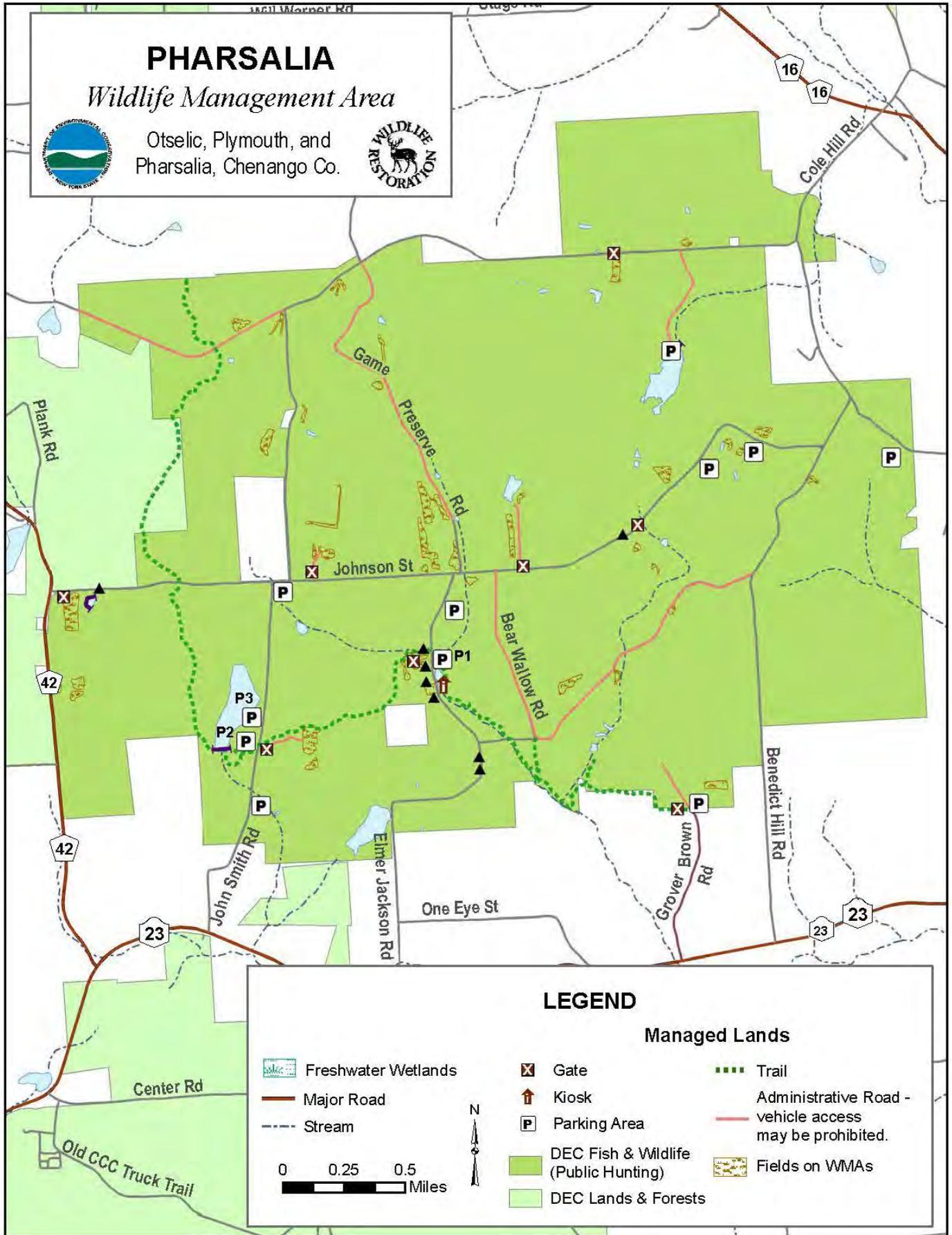


# PHARSALIA

## Wildlife Management Area



Otselic, Plymouth, and Pharsalia, Chenango Co.



### LEGEND

- Freshwater Wetlands
- Major Road
- Stream
- 0 0.25 0.5 Miles

- Gate
- Kiosk
- Parking Area
- DEC Fish & Wildlife (Public Hunting)
- DEC Lands & Forests

#### Managed Lands

- Trail
- Administrative Road - vehicle access may be prohibited.
- Fields on WMAs

Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area is located in the northwest portion of Chenango County, approximately 10 miles southwest of Sherburne. New York Route 23 borders part of the west and south sides of the area and provides access to a system of town and maintenance roads traversing the 4,169-acre management area. The 7 ½ minute topographic map covering the area is East Pharsalia.

Pharsalia generally has flat or gently sloping terrain. The flora of the WMA is diverse and includes such species as beech, maple, hemlock, aspen, cherry, birch and conifer plantations, plus numerous shrub species. Wildlife includes the white-tailed deer, turkey and numerous small mammals and song birds. Both cold and warm water fish are present in streams and ponds.

Current management is directed towards enhancing habitat for a variety of wildlife species with emphasis on big and small game such as deer, turkey and ruffed grouse. Management activities are funded with monies derived mainly from hunting license fees and federal taxes on sporting arms and ammunition. A variety of techniques are used to provide the food, cover and shelter requirements for upland and wetland wildlife species. Preservation and perpetuation of certain

habitats, mowing, marsh pond construction, erection of nesting structures and forest management through wood product sales are a few of the management activities.

From the days of the first settlers in the late 1800s the Pharsalia region was farmed. However, poor soils, harsh climate and economic conditions forced the abandonment of the farmlands from 1900 on. In 1926 Pharsalia became the first State Game Refuge purchased with Conservation Fund monies. The first game habitat survey in New York State was made on the area in 1926. Thousands of trees and shrubs were planted for reforestation and wildlife purposes. Early research and habitat improvements for ruffed grouse were accomplished here, and for a time (1933-1937) pheasants were reared at Pharsalia and released throughout the Chenango County area. A 200 man Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp accomplished much of the work and also constructed several small ponds for waterfowl use. Two large marsh ponds (Jackson and Bear Wallow) were constructed in the early 1950s. From the 1940s through the mid 1970s local and national hunting dog trials were held at Pharsalia each fall.

A system of town roads and some maintenance roads provide access during

good weather months. Numerous recreational opportunities associated with wildlife exist. Hunting, trapping and fishing are permitted in accordance with statewide regulations. Birding, nature study, hiking, cross-country skiing and wildlife observation are also popular activities. A limited number of permits are issued on a first come first served basis for primitive type camping (no water, sanitation, or garbage facilities). A Wildlife Management Area camping permit application can be obtained by contacting the Region 7 Office (see contact information listed below).

Since Pharsalia 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  
NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife  
1285 Fisher Avenue  
Cortland, NY 13045  
607-753-3095 ext. 247

## Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area



**New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation**