

Public Hunting Spring Turkey Regulation Packet 2025-2026
Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife and Heritage Service

PUBLIC HUNTING PERMIT AVAILABILITY

Option A - Online	Option B – In Person	Option C - Mail
Apply online through MD Outdoors . Click on “Purchase New License” then “Hunting” and choose the Free Public Hunting Permit. When you complete the checkout process your seasonal permit will print on your hunting license and the parking pass will print with your license.	After purchasing your hunting license, you may obtain the Free Public Hunting Permit from either the Gwynnbrook or Myrtle Grove Office. Have your DNR ID available.	Mail a copy of your hunting license to the Gwynnbrook or Myrtle Grove Office. Please note which areas you are interested in. Include a letter-sized envelope with return address and postage.
If you are Hunting License exempt, please call the Gwynnbrook or Myrtle Grove Wildlife Office for instructions on how to get your permit.		

SPRING TURKEY SEASON 2026

Hunt Dates:	Office Dates for Reservations:
<u>Junior Turkey Hunt</u> April 11, 2026 (Statewide) April 12, 2026 (Select Properties)	MONDAYS ONLY Gwynnbrook WMA Office Hours: 7:30am – 11:30am April 6, 2026 – April 20, 2026 Myrtle Grove WMA Office Hours: 8:00am – 12:00pm April 6, 2026 – May 18, 2026

REGULATIONS

For all Areas:

- No building or using permanent tree stands. All tree stands or blinds must be removed at the end of the day.
- Take trash with you. Pick up empty shotgun shells.
- No placing or hunting over bait for any wildlife species.
- No target shooting, camping, building fires, and/or hunting in safety zones or restricted areas.
- Parking on State owned or controlled property is only allowed in designated areas. Do not block gates.
- The cutting of trees, branches, shrubs, or other vegetation is prohibited. This includes cutting shooting lanes.
- Off-road vehicle use is prohibited (except on designated properties with a Universal Disability Pass, call for info).
- 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. (C&D Canal Lands require a non-hunting permit, available online)
- Do not walk in or damage agricultural fields until after crops are harvested.
- If entering through a closed and/or locked gate, close and lock the gate behind you when entering and leaving.

Spring Turkey Specific Regulations:

- Hunting hours are a half hour before sunrise to sunset for Junior Hunt Days, a half hour before sunrise to noon from April 18-May 9, and a half hour before sunrise to sunset May 10-May 23.
- Only bearded turkeys may be harvested. No more than one bearded turkey may be taken per day. A maximum of two bearded turkeys may be taken per season.
- Turkeys must be tagged and checked in. See your Hunting Guide for property codes and check-in requirements.

All State, Federal, County, and Property hunting regulations apply.

Failure to comply with any of these rules or regulations will result in a fine and/or suspension from the program.

**Emergency Info: For wildlife emergencies or to report hunting violations please call
Natural Resources Police IMMEDIATELY at 410-260-8888.**

If you have concerns about individual properties please notify the regional office.

Properties OPEN for Spring Turkey Season

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		
County	Property	Permit	Hunter Limit	Sign-In/ Reservation	Additional Restrictions
Baltimore	Gwynnbrook WMA	Public Hunting	None	None	Archery Only
	Prettyboy Reservoir	Reservoir	None	None	Archery Only, Permit in Hunting Guide
Baltimore/Carroll	Liberty Reservoir				
Calvert	Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm CWMA	Public Hunting	3	Reservation and Sign-in	Open Youth day, then Mondays-Fridays
	Calvert Cliffs State Park	None	None	Sign-in	
	Hall Creek NRMA	None	None	Sign-in	
	Huntingtown Area of King's Landing NRMA	None	None	Sign-in	
	Hughes Tree Farm CWMA	Public Hunting	6	Reservation	Gate code given to hunters with UDP
Carroll	Avondale WMA	Public Hunting	3	Sign-In	
	Hanover CWMA		6	Sign-In	3 max at each parking lot
Charles	Cedar Point WMA	None	None	None	
	Cedarville State Forest		None	None	Daily use charges apply
	Chapel Point State Park		None	Sign-in	
	Chicamuxen WMA		None	None	
	Doncaster Demo Forest		None	None	
	Indian Creek NRMA		None	Sign-in	
	Myrtle Grove WMA		None	None	
	Nanjemoy WMA		None	None	Ben Doane Rd area is archery only
	Nanjemoy Creek WMA		None	None	
	Popes Creek WMA		None	None	
	Riverside WMA		None	None	
	Tayloes Neck State Forest		None	Sign-in	
Cecil	Welch Point MHA	Public Hunting	None	None	
	Courthouse Point MHA		None	None	
	Elk Forest MHA		None	None	
	Bethel MHA		None	None	Open Sat and Sun Only
	Grove Farm WMA	Public Hunting	5	Reservations are required for Opening Day through the 2nd Saturday. Remaining days are open for hunting without a reservation.	
	Old Bohemia WMA		3		
	Earleville WMA		3		
	Elk Neck State Forest	None	None	None	
Harford	Stoney Demonstration Forest – Grays Run Tract	Public Hunting	4	Sign-In	Saturdays Only
	Stoney Demonstration Forest – James Run Tract		5		
Howard	Hugg-Thomas WMA	Public Hunting	5	Sign-In	
	Patuxent River State Park	None	None	None	

Properties OPEN for Spring Turkey Season (Continued)

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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County	Property	Permit	Hunter Limit	Sign-In/ Reservation	Additional Restrictions
Kent	Millington WMA	Public Hunting	24	Reservations are required for Opening Day through the 2nd Saturday. Remaining days are open for hunting without a reservation.	
Montgomery	McKee-Beshers WMA	None	None	None	
	Seneca Creek State Park River Road Area				
	Islands of the Potomac WMA (Maddox, Mason, Oxley)	None	None	None	
	Strider WMA 1	Public Hunting	None	None	Archery Only
	Strider WMA 2				
Prince Georges	Milltown Landing NRMA	None	None	Sign-in	
	Nottingham NRMA	None	None	Sign-in	
	Spice Creek NRMA	None	None	Sign-in	
Queen Annes	Browns Branch WMA	Public Hunting	3	Reservations are required for Opening Day through the 2nd Saturday. Remaining days are open for hunting without a reservation.	
St. Mary’s	Elms CWMA	Public Hunting	None	Sign-in	Saturdays only
	Greenwell State Park	None	2 per trail, 8 total	Sign-in	Day use charges apply
	Newtowne Neck State Park	Public Hunting	4	Reservation	
	St. Inigoes State Forest	Public Hunting	3	Reservation	
	St. Mary’s River State Park	None	None	Sign-in	
	Salem State Forest	None	None	None	

SUNDAY HUNTING

Sunday hunting is ONLY permitted on the following **Cecil County and St. Mary's County** Public Hunting Areas in the Central and Southern Regions (other opportunities may exist in other regions, see the Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping for details):

Grove Farm WMA, Old Bohemia WMA, Earleville WMA
Bethel MHA, Courthouse Point MHA, Elk Forest MHA, Welch Point MHA
St. Inigoes State Forest and Salem State Forest

Sunday hunting is restricted to persons hunting deer, turkey, small game, and furbearers according to state seasons. Migratory birds, including waterfowl, mourning doves, crows, and rails, shall not be hunted on Sundays. See the Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping for more information on Sunday hunting.

For more information on hunting properties and programs, please see the full
[Free Public Hunting Program Regulation Packet.](#)