

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

2020-2021 Big Game Hunting



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

All hunters must comply with Federal, State and refuge-specific rules and regulations. Please refer to the Massachusetts Hunting and Fishing Guide for clothing requirements, definition of approved weapons, bag limits, license requirements, and other important information. Contact MassWildlife at (508) 389-6300 or check their web page at <https://www.mass.gov/hunting-regulations>.

Deer may be hunted on the Plum Island portion of the refuge during the first Wednesday and Thursday of the Massachusetts shotgun season (an increase of one day from 2018). All state legal implements, including shotguns, primitive weapons, archery equipment, and crossbows (permitted disabled hunters), are permitted.

Hunting for deer in Hunting Areas A, B, C, and D is permitted during all Massachusetts deer hunting seasons; however, archery equipment is the only permitted implement in these areas.

Hunting for wild turkey in Hunting Areas A, B, C, and D is permitted during all Massachusetts wild turkey hunting seasons. The specific hunting periods and hours are determined by the State. The refuge is located entirely within the State's Wildlife Management Zone 10 and those regulations apply to all hunt areas. Hunters will be encouraged to voluntarily use non-toxic shot.

Access

Shotgun Deer: Access for the permit deer hunt is through the main entrance only. Vehicle traffic is restricted to the public Wildlife Drive only. Driving is prohibited off-road. Parking is permitted in designated lots only. Plum Island is open to deer hunting with the exception of areas north of Lot 2 and 15 acres around HQ. They are closed for safety purposes.

Archery Deer: Foot access is available from two parking lots on the west side of the refuge described as Areas B (Marsh Ave., Newbury) and C (Nelson Island, Stackyard Rd., Rowley), and by foot or boat from off-refuge.

Turkey: Access specifics are the same as Archery Deer.

Permits

You must have a lottery-issued hunt permit (FWS Form 3-2354) to hunt during the two-day shotgun deer hunt. Two hunters are permitted per application. 35 permits are issued for each day (up to 4 disabled hunters). Hunters should check the "disabled" box on their application form so as to ensure entry into the disabled hunt lottery. A disabled

hunter may be accompanied by an assistant who does not hunt and whose name and other information should not be included on the application.

Selected applicants will be notified by October 10 via email. The hunt permit fee is free for hunters aged 17 years and younger and hunters with disabilities, \$10 for hunters aged 62 and older, and \$20 for hunters aged 18 to 61. Permits must be purchased by October 31. By limiting the number of permits, the refuge can manage hunting activities so that it is an enjoyable experience for those hunting and other users of the refuge, as well as manage the impacts to the natural resources. Forms are available at Parker River Headquarters and on the refuge website.

Refuge permits are not required for the wild turkey and archery deer hunts.

Reminders

- Refuge hunting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.
- Hunters must check in and out with refuge personnel prior to entering and exiting the refuge during the Plum Island shotgun hunt.
- All hunters must exit the refuge within one hour after legal shooting ends.
- Shooting across refuge roads, boundaries and within or into administratively closed zones is prohibited.
- Permittees may scout from the Thursday through Sunday prior to their hunt and must possess their refuge permit while scouting. We prohibit launching motorized boats for scouting purposes prior to hunting.
- Hunting blinds and tree stands may not be left on the refuge overnight.

For more information, contact:

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
6 Plum Island Turnpike
Newburyport, MA 01950
(978) 465-5753
parkerriver@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/

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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