



Town of Brewster Conservation Commission

1657 Main St., Brewster, MA 02631

(508) 896-4546

2023-2024 Brewster Hunting Regulations

The Conservation Commission has certain Town-owned lands under its care, custody and control, for the protection of open space and natural resources. As provided in the Massachusetts General Laws; Conservation Commission Act of 1957 G. L. Ch. 40: § 8C. Conservation Commission; establishment; powers and duties; and G. L. Ch. 131: § 59. Reservations, parks, public lands; hunting... - the Conservation Commission has the authority to make decisions on recreational uses such as hunting on these lands. It is the policy of the Brewster Conservation Commission each year, to review the wildlife and safety information and vote on this issue.

General Regulations:

- A. Hunting is prohibited on all Town properties except those defined in these attached maps, and is subject to the regulations set by the board holding care and custody of these lands (Water Commissioners, Conservation Commissioners, Select Board).
- B. The parcels are described as the Punkhorn Hunting Area, Meetinghouse Road Parcels and Freemans Way South parcels.
- C. Hunting in these defined areas requires a written permit which may be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office. You must present your state hunting permit to obtain the Town permit. This permit may be revoked at any time for any infraction of these regulations.
- D. Hunting on private property requires written permission of the owner or legal occupant.
- E. The holder of a Town hunting permit is responsible for knowing and following all State and Town hunting regulations and for knowing and honoring the boundaries of the areas defined in the attached maps.
- F. The Boards and Commissions with care and custody of the properties in the Punkhorn Parklands voted to authorize hunting in a new area of the Punkhorn Parklands, with specific restrictions. This area is approximately 200 acres in size and includes lands under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, Select Board, and Water Commissioners, who each voted similarly. This area is posted with Seasonal Hunting signs and is subject to State mandated buffer zones, including no hunting areas of 150 feet off roads (Westgate Road, Squantos Path, Punkhorn Road, and the access road to the Water Department well), as well as a 500-foot no hunting buffer from the homes to the west along Westgate Road, the Water Department well house in the center of this area, and homes south of Squantos Path. In accordance with General Legislation Chapter 98, Hunting in the Punkhorn Parklands, hunting is authorized from **Monday, December 4th 2023 until Saturday, December 23rd 2023** excepting Sundays, and is restricted to bow hunting for deer only. A map illustrating these buffers and the seasonal hunting area in the Punkhorn Parklands will be posted on kiosks in the Punkhorn Parklands, in the lobby of the Natural Resources Department, and will be provided to people purchasing the Town hunting permit. The rest of the Punkhorn Parklands is designated Hunting Prohibited.
- G. Deer and wild turkey hunting in the Meetinghouse Road Parcels is permitted for archery and primitive arms from tree stands only. No hunting allowed until the hunter is in his/her designated tree stand. No other hunting or hunting seasons are authorized on these lands. Water Department lands within these two parcels will be regulated in accordance with this Conservation Commission hunting policy.

- H. The Freemans Way South parcels consist of Water Department lands and Conservation Commission lands. These properties are open for general hunting in accordance with the policy of the Brewster Water Commissioners.
- I. Water Department lands in other areas and north of Freemans Way are not authorized for hunting.

Use of Tree Stands on Town Property

- A. All tree stands on Town property must be registered with the Brewster Department of Natural Resources identifying the area they are located (Punkhorn Hunting Area, Meetinghouse Road Parcels, Freemans Way South parcels).
- B. All tree stands must be labelled with the owner's name.
- C. Tree stands cannot be permanently fastened to the tree with lags, screws, nails, or bolts. Screw in pegs, posts or handles that pierce the tree are not permitted. Only ladder stands, strap-on stands and climbing sticks are to be used.
- D. Tree stand placement must follow a minimum setback of 500 feet from any dwelling and a 150-foot setback from any named road or Town mapped hiking trail. No hunting is allowed in this setback area.
- E. Tree stands may be in place not more than 20 days before the deer hunting season.
- F. All tree stands must be removed no later than 20 days after deer hunting season ends.
- G. Tree stands used for Spring Turkey hunting may be placed no more than 20 days prior to the beginning of the season and must be removed within 20 days after the end of the season.
- H. Any tree stand found without a registered name, or in place outside of the above listed date limits, will be removed.

Waterfowl Hunting

In accordance with MGL Ch. 131; § 45, an individual with proper licenses may hunt waterfowl in and around the great ponds located in Brewster. The boundary for hunting activities on lands under the care and custody of the Brewster Conservation Commission is 5 feet beyond the mean high water mark or elevation of the pond. All state regulations and setback requirements must be observed.

Anyone found in violation of these hunting regulations may have their town hunting permit revoked for the remainder of the hunting season. Repeated violations will be subject to a longer ban.