

## Conserving Connecticut's Wildlife Heritage

The biggest threat facing Connecticut's wildlife species is the loss of habitat. As more land is developed, there is less land that wildlife can call home. Because almost 90 percent of our state's acreage is privately owned, both large and small landowners, as well as all Connecticut residents, must play a critical role in Connecticut's wildlife conservation efforts. To meet this need, the Wildlife Division established the Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area (WMA), located in Burlington, Connecticut. The purchase was made possible with the help of sportsmen-generated Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson) funds. More than just a tract of natural land set aside for wildlife, Sessions Woods introduces visitors to wildlife and natural resources management through various educational programs, demonstration sites, self-guided hiking trails, and displays. Visitors can develop a better understanding of the Wildlife Division's role in managing Connecticut's wildlife populations, as well as learn how they can have a positive impact on the future of Connecticut's wildlife and other natural resources.

## The Focus of Sessions Woods

Sessions Woods focuses on conservation education, with facilities to bring school groups, the general public, and natural resource professionals from throughout Connecticut and the region to participate in educational programs, demonstrations, and workshops pertaining to wildlife and natural resource management. These facilities include an education center with an exhibit area and a large meeting room, as well as interpretive trails, habitat management demonstration areas, and a backyard wildlife habitat area. Sessions Woods offers conservation education programming that uses the expertise of Wildlife Division and other DEP natural resource management staff. These staff members are available, by appointment, to conduct group

educational programs at the Center and to give technical assistance and professional advice to visitors on an individual basis.

## Wildlife for the Future

The future of Connecticut's wildlife resources depends largely on citizens' involvement and concern. The educational and interpretive features of Sessions Woods encourage public awareness, understanding, and enjoyment of wildlife. Please join the Connecticut Wildlife Division in meeting the challenge of wildlife conservation and management.

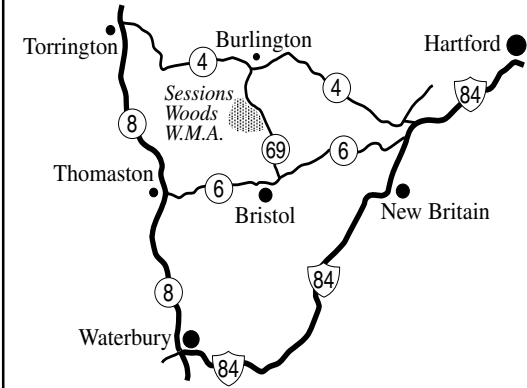
When walking the wildlife habitat trails at Sessions Woods, you experience more than just the benefits of a healthy hike. Demonstrations of wildlife and habitat management practices are featured along the Beaver Pond Trail, Forest Meadow Trail, and in the Backyard Wildlife Area.

### *For a safe and enjoyable visit, please observe the following rules:*

- Trails open at sunrise and close at sunset.
- Dogs must be on a leash *at all times*.
- Carry out what you carry in.
- Motorized vehicles, horses, and horseback riding are prohibited.
- Fires and unauthorized camping are not allowed. Youth group camping coordinated with programs or activities at Sessions Woods is available by permit.
- Collecting of plants and wildlife or feeding of wildlife are prohibited.
- Bowhunting and waterfowl hunting are by special permit only. Inquire at the office for details.

*Be careful of poison ivy along the trails and check yourself thoroughly for ticks.*

*Sessions Woods WMA and Conservation Education Center is located on Route 69, about three miles south of Route 4 in Burlington and three miles north of Route 6 in Bristol.*



*For more information about features, activities, and how you can become a "Friend of Sessions Woods," contact the Wildlife Division at our address below.*

The DEP is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. In conformance with the ADA, individuals with disabilities who need information in an alternative format, to allow them to benefit and/or participate in the agency's programs and services, should call TDD (860)-424-3000 and make their request to the receptionist. Requests for accommodations to attend meetings and/or educational programs, sponsored by the DEP, must be made at least two weeks prior to the program date.

These requests may be made directly to Marcia Z. Bonitto, ADA Coordinator, via e-mail: [Marcia.Bonitto@po.state.ct.us](mailto:Marcia.Bonitto@po.state.ct.us)



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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER  
Rev. 5/06



# Sessions Woods

Wildlife Management Area



## Learn About Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Firsthand



State of Connecticut  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Natural Resources  
Wildlife Division  
[www.ct.gov/dep](http://www.ct.gov/dep)

# Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area Trail Guide

While hiking the trails at Sessions Woods, visitors may be able to observe such wildlife species as the pileated woodpecker, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, scarlet tanager, and broad-winged hawk. Wood frogs and spring peepers can be seen in the vernal pool during the spring breeding season. Canada geese, mallards, wood ducks, great blue herons, and beaver are often seen in the wetland.

## Beaver Pond Trail - 2.6 miles

Along this gravel trail is a 38-acre wetland with a beaver dam, as well as separate paths to an observation tower and a waterfall. Many of the demonstrations show wildlife management practices for large land tracts, such as state and private forests, parks, wildlife management areas, or commercial properties, but they may also apply to small land tracts.

Along this trail you can also visit the **Backyard Wildlife Area**. On display are native trees, shrubs, and other plants which can be used in landscaping backyard habitats. Nest boxes and artificial feeders are located throughout the area for attracting songbirds and other wildlife. A man-made wetland demonstrates how landowners can create this special habitat on their property.

## Forest Meadow Trail - 0.6 miles

Along this gravel trail are demonstration sites showing wildlife management practices for small land tracts; however, many of the practices can also be used on larger tracts or in backyards.

## Tree ID Trail - 0.4 miles

This footpath meanders through a variety of habitats from a dry, upland site to a moist brookside. It features 20 native trees and large shrubs. Learn about the values of these trees to people and wildlife. A separate Tree ID Guide is available at each end of this trail.

## Crosscut Trail - 0.4 miles

Hike this trail through a clearcut and see how a "new forest" is being regenerated. This 14-acre site was clearcut in 2001 to improve the health and productivity of the forest, as well as to diversify the wildlife habitat at Sessions Woods. The woody debris (slash) from the clearcut remains behind to provide nutrients to the soil (upon decaying), protect seedlings from deer browsing, and offer cover for small animals.

