

GROUP PERMIT INFORMATION

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

(978) 465-5753



Thank you for choosing to visit Parker River National Wildlife Refuge with your group! Please read the following information thoroughly so that we may ensure that your visit is as safe and enjoyable as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the above number if you have any questions or concerns. You can also send an email to the refuge at parkerriver@fws.gov. Enjoy your visit!

PERMITS

Any formal group wishing to access the refuge for wildlife-oriented educational, scientific, or recreational purposes must first be issued, and possess, a **Special Use Permit**. Permit instructions and applications can be obtained here: <https://www.fws.gov/refuges/visit/special-use-permit.html>. Send completed applications via email attachment to matt_poole@fws.gov. **Permits must be requested at least two weeks prior to your visit.** The greatest demand for permits is for the months of May, June, September, and October. So make your reservation(s) early to ensure availability. If your trip is cancelled, please notify Refuge Headquarters immediately so other groups can be scheduled. Please note that the refuge may elect to NOT issue a permit due to a variety of factors, including the number of permits that have already been issued for the same date and timeframe.

USER FEES

A fee may be assessed when issuing a Special Use Permit. Also, a refuge entrance fee (\$5/vehicle, \$2/walk-on or bicycle, \$20/commercial vehicle with twenty or fewer passengers, \$30/commercial vehicle with twenty-one or more passengers) may be charged. Annual passes are available but **cannot** be used when accessing the refuge as a group. A fee waiver may be granted in advance of the visit if a group meets all of the following requirements:

1. The group is from a bona fide institution established for educational and/or scientific purposes.
2. The visit to the refuge is being made for educational and/or scientific purposes.
3. The educational and/or scientific purposes of the trip are related to the resources of the refuge.
4. The group and/or visit is determined to be non-commercial.

ACCESS

Access is limited to the normal hours of refuge operation (Sunrise – Sunset). The Plum Island portion of the refuge is closed whenever vehicle capacity is reached. At these times, permit holders are allowed refuge access. **Use is restricted to areas open to the public (trails, boardwalks, roads, parking lots, beach, & observation areas).** All other areas are **closed**. Please be aware that the refuge beach is closed from April 1 to mid-late August to provide undisturbed nesting habitat for the federally threatened piping plover.

PARKING

Buses must park in designated bus spaces available in Lot 1 and Lot 4 (Hellcat Wildlife Observation Area). Buses may drop passengers off at other use areas but must return to the designated areas for parking. Roadside parking is prohibited.