Charles County - Potomac River - Westmoreland (VA) State Park
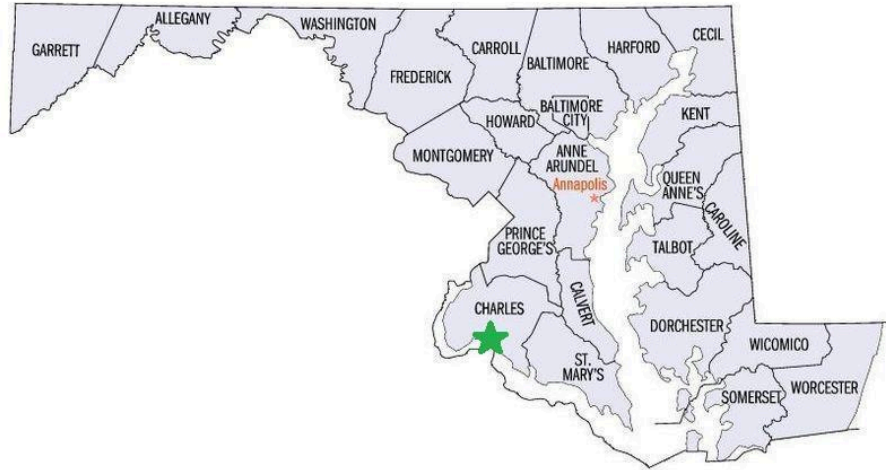

What was requested?

The Department received a request to create a speed zone on the Potomac River in the vicinity of Westmoreland State Park on the Virginia side of the river. The request was to create a minimum wake zone that would extend 100 yards from shore and be effective during the boating season.

Why was this change requested?

The Department was provided the following information:

- The reason for the request is to protect the users of the waters near the park. The area is used by personal watercraft, swimmers, anglers, and other boaters.
- Boater use of this area is increasing.
- There are rules for personal watercraft and other boaters that prevent speeds over 6 knots because the activity is close to shore and people, but 6 knots is still too high when swimmers are present. Therefore, the request is to create a minimum wake zone for the beach area.

What is the current regulation for the area?

There is not a speed zone in this area.

Definitions

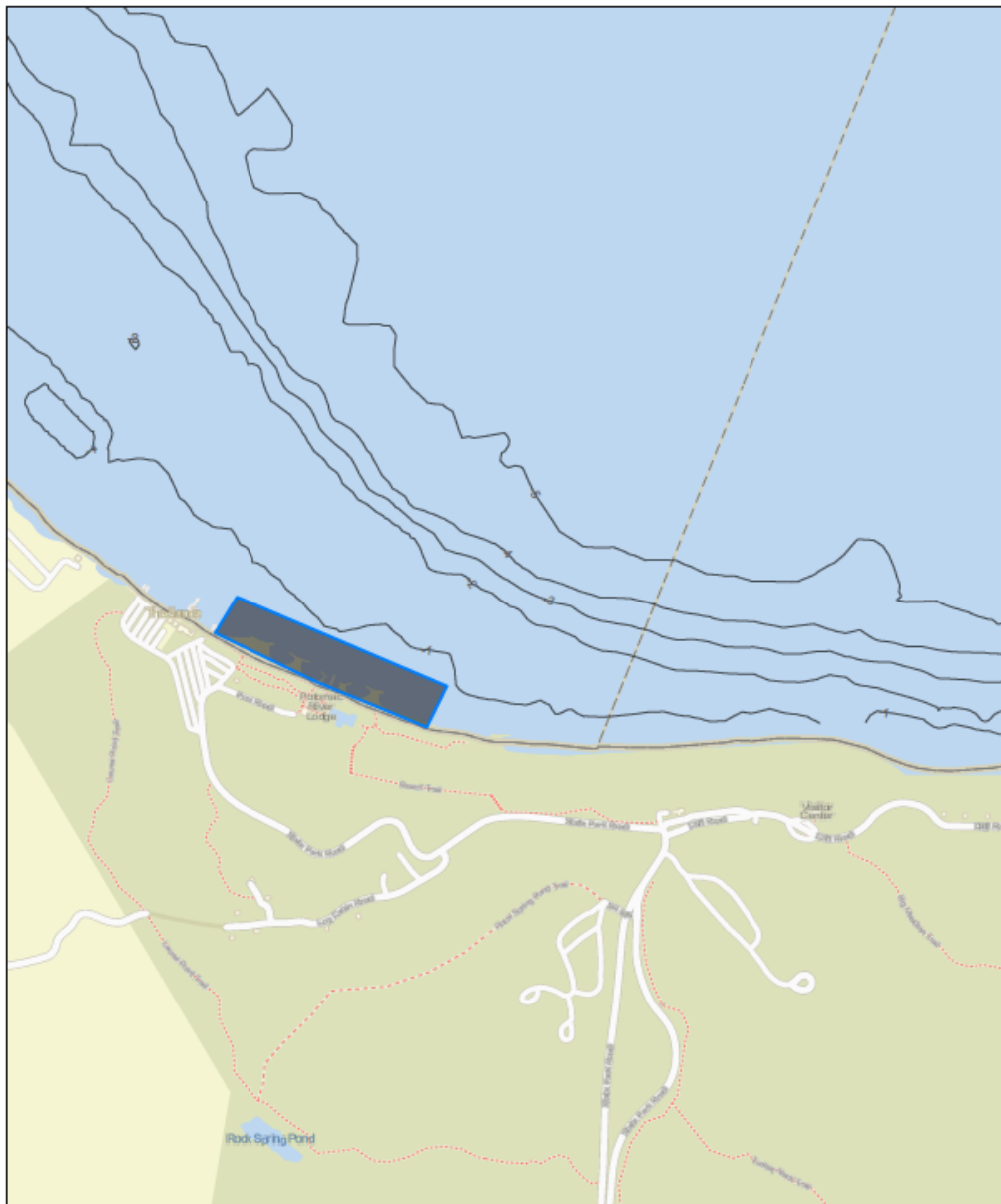"6 knots (6.9 MPH)" means a person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel:

    (a) At a boat speed in excess of 6 knots (6.9 statute miles per hour, or 11.1 kilometers per hour); or

    (b) To tow an individual on a ski, aquaplane, or similar device.

"Boating season" means the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. each April 15, and ending at 12 midnight each succeeding October 15.
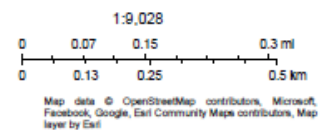
"Minimum wake zone" means a person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel in excess of the slowest possible boat speed necessary to maintain steerage under prevailing wind and sea conditions not to exceed 3 knots (3.5 statute miles per hour or 5.6 kilometers per hour).

Map of the Area

Westmoreland State Park

6/16/2025, 11:11:05 AM

1:9,028

0	0.07	0.15	0.3 mi
0	0.13	0.25	0.5 km

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Google, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri

Maryland DNR
Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Inc. and its affiliates, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri | MD iMAP, DNR MGS |