

Hubbardton Battlefield Wildlife Management Area

General Description

Hubbardton Battlefield Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is 254.5-acre parcel of land owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. It is located in East Hubbardton, about 7 miles north of Route 4. The WMA is on the east side of Monument Hill Road adjacent to Hubbardton Battlefield, one of the State Historic Sites, which is administered by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

History

Hubbardton was the site of the only battle fought on Vermont soil during the Revolutionary War. The battle took place on July 7, 1777 between American rear guard troops and British and German military. The Pittsford Ridge played a prominent role in the battle and is located on the WMA. Please note, it is illegal to remove any historical artifacts.

According to the book, "The Battle of Hubbardton: The American Rebels Stem the Tide" by John Williams, Pittsford Ridge was the site where British grenadiers effectively blocked the Americans' retreat southeastward along the Castleton Road. This forced the Americans to attempt their retreat by scrambling up the side of the steep Pittsford Ridge, but the British grenadiers beat them to the summit. The American commander Colonel Francis was killed while trying to ascend Pittsford Ridge. Many men in addition to Colonel Francis were killed along the ridge. Those that did manage to escape were not pursued farther.

For more information on the Hubbardton battle, please visit the visitors' center at the Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, or read "The Battle of Hubbardton: The American Rebels Stem the Tide" by John Williams. It can be found on the web at <http://www.goa.cet.middlebury.edu/mcgill/battle/index.html>.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department purchased the land for the WMA in 1970 from George and Ruth Paul.

Habitat Features

Hubbardton Battlefield WMA consists of a series of ridges and open fields. The ridges, including the famous Pittsford Ridge, are covered with a mix of red oak, red and sugar maple, and hophornbeam. These ridges offer visitors the chance to view something different at the crest of each, such as a scenic vista or a flock of turkeys.

Yellow birch, beech and hickory are also found on the WMA. At the height of land, a wetland forms a bowl that provides habitat for amphibians. A small vernal pool located on top of the ridge is vital to some species of amphibians.

In the lower elevations, old fields have an abundance of apple trees, which are maintained as a food supply for wildlife. White pines are slowly encroaching, and management activities are directed at keeping the fields semi-open. In addition to the apple trees, oak and the occasional beech trees in the area provide an important

source of food for many species of wildlife. Hophornbeam drops its seeds later in the year in November and December, providing turkeys with much-needed provisions when other foods are less abundant.

Common Fish and Wildlife

Mammals Gray squirrels are abundant on the property, given the good supply of acorns and other nuts. White-tailed deer can be found browsing in and amongst the apple trees. Red foxes, coyotes, bobcats and fishers are also found on the WMA.

Birds During migration, woodcock concentrate in the alders and other shrubs on the property. Large open areas are used by the males for their courting displays in the springtime. The old fields and early successional habitat provides plenty of food for ruffed grouse. Abundant food resources attract turkeys to the area; they are commonly seen on the WMA. The diversity of open habitat and mixed forest allows for a variety of songbird species.

Reptiles and Amphibians Garter snakes can be found on this property. Wood and gray tree frogs and American toads can be heard calling in the forest, especially in the spring. Spotted salamanders lay their eggs in the vernal pool during the spring and summer. Woodland salamanders, such as the eastern red-backed salamander, can be found hiding under damp logs and rocks.

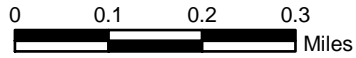
Fish There is no water able to support a fish population on the property.



The Hubbardton Battle Monument is near the WMA.
Kim Hall, VFWD photo.

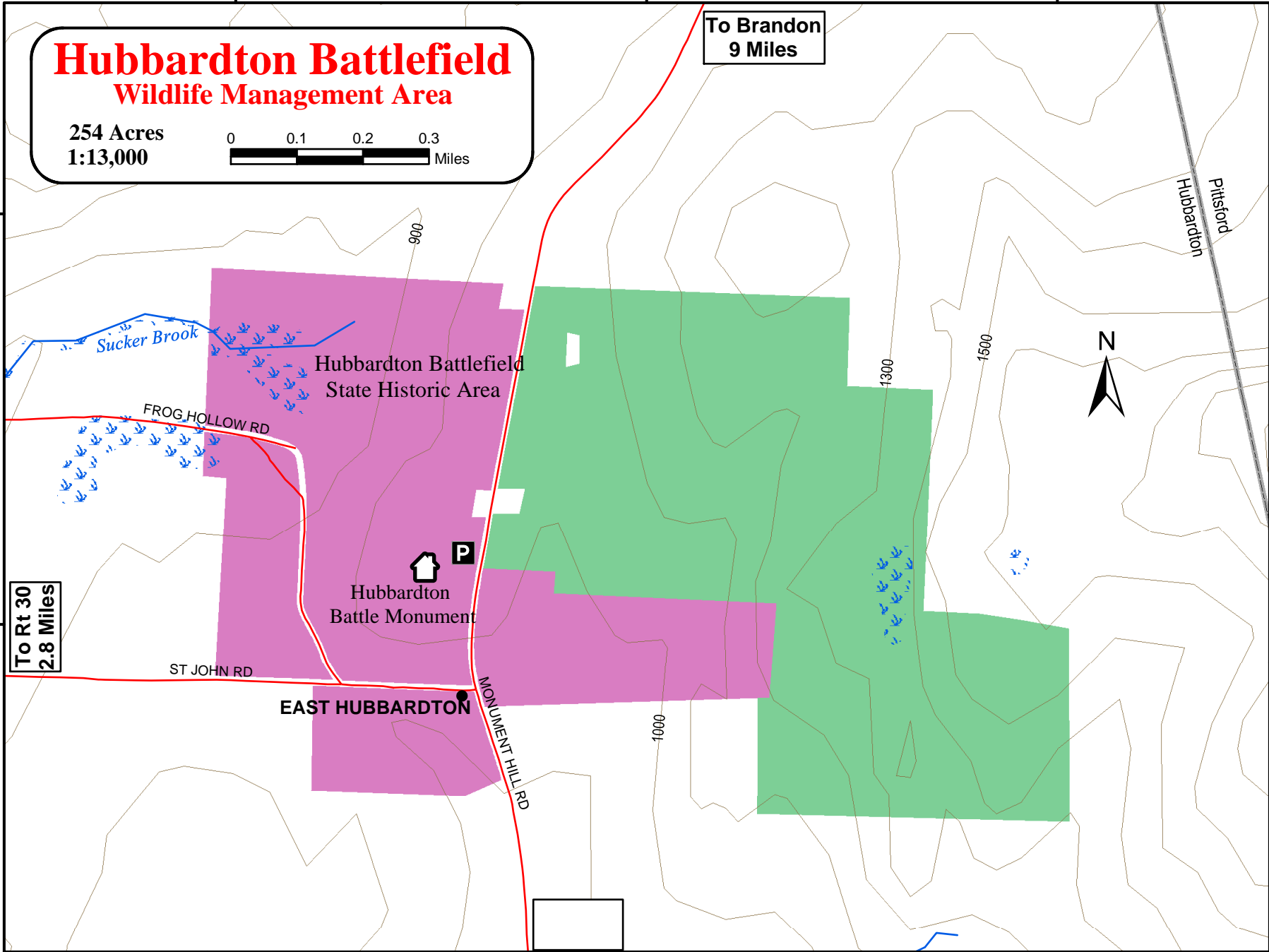
Hubbardton Battlefield Wildlife Management Area

254 Acres
1:13,000



To Brandon
9 Miles

To Rt 30
2.8 Miles



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