



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

Pocahontas State Park  
10301 State Park Rd  
Chesterfield VA 23832

Dear Hunter,

Thank you for choosing to participate in the Pocahontas 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 and Avenza instructions

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 8am to 5pm daily to familiarize yourself with your zone location. During your pre-hunt scouting trip, you must use established parking area and display this letter on your windshield. No weapons are permitted, no marking or tree stands may be placed. Normal parking fees apply.

The park will open for hunter check-in by 4:30am. All hunters must check-in at the check station / maintenance shop by 5:00 am. Late arrivals may forfeit their reservation to stand-by hunters. A mandatory pre-hunt safety briefing will take place at the check station at 5:15 am. Hunters must checkout at the check station/ maintenance shop by 6:30 pm, regardless of hunter success. A standby drawing will be held at 5:00am and 12:00pm for any vacant zones. You are welcome to come any or all days of the hunt, to hunt stand-by. To reach the check station/maintenance shop; enter the park and go through the main gate and proceed down State Park Road for about a half mile. The maintenance complex will be on your right, turn in through the gate and the shop will be the building on the left with lights on.

For the November hunts, the reservable zones are remaining the same, however there are now two reservations per zone and each reservation may only bring one buddy hunter with them. The hunters sharing these zones will be responsible for coordinating where in the zone each will hunt.

If you have any questions prior to the hunt, please contact the park office at 804-796-4255.

Sincerely,  
Nate Clark  
Park Manager

# Pocahontas State Park Managed Deer Hunt Permit

## 2026 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 7 & 8 December.
  - *For November 9 & 10: there are two reservations per zone that will share the zone, hunters are responsible for coordinating where each will hunt. Additionally, only one buddy hunter is allowed per reservation. There will be a total of 20 sites available only in Zones 4 & 5.*
  - *For December 7 & 8: there is only one reservation per zone and up to two buddy hunters are allowed with each reservation. There will be a total of 28 sites available in Zones 1 – 6.*
2. Check-in is between 4:30 am and 5:00 am at the Pocahontas State Park maintenance complex. All hunters that have reservations and have not checked in by 5:00 am will lose their selected status and join the stand-by hunters. A stand-by drawing will be conducted daily at 5:00 am and 12:00pm to fill vacant positions. Hunters must remit a \$15 stand-by hunter fee, if hunting stand-by. 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.
3. Hunter check-out is by 6:30pm. Hunters MUST check-out of the park check station (located at the maintenance complex).
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.
  - Hunters must participate in a check-in briefing at 5:15am. Hunters MUST check-in of the park check station (located at the maintenance complex). Hunters must provide their own transportation from the maintenance complex to their assigned hunting zone.
6. Hunters are encouraged to scout their hunting area prior to the hunt, unarmed, and during normal park hours only. Zones will be marked during this period, 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. For the archery/muzzleloader deer hunt held on November 9 & 10: Legal weapons include archery tackle approved by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources for Archery seasons, including crossbows, and muzzle-loading firearms. For the archery/muzzleloader/shotgun deer hunt held on December 7 & 8: Legal weapons include archery tackle approved by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources for Archery seasons, including crossbows, muzzle-loading firearms, and shotguns (no rifles). Other weapons prohibited.
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. 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 two deer on your big game stamps and four deer utilizing DMAP tags per day. The park will issue DMAP tags for use on antlerless deer; hunters must use their own tags for antlered deer. Deer taken using DMAP tags do not count towards the hunters daily or seasonal 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.
  - All deer must be checked by the hunter using DWR's online or phone check process; paper check tags have been discontinued.
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.
18. Hunters will be allowed to use manufactured portable tree stands or tree saddles at approved locations; however, safety harnesses and tethers are required. 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:  
Nate Clark, Park Manager, Pocahontas State Park, (804) 796-4255, [nathan.clark@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:nathan.clark@dcr.virginia.gov)
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."*

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Signature

Printed Name

Date

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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 or saddle, harnesses and tethers are required at all times and all components must be used 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.*

# POCAHONTAS STATE PARK HUNTING

