



THREE RIVERS

Wildlife Management Area
Lysander, Onondaga Co.



LEGEND

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--|---|
| | Freshwater Wetlands | | Major Road |
| | Stream | | Stream |
| Managed Lands | | | |
| | Blind | | Dike |
| | Boat Launch (hand) | | Administrative Road - vehicle access may be prohibited. |
| | Gate | | Fields on WMAs |
| | Kiosk | | DEC Fish & Wildlife (Public Hunting) |
| | Observation Tower | | DEC Lands & Forests |
| | Parking Area | | Use may be limited, check with Region |
| | Accessible Parking Area | | No Trespassing |

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0 0.5
Miles

The Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area (WMA) was christened “Three Rivers” because of its proximity to the junction of the Seneca and Oneida Rivers which form the Oswego. The area is situated in Onondaga County about 18 miles north of Syracuse between Baldwinsville and Phoenix. Interstate 690 and NYS Route 48 provide easy access to the area. To reach Three Rivers WMA take Sixty Road out of the Village of Baldwinsville or Route 690 to Route 48, turning right on Kellogg Road. The 7 ½ topographic maps covering the area are Baldwinsville and Lysander.

This general region was originally heavily forested with mixed hardwoods and conifers but was cleared for farming beginning in the late 1780s. Farming continued until 1941 when the federal government purchased the property. New York State acquired the land in 1947 as surplus property. The area consists of 3,607 acres today after acreage was added under the Recreational Bond Act in the 1960s and subsequent acquisition efforts.

The primary goals and objectives of the Three Rivers Area are to provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and to permit compatible public uses of the land. Considerable management and development work has been carried out since the 1940s. Twenty-nine water units totaling over 250 acres have been

constructed. These include potholes and small marshes ranging in size from ½ to 5 acres and one large marsh over 100 acres. Water level manipulation and draw-downs are accomplished to encourage certain aquatic vegetation. Over 50,000 evergreens and shrubs have been planted to improve the diversity of habitat and to provide food and cover for wildlife. An annual system of food plot rotation, prescribed burning and grassland mowing is utilized to keep open fields from reverting to brush and trees. Development and management activities are carried out with monies derived mainly from hunting license fees and federal taxes on sporting arms and ammunition.

Three Rivers WMA is relatively flat and poorly drained. The woodlands, open areas, mowed grassland, brush and wetlands provide diverse habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Some 26 species of mammals, 119 species of birds, 6 species of reptiles, 8 species of amphibians and 11 species of fish have been identified within the area. Warranting special mention are the active beaver colonies, great blue heron rookery, local populations of Canada geese, active osprey nests and a nesting pair of bald eagles.

On the Hundred Acre Marsh you will find a canoe/ kayak wooden launch at the parking lot adjacent to Sixty Rd. to help minimize the impact of the portaging of boats to and from the marsh. At the northwest side of the

marsh you will find a hunting/wildlife viewing blind. On the Eastern side of Sixty Rd. there is also a pavilion overlooking a small pond.

A network of maintenance and town roads provides easy access throughout the area for hiking, hunting, fishing, trapping, nature study and observation, bicycling, cross-country skiing and horseback riding.

Since Three Rivers is a Wildlife Management Area, activities not compatible with the Area are prohibited. Prohibited activities include (but are not limited to) swimming, overnight storage of personal property, and any use of motorized vehicles (including cars, travel trailers/RVs, snowmobiles, ATVs, etc.) on terrain other than a maintained public road. Scouting, educational and school outings are allowed by permit obtained at the address below. Individual camping is prohibited.

For more information call or write to:

Wildlife Manager
NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife
1285 Fisher Avenue
Cortland, NY 13045
607-753-3095 ext. 247

Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area



**New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation**