

Virginia State Parks Hunting Opportunities 2025 – 2026 Season

Location	Hunting Dates	Reservation Period Begins	Number of Hunters/Day	Weapons Allowed	Reservation Fee	Hunter Education Required
Caledon King George County 540-663-3861	11/6, 11/13	9/3	10	M	\$15	✓
Chippokes Surry County 757-294-3728	11/17-18, 12/10-11	9/4	30	S	\$15	✓
Claytor Lake Pulaski County 540-643-2500	1/9-10	9/5	20	M, Ss	\$15	✓
Grayson Highlands Grayson County 276-579-7092	11/3-4	9/9	30	M	\$15	✓
	11/17-18	9/9	30	G	\$15	✓
Kiptopeke Northampton County 757-331-2267	11/5-6	9/10	12+	A, M	\$15	✓
	12/3-4	9/10	12+	A, M, S	\$15	✓
Lake Anna Spotsylvania County 540-854-5503	11/5	9/11	27	M	\$15	✓
	12/1-2	9/11	27	M, Ss*	\$15	✓
Leesylvania Prince William County 703-730-8205	12/3, 12/10	9/12	15	Ss*	\$15	✓
Machicomoco Gloucester County 804-642-2419	12/1-2	9/30	2 A / 8 A, M, S	A, M, S	\$15	✓
Natural Tunnel Scott County 276-940-2674	11/12-13	9/16	15	A, M	\$15	✓
	1/5-6	9/16	15	M, Ss	\$15	✓
Pocahontas Chesterfield County 804-796-4255	11/10-11	9/17	20	A, M	\$15	✓
	12/1-2	9/17	28	A, M, S	\$15	✓
Shenandoah River Warren County 540-622-6840	11/4	9/18	7	M	\$15	✓
Smith Mountain Lake Bedford County 540-297-6066	11/3-4, 11/10-11	9/19	30	A, M	\$15	✓
Staunton River (Falkland State Conservation Area) Halifax County 434-572-3694	11/17-18	9/23	20	G	\$15	✓
Sweet Run Loudoun County 540-668-6230	11/17, 11/24	9/24	18	Ss*	\$15	✓
Widewater Stafford County 540-288-1400	12/4, 12/11	9/25	8	Ss*	\$15	✓
York River James City County 757-566-3036	11/12-13	9/26	4 A / 19 M	A, M	\$15	✓
	12/3-4	9/26	4 A / 19 M, S	A, M, S	\$15	✓

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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, non-lead ammo required +=some slots allow for hunting buddy

Visit online at <https://reservevaparks.com/Web/> or call the State Parks Customer Service Center at 1-800-933-PARK (7275) Option 5 to participate. All hunts have special terms and conditions.

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. 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.

Visit online at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/hunting> for the most up-to-date information regarding hunting dates, opening dates for reservation periods, number of hunters per day, allowable weapon types, and other special requirements. All reservation hunts have a \$15 reservation fee. Hunter education certification is required. To make a reservation, visit <https://reservevaparks.com/Web/> or call the State Parks Customer Service Center at 1-800-933-PARK (7275), Option 5, to participate. All reservations will open at 9am on the date listed in the hunting opportunities chart. All hunts have special terms and conditions.

Virginia State Parks also provides comfortable and economical overnight accommodations, with housekeeping cabins and campsites ranging from primitive sites to sites with electric and water hookups. Accommodations are available at many sites during part of the hunting season. To make hunting reservations, as well as to make reservations for overnight accommodations in Virginia State Parks, visit <https://reservevaparks.com/Web/> or call the State Parks Customer Service Center at 800-933-7275 (PARK) Option 5. Reservations may be made up to two days prior to the requested day of the hunt, provided payment can be made at the time of reservation, and that space is available. Learn about park cabins, camping and lodges at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/overnight-accom>.

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 transaction. Proof of hunter education certification and required licenses must be presented at check-in. To make a reservation, visit online at <https://reservevaparks.com/Web/> or call the State Parks Customer Service Center at 1-800-933-PARK (7275) Option 5 to participate. All reservations will open at 9am on the date listed in the hunting opportunities chart. Visit online at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/hunting> to determine the reservation start date.

New Hunting Opportunity at Machicomoco State Park: Don't miss your chance to hunt one of Virginia's newest parks. This year, DCR will offer a managed hunt on December 1 & 2 at Machicomoco State Park.

Special Youth Hunts: A special youth hunt is planned for November 4 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 2,500 acres are open on designated days

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only to archery hunters who obtain a permit through the main park office. Permits are valid from October 6 through January 2, Monday – Friday only, and are limited to a total of 100 permits. Permit fees will be \$50 and a mandatory in-person safety briefing will be required. All normal DWR regulations and bag limits apply to this hunt. Proof of hunter safety education course completion is required to obtain a permit.

Open Hunts: Open hunting opportunities are available at Fairy Stone, Grayson Highlands, Hungry Mother and Occoneechee State Parks. Maps of the open hunting areas can be found here <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/hunting>. All DWR hunting regulations apply.

Portions of Fairy Stone State Park are included in a cooperative agreement with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to provide public hunting access in Patrick and Franklin Counties. All DWR hunting regulations apply. Daily parking fee is required while parked at Fairy Stone State Park.

The open hunting area at Grayson Highlands State Park includes 1,117 acres in the northern section of the park and is adjacent to Mount Roger's National Recreation Area. The public open hunting area can be accessed via Massie Gap and the Seed Orchard Trail. All DWR hunting regulations apply. Hunting with dogs off leash is not allowed. Daily parking fee is required.

Open hunting is permitted in the northern section of Hungry Mother State Park. The area includes 863 acres and can be accessed via State Highway 16. All DWR hunting regulations apply. Daily parking fee is required.

Open hunting is permitted on 1,900 acres in the southeast portion of Occoneechee State Park. Hunters can park at one of two parking areas to access the property. All DWR hunting regulations apply. Daily parking fee is required.

Cooperative Hunts

Wheelin' Sportsmen Hunt: There are three special opportunities for people with mobility-impairment disabilities to participate in hunts. Special Muzzleloader hunts will be held at Shenandoah River State Park on November 3 and at Lake Anna State Park on November 4. A special General Firearms hunt will be held at Staunton River State Park on November 22. Applications will be available August 1, and the deadline is September 1. 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 November 18 and December 2. Permits will be available for purchase September 20 at 12:00pm and will be sold on a first come first serve basis. Orientation and permit sales are administered on <https://potomacriverrefugehunts.recaccess.com/>. All selected hunters must attend an orientation and show proof of weapons qualification in order to participate.

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. Workshop includes a Friday evening (December 12) seminar on deer biology/management, hunting safety/ethics and muzzleloader safety, and a Saturday guided muzzleloader hunt (December 13). Participants must be accompanied by a nonhunting adult and meet all hunter education and licensing requirements. For more information and to register, contact Tracy Howard at 540-641-4455, tracydeanhoward@yahoo.com.

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

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mentor who will offer invaluable knowledge and expertise. Hunts will take place on October 29 (archery only) and December 4 & December 11 (shotgun, non-lead slugs only). Interested novice hunters should contact Jason Miller, DWR Region 4 Hunter Education Coordinator, jason.miller@dwr.virginia.gov. Instructions for the State Park hunting permit and related fees will be provided during the selection notification process.