

HUNTER INFORMATION

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge – Shotgun Only Deer Hunt

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge permits a two-day, shotgun only white-tailed deer hunt each year. Dates are determined annually by refuge staff. Each hunter selected for a refuge hunting permit will be assigned the single hunt day. All state hunt regulations will be in effect to include daily bag limits.

- Hunters may take as many deer as they have valid permits for in **Zone 10**. Hunters may take up to two (2) deer in a day before reporting / checking them. Once those deer are registered, hunters may resume deer hunting on the same day.
- The Refuge does not issue additional state antlerless permits for the hunt
- Hunters must check in at a state-listed check station (www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-check-station-map). The refuge is not an official check station.
- NEW as of 2018 – Hunter Orientation is not required; please review regulations below

Hunting Hours

Hunting hours are in accordance with the Massachusetts Hunting Regulations: **one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset**. All hunting will cease one-half hour after sunset; hunters must unload their firearms and return to their vehicles after sunset, unless additional time is needed to track a deer.

State and Refuge Regulations

Parker River NWR is located within the towns of Newbury, Rowley and Ipswich, MA. You are responsible for knowing and complying with all Massachusetts regulations as published in the annual Massachusetts Guide – Hunting, Freshwater Fishing and Trapping Laws.

****In addition, you are responsible for knowing and complying with the regulations of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Failure to do so may result in suspension of your hunting permit, future hunting privileges and/or the issuance of a violation notice.***

Refuge Regulations

1. Deer are the only legal animal. Hunting of all other species is prohibited.
2. Shotguns and Muzzleloaders are permitted with SLUGS ONLY. Handguns and bows are prohibited.
3. Hunters must possess a valid MA hunting license and their refuge permit at all times.
4. Hunters must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of “blaze orange” clothing on back, chest and head. Cap and vest will suffice.

5. SAFETY ZONES

- No hunting within 500’ of the Sub Headquarters buildings
- No hunting NORTH of parking Lot #2

6. Shooting across refuge roads, boundaries, or into safety zones is prohibited.
7. Hunting from the observation towers is prohibited.
8. Hunters may pass through the refuge safety zone, but weapon must be unloaded.
9. Hunters may leave the refuge at any time and will be allowed to re-enter through the entrance gate during the day. Hunters must sign in/out with refuge staff each time.
10. Hunters must park in the designated public parking areas (check your map).
11. The refuge dikes around the freshwater pools (Hellcat Trail/Pines Trail) are off limits to vehicles.
12. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
13. Portable tree stands and ground blinds may be erected the day of the hunt and must be removed at the end of the day. No nails, spikes, screws or other objects are to be inserted or driven into any tree.
14. Selected hunters may scout the refuge during regular refuge hours (dawn to dusk) from Thursday through Sunday prior to the hunt. **Permit payment must be received before hunters will be allowed to scout.**

Your refuge hunting permit must be in your possession while scouting. Parking is permitted in any designated public lot. Parking along roadways or trails is prohibited. From the parking lot hunters will be allowed to enter the closed areas of the refuge. Remember, keep your hunt permit letter and map with you at all times!

Hunt Day Procedures

1. Check in at the refuge main entrance gate (end of Sunset Drive – Newbury, MA) will be between the hours of 0500-0600 – please don't be late! You must have your Massachusetts hunting license, refuge hunt permit, letter and map to check in. After 0600, the entrance gate will be closed.
2. After checking in you may head out into the field. Parking is permitted in designated refuge lots only.
3. Hunters MUST check in at a state-listed check station (www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-check-station-map). The refuge is not an official check station.
4. Sign out with refuge staff at the gatehouse at the end of your hunt day.

THANK YOU & GOOD LUCK!!



Questions? Call 978-465-5753 or visit us online at fws.gov/refuge/parker-river