

The Hillsborough Conservation Commission is implementing a “No Dogs During Nesting Season” policy for the Confluence Conservation Area, for the months of April, May, and June. This action is being taken to protect breeding and nesting waterfowl species, ground-dwelling birds, amphibians and reptiles.

The densely wooded habitat in the Confluence Conservation Area (CCA) is accessed from West Main Street (between Red Coat Realty and Hagstrom Realty).* It contains a number of small ponds that are ideal nesting habitat for sensitive wood ducks and hooded mergansers and are potential habitat for amphibians such as wood frogs and spotted salamanders. Because the ponds are very close to the Confluence Trail in numerous places, the potential for disturbance of waterfowl and amphibians is very high.

The CCA also provides good habitat for ground-dwelling birds such as hermit and wood thrushes, Eastern towhees, and juncos as well as migrating and resident warblers that frequently feed on the ground.

In addition to keeping wandering dogs out of this area during the critical time period for breeding, nesting and chick-rearing for numerous bird species, it would also be helpful if people walked slowly and quietly, especially when in close proximity of the ponds and wetlands within the Confluence Conservation Area.

The Hillsborough Conservation Commission encourages area residents to explore the CCA and experience the riverside and floodplain ecosystems, but please don't bring your dogs during the nesting season of April, May and June.

*For maps of the CCA as well as other town properties, go, to the Hillsborough Town website <https://hillsboroughnh.org/document/trail-maps/>.