

**PLEASE RESPECT ALL NATURAL HABITAT WHILE VISITING THE WILDLIFE REFUGE.**

Absolutely no dogs or horses.  
Bicycles allowed only on designated trails.

**CARRY IN—CARRY OUT  
LEAVE NO TRACE BEHIND**

The visitor center at Assabet River NWR is located at 680 Hudson Road, Sudbury, and is open Thursday-Sunday 10:00am to 4:00pm.

The wildlife refuge is open daily from sunrise to sunset.

## OTHER NORTH SECTION TRAILS

HARRY'S WAY	1.8 miles
HILL TRAIL	0.4 miles
WINTERBERRY WAY	1.5 miles
PATROL ROAD	0.8 miles
PUFFER POND TRAIL	0.4 miles
TEBASSA TRAIL	0.1 miles
TAYLOR WAY	1.8 miles
SANDBANK TRAIL	0.1 miles

## HISTORICAL POINT OF INTEREST

**Puffer Pond**—24-acre Puffer Pond, once called Pratt Pond, flows to the Assabet River by way of Taylor Brook. An icehouse was located nearby and furnished ice cut from the pond to local Finnish families in the early 1900s. Fishing is now permitted at Puffer Pond and waterfowl are plentiful.



# ASSABET RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

## HISTORIC WALKING TOUR #5



**WALK  
MAYNARD**

Links to the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge web site and Friends of ARNWR:  
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/assabetriver/>  
 and

<http://www.farnwr.org/>

For WALK MAYNARD tour information:  
[townofmaynard-ma.gov/resources/walkmaynard](http://townofmaynard-ma.gov/resources/walkmaynard)

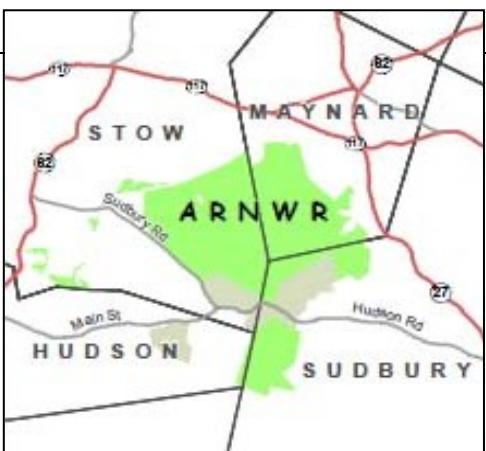
SPONSORED BY THE MAYNARD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## HISTORY OF FORT DEVENS-SUDSBURY TRAINING ANNEX

The Fort Devens-Sudbury Training Annex, known locally as the Ammo Dump or the Maynard Ordnance Test Depot, is a 2200 acre facility that was created in the early 1940s when the US Army took the property by eminent domain. The entire population of residents was given ten days to vacate. The location was chosen because it was located near a railroad and it was thought that the swampy land would absorb the shock of any errant explosions. It was also safely beyond the range of enemy naval gunfire from Boston Harbor.

The property served as a military research and training facility for nearly 60 years until its transfer from the US Army to the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1996 for the creation of a national wildlife refuge. It is 70% forested and there are 476 acres designated as wetlands. The area provides habitat for a large number of bird species as well as migratory birds and waterfowl. Also in residence are otters, mink, turkeys, coyotes, beaver, fox, and deer.

The refuge covers 3.5 square acres with 15 miles of old roads and new walking trails.



## TRAIL HISTORY AND LORE

**Petapawag Trail:** Named for a Native American term for swampy land, this trail was a former railroad trunk line during WW II. 0.9 m.

**Towhee Trail:** Location of the Gately Farm, later the Henry Ford Farm from 1928. It is a red-tailed hawk nesting area. 1.0 m.

**Powerline Trail:** Originally Old Marlboro/Concord Road. During the war of Independence in 1776, ammunition wagon trains traveled this road to deliver arms to George Washington in his defense of Trenton. 0.2 m.

**Tri-Town Trail:** This trail serviced the most of the 50 bunkers built in 1942. There is an old railroad guard shack near the intersection of Tri-Town Trail and Pine Garden Trail. 1.2 m.

**Otter Alley:** Trail borders the old Anderson family farm and the Puffer farm, established about 1743. There are cranberry bogs here and otter trails crossing the area. 0.3 m.

**Kingfisher Trail:** The Finnish Ice House was located here. The land belonged to a member of the Anderson family, who built a honeymoon cottage. There was once a private beach. Several tall pines grace the area where osprey and great blue heron nests can be seen. 0.1 m.

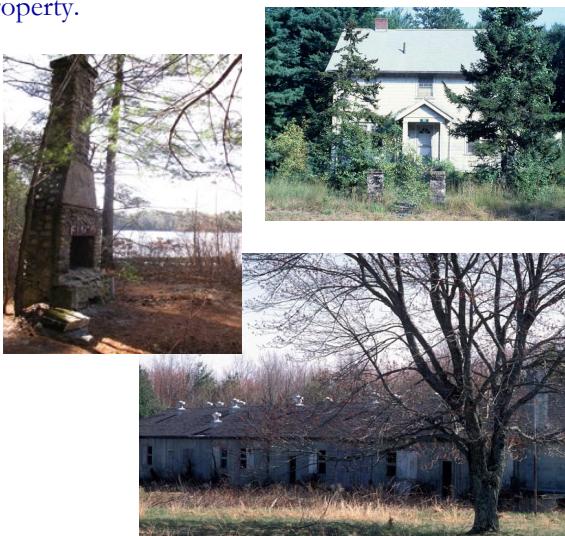
**Carbary's Trail:** This trail was once called Lakeshore Drive and the land called the Arrow Head Estate because of the shape of Puffer Pond. The land belonged to the Reilly family and was called the Reilly Estate. 0.1 m.

**Pine Garden Trail:** The boundary of three neighboring towns—Stow, Sudbury and Maynard—meet at the intersection of the Pine Garden Trail and Tri-Town Trail. 0.3 m.

**White Pond Road:** A grassy airfield sits beside this 1.5 mile paved road. It was once used for testing parachute material by the Natick US Ar-

## HISTORICAL POINT OF INTEREST

**Homestead foundations**—Twenty deteriorating buildings remained at the Annex at the time of transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Vacation cottages, outbuildings, and farmhouses formerly occupied by US Army personnel were recently demolished and private wells were capped for safety. Some chimneys and remains of foundations are still be seen about the property.



## HISTORICAL POINT OF INTEREST



**Rice Tavern**—The inn operated from 1685 until 1815, for many years by Jonathan Rice, Sr. Stage-coaches operating on the New Lancaster Road (now Puffer Road) and the Old Marlborough Road made regular stops for the accommodation of passengers. A granite marker and remains of the foundation are located off Old Marlboro Rd at the Winterberry Way trailhead near FEMA.

## HISTORICAL POINT OF INTEREST



**Bunkers**—30 soil-covered ammunition bunkers (“igloos”) with concrete cores were constructed at the Annex in 1942. War materials were moved on and off railroad cars and stowed in the bunkers, with access through their massive steel doors. Ammunition arriving in Boston was sent by rail for storage in the “igloos”. It was sent back to Boston Harbor by rail when needed for the war effort. Vestiges of old rail beds are still seen in the refuge. Bunkers measure 81x26x12 ft.

Seasonal bunker tours are offered by the refuge staff and volunteers throughout the year.

## TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF ARNWR

