



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Sweet Run State Park
11661 Harpers Ferry Road
Hillsboro, VA 20132
Phone: 540-668-6230
Email: sweetrun@dcr.virginia.gov

Dear Hunter,

Thank you for choosing to participate in the Sweet Run State Park Deer Hunt. Enclosed, please find the following information:

- A non-transferrable reservation confirmation email
- Terms and Conditions
- A required items list
- Firearm qualification card and standards
- Hunt map

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

On your hunt day(s), the park will open for hunter check-in at 4:30 a.m. All hunters must check-in at the Interpretive Center (Hunt Check Station on hunt map) by 5 a.m. Late arrivals will forfeit their reservation to stand-by hunters. Stand-by slots will be awarded in order of arrival at 5:01 am each day of the hunt. A mandatory pre-hunt safety briefing will take place at the check station shortly after 5 a.m. Hunters must check out at the Interpretive Center by 6:30 p.m. I encourage you to visit the park during normal hours (8 a.m. to sunset) to scout your zone location. During this scouting trip, please park in designated parking areas and hike to your zone location.

Sweet Run State Park participates in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). This means that park staff will take data on all deer harvested during the hunt. As such, hunters that harvest an antlerless deer will receive a DMAP tag for that deer. Hunters must use their own tags for antlered deer. This hunt is also located within Disease Management Area 2 (DMA2) for Chronic Wasting Disease. Whole deer carcasses and carcass parts containing brain and spinal cord tissue from deer harvested in DMA2 can *only* be transported within the counties in DMA1 and DMA2. The park does not have the facilities to process/butcher deer carcasses. For more information visit the Dept. of Wildlife Resources website: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/cwd/>.

If you have any questions prior to the hunt, please contact the Park Office at 540-668-6230.

Sincerely,
Kevin Bowman
Park Manager

Sweet Run 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 November 16 & 23.
2. Check-in is between 4:30 am – 5:00 am at the Interpretive Center (Hunt Check Station on hunt map). All pre-registered hunters that have not checked in by 5:00 am will lose their selected status and join the stand-by hunters. Stand-by spots will be awarded in order of arrival at 5:01 am and fill vacant zones. Selected stand-by hunters will pay a \$15 hunting fee.
3. Check-out is by 6:30 pm. Hunters MUST check-out at the Interpretive Center (Hunt Check Station on hunt map).
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 their hunt zone prior to the hunt during normal park hours (8 a.m. to sunset).
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. Allowable weapons are shotguns only.
 - The only ammunition allowed are non-lead slugs.
 - Hunters will be required to pre-qualify with their shotgun. The qualification will be presented on the morning of the hunt. The serial number on the card and the gun will be compared and must match. Failure to provide a valid qualification card will result in loss of ability to hunt without possibility of a refund.
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. Hunters must remain within their zones at all times while hunting. Weapons must be unloaded at all times when outside of the hunter's assigned hunting area. Hunters may only park in designated parking areas, as marked on the hunt map.
14. Only deer may be harvested in accordance with the Code of Virginia. No other game species may be harvested during this hunt.
 - This hunt is located within Disease Management Area 2 (DMA2) for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Whole deer carcasses and carcass parts containing brain and spinal cord tissue from deer harvested in DMA2 can ONLY be transported within the counties in DMA1 and DMA2. The park does not have the facilities to process/butcher deer carcasses. For more information on which counties are in the DMAs and CWD in general, please visit the Dept. of Wildlife Resource website: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/cwd/>
15. 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.

- Any deer harvested by 2:00 pm must be brought to deer check at that time, or once two deer have been taken, whichever comes first.
16. Hunters may track and recover their deer while they are within their assigned zone. Hunters must request assistance from park staff to track and recover any deer that has traveled into another zone that the hunter has not been assigned.
 17. 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.
 18. 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.
 19. Baiting is prohibited. Artificial deer lure is permissible.
 20. Hunting with dogs is prohibited.
 21. No drugs or alcoholic beverages.
 22. Direct any questions concerning the hunt to:
Kevin Bowman, Park Manager, Sweet Run State Park, (540) 680-9012
Joanna Arrighi, District 2 Resource Specialist, (540) 642-2400
 23. 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.
 24. 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
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Parent/Guardian Signature (If under 18)	Printed Name	Date
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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.
- ☐ Firearm qualification card.

Firearms Qualifications Standards

- Selected hunters are required to qualify their firearm before the scheduled hunt dates. Firearms and ammunition may be added to the qualification card any time prior to the hunt dates.
- Selected hunters must bring their qualification card to a range for instructor validation.
- This year, there is no list of previously approved ranges. Hunters may qualify at a range that will be able to accommodate this qualification.
- Hunters not in possession of a signed qualification card at the time of check-in will not hunt.
- Only firearms and ammunition listed on the qualification card may be used during the hunt.
- Qualification cards are valid for three years. Cards from 2024 and 2025 remain valid for this year's hunt.
- The required firearm and ammunition type for this hunt is **shotgun, non-lead slugs only**. There is no shotgun gauge limitation.
- Qualification consists of firing from a sitting or standing position without support, 3 shots at a 12" diameter circle target at 50 yards, with a passing score of at least 2 striking within the circle.
- Each hunter is allowed 2 attempts per firearm.

Hunter Name _____

Shotgun Make and Model _____ Gauge _____ Serial # _____

Ammunition Make and Model – **Slugs Only** _____

Qualification Date _____ Range _____

Range Officer (print) _____ Signature _____

Qualification consists of firing from a standing or sitting position without support, 3 shots at a 12" diameter circle target at 50 yards, with a passing score of at least 2 striking within the circle. Each hunter will be allowed 2 attempts per weapon.

NOTE: We encourage the use of non-toxic ammunition. Some managed deer hunts in Northern Virginia may require the use of non-toxic ammunition. Refer to site specific regulations.



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.

SWEET RUN STATE PARK HUNTING

