

HUNTER INFORMATION

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge – Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Hunting

We allow white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and waterfowl hunting on designated areas on the refuge subject to certain conditions.

Please refer to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Hunting and Trapping Digest for definition of approved weapons, bag limits, license requirements, and other important information. Contact the NH Fish and Game Department at (603) 271-3421 or check their web page at <https://wildlife.state.nh.us/index.html>.

We allow firearms deer hunting during two, one-day hunts during New Hampshire's firearms season. A separate permit is issued for each day of this hunt. We allow archery hunting of deer and turkeys, under the same permit, during the State seasons for archery deer and fall archery turkey hunting. However, fall archery hunt permittees may not hunt or enter the refuge during the firearms deer hunt. We allow spring turkey hunting, by permit, in accordance with State regulations. The refuge is open throughout the State spring turkey season, including during the Youth Hunt (for permitted youth hunters only).

Permits

Separate permits will be issued through a lottery system for fall archery (deer and turkey) hunting, spring turkey hunting, and each day of the firearms deer hunt. New as of 2022, all permit applications must be submitted online (parkerrivernwr.recaccess.com). Each hunt permit will be free for hunters aged 17 years and younger; \$10 for hunters aged 62 and older, and \$20 for hunters aged 18 to 61. Two hunters are permitted per application. There are no additional refuge permits required for waterfowl hunting at Great Bay NWR.

Hunters must possess their respective permits at all times while scouting and hunting on the refuge. Permit fees will be used to support hunt signage, maps, hunt administration, and law enforcement.

Hunt-Specific Reminders

Two One-Day Deer Hunts (Firearms)

- Scouting is permitted to occur during the week prior to the first day of the refuge firearms deer hunt
- Hunters must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of solid-colored blaze-orange clothing or material, in a visible manner on the head, chest, and back
- Hunters must check in and out with refuge personnel prior to entering and exiting the refuge
- Hunters must register harvested deer at the refuge check station, if a refuge check station is offered
- During the firearms deer hunt, the refuge is closed to all other recreational uses, including fall archery deer and turkey permit holders

Deer & Turkey Archery (Fall)

- Scouting is permitted beginning one week prior to the season opening
- Fall turkey hunting is restricted to archery equipment, only; shotguns are prohibited
- Shooting across refuge boundaries, and within or into administratively closed zones is prohibited

Waterfowl (Fall / Winter)

- Great Bay NWR is located in the Coastal Zone for waterfowl hunting. All state regulations, bag limits, and season dates apply
- Hunting is permitted along the open shoreline up to 20' into the wooded areas
- Only designated sections of the shoreline are open to hunting. It is the responsibility of the hunter to adhere to the refuge hunt map and observe all posted signs
- Hunting dogs are permitted only when actively engaged in hunting and retrieval
- No entry is allowed into closed areas to retrieve downed waterfowl
- Launching boats from the refuge is not permitted
- Boats launched from off-refuge may be grounded on the shoreline

Turkey (Spring)

- Scouting is permitted beginning one week prior to the Youth Hunt opening
- Shooting across refuge boundaries, and within or into administratively closed zones is prohibited

Access

- Primary access to Great Bay NWR for deer and turkey hunting is via the hunter parking lot and entrance located on McIntyre Road
- Archery and spring turkey hunters must park in the lot on McIntyre Road. Firearms hunters will be permitted to drive on parts of refuge roads, past the parking lot
- From parking areas, all deer and turkey hunting access is by foot, bicycle, or e-bike
- Access for persons with disabilities will be on foot or by vehicle with prior, written Refuge Manager approval
- Wheeled carts and sleds are permitted in areas open for hunting, for hauling deer out
- Waterfowl hunting access is allowed only via boat, and boats must launch off-refuge
- There is no foot access allowed to waterfowl hunting areas

Additional Refuge Regulations

- Hunters must have in their possession a valid refuge hunting permit and photo identification while hunting refuge property
- Hunters are prohibited from discharging a bow and arrow within 15 feet, or a firearm within 200 feet, of the traveled portion, of or across any refuge roads or trails
- Baiting is prohibited

- The use of dogs to track or locate large game is not permitted
- We allow hunters to be on the refuge during the period that begins 2 hours before legal sunrise and ends 2 hours after legal sunset
- No ATVs, OHVs, or snowmobiles, are permitted on the refuge at any time
- We encourage the use of non-toxic shot and bullets while deer and turkey hunting
- Treestands and ground blinds may be put up for the season in accordance with New Hampshire state regulations, however, all stands and blinds MUST be labeled with the hunters name and permit number
- Waterfowl hunters are asked to report all banded birds at www.report-band.gov

Links to Web Resources & Hunting Maps



Great Bay NWR Website: Hunting Information

Scan or visit www.fws.gov/refuge/great-bay/visit-us/activities/hunting



Great Bay NWR Deer & Turkey Archery Hunt Map

Scan or visit www.fws.gov/media/great-bay-archery-deer-hunt.pdf



Great Bay NWR Shotgun Deer Hunt Map

Scan or visit www.fws.gov/media/great-bay-firearms-deer-hunt.pdf



Great Bay NWR Waterfowl Hunt Map

Scan or visit www.fws.gov/media/great-bay-waterfowl-hunt-map.pdf



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