

## Virginia State Parks Hunting Opportunities 2023 – 2024 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	12/12-13	9/14	12	M, S	\$15	✓
Caledon King George County 540-663-3861	11/9, 11/16	9/6	10	M	\$15	✓
Claytor Lake Pulaski County 540-643-2500	1/5-6	9/28	20	M, Ss	\$15	✓
Grayson Highlands Grayson County 276-579-7092	11/6-7	9/26	30	M	\$15	✓
	11/20-21	9/26	30	G	\$15	✓
James River Buckingham County 434-933-4355	11/6-8	9/7	15	A, M	\$15	✓
	12/4-6	9/7	15	A, M, S	\$15	✓
Kiptopeke Northampton County 757-331-2267	11/8-9	9/19	12+	A, M	\$15	✓
	12/6-7	9/19	12+	A, M, S	\$15	✓
Lake Anna Spotsylvania County 540-854-5503	11/8	9/20	27	M	\$15	✓
	12/4-5	9/20	27	M, Ss	\$15	✓
Leesylvania Prince William County 703-730-8205	12/6, 12/13	9/29	15	Ss*	\$15	✓
Natural Tunnel Scott County 276-940-2674	11/13-14	9/21	15	M	\$15	✓
	1/8-9	9/21	15	M, Ss	\$15	✓
Pocahontas Chesterfield County 804-796-4255	11/6-7 11/13-14	9/15	20+	A, M	\$15	✓
	12/4-5	9/15	28+	A, M, S	\$15	✓
Shenandoah River Warren County 540-622-6840	11/7	9/8	7	YM	\$15	✓
Smith Mountain Lake Bedford County 540-297-6066	11/6-7, 11/13-14	9/12	30	A, M	\$15	✓
Sweet Run Loudoun County 540-668-6230	11/20, 11/27	9/22	18	Ss*	\$15	✓
Widewater Stafford County 540-288-1400	12/7, 12/14	9/27	8	Ss*	\$15	✓
York River James City County 757-566-3036	11/6-7	9/13	5 (A), 19 (M)	A, M	\$15	✓
	12/4-5	9/13	5 (A), 19 (M)	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, 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 regulations.

# Virginia State Parks Hunting Opportunities 2023 – 2024 Season

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 hunts have special regulations.

**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.

**Special Youth Hunts:** A special youth hunt is planned for Tuesday, November 7 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 9, 2023 through January 4, 2024 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.

## Cooperative Hunts

**Wheelin' Sportsmen Hunts:** 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, November 6, and at Lake Anna State Park on Tuesday, November 7. A special General Firearms hunt will be held on Saturday, November 18 at Staunton River State Park. Applications will be available August 1, and the deadline is September 30. Apply or download the application at [www.vanwtf.org](http://www.vanwtf.org). Contact Robin Clark, 434-249-6154, [huntvaws@gmail.com](mailto: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. 14 and Nov. 28. Permits are \$20 for adults, \$10 for those with a senior or access pass. Permits will be available for purchase Sept. 23 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/>.

**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 and is capped at 15 youth participants. Workshop includes a Friday evening (December 8<sup>th</sup>) seminar on deer biology/management, hunting safety/ethics and muzzleloader safety, and a Saturday (December 9<sup>th</sup>) guided muzzleloader "earn a buck" hunt. 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](mailto: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 mentor who will offer invaluable knowledge and expertise. Hunts will take place on Dec. 7 and Dec. 14. Any interested novice must e-mail or mail a completed application to [Joanna.Arrighi@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:Joanna.Arrighi@dcr.virginia.gov) or to Widewater State Park at 101 Widewater State Park Road, Stafford, VA 22554 by Aug. 18. Notifications will be sent out by Aug. 25. Upon selection, the final payment of \$30 for the State Park hunting permit must be paid by Sep. 15. The final payment instructions will be provided during the notification process. Instructions for the final payment of \$30 for the State Park hunting permit will be provided during the selection notification process.