



Department of Recreation, Parks & Tourism

Hunting Opportunities in Charles County

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July 7, 2026

Partner Agencies

- **Recreation, Parks & Tourism (RPT)**
- **County Attorney's Office**
- **Charles County Sheriff's Office**
- **Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**

Current Public Hunting Access

- **County Parks Policy**

- Hunting and firearm possession are not permitted in county-operated parks due to size and recreational use

- **Where Hunting Is Allowed**

- Significant opportunities exist on state-managed lands (Wildlife Management Areas, State Parks/Forests, Cooperative Wildlife Management Areas, Natural Environment Areas, and Natural Resource Management Areas)

- **Waterfowl Hunting**

- Permitted only on licensed shoreline; not permitted in county parks

- **Public Boat Launch Access Points**

- Friendship Farm Park, Hatton Creek, Mallows Bay, and Marshall Hall

Status with DNR

- **No existing Cooperative Management Agreements between DNR and Charles County**
 - All other Southern Maryland counties have Cooperative Agreements
- **16,741 acres available for public hunting per 2025-2026 DNR Free Public Hunting Permit Program**
- **Charles County ranks #1 statewide for total public hunting land availability.**

Free Public Hunting Permit Properties

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS CHART:

- WMA = Wildlife Management Area (managed by Wildlife and Heritage Service)
- SP = State Park (Managed by Park Service)
- NRMA = Natural Resource Management Area (Managed by Park Service)
- NEA = Natural Environment Area (Managed by Park Service)
- MHA = Managed Hunt Area (Owned by Army Corps, access managed by DNR)
- CWMA = Cooperative Wildlife Management Area (Properties not owned by the state but managed by Wildlife and Heritage Service for hunting access)
- SF = State Forest (Managed by the Forest Service)
- Res = Reservations
- M = Muzzleloader
- SWC = Straight-walled cartridge rifles or handguns
- A = Archery
- S = Shotgun
- R = Rifle
- * = additional information in note
- Incl. = Including

Properties in WHITE:

Reservations handled by the Gwynnbrook Office 410-356-9272

Properties in GRAY:

Reservations handled by the Myrtle Grove Office 301-743-5161

This chart only includes properties that require the Free Public Hunting Permit. For additional hunting opportunities, see the Public Lands section of the Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping, go to dnr.maryland.gov, or contact the Gwynnbrook or Myrtle Grove Wildlife Office.

Maps: Public land maps are available online. Some maps are in geo-referenced PDF form. Several applications can utilize the geo-referenced data embedded inside the PDF document. Map users can interact with maps on their mobile devices in both online and offline environments. One such application is PDF Maps from Avenza, Inc. It is available for both IOS and Android devices. After downloading the application, you can load the maps from the website and utilize the functions available.

Co	Area	Acres	Reservation or Sign-In	Hunters per day	Dates and Seasons Open	Days of the Week	Hunting Devices Allowed	Check In Code
Charles	Chapman State Park	800	None	No Limit	All Deer and Waterfowl Seasons. Call for mobility impaired access. See Waterfowl Hunting Guide for waterfowl information.	Mon-Sat	All Legal	397
	Cedarville State Forest	1600	Sign-In	70	Permit is not required. Year Round, All Seasons. Day use charge.	Mon-Sat	All Legal	405
	Chapel Point State Park	550	Sign-In	45				403
	Doncaster Demonstration Forest	1700						402
	Myrtle Grove WMA	5191	None	No Limit	See Waterfowl Hunting Guide for info on Indian Creek and Chapel Point waterfowl sites.	Mon-Sat	All Legal	401
	Pope's Creek WMA	522						396
	Indian Creek NRMA	650	Sign-In	40				406
	Cedar Point WMA	1920			Year Round, All Seasons. Permit and reservations are only required for waterfowl sites.	Mon-Sat	All Legal	399
	Chicamuxen WMA	381	Reservation only for waterfowl sites	No Limit		Mon-Sat	All Legal	407
	Nanjemoy Creek WMA	224				Mon-Sat	All Legal	404
Charles	Riverside WMA	927			See Waterfowl Hunting Guide for waterfowl information.	Mon-Sat	All Legal	395
	Tayloes Neck Tract State Forest	470				Mon-Sat	All Legal	402
	Nanjemoy WMA	1806	Reservation only for waterfowl sites	No Limit	Year Round, All Seasons. *Archery only zone in Ben Doane Area. Permit and reservations are only required for waterfowl sites. See Waterfowl Hunting Guide for waterfowl info.	Mon-Sat	All Legal except in archery zone*	398
	NEW! Smallwood SP – Newburg Property	NA	Reservation	NA		Mon-Sat	All Legal	NA
	NEW! Maxwell Hall Park	NA	Reservation	NA	Waterfowl only. See Waterfowl Hunting Guide for info.	MW Sat	All Legal	NA
	Zekiah Swamp NEA	NA	Reservation	NA		Mon-Sat	All Legal	NA

DESIGNATED WATERFOWL SITES

All designated sites require the Free Public Hunting Permit, reservation, and are open for all seasons, unless noted.

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Co	Property	Site #	Blinds/Pits?	Notes and Restrictions (Canada Goose=CAGO)
Charles	Cedar Point WMA	Cedar Point 2	None	Early Resident Western and Late Southern MD Resident Zone for CAGO. Goose Sites may not be reserved until crops are harvested.
		Goose Creek 10 - 13	None	
		King Creek 15 - 17	None	
		Goose Site 20 - 23	1 Blind at each	
		Impoundment 1	1 Blind	
	Chicamuxen WMA	Sites 1 - 4	1 Blind at each	Early Resident Western and Late Southern MD Resident Zone for CAGO.
		Site 5	None	
	Chapel Point SP	Sites 1-7	None	No permit or reservation required. First-come, first-served. Early Resident Western and Late Southern MD Resident Zone for CAGO.
	Indian Creek NRMA	Sites 1-4	None	No permit or reservation required. First-come, first-served. AP Zone for CAGO.
Charles	NEW! Maxwell Hall Park	Sites 1-4	None	Permit and reservation required. Water access only, hunters may not enter the park by land. Sites are only open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays for the 3 rd Duck Split and the February Youth/Veteran hunt day. AP Zone for CAGO.
	Nanjemoy WMA	Douglas Point	1 Blind	Accessible waterfowl blind, reservations required. Early Resident Western and Late Southern MD Resident Zone for CAGO.
	Nanjemoy Creek WMA	Sites 1 - 3	None	Early Resident Western and Late Southern MD Resident Zone for CAGO.
	Riverside WMA	Site 1 & Site 2	None	Early Resident Western and Late Southern MD Resident Zone for CAGO.
	NEW! Smallwood SP – Newburg Property	Site 1 & Site 2	None	Permit and reservation required. Water access only. AP Zone for CAGO.
	Tayloes Neck SF	Site 1 & Site 2	None	Early Resident Western and Late Southern MD Resident Zone for CAGO.
	Zekiah Swamp NEA (Allen's Fresh)	Site 1 & Site 2	None	Boat Access Only. Closest ramp is Wicomico Shores (~6 miles). Car top boats may be launched at the end of the dirt road off 234. AP Zone for CAGO.

Properties OPEN for Spring Turkey Season

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Charles	Cedar Point WMA	None	None	None	Daily use charges apply
	Cedarville State Forest		None	None	
	Chapel Point State Park		None	Sign-in	Ben Doane Rd area is archery only
	Chicamuxen WMA		None	None	
	Doncaster Demo Forest		None	None	
	Indian Creek NRMA		None	Sign-in	
	Myrtle Grove WMA		None	None	
	Nanjemoy WMA		None	None	
	Nanjemoy Creek WMA		None	None	
	Popes Creek WMA		None	None	
	Riverside WMA		None	None	
	Tayloes Neck State Forest		None	Sign-in	

County Properties

- Ruth B. Swann Park - 200 Acres (~135 Forested beyond the stream)
- Oak Ridge Park - 183 Acres (~110 Forested)
- Bensville Park - 94 Acres (~51.57 Forested)
- Mudd Way - 61 Acres (46.18 Forested)
- La Plata Farm Park - 54.12 Acres (~16.13 Forested)
- Poplar Hill Rd (Waldorf Park) - 214 Acres (159 Forested)
- Gardiner Station - 144 Acres (All Forested)
- Hamacheck Property, Port Tobacco Rd, Nanjemoy - 108 Acres (All Forested)
- Marshall Hall Rd - 74.98 Acres (All Forested)
- Marshall Corner Rd - 201 Acres (All Forested)
- Middletown Rd - 10.37 Acres (All Forested)
- Popes Creek/Gilligan's (Popes Creek - total area) - 142.6 Acres (~68.44 Acres Forested)
- Mason's Springs Rd (Pisgah) - 44.24 Acres (All Forested)

Cooperative Wildlife Management Agreement

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Wildlife Management Agreement

Property Name

Pursuant to §§ 1-104 (a) (7) and §§5-1101 through 5-1109 of the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as it may be amended from time to time, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service (hereinafter “DNR” or “the Department”) and Owner Name (hereinafter “Owner”) execute this Wildlife Management Agreement in order to make the Owner’s land available for the recreational and educational purposes of wildlife management and hunting. In consideration of the promises and covenants to each other hereinafter set forth, the DNR and Owner agree and are hereby bound by the following:

Opportunities

- **Expand promotion of Charles County hunting areas**
- **Potential partnerships with local hunting organizations**
- **Education and training opportunities**
- **Explore partnership with DNR for cooperative WMA**



Questions?