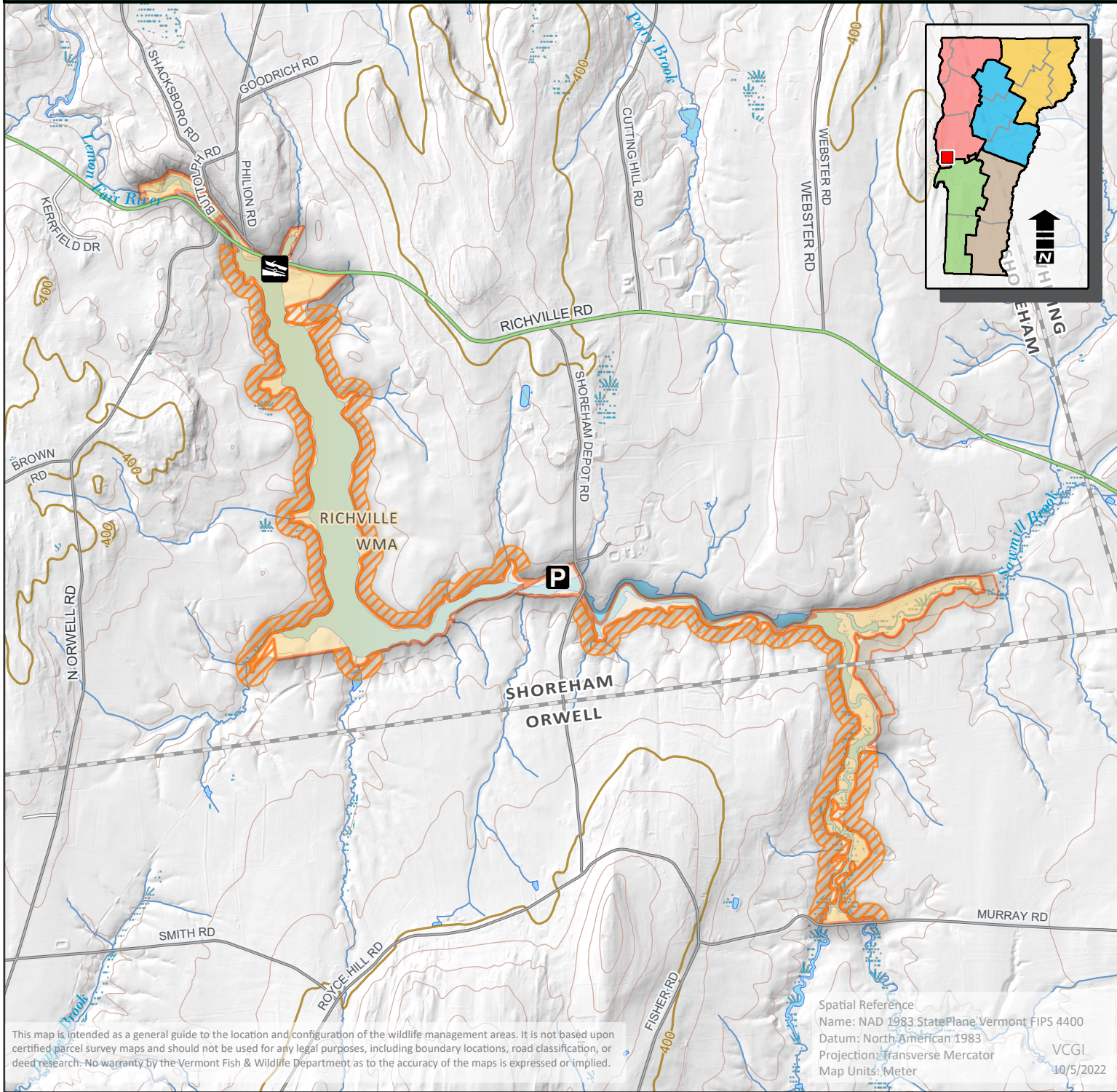
**Reptiles and Amphibians** Look for newts, bullfrogs, and green, northern leopard and wood frogs. Snapping, painted, and northern map turtles may be encountered. Snake species include milk, northern water, and garter snakes.

**Fish** Richville WMA is a popular fishing spot. There is fishing for bass, northern pike and brown bullhead.



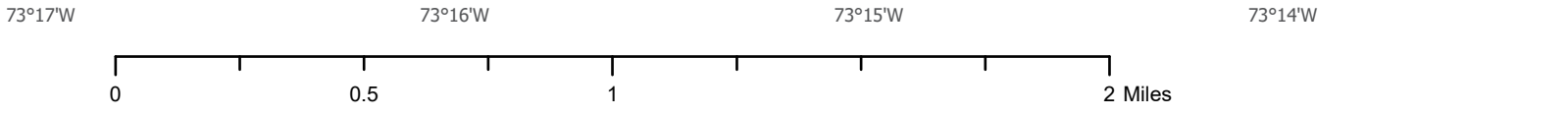
# Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

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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.

Spatial Reference  
 Name: NAD 1983 StatePlane Vermont FIPS 4400  
 Datum: North American 1983  
 Projection: Transverse Mercator  
 Map Units: Meter  
 VCGI 10/5/2022



<b>Richville WMA</b>			<b>Map Number: 52</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	