

Rochester Wildlife Management Area

General Description

Rochester Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 251-acre parcel owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. The WMA is located in the town of Rochester and borders on the Rochester-Braintree town line. It is about 0.4 mile west of Little Hollow Road. Access is by foot only. The timber rights on this WMA are privately owned.

History

The land in Rochester was so rough that communities and transportation were limited. Several areas in town, therefore, developed their own identities. One of these was Little Hollow, for which Little Hollow Road was named. Thayer Brook, which is located to the east of the WMA, is named after early residents of the town.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department acquired the property in 1959, using State funds generated from the sale of hunting licenses.

Habitat Features

Rochester WMA is completely forested with red and sugar maple, beech and yellow birch. There is a 20-acre stand of mixed white birch and red spruce. The elevation of the WMA ranges from about 2,600 feet in the northwest corner to approximately 1,800 feet on the east side. The slope on the east is only about 5% but increases to about 60% in the extreme northwest portion of the lot. At least one major drainage runs southwest to northeast through the parcel, with other smaller drainages associated with it.

Common Fish and Wildlife

Mammals In this northern hardwoods habitat, expect to find sign of white-tailed deer, black bears, moose, red foxes, coyotes, fishers, snowshoe hares, red squirrels and porcupines.

Birds Ruffed grouse and wild turkey can be hunted in season. Forest-dwelling raptors such as Cooper's hawk and barred owls prey on forest songbirds and small rodents. Common forest songbirds include black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, black-throated blue warblers, black-throated green warblers, ovenbirds and red-eyed vireos. Also look for hairy and downy woodpeckers and yellow-bellied sapsuckers.

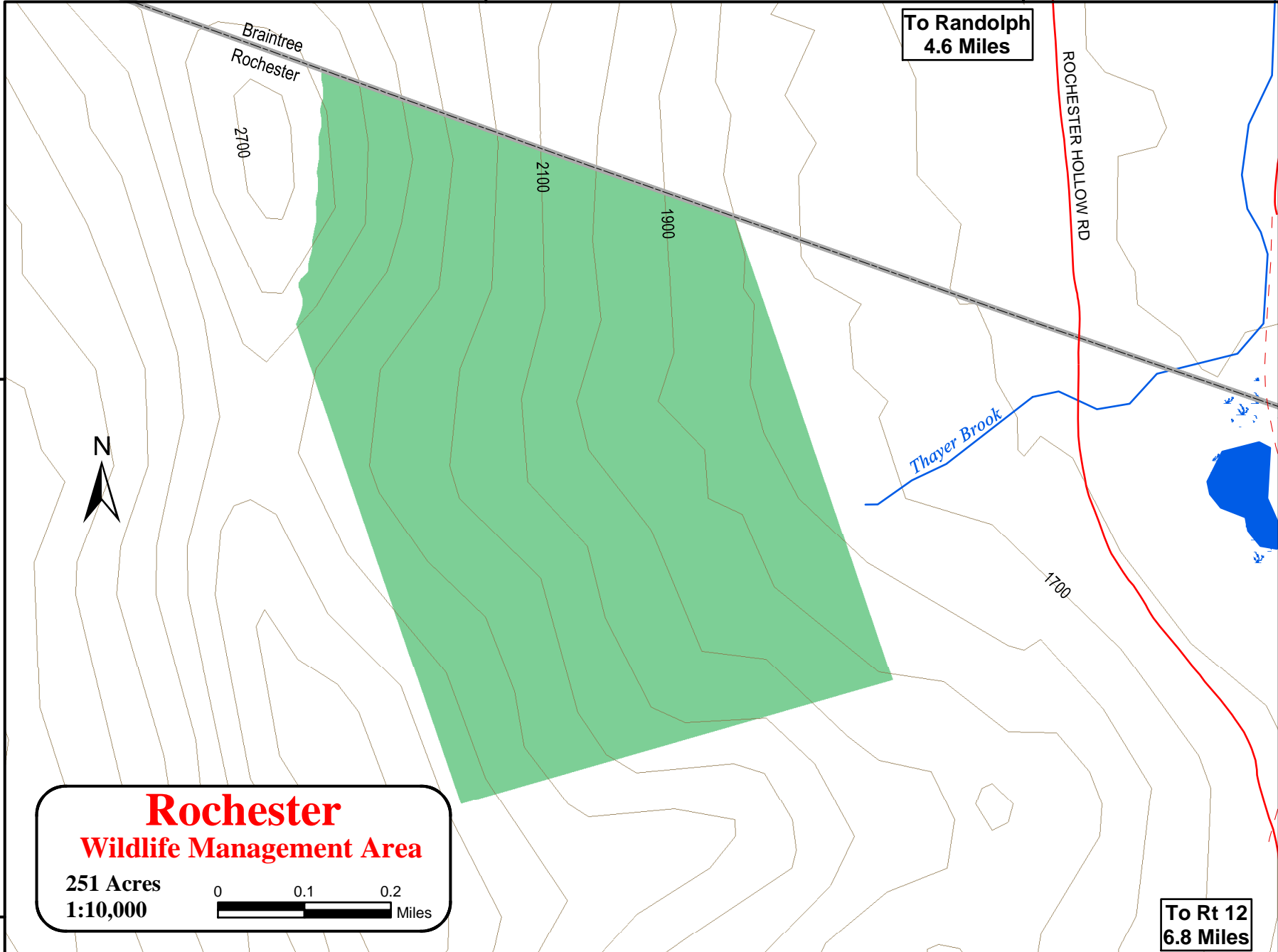
Reptiles and Amphibians Eastern red-backed salamanders are very common and likely to be found hiding under a damp log or rock. Spring and northern two-lined salamanders live in and near small streams and stay well hidden along the drainage. Gray tree frogs are also found in the forest but prefer to stay near permanent water sources. Common gartersnakes are located throughout the WMA.

Fish There are no fishable waters located on this WMA.



A barred owl on a perch. ©Roger Irwin photo.

Rochester WMA is open to regulated hunting, trapping, hiking and wildlife viewing.



To Randolph
4.6 Miles

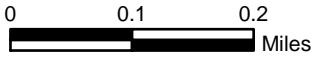
Braintree
Rochester

ROCHESTER HOLLOW RD

Thayer Brook



Rochester
Wildlife Management Area
251 Acres
1:10,000



To Rt 12
6.8 Miles

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