

Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge & Mason Neck State Park

2025 Big Game Hunting



We allow hunting on the refuge in accordance with State regulations subject to certain conditions:

Please refer to the Commonwealth of Virginia Hunting Regulations for clothing requirements, license requirements, and other information. Visit the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources web page: dwr.virginia.gov/hunting/

Scout Day: November 2nd, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Hunt Dates: November 18th and December 2nd

Bonus Hunt and Youth Hunt Date: December 9th

Lottery

There is no lottery. Permits are sold on a first come, first served basis.

Permits

Permits may be purchased for a specific date and parking lot at <https://potomacriverrefugehunts.recaccess.com>. Hunters may purchase one permit starting on September 20th at noon. Extra permits go on sale September 30th at 6:00 p.m. Nonrefundable permit fees are \$20.00 for the general public and youth, and \$10.00 for Federal Senior and Access Pass holders, plus a \$5 processing fee. Senior and Access Passes checked upon entry.

Orientation

Selected hunters must complete the orientation requirements to unlock, purchase, and print assigned hunt permits. View the 2025 Mason Neck Hunt Orientation video and test at <https://potomacriverrefugehunts.recaccess.com>. As the video and test are completed, permits unlock for purchase and print. *Hunters are responsible for understanding the site specific information and content presented in the orientation video.*

Alternates

Permitted hunters have the option to hunt on the other, non-assigned hunt date as an alternate for no extra charge. Alternates may fill vacant hunt spaces if assigned hunters do not show or leave the field early. Spaces for alternates are first come, first serve. *This option does not apply to the Bonus Hunt.*

Bonus and Youth Hunt

Adult hunters who have harvested two or more antlerless deer during the November and December hunts are eligible to participate. Youth hunters may return to participate in the bonus hunt regardless of harvest.

Mobility Impaired (MI) Hunt Areas

One automated lift stand and two stationary vehicle hunting areas are available for MI hunters. MI hunters must meet State requirements and obtain a state certificate to shoot from a vehicle. All MI hunters are required to have an aide 16 years or older as staff is unable to track, dress, or drag deer. Please call 703-490-4979 to register your hunting aide or to request assistance to find an aide by November 2nd.

Firearm Qualification

Hunters are required to qualify firearms and ammunition on a range PRIOR to their scheduled hunt dates. Qualification cards and standards are available at <https://potomacriverrefugehunts.recaccess.com>. Print and bring a copy of the card to the range.

Reminders

- Hunters must possess a valid Virginia hunting license, big game tags, refuge permit, and qualification card. Refuge permits must be visible in the windshield on hunt and scout days. Carry licenses and qualification cards in the field.
- All persons on refuge or park lands during hunts must possess a valid hunt permit or be a pre-authorized aide.
- Hunters may only use or possess firearms and ammunition listed on their qualification card.
- Firearms must be unloaded and cased or broken down, except when in assigned hunt area.
- Shotgun and slugs only; buckshot prohibited
- We prohibit the use of dogs to hunt or pursue game.
- Hunters must remove all hunting equipment from the refuge at the end of each day's hunt
- We prohibit organized deer drives
- Permitted Hunter Check In: 5:45 a.m. – 6:15 a.m.
- Alternates Hunter Check In: 6:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- All Hunters Check Out by 6:00 p.m.
- Antlered and antlerless white-tailed deer may be harvested
- Limit of one antlered deer per permit purchased.
- DMAP tags provided on site for antlerless deer harvest
- Lead ammo will be phased out over the next year. Only non-toxic ammo will be allowed from 2026 onward.
- This is a management hunt. Please try to harvest doe or antlerless deer before antlered.** Otherwise antler restrictions will be implemented.

For more information, contact:

Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge Complex
14050 Dawson Beach Rd., Woodbridge, VA 22191
703/490-4979

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Mason_Neck/Visit/deerhunt.html

Federal Relay Service for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

July 2025





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge & State Park

Big Game Hunting

