



Ware Creek Wildlife Management Area

2026-2027 Hunting Seasons



All Federal, State, & Local County Rules, Regulations, & Ordinances Apply

BIG GAME HUNTING SEASONS *Muzzleloaders are allowed for big game. Hunting big game with any other rifle is prohibited per New Kent County local ordinance. *

Bear	Archery: October 3 – November 13 Muzzleloader: November 10 – November 13 Chase: Closed	Youth/Apprentice: October 10 – October 11 Firearms: November 27 – 29, December 21 – January 2
Deer Daily bag limit: 1	Archery: October 3 – November 13 Muzzleloader: October 31 – November 13; antlered deer only except on November 7 either-sex day	Youth/Apprentice: September 26 – 27; blaze orange required for all hunters on youth/apprentice deer hunting days. Firearms: November 14 – January 2
Turkey	Fall: Archery: October 3 – November 13 Youth/Apprentice: October 10 – 11 Firearms: October 17 – October 30, November 25 – November 26, November 30 – December 12	Spring: Bearded turkeys only Quota hunt only: April 3 – April 30, including youth/apprentice Quota restrictions not in effect: May 1 – 15

SMALL GAME HUNTING SEASONS

Crow	September 2 – March 10 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays ONLY	
Groundhog	September 1 – March 10, during spring turkey season, during spring squirrel season	
Quail	November 7 – January 31	
Rabbit	October 31 – February 28	
Squirrel	Fall: September 5 – February 28	Spring: June 5 – June 19

WEBLESS MIGRATORY GAMEBIRD HUNTING SEASONS

Dove	September 5; noon til sunset September 6 – October 24, November 21 – 29, December 19 – January 18; ½ hour before sunrise til sunset
Woodcock	November 11 – December 1, December 26 – January 18
Snipe	September 28 – November 29, December 19 – January 31
Rail/Gallinule/Moorhen	September 5 – October 24, November 10 – November 29

WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASONS *All hunters are expected to additionally review Ware Creek WMA Waterfowl Hunting sign*

September Goose and Teal	Goose: September 1 – 25 Teal: September 19 – 27	
Duck/Mergansers/Coots	October 9 – October 12 (Black duck closed) November 18 – November 29 December 19 – January 31	Youth and Veteran Waterfowl Hunt Days: October 24 February 6
Goose	November 24 –29, December 24 – January 31	
Light Goose	Regular Season: November 25 – March 10	
Tundra Swan	November 15 – January 31 by quota permit only	

FURBEARER HUNTING SEASONS

Bobcat	Archery: October 3 – October 31	Firearm: November 1 – February 28
Coyote/Striped skunk	September 1 – March 10, during spring turkey season, during spring squirrel season	
Opossum	October 15 – March 10	
Fox	Red Fox: November 1 – February 28 Chase: Continuous open season (No foxes may be taken except during the firearms season)	Gray Fox: January 1 – February 28
Raccoon	Firearms: October 15 – March 10 Chase: Continuous open season (No raccoon may be taken except during firearms season)	

TRAPPING SEASONS *Ware Creek WMA is generally open to trapping except that no trapping is allowed in the Terrapin Point marsh or on DWR-owned property within the marshes of Ware Creek and Philbates Creek during the general waterfowl season*

Beaver/Mink/Muskrat/Otter/Weasel	December 1 – February 28
Bobcat/Fox/Opossum/Racoon	November 15 – February 28
Coyote/Nutria/Striped skunk	Continuous open season
Rabbit	October 15 – January 31 (Box traps only)

If you have any questions, please contact the Wildlife Area Manager, Ashlei Selden, via phone at (804) 398-9710 or email at ashlei.selden@dwr.virginia.gov



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WATERFOWL HUNTING



Waterfowl hunting on and within 500 yards of the WMA is permitted (except portions of Philbates Creek — see below) as per 4VAC15-260-75 and will be allowed on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Hunters may not occupy their hunting location until 5 AM and hunting must end by 1 PM.

Waterfowl hunting is allowed on the marshes, shorelines and creeks, except on Philbates Creek. On Philbates Creek, no hunting is allowed in the waters or marshes along the main stem of the Creek. Hunting is allowed on the southeastern tributary of Philbates creek that runs into the interior of the WMA. The area open to hunting will be posted along the mouth of this tributary. No waterfowl or coot hunting is allowed on the agricultural fields at Ware Creek as these fields are manipulated.