

State Parks

Virginia State Parks offer a wide variety of hunting opportunities as well as countless other outdoor activities for the entire family. Hunting opportunities range from open hunting in designated areas to managed deer hunts where individuals participate through a reservation or lottery system.

Specific sites that offer hunting may change from year to year. Managed deer hunts are

a tool in Virginia State Parks' overall deer management program. Participating hunters are asked to support our management efforts by following harvest guidelines associated with each hunt.

For more information about hunting in a Virginia State Park or to make reservations go on the Web at www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/hunting.shtml or call (800) 933-PARK (7275).

Overnight accommodations are available at many sites during part of the hunting season; contact the Customer Service Center or visit the website for additional information and to reserve cabins or campsites. Detailed hunting opportunities are listed below.

Virginia State Parks Hunting Opportunities 2021-2022 Season

LOCATION	HUNTING DATES	RESERVATION PERIOD BEGINS	NUMBER OF HUNTERS/DAY	WEAPONS ALLOWED	RESERVATION FEE	HUNTER EDUCATION REQUIRED
Belle Isle Lancaster County 804-462-5030	11/9-10	9/17	12	M	\$15	✓
	12/7-8	9/17	12	M,S	\$15	✓
Caledon King George County 540-663-3861	11/11, 11/18	9/2	10	M	\$15	✓
Claytor Lake Pulaski County 540-643-2500	1/7-8	9/30	20	M,Ss	\$15	✓
Grayson Highlands Grayson County 276-579-7092	11/1-2	9/3	30	M	\$15	✓
	11/15-16	9/3	30	G	\$15	✓
James River Buckingham County 434-933-4355	11/8-9	9/10	15	M	\$15	✓
	12/6-7	9/10	15	M,S	\$15	✓
Kiptopeke Northampton County 757-331-2267	11/30-12/2	9/8	12+	A, M, S	\$15	✓
Lake Anna Spotsylvania County 540-854-5503	11/10	9/23	27	M	\$15	✓
	12/6-7	9/23	27	M, Ss	\$15	✓
Leesylvania Prince William County 703-730-8205	12/1, 12/8	10/1	15	Ss*	\$15	✓
Natural Tunnel Scott County 276-940-2674	11/8-9	9/24	15	M	\$15	✓
	1/10-11	9/24	15	M, Ss	\$15	✓
Pocahontas Chesterfield County 804-796-4255	11/8-9, 11/15-16	9/22	10+	A, M	\$15	✓
	12/6-7	9/22	25+	A, M, S	\$15	✓
Shenandoah River Warren County 540-622-6840	11/8	9/15	14	M	\$15	✓
	11/9	9/15	7	YM	\$15	✓
Smith Mountain Lake Bedford County 540-297-6066	11/1-2 11/8-9	9/9	30	A, M	\$15	✓
Widewater Stafford County 540-288-1400	12/2, 12/9	9/29	10	Ss*	\$15	✓
York River James City County 757-566-3036	11/8-9	9/16	5, 35	A, M	\$15	✓
	11/29-30	9/16	5, 35	A, M, S	\$15	✓

Key:

A... Archery

M... Muzzleloading Firearms

S... Shotgun

s... slugs only

G... General Firearms

YM... Youth Muzzleloading Firearms

YG... Youth General Firearms

*...special qualification required

+...some slots allow for hunting buddy

Call the State Parks Customer Service Center at 1-800-933-PARK (7275) to participate. All hunts have special regulations. Contact the individual park or the customer service center to obtain the hunt specific rules.

All of Virginia State Parks' managed hunts will be filled by reservation, except the Cooperative Hunts listed below.

Reservation Hunts

Hunters may reserve a preferred day and at some sites, a preferred stand or zone. There is a non-refundable reservation fee of \$15 per day; there may be limits to the number of reservations allowed per call. Proof of hunter education certification and required licenses must be presented at check-in. To make a reservation call the State Parks Customer Service Center at 1-800-933-PARK (7275) to participate.

Special Youth Hunts

A special youth hunt is planned for Tuesday, November 9 at Shenandoah River State Park (muzzleloader). To participate, youth ages 12–17 should follow the same process as for our other hunts. Note that youth ages 16–17 may hunt alone, youth ages 12–15 must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult (with valid hunter safety certification).

Pocahontas Archery Hunt by Permit

Pocahontas State Park offers an opportunity for archery hunters to obtain a permit for archery hunting in special designated areas. Approximately 3,000 acres are open Monday through Thursday only to archery hunters who obtain a permit through the main park office. Permits are valid from October 4 through December 30 and are limited to a total of 100 permits. All normal DWR regulations and bag limits apply to this hunt. Proof of hunter safety education course completion is required to obtain a permit.

Special Southern Heritage Hunt

Chippokes Plantation State Park hosts a traditional hunting experience on Saturday, Dec. 4. This is an old-fashioned hunt featuring three traditional meals, a blessing of the hounds, rides to and from the hunt stands and a butchering service. Reservations may be made up to one year in advance. Fee: \$350/adult or youth 16 and older; \$200/child, ages 12–17, if stand is shared with a paying adult; \$50 per non-hunting companion.

Cooperative Hunts

Wheelin' Sportsmen Hunt

There are three special opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in hunts. Special Muzzleloader hunts will be held at Shenandoah River State Park on Monday, Nov. 8, and at Lake Anna State Park on Tuesday, Nov. 9. A special General Firearms hunt will be held on Saturday, Nov. 20 at Staunton River State Park. Applications will be available Aug. 1, and the deadline is Sept. 30. Apply or download the application at www.vanwtf.org. Contact Robin Clark, 434-249-6154, huntvaws@gmail.com for more info.

Mason Neck State Park

This hunt is run in conjunction with the Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Hunt dates are Nov. 16, Nov. 30, and a bonus hunt day and youth hunt day on Dec. 7. All selected hunters must attend an orientation and show proof of weapons qualification in order to participate. There is an application and hunt fee. Applications will be accepted from Aug. 1 to Sept. 15. Lottery information and applications are available by calling the Refuge office at 703-490-4979 or online at www.fws.gov/refuge/Mason_Neck/visit/deerhunt.html.

Claytor Lake State Park Youth Deer Hunting Workshop

This workshop and hunt for youth (ages 12–17) is held in conjunction with the Department of Wildlife Resources on Dec. 10-11. Workshop includes a Friday evening seminar on deer biology/management, hunting safety/ethics and muzzleloader safety, and a Saturday guided muzzleloader hunt. Participants must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult, and meet all hunter education and licensing requirements. For more information and to register contact Tracy Howard at 540-731-3639, tracy.howard@radford.va.gov.

Widewater State Park Novice Hunter Workshop

This workshop is for novice hunters, age 18 and older, who would like to receive a supplemental education that goes beyond the required hunter education course. Held in cooperation with the Department of Wildlife Resources, novices will be paired one-on-one with an experienced mentor who will offer invaluable knowledge and expertise. Any interested novice must e-mail or mail a completed application to Joanna.Arighi@dcr.virginia.gov or to Widewater State Park at 101 Widewater State Park Road, Stafford, VA 22554 by Aug. 20. Notifications will be sent out by Aug. 27. Upon selection, the final payment of \$15 for the State Park hunting permit must be paid by Sept. 17. The final payment for the workshop can be made with the Customer Service Center at 800-933-PARK.

Hunters and Trappers

If you use a boat—remember to boat smart!

Wear Your Life Jacket

Safety Tips

- ✓ Check the weather before leaving.
- ✓ Wear a life jacket, vest or float coat.
- ✓ Anchor from the bow, never from the stern.
- ✓ Properly load your boat.
- ✓ Leave the alcohol at home.
- ✓ Stay with your boat if it should capsize.
- ✓ Guard against hypothermia.
- ✓ Remain seated and keep weight evenly distributed.



Virginia

Don't forget: Boating Safety Classes are Required

www.virginiawildlife.gov/boating/education/requirement/