

Williams Mills Conservation Area Town of Gloucester R.I.

Williams Mills Conservation Area (W.M.C.A.) is 132 acres of woodland owned by the Town of Gloucester. In 2005 the Factory Mutual Engineering Corp. sold this land to the Town for one dollar, with the restriction that it be used for public purposes such as recreational, park or open space. In 2009 the Gloucester Town Council designated the Gloucester Conservation Commission as the steward of the property with the authority to set rules and regulations regarding use of the property.

W.M.C.A. is named after Alphonso P. Williams who, with Stephen S. Sweet, operated water powered grist, shingle, and board mills on the north side of Killingly Road in the late 1800's. Long time Gloucester residents may also know this area as Babbitt's Corner, named after the family who owned property at the junction of Killingly, Sheldon, and Reynolds Road in the early 20th century.

Williams Mills Conservation Area is open to the public every day, year round from sunrise to sunset. W.M.C.A. is on the south side of Killingly Road at town's western boundary with Killingly, Connecticut. To find Killingly Road and W.M.C.A. from Putnam Pike (U.S. Route 44) take Reynolds Road (R.I. Route 94) south for two miles, or from Hartford Pike (R.I. Route 101) take Reynolds Road (R.I. Route 94) north for four miles.

Limited off-road parking space is available at three signed areas along Killingly Road.

Rules and Regulations:

- Carry out what you carry in, and please remove any litter you find during your visit.
- It is your responsibility to know and respect the property boundaries.
- Motorized vehicles (dirt bikes, ATV's, off-road vehicles, etc.) are prohibited.
- Camping, fires, and alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Disturbance of any natural materials (animal, vegetable or mineral) is prohibited.
- Electrical sound broadcasting devices (boom boxes, radios, speakers, etc.) are prohibited.
- Fabricating or placing of structures of any kind is prohibited, except as noted below.
- Paintball guns, and target or trap shooting is prohibited.
- No firearms or other weapons, except as permitted during hunting season.
- Deer and Wild Turkey hunting is permitted consistent with the rules and regulations of the R.I. Department of Environmental Management. Pop-up blinds and tree stands are allowed during Hunting Season.
- During Hunting Season all non-hunting users of W.M.C.A. must wear a minimum of 200 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange material, contained in an outer garment worn above the waist, and visible from all directions. A fluorescent orange hat would meet the requirement. A minimum of 500 square inches is required during all portions of shotgun deer season, which is generally early December to early January.
- Permission for hunting, valid through a single hunting season, will be written on a Landowner Courtesy Card issued by the Town Clerk's office. Each applicant for a Landowner Courtesy Card must apply in person with a deer and/or wild turkey permit, a picture ID, and a valid Hunting License. There is no limit as to the number of Landowner Courtesy Cards to be issued, except for Shotgun hunting which shall be limited to a total of 30 to be issued only to Gloucester residents on a first-come, first served basis.
- The Conservation Commission or Town Council may issue waivers to the rules and regulations.

Rules and Regulations adopted by the Gloucester Town Council on September 2, 2021

Fall 2023-Spring 2024 Hunting Season

Williams Mills Conservation Area

Town of Gloucester Hunting Notice

Consistent with the Town Council resolution assigning stewardship of the town owned Williams Mills Conservation Area to the Conservation Commission, and Town Council authority to approve rules and regulations for use of that property, the Conservation Commission requests that:

The Gloucester Town Council allow the hunting of deer and wild turkey on the Williams Mills Conservation Area for the Fall 2023-Spring 2024 hunting season, commencing October 1, 2023 and ending May 19, 2024. That all hunters must follow the 2023-2024 Hunting Regulations as adopted by the RI Dept of Environmental Management and the Rules and Regulations for the WMCA as adopted by the Gloucester Town Council on September 17, 2009, below, except that commencing on a date of their choosing, the office of the Town Clerk may issue Landowner Courtesy Cards rather than the fourth Tuesday of September. That Landowner Courtesy Cards for the WMCA may be issued for muzzle loading and archery hunting to all qualified applicants, and that shotgun hunting shall be limited to 30 Gloucester residents.

Adopted September 17, 2009 by the Gloucester Town Council

Beginning annually on the fourth Tuesday of September the Town Clerk's office, or her designee, shall issue Hunter-Landowner Courtesy Cards (hereinafter referred to as "cards") valid for the upcoming hunting season. Each applicant must apply in person with picture identification, a valid hunting license, and a deer or wild turkey permit. Each applicant may receive cards for any or all properties, however only

one card that allows hunting with shotgun will be issued per applicant. Only Gloucester residents may receive cards that allow hunting with shotgun on the Williams Mills Conservation Area.