



# Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife  
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## Parker's Pipewort *Eriocaulon parkeri* B.L. Robins

State Status: **Endangered**  
Federal Status: **None**

**Description:** Parker's Pipewort is a small, delicate, erect perennial in the Pipewort family (Eriocaulaceae). Its thin, green to purple, basal leaves are grass-like in appearance and grow 2-6 cm (0.8 – 2.4 in.) in length. These linear leaves are only 1-2 mm (0.04-0.08 in.) wide at their mid-points and taper to a fine end. Parker's Pipewort generally has from two to four unbranched scapes (leafless flower stalks). These scapes are straight, obscurely four- or five-angled in cross-section, and 2.5-10 cm (1-4 in.) long. The small unisexual, hairless or minutely hairy flowers are clustered in hemispheric or button-like terminal heads, 3-6 mm (0.12-0.24 in.) in diameter. Each of the two whitish to yellowish-white petals has a nectar-producing gland just below its tip. Parker's Pipewort blooms from late July to late September.

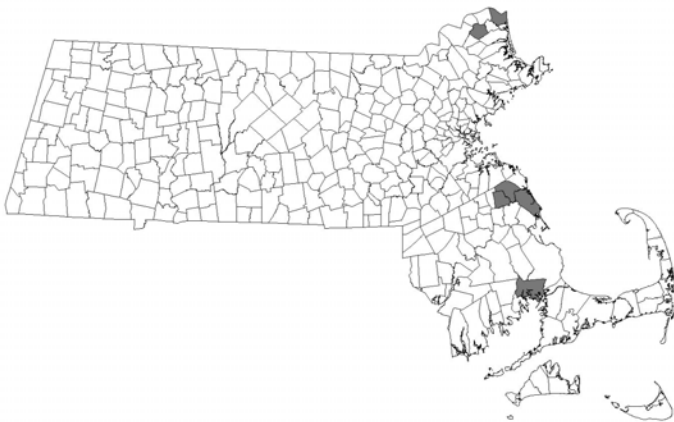
**Range:** The range of Parker's Pipewort has been documented as extending from New Brunswick and Quebec to Maine, Massachusetts and central New York, and south near the coast to North Carolina.



Tiner, R.W. 1987. *Coastal Wetland Plants of the Northeastern United States*. University of Massachusetts Press.

**Habitat in Massachusetts:** Parker's Pipewort grows in shallow, tidal, fresh water and on the tidal mud flats of rivers. In Massachusetts, habitats include a sandy, mucky, exposed flat of freshwater tidal marsh; a sunny, gravelly, constantly wet, sloping river shore; an exposed, muddy area in a freshwater marsh, where seepage enters; and a cold, boggy, sandy edge of a river, with many cold seeps. Among the plant species associated with Parker's Pipewort are Sweetflag (*Acorus calamus*), Wild Rice (*Zizania aquatica*), Water-smartweed (*Polygonum punctatum*), Water-purslane (*Ludwigia plaustris*), Hedge-hyssop (*Lindernia dubia* var. *inundata*), and various waterworts (*Elatine* spp.), arrowheads (*Sagittaria* spp.) and cordgrasses (*Spartina* spp.). Rare Massachusetts plants that have been found with Parker's Pipewort include Estuary Beggar-ticks (*Bidens hyperborea*).

**Population Status:** Parker's Pipewort is currently listed as Endangered in Massachusetts. There are five current stations (discovered or relocated since 1984) and two historical stations (unverified since 1984) in the state. The species is also considered rare in Connecticut, Maryland, Maine, North Carolina, New Jersey, Delaware, and Virginia. It was present historically in New York and Pennsylvania.



Distribution in Massachusetts  
1984-2009

Based on records in Natural Heritage Database

Updated 19 February 2009

Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for 'endangered wildlife conservation' on your state income tax form as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.