

# Roaring Brook Wildlife Management Area

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## General Description

Bounded by Interstate 91 on the west and by the Massachusetts border on the south, Roaring Brook Wildlife Management Area (WMA) consists of 1,771 acres in the towns of Guilford and Vernon. The WMA is broken up into 30 separate parcels ranging in size from 4 to 400 acres.

The majority of the WMA is owned by the State of Vermont in fee simple and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. However, timber rights were retained by the previous owners on 311 acres, and the Department owns only hunting rights on 38 acres.

Access is limited due to the presence of I-91 and a lack of rights-of-way through the private lands on the remaining borders. Access is further complicated by the fragmented nature of the WMA. Several of the smaller disjointed parcels have no developed accesses. The larger parcel can be entered on foot through the Vernon Town Forest. The Town Forest provides parking at the end of Basin Road. This parcel may also be accessed via an unmaintained right-of-way located off West Road.



Sampling for amphibians in a vernal pool at Roaring Brook WMA.  
Kim Royar, VTFWD photo.

## History

Little is known of past land use except that a significant percentage of the area was open land and pasture. The bulk of the WMA was acquired in the early

1960's when Interstate 91 was being constructed. The most recent land acquisitions occurred in 2021, adding about 450 acres to the original WMA.

## Habitat Features

Roaring Brook is situated in the southernmost portion of the Southern Vermont Piedmont biophysical region. Due to its location, many of the natural communities on the property are unique to Vermont and are more like those found in Massachusetts. Plant and tree species such as rhododendron, mountain laurel, scarlet and white oak, and American chestnut can be found on the property.

There are several wetlands within the WMA, and Roaring Brook flows through the center of the main parcel. The WMA is mostly forested with a mixture of hemlock and hardwood trees. A significant percentage of the hardwoods are white and red oak which provide an important food source for many wildlife species. Five hundred sixty-five (565) acres of the WMA function as deer wintering area.

Jefferson's salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonium*) is a rare species that occurs here.

Significant natural communities found on Roaring Brook WMA are vernal pools, wetlands, red maple-black gum swamp, and sugar maple–ostrich fern riverine floodplain forest.

## Common Fish and Wildlife
























**Mammals** Beaver, muskrat and mink can be found in and near the wetlands. Bear, moose, white-tailed deer, gray squirrel, snowshoe hare and fisher inhabit the upland sections of the WMA. Bear frequent seeps and wetlands in the spring to find early herbaceous growth for food.

**Birds** Turkey and ruffed grouse are present on the WMA and can be hunted in season. Wood ducks are another game species that may be found. Over 25 species of songbirds have been identified on the WMA. Visitors may also hear the loud call of the pileated woodpecker.

**Reptiles and Amphibians** Frog species include green and wood frog and spring peeper. Salamander species that have been found on the WMA include red spotted newt, Jefferson's and spotted salamander.

**Fish** There are wild brook trout in the waters of Roaring Brook WMA.



 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	