

# News Release



Parker River National Wildlife Refuge  
6 Plum Island Turnpike  
Newburyport, MA 01950

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## **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.

“I want to thank our many community partners who have worked so hard as we exhausted every option to find a solution to this complex issue,” said Refuge Manager Matt Hillman.

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 through November 30, 2023.

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