



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Mashpee

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2020–2021

Welcome

Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1995 to preserve and protect the natural resources associated with the Waquoit Bay area for the protection of waterfowl and wildlife. The 5,871-acre refuge is one of eight refuges in the Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex. A popular destination for outdoor recreation, Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge allows big game, upland game, migratory bird, and furbearer hunting in accordance with State laws and refuge specific regulations.

Visitor Center Name

Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge
Great Neck Rd
5 Mashpee, MA 02649
978-443-4661

The refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a national network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov/>
1-800-344-WILD

August 2021

This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.



Safety

In addition to State regulations, safety zones, and closed areas are designated on the refuge to maintain safety on and around the refuge.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

Vehicles

Licensed motor vehicles are permitted only on public use roads as shown on the map. ATVs and UTVs are prohibited.

Accessibility Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights>.

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State of Massachusetts subject to the conditions stated below.

Access

WHEN: Hunting hours are half hour before legal sunrise to half hour after legal sunset. Migratory game bird hunters may access the refuge 1.5 hours before legal shooting hours until 1.5 hours after legal shooting hours.

WHERE: Hunters will self-navigate to their location.

Tree Stands

Refuge hunters are allowed to place one tree stand or ground blind per refuge for any and all hunting seasons permitted. Hunters must mark tree stands/ground blinds with their state hunting license number in such a way that it is visible from the ground. All hunting materials including, trail cameras, tree stands and or ground blinds may be put up the first eligible scouting day of the permitted season and must be removed by January 30th or 30 days after the end of permitted season.

Scouting

Scouting can begin no earlier than four weeks prior to the opening day of permitted season from half hour before sunrise to half hour after sunset.

Harvest Reporting

Hunters are required to report harvests according to Massachusetts State regulations.

State hunting regulations, seasons, shooting hours, methods of take, bag limits, and license requirements apply to all hunting on the Refuge.

Hunt Type	Season Dates	Harvest	Hunt Areas	Other Regulations
Big Game (White-tailed deer, wild turkey)	White-tailed deer and turkey hunting are conducted in alignment with State seasons and method of take.	State regulations apply with exceptions listed in Prohibited Activities and/or noted under Other Regulations.	White-tailed deer and wild turkey may be hunted on the Bufflehead Bay and Conboy parcels.	Rifle and handgun is not permitted.
Small Game (Squirrel only)	Squirrel hunting is conducted in alignment with State seasons and method of take.	State regulations apply with exceptions listed in Prohibited Activities and/or noted under Other Regulations.	Squirrel may be hunted on the Bufflehead Bay and Conboy parcels.	Rifle and handgun is not permitted. Squirrel hunting is closed during shotgun deer season. No rabbit hunting is permitted due to the presence of New England Cottontails, a species of conservation concern.
Upland Game Bird (Pheasant, quail, ruffed grouse, crow)	Upland game bird hunting is conducted in alignment with State seasons and method of take.	State regulations apply with exceptions listed in Prohibited Activities and/or noted under Other Regulations.	Upland game birds may be hunted on the Bufflehead Bay and Conboy parcels.	Upland game bird hunting is closed during shotgun deer season. Eastern Massachusetts NWRC only permits non-toxic ammunition for upland game hunting.

<p>Migratory Bird</p> <p>(Sora, Virginia rail, Wilson's snipe, ducks, geese, American coot, American woodcock)</p>	<p>Migratory bird hunting is conducted in alignment with State seasons and method of take.</p>	<p>State regulations apply with exceptions listed in Prohibited Activities and/or noted under Other Regulations.</p>	<p>Migratory bird may be hunted in accordance with State regulations on the Bufflehead Bay and Conboy parcels of the refuge.</p>	<p>Eastern Massachusetts NWRC only permits non-toxic ammunition for migratory bird hunting.</p> <p>The use of dogs for retrieving migratory game birds only.</p> <p>Temporary ground blinds only</p>
<p>Furbearer</p> <p>(Coyote, fox, raccoon, opossum)</p>	<p>Furbearer hunting is conducted in alignment with State seasons and method of take (with the exception for night hunting).</p>	<p>State regulations apply with exceptions listed in Prohibited Activities and/or noted under Other Regulations.</p>	<p>Furbearers may be hunted in accordance with State regulations on the Bufflehead Bay and Conboy parcels of the refuge.</p>	<p>Rifle and handgun is not permitted.</p> <p>Night hunting is NOT permitted on the refuge.</p> <p>All furbearer hunting seasons are closed during shotgun deer season except for coyotes.</p>

MASHPEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE HUNT MAP

Permitted species to be taken at the Bufflehead Bay and Conboy parcels include: white-tailed deer, wild turkey, squirrel, pheasant, quail, ruffed grouse, crow, Sora rail, Virginia rail, Wilson's snipe, ducks, geese, American coot, American woodcock, coyote, fox, raccoon, and opossum. All hunters must observe relevant State regulations.

LEGEND

- Closed
- Bufflehead Bay Parcel
- Conboy Parcel
- Parking
- Gate
- Refuge boundary



0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Esri Community Maps Contributors, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, INCREMENT P, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA

Prohibited Activities

- Possession of alcoholic beverages
- Camping and Fires
- Night hunting
- Baiting
- Trimming or cutting vegetation
- Searching for or removal of any natural items such as antlers, skulls, plants, historic and archaeological artifacts
- Driving of deer by any means
- Use of a spotlight or other artificial light to locate wildlife
- Use of electronic calls
- Marking of any tree, trail, or other refuge feature with flagging or paint
- Permanent tree stands, nails, screw-in steps, or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree
- Permanent ground blinds
- Firearms capable of firing center fire rifle and pistol cartridge ammunition
- Possession of loaded firearm, discharge of firearm, or hunting is prohibited within 500 feet of any dwelling
- Discharge of any firearm or release of any arrow across roads or within 150 feet of roads