

# Free Public Hunting Permit - Waterfowl Hunting Guide 2022-2023

Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife and Heritage Service

## WATERFOWL SITE RESERVATIONS

A Free Public Hunting Permit is required for all designated public sites.

@Gwynnbrook (Central/Eastern Region): 7:30am-11:30am, August 22, 2022 - February 15, 2023 (Mon-Fri)

**Reservations are available:** @Myrtle Grove (Southern/Western Region): 8:00am-12:00pm, August 15, 2022 – February 15, 2023 (Mon-Fri) and 8:00am-9:00am February 15, 2023 – March 10, 2023 (Tuesdays and Fridays)

**\*No walk-in reservations for the first hour. Closed all State Holidays.\***

### Reservation Restrictions:

- Hunters may call a maximum of 4 calendar days prior to the day of the hunt. If the 4<sup>th</sup> day in advance falls on a day the office is closed reservations will be taken the next business day.
- A hunter may only make 2 site reservations per phone call. A hunter may only hold one reservation for each individual day except for sites that are AM/PM reservations at Gunpowder Falls/North Point State Park (must choose 2 different sites).
- Reservations left on the answering machine will not be honored or returned. Hunters may add additional hunters to an already reserved site on the answering machine (make sure to include the name the reservations is under, the site name/number, reservation date, and the DNR ID and name of hunter you are adding to the site).
- If unable to hunt, you MUST cancel your reservation at least one business day in advance before the office closes so that another hunter may utilize the opportunity to hunt. **Cancelations MAY be left on the answering machine.**

## WATERFOWL SITE REGULATIONS – ALL AREAS

**All State, Federal, County, and Property regulations apply.** Failure to comply with any of these rules or regulations will result in a fine and/or suspension from the program. See Free Public Hunting Permit Packet for full regulations and suspension info (Pg 2).

- The maximum number of hunters at a waterfowl site is FOUR.
- Hunters are not required to use provided pits or blinds. However, hunters must hunt within 50 feet of the blind or marker when hunting a **Waterfowl or Goose Site**. When hunting a **Goose Field or Pond Site**, a hunter may utilize any part of the field or pond.
- All hunters at a site must have the Free Public Hunting Permit and a reservation, regardless of age or residency.
- Decoys cannot be placed earlier than 1 hr before shooting hours and must be removed by 1 hr after shooting hours.
- On properties open for waterfowl hunting, no waterfowl hunting may occur within 250 yards of an established blind site. Waterfowl hunting on tidal shoreline is only permitted at established blind sites or a Waterfowl Hunting Zone.
- If sites are split by AM and PM, AM hunters must be off the site by noon and PM hunters may arrive at noon.
- Hunters are permitted to have a non-hunting guest accompany them. This person does not need a permit or reservation but must remain with the hunter and unarmed at all times.
- Hunters are responsible for locating and coordinating their own boat access. A map of boat ramps can be found online, called the Maryland Water Access Guide <http://dnr.maryland.gov/Boating/Pages/water-access/boatramps.aspx>

## WATERFOWL LOTTERIES

**NEW! Lotteries are now online. Visit the [Central Region page](#) or [Southern Region page](#) to enter.**

**Lottery applications will be available on August 15, 2022.**

### Lottery Rules/Procedures:

- Only one application may be submitted per individual. Individuals who submit more than one application will have ALL applications removed from the lottery.
- If drawn, successful applicant will be issued their 1st choice. If their 1st choice is full, they will be issued their 2nd choice, etc.
- Any remaining sites will be available for reservation 4 calendar days prior to the date of the hunt.
- Only successful applicants will be notified. Successful applicants must notify the office if you are adding hunters to the site.

## LOTTERY APPLICATION DATES

	Split/Season	Hunt Date(s)	Due	Drawn
Southern Region Waterfowl Lotteries (includes all sites that require reservations)	Opening Day of First Duck Split	Oct 15, 2022	Sept 16, 2022	Sept 19, 2022
	Opening day of Second Duck Split	Nov 12, 2022	Oct 14, 2022	Oct 17, 2022
	Opening Day or 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of Third Duck Split	Dec 15 or Dec 17, 2022	Nov 10, 2022	Nov 14, 2022
	Opening Day of November Late RP (Resident) Goose	Nov 19, 2022	Oct 14, 2022	Oct 17, 2022
	Opening Day or 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat of Dec RP (Resident) Goose Season	Dec 12 or Dec 17, 2022	Nov 10, 2022	Nov 14, 2022
	First Saturday of December AP (Migratory) Goose Season	Dec 17, 2022	Nov 10, 2022	Nov 14, 2022
	First Saturday of January AP (Migratory) Goose Season	Jan 14, 2022	Dec 9, 2022	Dec 12, 2022
Gunpowder Falls/North Point Lottery	First Saturday of First Duck Split, Sites 1-24, BR1&2	Oct 15, 2022	Sept 16, 2022	Sept 19, 2022
	First Saturday of Second Duck Split, Sites 1-24, BR1&2	Nov 12, 2022	Oct 14, 2022	Oct 17, 2022
	First Saturday of Third Duck Split, Sites 1-27, BR1&2	Dec 17, 2022	Nov 10, 2022	Nov 14, 2022

## DESIGNATED WATERFOWL SITES

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

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
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Co	Property	Site #	Blinds/Pits?	Notes and Restrictions (Canada Goose=CAGO)	
AA	Sandy Point SP	Site 1 & Site 2	None	Open for 3 <sup>rd</sup> Duck Split only. Boat access only. AP Zone for CAGO.	
Calvert	Hall Creek NRMA	Site 1	None	AP Zone for CAGO.	
	Huntingtown Area	Sites 1 - 3	None	Goose Sites may not be reserved until crops are harvested. Goose Sites open Tues, Thurs, & Sat. AP Zone for CAGO.	
Goose Site 1 & 2		1 Blind at each			
Cecil	Courthouse Point MHA	Sites 1 - 3	1 Blind at each	<p>All sites must be reserved September 1-January 31 and for the February youth/veteran hunt. Outside this timeframe, sites are first-come, first-serve. Hunters reserving goose fields may utilize any part of the field</p> <p>The water in the pond at Courthouse Point is often very low. Sites 1-3 are on the pond. Courthouse Point Site 4 is on the Elk River.</p> <p>Fields may not be reserved until crops are harvested. Exact blind locations in fields may change from year to year.</p> <p>Grove Farm Site 4 is on the Sassafras River and is water access only.</p>	
		Site 4	None		
	Grove Farm WMA	Sites 1 - 3, & 5	1 Blind at each		
		Site 4	None		
		Fields 6, 7, & 9	1 Blind at each		
		Field 8	2 Blinds		
	Grove Neck MHA	NEW! Site 10	None		
		Site 1 & Site 2	None		
	Old Bohemia WMA	Field 1	1 Pit and 1 Blind		
		Field 2	2 Pits		
		Field 3	1 Pit		
		Field 4	1 Pit and 1 Blind		
Fields 5, 6, & 7		1 Blind at each			
Welch Point MHA	Pond Site	1 Blind			
	Site 1 & 4	None			
	Site 2 & 3	1 Blind at each			
Charles	Blossom Point CWMA	Sites 1-6	None	Open Tues, Thurs, & Sat. Boat-in only. RP Zone for CAGO.	
	Cedar Point WMA	Cedar Point 2	1 Blind	RP Zone for CAGO. Goose Creek & Kings Creek open Mon, Thurs, & Sat. Goose Sites open Mon, Wed, & Sat after crops are harvested. Impoundment 1 open Sat & opening day of each split. Open last 2 days of 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> duck splits, and of Late RP CAGO.	
		Goose Creek 10 - 13	None		
		King Creek 15 - 17	None		
		Goose Site 20 - 23	1 Blind at each		
	Chicamuxen WMA	Impoundment 1	1 Blind		
		Sites 1 - 4	1 Blind at each	Sites open Mon, Thurs, & Sat. RP Zone for CAGO.	
	Nanjemoy WMA	Site 5	None	Accessible waterfowl blind, reservations required.	
Douglas Point		1 Blind			
Nanjemoy Creek WMA	Sites 1 - 3	None	RP Zone for CAGO.		
Riverside WMA	Site 1	None	RP Zone for CAGO.		
Tayloes Neck SF	Sites 1 and 2	None	RP Zone for CAGO.		
Zekiah Swamp NEA (Allen's Fresh)	Site 1 & Site 2	None	Boat Access Only. Closest ramp is Wicomico Shores (~6 miles downriver). Car top boats may be launched at the end of the dirt road off 234. AP Zone for CAGO.		
GA	Deep Creek Lake SP	Sites 1 - 3	None	Open Nov 21-23, boat access only. RP Zone for Goose.	
	Broadford Lake	Sites 1 - 4	None	Open Nov 21-23. Open water shooting only. RP Zone for CAGO.	
Kent	Millington WMA	Sites 1 - 4	1 Blind at each	<b>NEW!</b> Sites must be reserved during all waterfowl seasons. Vehicle access only allowed to Site 4 for Universal Disability Pass holders.	
Prince George's	Bowen WMA	Site 1, 3, 4, & 6	None	Boat Access Only. AP Zone for CAGO.	
		Site 2 & 5	1 Blind at each		
	Milltown Landing NRMA	Site 1 & Site 2	1 Blind at each		AP Zone for CAGO
	National Park Service Blinds	Site 1A, 1B, 2 - 15	None		Boat Access Only. Sites 1-10 open Tues, Thurs, and Sat. Sites 13-15 open Tues and Thurs. RP Zone for CAGO.
		Site 1 & 2	1 Blind at each		Site 1&2 boat access only. Site 3 & Goose Site are walk-in access. Site 3 open Mon, Wed, Fri. Goose hunting from land is only permitted at designated sites. Goose Site open Tues, Thurs, Sat after crops harvested.
Nottingham NRMA	Site 3	None			
	Goose Site	Blind			
Spice Creek	Site 1	1 Blind	AP Zone for CAGO.		
St. Mary's	Myrtle Point Park	Sites 1 - 4	None	Open 3 <sup>rd</sup> duck split only on Tues, Thurs, & Sat. AP Zone for CAGO.	
	Newtown Neck State Park	Goose Site 1 & 2	1 Blind at each	Open Mon, Thurs, & Sat. Closed until crops are harvested. AP Zone for CAGO.	
	Point Lookout State Park	Sites 1 - 3	None	Boat access only. Sites are first-come, first-serve.	
	St. Inigoes State Forest	Sites 1 - 5	None	Sites on Smith Creek open Tues, Thurs, & Sat. Goose Sites open Tues, Thurs, & Sat after crops harvested. Goose Hunting allowed from designated sites only. AP Zone for CAGO.	
		Goose Site 1 & 2	1 Blind at each		
Goose Site 3	None				
St. Mary's Lake	Sites 1 - 3	None	Electric motor or paddle only. Sites open Mon, Wed, and Sat. AP Zone for CAGO. Day use free required. Park opens at 7am.		
QA	Browns Branch WMA	Field 1	2 Blinds	All sites must be reserved Sept 1-Jan 31 and for the Feb youth/vet hunt. Outside this timeframe, sites are first-come, first-serve. Hunters reserving goose fields may utilize any part of the field. Fields closed until crops are harvested. Exact blind locations in fields may change from year to year.	
		Field 2	1 Blind		
		Field 3	1 Pit		

## GUIDE FOR BLIND SITES WITH LIMITED DAYS OPEN

Area	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sat	Note
Blossom Point CWMA		✓		✓		✓	
Cedar Point WMA, Goose Creek & Kings Creek Sites	✓			✓		✓	1
Chicamuxen WMA	✓			✓		✓	1
NPS Sites 1-10		✓		✓		✓	
NPS Sites 13-15		✓		✓			
Nottingham #3	✓		✓		✓		
St. Inigoes SF, Smith Creek Sites		✓		✓		✓	2
St. Mary's Lake	✓		✓			✓	
Zekiah NEA (Allen's Fresh)	✓		✓		✓		2
Myrtle Point CWMA (Open 3 <sup>rd</sup> Split Only)		✓		✓		✓	
Sandy Point State Park (Open 3 <sup>rd</sup> Split Only)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cedar Point WMA (Field blinds, open after crops are harvested)	✓		✓			✓	3
King's Landing NRMA (Field blinds, open after crops are harvested)		✓		✓		✓	4
Newtowne Neck SP (Field blinds, open after crops are harvested)	✓			✓		✓	
Nottingham NRMA (Field blinds, open after crops are harvested)		✓		✓		✓	4
St. Inigoes State Forest (Field blinds, open after crops are harvested)		✓		✓		✓	4

1. Open on last 2 days of 2<sup>nd</sup> duck split, last 2 days of 3<sup>rd</sup> duck split and last 2 days of Resident Goose late season.
2. Open on last 2 days of 2<sup>nd</sup> duck split, last 2 days of 3<sup>rd</sup> duck split and last 2 days of AP Goose season.
3. Open on last 2 days of Nov split and last 2 days of Resident Goose late season.
4. Open on last 2 days of AP Goose season.

## CENTRAL REGION STATE PARK WATERFOWL SITES

Free Public Hunting Permit required. **WATER ACCESS ONLY** with no physical blinds. Sites are marked with a post/sign or buoy. Hunting an unoccupied site when reservations are required is prohibited. Hunters may arrive NO earlier than 2 hours before legal shooting time. **The \$35 Managed Hunt Permit is no longer required to hunt any DNR properties and is not available for purchase.**

Property/Site #s	Seasons Open, Notes and Restrictions
Gunpowder Falls SP Days Cove (Sites 1-11)	Open all Waterfowl Seasons in Baltimore County by reservation or lottery. Early Resident CAGO open Mon-Fri (no Sat) and must conclude by 9:30am. <b>CLOSED Labor Day</b> . AM Hunting only during 1 <sup>st</sup> Duck Split, AM/PM hunting 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Splits.
North Point SP Back River (Sites BR1&2)	
North Point SP (Sites 12-14)	Open all Waterfowl Seasons in Baltimore County by first-come, first-served except on lottery days. Early Resident CAGO open Mon-Fri (no Sat) and must conclude by 9:30am. <b>CLOSED Labor Day</b> . AM Hunting only during 1 <sup>st</sup> Duck Split, AM/PM hunting 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Splits.
North Point SP-Pleasure Island (15A, 15B, 16A, 16B, 17)	
North Point SP-Hart Miller Island (Sites 18-24)	
Gunpowder Falls SP-Dundee Creek (Sites 26, 27)	Open 3 <sup>rd</sup> Duck Split, Migratory CAGO, and Feb Junior/Vet Hunt by reservation or lottery. Hunting is allowed until 10am. Sites 26 has 2 locations, both may not be hunted at the same time. Hunters utilizing site 27 may set up anywhere between Jetty 6 and the marker in Cunningham Cove. There is no Site 25.
Elk Neck SP (Sites 28-34)	Open 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Duck Splits, Migratory CAGO and Junior Waterfowl Days by reservation only. All day hunting, no lotteries. Hunting must be from a boat or standing in the water within 50ft of the buoy. No hunting from the shoreline.
Susquehanna SP Sand Islands (Sites 35-38)	Open all Waterfowl Seasons in Harford County by reservation only. All day hunting, no lotteries.
Susquehanna SP River Sites (Sites 39-45)	All Waterfowl Seasons in Harford County by reservation only. All day hunting, no lotteries. On Susquehanna River a warning siren will sound when dam is releasing water. Use caution! Hunting Robert's Island is not recommended after 3:00 p.m. Conowingo Spill Conditions: 1-877-457-2525

## WATERFOWL HUNTING ZONE REGULATIONS

It is legal to hunt from a boat at anchor or while standing on the natural bottom adjacent to certain properties as delineated on the maps of the area according to the following conditions:

- The Free Public Hunting Permit is required
- Hunters must remain at least 250 yds from the property line of any adjoining properties, or where the line would be if it were extended into the water. (Marked on shore of each property by a metal stake wrapped in reflective material and painted orange.)
- Hunters must remain at least 250 yds from any licensed stationary blind, blind site, or another person or party hunting waterfowl.
- Hunters must be no more than 300 yards from shore.
- A person may not guide hunting parties for economic gain in any waterfowl hunting zone.

### The following areas have Waterfowl Hunting Zones:

- Calvert Cliffs State Park – The waters of the Chesapeake Bay.
- Cedar Point WMA – Excluding the waters of Kings Creek, Goose Creek, and a 250 yard radius around Cedar Point Blind #2.
- Chapman State Park – **Boat access only** must remain below mean high tide. Hunting from shore is prohibited.
- Nanjemoy WMA - Excluding a 250 yd radius around the accessible blind.
- Newtowne Neck State Park – Excluding the waters of Breton Bay north of channel marker "5". **Boat access only** must remain below mean high tide. Hunting from shore is prohibited.
- St. Clement's Island State Park
- St. Inigoes State Forest – Excluding the waters of Smith Creek and Chicken Cock Creek.

**PUBLIC LANDS WITHOUT DESIGNATED SITES**

These properties allow waterfowl hunting but do not have designated sites.

<b>Co.</b>	<b>Property</b>	<b>Permit and Reservation</b> FPHP=Free Public Hunting Permit	<b>Notes and Restrictions</b>
Calvert	Calvert Cliffs State Park	FPHP & Sign-In Required	Waterfowl Hunting Zone (Pg 3). AP Zone for CAGO.
Carroll	Avondale WMA	FPHP & Reservations required during a deer muzzleloader or firearms season, regardless of what you are hunting.	No restrictions. Hunting allowed outside timeframe without a reservation.
	Hanover Watershed CWMA	FPHP & Reservations required Sept 1-Feb 15.	No hunting allowed outside reservation dates.
	Sawmill CWMA	FPHP & Reservations required Sept 1-Feb 15, open MWF only.	No duck hunting allowed, only CAGO. No hunting allowed outside reservation dates.
	Speigel CWMA		
	Maring CWMA	FPHP & Reservations required Sept 1-Feb 15	No hunting allowed outside reservation dates.
Woodbrook CWMA	FPHP & Reservations required Sept 1-Feb 15, open MWFS only.		
Cecil	Bethel MHA	FPHP & No Reservation, Open Sat/Sun only.	Waterfowl hunting allowed anywhere on the pond or in fields. No hunting allowed on the tidal shoreline.
	Courthouse Point MHA	FPHP & Reservations only required for designated waterfowl sites or pond sites.	Must be 250 yards away from an established blind site. Hunting on tidal shoreline only allowed from established blind sites.
	Elk Forest MHA		
	Welch Point MHA		
	Grove Farm WMA		
	Old Bohemia WMA		
Earleville WMA	No restrictions.		
Charles	Cedar Point WMA	FPHP required, No reservations	Waterfowl Hunting Zone (Pg 3). RP Zone for CAGO.
	Cedarville State Forest	No permits, Sign-in required	Daily use charges apply.
	Chapel Point State Park	No permits, Sign-in required	RP Zone for CAGO.
	Chapman State Park	FPHP required, No reservations	Waterfowl Hunting Zone (Pg 3). RP Zone for CAGO.
	Doncaster State Forest	No permits or reservations	RP Zone for CAGO.
	Indian Creek NRMA	No permits, Sign-in required	AP Zone for CAGO.
	Myrtle Grove WMA	No permits or reservations	RP Zone for CAGO.
	Nanjemoy WMA	FPHP, No reservations	Waterfowl Hunting Zone (Pg 3).
	Popes Creek WMA	No permits or reservations	RP Zone for CAGO.
Harford	Stoney Demonstration Forest	FPHP & Reservations required Sept 1-Feb 28.	No hunting allowed outside reservation dates.
Howard	Hugg-Thomas WMA	FPHP & Reservations required during a deer muzzleloader or firearms season, regardless of what you are hunting.	No restrictions. Hunting allowed outside timeframe without a reservation.
Kent	Millington WMA	FPHP & Reservations only required for designated sites.	Waterfowl hunting is allowed along any stream, pond, impoundment, or field located on the WMA without a permit or reservation. Must be 250 yards away from an established blind site.
Montgomery	Islands of the Potomac WMA	No permits or reservations. In Mont Co, only Mason, Oxley, and Maddox Island may be hunted.	
	Patuxent River State Park	No permits or reservations	
	Monocacy NRMA (Mont and Fred Co)	See website for special hunting regulations for waterfowl hunting adjacent to Monocacy NRMA <a href="https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/offshore_intro.aspx">https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/offshore_intro.aspx</a>	
	Seneca Creek SP- River Road	No permits or reservations	
	McKee-Beshers WMA	No permits or reservations	
St. Mary's	Elms CWMA	FPHP & Sign-in Required	AP Zone for CAGO
	Greenwell State Park	No permit, Sign-in Required	AP Zone for CAGO
	St. Clements Island SP	FPHP required, No reservations	Waterfowl Hunting Zone (Pg 3). AP Zone for CAGO.
	Salem State Forest	No permits or reservations	AP Zone for CAGO.
QA	Browns Branch WMA	FPHP & Reservations required Sept 1-Jan 31 and the February youth/vet hunt.	Waterfowl hunting is allowed along any stream on the WMA without a reservation.

**SEE MARYLAND GUIDE TO HUNTING AND TRAPPING FOR MORE WATERFOWL HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES**