

# Wellington State Park

## Natural History

The park's significance as a sanctuary for wildlife is based on the variety of habitats found there. The park is primarily forested with a variety of tree species, including hemlock, pine, beech, maple, and poplar. The forest is interspersed with marshes, scrub-shrub wetlands, and man-made clearings, such as grassy parking areas and woods roads.

The different habitats, in close proximity to each other, produce an edge effect, or an area of especially rich habitat, with the benefits of two habitats together. One of the many species of wildlife that benefits from the abundance of edge areas in the park is the raccoon. It favors large standing dead or fallen trees for denning, but commonly feeds in a marsh where food is plentiful.

A variety of songbirds, including robins, thrushes, flycatchers, warblers, and sparrows, frequent the park. Blue jays and chickadees are the predominant winter birds. Ruffed grouse and woodcock are the only two upland game birds found at the site. Migrating Canadian geese and a variety of upland birds pass through during the spring and fall. A transient endangered peregrine falcon or bald eagle may occasionally be seen, though they do not linger. Common loons inhabit the lake area and infrequently, there have been signs of nesting attempts.

Fishing is a welcome and popular activity in the park. Fish commonly caught are lake trout, rainbow trout, land-locked salmon, smallmouth bass, and yellow perch.

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