

**[EXTERNAL] RE: Parker River to Release Draft Environmental Assessment on the Pink House**

Morfill, Katherine (Markey) <Katherine\_Morfill@markey.senate.gov>

Tue 10/31/2023 4:18 PM

To: Joseph, Jennifer A <jennifer\_joseph@fws.gov>

Cc: Hillman, Matthew D <matthew\_hillman@fws.gov>

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Thanks so much, Jen!

Matt, our office is very thankful for your leadership on today's call. We are glad to continue to support FWS and their mission in the Northeast Region!

Looking forward to staying in close touch about this as the public comment period occurs next month. Please do let us know how things shake out once you get back comments, and don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of any help.

Happy Halloween!

Kind regards!  
Katie

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**From:** Joseph, Jennifer A <jennifer\_joseph@fws.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 3:40 PM

**To:** Morfill, Katherine (Markey) <Katherine\_Morfill@markey.senate.gov>

**Cc:** Hillman, Matthew D <matthew\_hillman@fws.gov>

**Subject:** FYI: Parker River to Release Draft Environmental Assessment on the Pink House

Hi Katie,

Thanks for joining our call today - I wanted to pass along an advance copy of the Service's press release below that will be posted along with the EA tomorrow morning at 9:30 am. As we mentioned on our call we will release the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a 30-day public comment that includes a proposal to demolish the house at 60 Plum Island Turnpike in Newbury, MA, commonly known as the Pink House, and to restore the property on Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. In response to community feedback, refuge staff have worked diligently with partners to locate a suitable land exchange parcel to save the house from demolition. After an exhaustive search spanning more than seven years, no viable exchange parcels were ultimately located.

The EA, Press Release, and FAQs will be available tomorrow on the refuge's website (<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker-river>) or viewed at the visitor center (6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newbury, MA). Please feel free to reach out to with any questions - comments should be emailed to [parkerriver@fws.gov](mailto:parkerriver@fws.gov).

Best,  
Jen

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**\*Embargoed until November 1\***

## **Parker River National Wildlife Refuge opens public comment period for proposal to remove the Pink House**

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge has opened a 30-day public comment period on a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that includes a proposal to demolish the house at 60 Plum Island Turnpike in Newbury, MA, commonly known as the Pink House, and to restore the property.

In response to community feedback, refuge staff have worked diligently with partners to locate a suitable land exchange parcel to save the house from demolition. After an exhaustive search spanning more than seven years, no viable exchange parcels were ultimately located.

Originally constructed in 1925, the Pink House is known to contain materials harmful to human health, including asbestos. The nearly 100-year-old structure requires frequent maintenance – using taxpayer funds – to prevent catastrophic damage. Additionally, the property floods routinely during storm events, and sea level rise projections indicate increased frequency and intensity of roadway flooding in this area.

The EA also proposes opening the property to the public for wildlife observation and interpretation for the first time ever if the house is removed. An accessible observation platform would be constructed, providing an elevated position where all visitors can appreciate the natural beauty and learn about the ecology of the Great Marsh.

The EA can be downloaded from the refuge's website (<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker-river>) or viewed at the visitor center (6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newbury, MA). Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, it will be open for public comment from November 1 through November 30, 2023.

Comments should be emailed to [parkerriver@fws.gov](mailto:parkerriver@fws.gov).