

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

2020-2021 Upland Game, Small Game, and Furbearer Hunting

We allow hunting of upland game*, some small game, and furbearer species 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>.

Allowed Species

Upland Game: Ruffed grouse, ring-necked pheasant, and crows may be hunted in accordance with all State regulations with the exception that crow hunting is restricted to September 1 through February 28.

Rabbits and Squirrels: Cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, and gray squirrel may be hunted in accordance with all State regulations, with the exception that night hunting (between ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise) is prohibited.

Furbearers: Coyote, fox, raccoon, and opossum may be hunted with accordance with all State regulations with the exceptions that night hunting (½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise), artificial lights, using bait, and dogs are prohibited.

Access

Area A—Access by boat or by foot from non-refuge areas.

Area B—Access either by boat, by foot from the refuge parking lot via Newbury Neck Road and Marsh Avenue (Newbury, MA), or by foot from non-refuge areas. 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)—Access either by boat, by foot from the refuge parking lot at the end of Stackyard Road (Rowley, MA), or by foot from non-refuge areas. Hunting within 150 feet of the refuge parking lot is prohibited.

Area D—Access is by boat only.

Permits

No refuge permit is required to hunt the above mentioned species.

Reminders

- The refuge entrance gate and parking lots open 1 hour before legal shooting time.
- Refuge hunting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.
- Launching of motorized boats is allowed from the Lot 1 boat ramp, only for purposes of hunting. Launching motorized boats for scouting purposes prior to hunting is prohibited. Anyone hired to assist or guide hunter(s) must obtain, possess, and carry a valid Special Use Permit issued by the refuge manager.
- Rifles and handguns of any caliber are prohibited for hunting.
- Night hunting (between ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise), artificial lights, and using bait is prohibited.
- Dogs are prohibited for hunting furbearers. Dogs are permitted for upland game, rabbits, squirrels, and migratory birds.
- Shooting across refuge roads, boundaries, and within or into administratively closed zones is prohibited.

*Per Massachusetts regulations, wild turkey is considered an upland game species. To align with the Code of Federal Regulations, Parker River NWR is considering wild turkey to be a big game species and is addressed on a separate information sheet.

For more information, contact:

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(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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