

# Prime Hook

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D)  
Senator Thomas R. Carper (D)  
Rep. Michael N. Castle (R)

### Contact

Jonathan Schafner, Project Leader  
Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge  
11978 Turkle Pond Road  
Milton, DE 19968  
Phone: 302/684 8419  
Fax: 302/684 8504  
TDD: 800/232 5470  
E-mail: fw5rw\_phnwr@fws.gov  
<http://primehook.fws.gov>

### Purpose

Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge was established for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds, and, as suitable, for incidental fish and wildlife-oriented development, the protection of natural resources, and the conservation of endangered or threatened species.

### Public Use Notes

- Interpretive visitor contact station and trails, including a boardwalk (4 total - 4.5 miles)
- Canoeing (7 miles)
- Crabbing
- Hunting (deer, waterfowl and upland game)
- Three fully accessible boat ramps for fishing, hunting and canoeing

### Management Activities

- Providing resting and feeding habitat (moist soil management totaling 4,200 acres) for migrating shorebirds and wintering waterfowl
- Protecting and enhancing critical wooded habitat for the endangered Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel and nesting and wintering habitat for bald eagles, ospreys and peregrine falcons
- As part of the National Fire Plan, working to eliminate the risk of wildfire to adjacent landowners and treating over 3,600 acres of marsh infested with the invasive grass Phragmites
- Restoring and enhancing forests and grasslands
- Providing high quality, safe and enjoyable wildlife-dependent recreational experiences

### Highlights

There is one active bald eagle nest on the refuge.

The refuge is part of a designated Wetland of International Importance, a Ramsar site.

Freshwater marshes are a major wintering area for up to 85,000 ducks and 200,000 snow geese during fall and winter migrations.

Thousands of shorebirds use fresh water and salt marshes during spring and fall migrations.

The refuge provides critical habitat for the endangered Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel.

### Issues

Pesticide use, off-site development and the spread of exotic/invasive species threaten biological diversity in the refuge ecosystems.



Richard Webster/USFWS

*Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel*

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**1 800/344 WILD**  
<http://www.fws.gov>

**May 2006**



Refuge staff are working with local landowners and Service Ecological Services staff to resolve conflicts surrounding Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrels.

The refuge has begun its comprehensive conservation planning process. Public involvement will be an important part of that process.

The refuge continues to build partnerships that benefit conservation; these include a successful friends group and a Delaware Department of Corrections work crew.

Working with our conservation partners, the refuge is acquiring acres on its western boundary to protect habitat for shorebirds migrating to their Arctic nesting grounds.