



Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Migratory Game Birds & Waterfowl Hunting

Hunting at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge is a traditional recreational use and serves as an important wildlife management tool. The refuge offers quality opportunities to hunt migratory game bird and waterfowl.

Please read through the following information carefully so that we may ensure your hunting experience is as safe and enjoyable as possible. Contact us with questions.

General Information

Hunting for migratory game birds and waterfowl is allowed during normal hours of operation (sunrise to sunset). The refuge is located in Massachusetts Wildlife Management Zone 10, and the Coastal Zone for waterfowl.

Legal species, season dates, and bag limits are in accordance with state regulations, which can be found on the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife website (mass.gov/hunting-regulations). The refuge also honors all state authorized Youth Waterfowl Hunting days.

Permits, Licenses & Stamps

Hunters are required to obtain valid state licenses, permits, and stamps before engaging in any hunting activity. A refuge permit is not required, and there are no refuge reporting requirements. Hunters recovering banded birds are encouraged to report them to www.reportband.gov. All state and federal regulations apply to hunting at the refuge.



Waterfowl hunters wait in a blind.

Blinds

Portable blinds, nets, tarps, or similar forms of temporary concealment are permitted. *Digging pits and cutting vegetation is strictly prohibited.*

Shot & Shotshells

Approved non-toxic shot is required. *Lead shot is not allowed.*

Dogs & Decoys

The use of dogs and artificial decoys is encouraged. Dogs must be under the hunter's control at all times and actively engaged in hunting activity.

Motorized Boats

Launching of motorized boats is allowed from the boat ramp directly across from Lot 1 only during hunting season, and only for the purpose of waterfowl hunting. Non-motorized boats are allowed year-round.

Launching motorized boats for scouting purposes prior to hunting is not allowed.

Vehicles and trailers must be parked at Lot 1. Always check the tide times to avoid being stranded at low tide.

Access & Parking

Access to refuge hunting areas is by foot or boat. Refuge parking is limited, and lots fill on a first-come, first-served basis.

Hunting Locations

Area A & Area D: Access by boat from the refuge boat ramp or from off-refuge sites.

Area B: Boat access from the refuge boat ramp or from off-refuge site. Foot access from the parking lot via Newbury Neck Road and March Avenue (Newbury, MA). Hunting is allowed only in the area marked by "Public Hunting Area" signs. From the parking lot, this area is located approximately 0.3 miles to the left of the trail end.

Area C / Nelson Island: Foot access only. Access from the parking lot off Stackyard Road (Rowley, MA). Hunting within 150 ft of the parking lot is prohibited.

Additional Regulations

- No entering non-hunting areas to retrieve downed waterfowl
- No loaded firearms or shooting (including cripples) on Plum Island, Parker River, and Plum Island/Broad Sound including all islands and sand spits
- No hunting on Sundays
- No using or possessing alcohol

