



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Natural Tunnel State Park
1420 Natural Tunnel Parkway
Duffield, VA 24244
Phone: 276-940-2674
Email: naturaltunnel@dcr.virginia.gov

Dear Hunter,

Thank you for choosing to participate in the Natural Tunnel State Park Deer Hunt. Enclosed in this packet you'll find the following information:

- A non-transferrable reservation confirmation email
- Terms and Conditions
- A required items list
- Hunt map

Please carefully review all the documents in this packet. Each hunter will need to sign the Terms and Conditions sheet to confirm they have read, understood, and will abide by the stated conditions. Hunters under the age of 18 must also have a parent/guardian's signature.

We encourage you to visit the park during normal park hours (8:00am to dusk) to familiarize yourself with your zone location. During the pre-hunt scouting trips, do not add or alter markings to any assigned zone. No weapons are allowed on scouting trips. Normal parking fees apply. When visiting the park to scout prior to the hunt, you may park in designated parking areas. Stop by the park office so staff know you are here or if you have questions and need additional information. You must display this letter in your windshield.

The park will open for hunter check-in at 5am for the November hunts and 6am for the January hunts. All hunters must check-in at the park maintenance shop by 5:25am for the November hunts and 6:25am for the January hunts. Late arrivals will forfeit their reservation to stand-by hunters. A mandatory pre-hunt safety briefing will take place at the check station. Hunters must checkout at the maintenance shop by 6:30pm. There will be stand-by drawings to fill vacant hunter slots at 5:30am for the November hunts and 6:30am for the January hunts as well as 1:00pm each day of the hunt. You are welcome to come any or all days of the hunt, to hunt stand-by. We encourage you to bring your lunch for the day's hunt. You may return to your vehicle or to the check station for lunch. All hunters are to check out before leaving park property.

If you have any questions prior to the hunt, please contact the park office at 276-940-2674.

Sincerely,
Robert Chapman
Park Manager

Natural Tunnel State Park Managed Deer Hunt Permit

2026-2027 Terms and Conditions

The following information, terms, and conditions apply to the managed deer hunts in Virginia State Parks. Any violation will result in revocation of permit and elimination of your participation in any hunting programs sponsored by the Division of State Parks and possible criminal charges.

1. The special deer hunt will be held on 9 & 10 November and 5 & 6 January.
2. Check-in for the youth and adult muzzleloader hunts will be between 5:00 am and 5:30 am at the Natural Tunnel State Park maintenance shop (see map). Check-in for the January DPOP hunts will be between 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. at the maintenance shop. All hunters that have been selected and have not checked in by 5:30 am (6:30 a.m. for the January hunts) will lose their selected status and join the stand-by hunters. A stand-by drawing will be conducted daily at 5:30am (6:30 a.m. for the January hunts) and 1:00pm to fill any vacant positions. Hunters must participate in a check-in briefing at 5:30 am (6:30 a.m. for January hunts). Hunters MUST check-in and check-out of the park check station (located at the park maintenance shop). At check-in, hunters will be asked to show a form of identification (driver's license, etc.). If there are open positions within a zone the morning of the hunt, hunters with reservations have the option of changing zones prior to the standby drawing.
 - Only one hunter per reservation is permitted.
3. Hunter check-out is by 6:30 pm. Hunters MUST check-in and check-out of the park check station (located at the park maintenance shop). All hunters must check-out at the check station when leaving the park for lunch or for the day. Upon leaving all non-used DMAP or DPOP tags are to be returned to the hunt manager at the check station.
4. Participants must be at least 16 years of age, or if 12-15, accompanied by a responsible adult who has a hunter education certificate. The adult will not be allowed to hunt.
5. All hunters will attend a mandatory pre-hunt briefing the morning of each hunt. Hunters who do not attend the briefing will not be allowed to hunt.
6. Hunters are encouraged to scout the hunting areas prior to the hunt during normal park hours only. Zones will be marked at least two weeks prior to scheduled hunts. No additional marks will be allowed.
7. All required Virginia hunting licenses apply and will be checked prior to hunting.
8. Hunters will be required to have taken and passed a hunter safety course. Proof of hunter safety certification must be presented on the day of the hunt. No hunter will be allowed to hunt without proof of having completed a hunter safety course.
9. Every hunter or person accompanying a hunter shall wear either blaze orange or blaze pink hat and upper body clothing visible from 360 degrees.
10. Muzzleloaders only for November DMAP hunts. Shotguns or muzzleloaders may be used for the January DPOP hunts. See the Legal Use of Firearms section in the VDWR General Information and Hunting Regulations.
11. There will be no shooting from or across roads, across water, or across park boundaries.
12. In accordance with state hunting laws, hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
13. Each hunter will reserve or be assigned a zone. The zones will be clearly marked. Hunters must remain within their zones at all times. Weapons must be unloaded at all times when outside of the hunter's assigned hunting area.
14. Only deer may be harvested in accordance with the Code of Virginia. No other game species may be killed during this hunt.
15. The allowable harvest is deer of either sex during the November muzzleloader hunts. Only antlerless deer may be taken during the DPOP hunts in January. Antlered deer must have at least four antler points, 1 inch

or longer, on either the right or left antler. You must harvest an antlerless deer prior to shooting antlered deer. The park will issue DMAP or DPOP tags for use on antlerless deer; hunters must use their own either sex tags for antlered deer. Deer taken using DMAP or DPOP tags do not count towards a hunter's daily or season bag limit.

16. Deer will be field dressed no less than 100 feet from hiking trails, structures, and roads. All deer must be checked by park staff at the deer check station. Information will be collected on each deer, including removal of a jawbone.
17. Hunters may track and recover their deer while they are within their assigned zone. Hunters must request assistance from the hunt manager to track and recover any deer that has traveled into another zone that the hunter has not been assigned. Hunters must make a reasonable attempt to retrieve game before returning to hunt. Hunters are responsible for dragging out their harvested deer to their vehicle.
18. Hunters will be allowed to use portable tree stands at approved locations. We highly encourage hunters to follow manufacturer's guidelines regarding the use of safety harnesses. Screw peg steps will not be allowed. Trimming of trees for shooting lanes or to secure stands is prohibited.
19. If using a ground blind, blaze orange or blaze pink is required to be visible on the blind from 360 degrees, in addition to the blaze orange or blaze pink worn by the hunter.
20. Baiting is prohibited. Artificial deer lure is permissible.
21. Hunting with dogs is prohibited.
22. No drugs or alcoholic beverages.
23. Direct any questions concerning the hunt to:
Robert Chapman, Park Manager, Natural Tunnel State Park, (276) 940-2674
Jordon Blevins, District 6 Resource Specialist, (276) 780-5649
24. The Division of State Parks reserves the right to close the managed hunt or to close any zone in the event that the number of deer taken exceeds that which is needed for herd control.
25. All Federal and Virginia Hunting Laws and Regulations, as well as Virginia State Parks Regulations, are applicable during this hunt. Hunters who violate any of the above regulations will be subject to removal from the park and/or if the hunter is in violation of the Code of Virginia the hunter may be subjected to a Virginia Uniform Summons.

"I have read and understand the above terms and conditions for participating in this controlled deer hunt. I understand that a violation of any of these terms and conditions is a violation of Virginia Administrative Code 4VAC5-30-40 and may result in the revocation of my hunting permit for this hunt, and the elimination of my participation in any hunting program sponsored by Virginia State Parks for the remainder of this season and subsequent years. Any fees paid to date for such programs will be forfeited."

Signature

Printed Name

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature (If under 18)

Printed Name

Date

Required Items Checklist

Please bring the following items with you on the day of the hunt:

- ☐ Reservation confirmation letter.
- ☐ Terms and conditions sheet.
- ☐ A valid hunter safety certificate or legible photocopy.
- ☐ A valid Virginia hunting license and Big Game license.
- ☐ A blaze orange or blaze pink hat and upper body clothing visible from 360 degrees.
- ☐ If using a portable tree stand, a safety harness per manufacturer's guidelines.
- ☐ If using a ground blind, blaze orange or blaze pink that is visible on the blind from 360 degrees.

Field Maps Instructions



To fully utilize the benefits of the digital copy of the map, hunters should download the free app named **'Field Maps'**. This app is available for both Android and iOS. This app will allow you to use the hunt map in a similar manner to Google Maps or other mapping software. You will be able to geo-locate yourself on the hunt map, as well as drop point markers. This will allow you to better locate your stand as well as mark any areas of interest you may want to revisit if you are attending a zone hunt. One of the benefits of this app is you do not need phone service. The map is saved onto your phone and all you need to navigate is a GPS signal.

- 1. Visit your app store (Google Play or Apple's App Store) and search for 'Field Maps'.**
- 2. Download and install the app.**
- 3. Press "Skip sign in".**
- 4. In the search bar, search for the park in which you are hunting. For example, typing in "Lake Anna State Park" in the Field Maps search bar, will bring up the Lake Anna State Park map (the park map) AND the Lake Anna State Park Hunt map. You can then download the map for free within Field Maps.**
 - You may also press the link on our hunt website (<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/hunting>), which will directly link you to the download of that park within Field Maps.
- 5. When you're in the park, open the Field Maps app, and choose the appropriate map. Your location will show up as a small blue dot within the map.**

NOTE: You may need to turn on "allow downloads with cellular data" in your phone's settings if you are not connected to wifi when downloading a map.

NATURAL TUNNEL STATE PARK HUNTING

