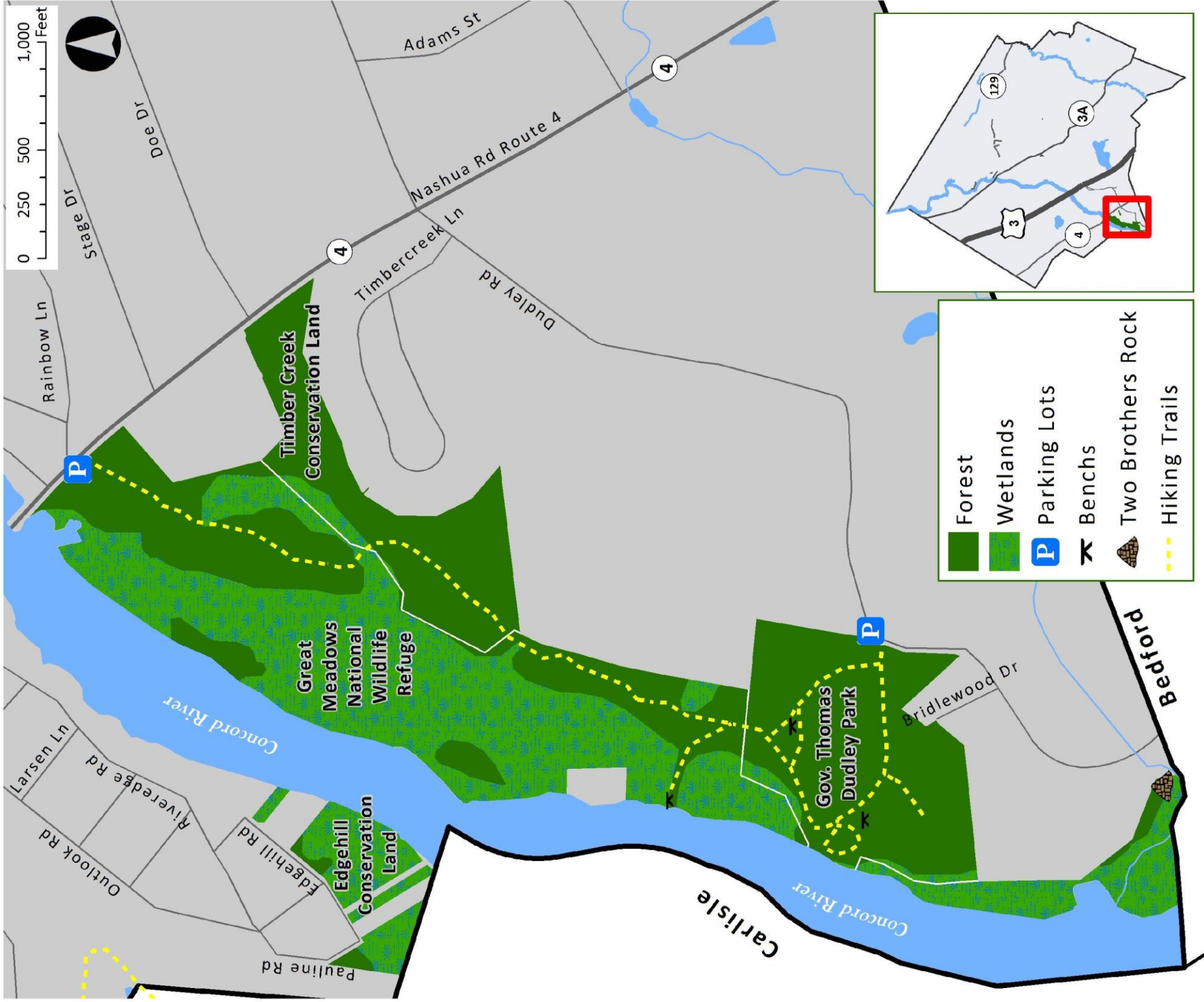


Great Meadow's National Wildlife Refuge, Governor Thomas Dudley Park & Timber Creek Conservation Land



Conservation Lands

Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge is a 3,600 acre refuge, situated along 12 miles of the Concord and Sudbury Rivers. This land is protected habitat for wildlife, with a special emphasis on migratory birds. Wetland, grassland, and forested areas provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, and provides visitors with excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing, bird watching and nature study.

Great Meadows: Billerica Unit

In 2000, a new trail and parking area were added to the refuge through efforts with the Sudbury Valley Trustees. Here you can enjoy:

- Hiking Trails
- Bird Watching & Nature/Wildlife Study
- Photography
- Snow shoeing & Cross Country Skiing
- Historic Sites: "Two Brother's Rock"
- Views of the Concord River
- Camping (Dudley Park Only with permit)

Rules and Regulations

- No Smoking and Alcoholic Beverages
- No Littering: Carry in-Carry Out Facility
- No Motorized Vehicles
- No Hunting or Plant Removal
- No Camping or Camp Fires in GMWR
- No Mountain Biking in GMWR only
- No Dogs or Horses in GMWR only

Directions

The GMW parking area is located on the east side of the Route 4 Bridge in Billerica.

Parking for Dudley Park is located on Dudley Rd.

Trails are open from dawn until dusk



Great Meadow's History

Many relics of early people found in the vicinity date back to 5500 B.C. River meadows and plains were burned over by natives to provide cropland and pasture for game while the waters provided fish in great quantity. The river provided transportation for the Native American's annual summer movement to the sea, where the greater portion of their winter food was gathered and dried. Settlers named the grasslands the "Great River Meadows."

In the early 19th century industrialization period, a mill dam was built in Billerica. The dam caused the water level to rise and to extend into the Meadows. The newly created habitat became increasingly attractive to waterfowl. In fact, the wetlands became highly valued for hunting and fishing and today are considered primary habitat for wildlife.

"The Two Brothers" Rock History

When Governor Winthrop and his deputy, Thomas Dudley, viewed their lands in early 1638, they decided to carve their names into two great stones on the eastern bank of the Concord River in order to divide the property. Winthrop claimed the land to one side of one rock (Billerica), while Dudley claimed the land on the other side of the rock (Bedford). They named the rocks "The Two Brothers." Over the years, the two men had many differences; however they learned to work together and even considered themselves "brothers" by their children's marriage. The rocks have come to symbolize the men's spirit of cooperation and democracy.



Town of Billerica

Conservation & Recreation Lands

Great Meadow's National Wildlife Refuge

Governor Thomas Dudley Park

Timber Creek Conservation Land

Edgehill Road Conservation Land

105 Acres

