

About Mass Audubon and Broad Meadow Brook



Mass Audubon works to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. Together with more than 100,000 members, we care for 35,000 acres of conservation land, provide school, camp, and other educational programs for 225,000 children and adults annually, and advocate for sound environmental policies at local, state, and federal levels. Founded in 1896 by two inspirational women who were committed to the protection of birds, Mass Audubon is now one of the largest and most prominent conservation organizations in New England. Today we are respected for our sound science, successful advocacy, and innovative approaches to connecting people and nature. Each year, our statewide network of wildlife sanctuaries welcomes nearly half a million visitors of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds and serves as the base for our work.



Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center and Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Worcester, Massachusetts, in the headwater region of the Blackstone River Watershed. With 430 acres, and 5 miles of marked trails, it is the largest urban wildlife sanctuary in New England and serves as a visitor information center for the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.



As conservation advocates, we develop programs that educate and assist citizens, civic leaders, municipal officials, legislators, community groups, and students to protect vital natural resources. We lead efforts to protect water resources, key open space and park lands; promote recycling and waste reduction, and with the help of strong citizens' network, support significant conservation legislation and local initiatives.



Environmental education at Broad Meadow Brook emphasizes hands-on and joyful learning experiences at all levels. Programs are offered year-round to people of all ages, from preschoolers to seniors. Lectures, slide shows and special programs are shared with schools, scouts, homeschooling families and garden clubs. Birthday parties booked at Broad Meadow Brook are uniquely memorable and fun, and include a naturalist-led nature walk and activity. Professional development programs on a variety of topics are offered to teachers at school and on site. In addition, vacation and summer camps educate and entertain kids of all ages. We provide programming at many local community centers and offer a free summer parks program, as well as free canoe rides on local ponds.



In order to preserve this natural area from the threats of surrounding development, Broad Meadow Brook has a very active ecological management program. Our goal is to protect and enhance the diversity of our native wildlife. Staff, interns and volunteers monitor plant and animal species year round to determine the population trends and the causes and effects of those trends.



Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary was established in June of 1990 when the Worcester community rose to the challenge of helping Mass Audubon raise funds to protect this urban oasis. In just three months, more than \$600,000 was raised to acquire the critical 15-acre Holdredge property, which would provide the needed public access point and the funds to renovate the former horse barn into an education and visitor center. Mass Audubon's 15 acres became the vital link to lands owned by the New England Power Company (137 acres) as well as 120 acres owned by the City of Worcester designated as conservation land. Currently, all these parcels are managed by Mass Audubon as a wildlife sanctuary, in addition to further land donated to the sanctuary by generous neighbors, wishing to maintain this wildlife area.



Our continued work to protect these lands and others throughout the state is made possible through our donors' and members' support. If you are a member, thank you! If you aren't, we invite you to join us! Every bit counts.

