

# WEETAMOO WOODS



Parking and entrance on East Road, Tiverton, Rhode Island

Managed by Tiverton Open Space and Land Preservation Commission

Trail maps available in PDF at <http://www.tiverton.ri.gov/recreation/recreation.html>

The forest of Weetamoo Woods is classified as coastal oak-holly, a natural community of oaks and American holly trees found in coastal areas of southern New England. A different forest type is found north of the sawmill and along Borden Brook below the milldam. This is a forested swamp that includes stands of Atlantic white cedar trees. "Cedar swamps" were once common along the Eastern Seaboard but were logged extensively in colonial times for the valuable cedar wood. These swamps are now rare and many of the surviving ones are protected.

The 650 acres of Weetamoo Woods is "middle aged" forest, with some trees that survived the 1938 Hurricane now 100–125 years old. A mature, unfragmented forest of this size is excellent habitat for canopy nesting birds that require deep woods, such as the veery, worm-eating warbler, wood thrush and Baltimore oriole. Raptors frequenting Weetamoo include barred and horned owls, and red-tailed hawks.

Whitetail deer, opossum, raccoon, fox, coyote, chipmunk, eastern grey and red squirrels also live in this forest. A vigorous amphibian community is present, including salamanders, wood frogs and peepers. Each year they signal the beginning of spring with their raucous mating chorus that can be heard from the vernal pools in the area.

Weetamoo Woods is not only a forest. Twelve acres of grassland is being managed on former plowland that abuts Eight Rod Way to the east. This creates favorable conditions for ground nesting birds such as bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks, and savannah sparrows. All of these birds are in decline in the East. Grasslands also provide habitat for insects, butterflies, and food for raptors such as the American kestrel that feeds on meadow voles and deer mice found in open fields.

*The following trees and forest understory plants can be seen along the hiking trails:*

Trees: black, white, and red oaks, American holly, beech, yellow and black birch, hemlock, eastern hophornbeam, musclewood, white pine, sassafras, tupelo, black cherry, red maple, and white ash.

Shrubs: spicebush, blueberry, huckleberry, mountain laurel, arrowwood, nannyberry, sweet pepperbush, elderberry, wild sarsaparilla, and winterberry.

Wildflowers: *Spring* - bellwort, wild columbine, Canada mayflower, false solomon's seal, wild geranium, jack-in-the-pulpit, blue flag iris, partridgeberry, starflower, false hellebore, wood anemone, pink lady's slipper, squaw-root.

*Summer/Fall* - whorled loosestrife, cardinal flower, Indian pipe, jewelweed, and spotted wintergreen.

Ferns: cinnamon, lady, royal, sensitive, hay-scented, netted chain, Christmas, intermediate and marginal wood ferns, New York and Massachusetts ferns, and the common polypody.

**Be kind to the natural essence of these woods and enjoy your visit between sunrise and sunset. Do not remove or disturb vegetation or any object intrinsic to Weetamoo Woods. Use only marked trails.**

**Alcohol beverages, campfires, and all motorized vehicles are prohibited.**