

# THREE MILE BAY

## Wildlife Management Area

Hastings, Constantia, and  
West Monroe, Oswego Co.

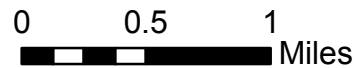


*Oneida Lake*

**All area inside green line is part of the WMA.**

### LEGEND

- |                      |                      |  |                                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
|                      | Freshwater Wetlands  |  | Major Road                           |
|                      |                      |  | Stream                               |
| <b>Managed Lands</b> |                      |  |                                      |
|                      | Boat Launch (cartop) |  | Fields on WMAs                       |
|                      | Fishing Access       |  | DEC Fish & Wildlife (Public Hunting) |
|                      | Gate                 |  |                                      |
|                      | Parking Area         |  |                                      |



*Frenchman's Island*

*Dunham's Island*

Three Mile Bay Wildlife Management Area (formerly Toad Harbor Swamp) is a 3,966- acre tract adjacent to Three Mile Bay on Oneida Lake's north shore. It is situated in southern Oswego County, approximately six miles east of the village of Central Square and two miles from NY Route 49 via Toad Harbor Road or Lower Road to Wheeler Road and West Road. The 7 ½ minute topographic maps covering the area are Cicero and Mallory.

Three Mile Bay Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is generally low and flat with several ridges or islands extending across the interior. Elevations vary from 369 feet to 430 feet with most of the area not exceeding 30 feet above Oneida Lake. Past glacial activity and the water level of Oneida Lake results in much of the area being a lowland swamp.

The muck-peat and acid sand soils have a strong influence on the vegetation. The majority of the area is swamp hardwood with soft maple (silver, red) predominating; upland portions contain mixed hardwoods such as soft maple, white pine, white cedar, ashes, oaks and hickories. Abandoned farm lands on the swamp border have been encroached upon completely by spirea, high bush cranberry, dogwood, aspen, pin-cherry, birch and other pioneer species.

Waterfowl are the primary wildlife species seen on the area. Some waterfowl breed in the area, while migrants utilize Oneida Lake and the Three Mile Bay for resting and feeding during the spring and fall. Other waterbirds, shore birds, white-tailed deer, varying hare, ruffed grouse, squirrel, numerous song birds, beaver, muskrat, fox and wild turkey may be seen to name only a few possibilities.

The WMA is considered a wetland, but in the 1920s some of the area was cleared and muck farming was begun. These lands were farmed up until the 1930s when they were abandoned. These muck fields are now covered with water due to beaver activities.

Initial acreage for Three Mile Bay WMA was acquired in the 1950s from Pittman-Robertson Funds, with additional acreage acquired under the 1962 Recreational Bond Act. The purpose for the original acquisition was for the ultimate development of waterfowl habitat.

Current objectives for the management area are to provide habitat for the use of a variety of wildlife with the primary emphasis on waterfowl species. Wildlife-related recreational use compatible with wildlife is also a primary objective. Management techniques to provide the food, cover and shelter requirements for various wildlife species are carried out with monies derived mainly from hunting license fees and federal taxes on sporting arms and ammunition. Techniques involved include practices such as mowing, prescribed burning, construction of nesting structures, preservation and perpetuation of certain habitats and maintaining a diversity of habitat. Timber stand improvement and harvest are conducted to improve the forestry resource and the wildlife values.

A special agreement permits the New York State Department of Health to operate a field laboratory for the purpose of conducting its encephalitis investigations.

A system of town and county roads provide access to most of the perimeter of the area.

Numerous opportunities exist for hunting big and small game, trapping and fishing in accordance with State Fish and Wildlife Laws and Regulations.

A fishing access site on Phillips Point provides fisherman access to Oneida Lake. The Phillips Point area also provides a spot for bird watchers to scan the lake. A limited opportunity exists for hiking and sightseeing and a cooperative agreement with Oswego County provides for a limited day-use recreational area.

Since Three Mile Bay 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.

**For more information call or write to:**

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

## Three Mile Bay Wildlife Management Area



**New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation**