

# Parker River

## *National Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunting Information*

Thank you for your interest in waterfowl hunting at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Please read the following information thoroughly so that we may ensure your hunting experience is as safe and enjoyable as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Enjoy your visit!

### General

Waterfowl hunting for geese, ducks, and American coot, is permitted only in Areas A, B, and C (map on reverse) and in accordance with refuge, state, and federal regulations. Sea ducks may be taken in designated hunting areas only when their open season coincides with the open season on “ducks.” Canada goose hunting is permitted in Areas A, B, and C during any state authorized “early” and/or “late” goose seasons. The refuge will also honor any state authorized Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day(s). Contact Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MDF&W) at 508/389 6300 for more information on these programs.

### Permit, License, and Stamps

A refuge permit is not required. Refuge hunters must possess a valid Massachusetts (MA) hunting license, waterfowl stamp, and have completed the MA HIP survey. A federal Duck Stamp is also required, and must be signed by the hunter across the face in ink.

### Blinds

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

### Shot and Shotshells

Approved non-toxic shot is required and hunters are limited to 25 shot shells per day. Possession of lead shot is prohibited.

### Dogs and Decoys

The use of dogs and artificial decoys is encouraged. Dogs must be under the hunter’s control at all times.

### Other

Entering any portion of the refuge other than Areas A, B, or C to retrieve downed waterfowl, with or without a firearm, is prohibited. Loaded firearms and shooting (including cripples) are prohibited on Plum Island River, Parker River, and Plum Island/Broad Sound, including all islands and sand spits therein. Sunday hunting is prohibited. The use or possession of alcoholic beverages on the refuge is prohibited.

### Access and Hunting Areas

Access to the hunting areas is by foot or boat, with certain restrictions (see below). On-refuge parking is limited with parking lots filled on a first come-first served basis. The refuge entrance gate and parking lots open one hour before legal shooting time. **Launching of motorized boats is allowed from the boat ramp across from Lot 1, ONLY during Hunting season and ONLY for the purpose of waterfowl hunting. Launching motorized boats for scouting purposes prior to hunting is strictly prohibited.**

**Area A**—Access by boat from the refuge boat ramp located opposite Parking Lot 1 (vehicles and trailers must be parked in Lot 1) or from off-refuge sites. Check tide times to avoid being stranded on the marsh by a low tide.

**Area B**—Access by either boat from the refuge boat ramp opposite parking lot 1 or from off-refuge sites, or by foot from the parking lot via Newbury Neck Road and Marsh 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 trail’s end.

**Area C (Nelson Island)** - Foot access only. Access from the parking lot off Stackyard Road (Rowley, MA). Hunting within 150 feet of the parking area is prohibited.

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Newburyport, MA 01950  
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978/465 2807 Fax  
Email: [parkerriver@fws.gov](mailto:parkerriver@fws.gov)  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/parker\\_river/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/)**

**Federal Relay Service  
For the deaf and hard-of-hearing  
1 800/877 8339  
[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)**

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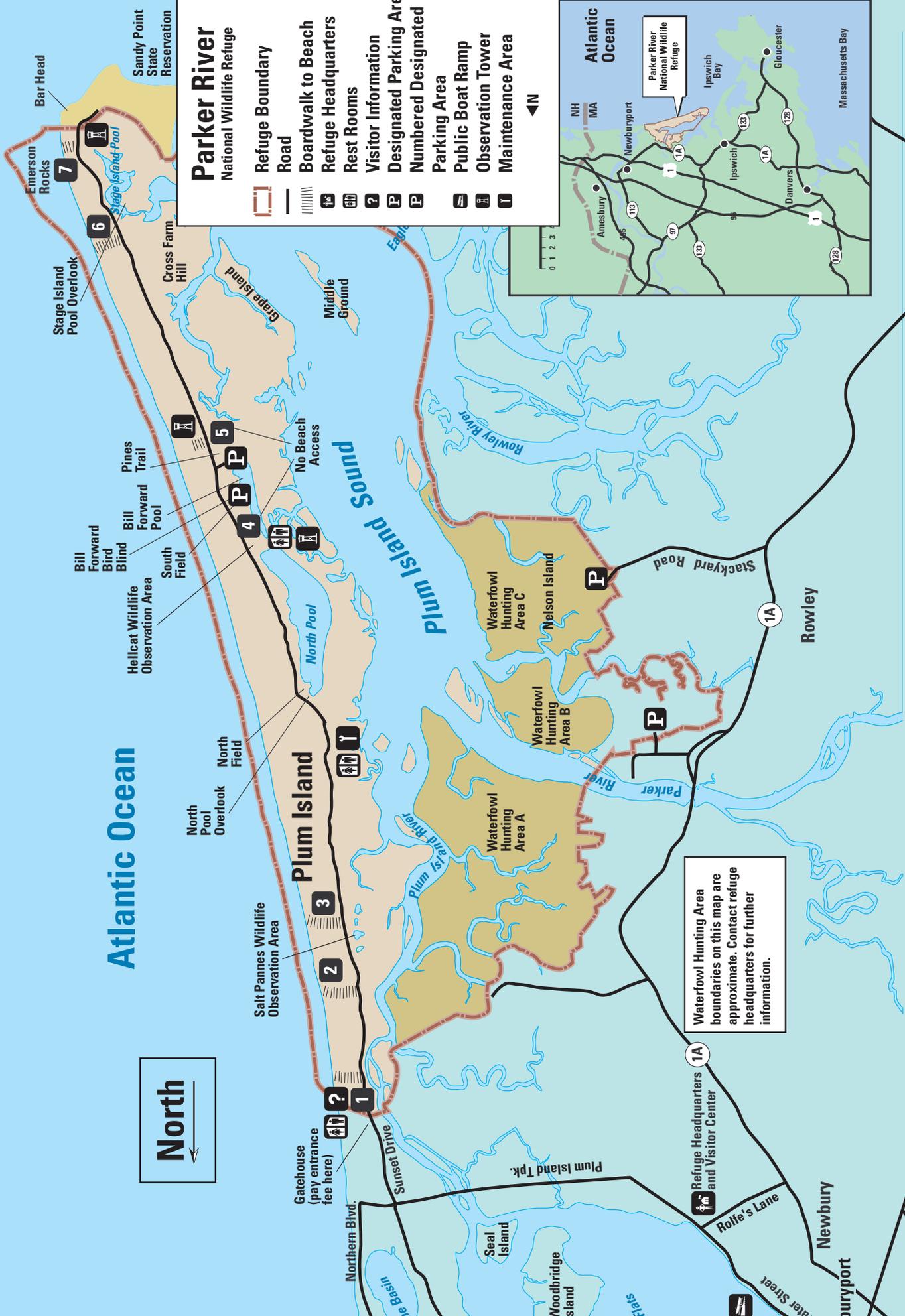
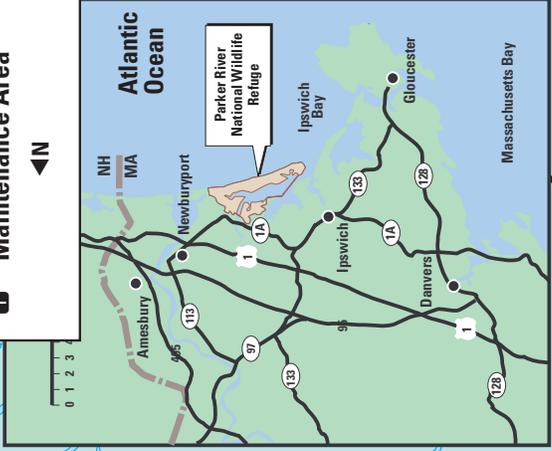


# Atlantic Ocean



## Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

- Refuge Boundary
- Road
- Boardwalk to Beach
- Refuge Headquarters
- Rest Rooms
- Visitor Information
- Designated Parking Area
- Numbered Designated Parking Area
- Public Boat Ramp
- Observation Tower
- Maintenance Area



Waterfowl Hunting Area boundaries on this map are approximate. Contact refuge headquarters for further information.

Refuge Headquarters and Visitor Center

Gatehouse (pay entrance fee here)

Bill Forward Bird Blind  
Hellcat Wildlife Observation Area  
South Field

North Pool Overlook  
North Field

Salt Pannes Wildlife Observation Area

Stage Island Pool Overlook  
Cross Farm Hill

Emerson Rocks  
Bar Head

Sandy Point State Reservation

No Beach Access

Middle Ground

Waterfowl Hunting Area C  
Nelson Island

Waterfowl Hunting Area B

Waterfowl Hunting Area A

Rowley

Newburyport

Plum Island Tpk.

Rolle's Lane

Northern Blvd.

Sunset Drive

Seal Island  
Woodbridge Island  
Flats

Plum Island Sound

Plum River

Parker River

Rowley River

Stackyard Road

Newburyport

Atlantic Ocean

Massachusetts Bay

Water Street

0 1 2 3

North arrow pointing left