

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge



2020-2021 Deer and Turkey Hunting

Hunt Category	Application Submission Period	Lottery Announcement	Hunt Area
Fall Archery Deer and Turkey	July 20 – August 7	On or before August 10	683 acres
Firearms Deer	September 1-September 30	On or before October 10	943 acres
Spring Turkey	March 1-March 31	On or before April 10	683 acres

We allow white-tailed deer and wild turkey 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 the first weekend of 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. 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. Forms are available on the Great Bay NWR website and at the Parker River NWR Headquarters. 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 and 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.

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 from one entrance and parking area at the end of Arboretum Drive.
- Archery and spring turkey hunters must park vehicles in the main parking lot. Firearms hunters will be permitted to drive on parts of refuge roads, past the parking lot.
- From parking areas, all access will occur on foot.
- 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 all areas open for hunting, for hauling deer out.

Additional Refuge Reminders

- 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.
- We don’t allow the use of dogs for retrieving big game.
- 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 voluntary use of non-toxic shot and bullets while deer and turkey hunting.

For more information, contact:
 Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
 6 Plum Island Turnpike
 Newburyport, MA 01950
 (978) 465-5753

Federal Relay Service
 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
 1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>
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