

General Rules for Use of Lands Managed by the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority

As a visitor to lands managed by the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (PAA), you are asked to follow certain rules designed to protect the land and the natural environment, to ensure the health and safety of visitors, and to promote pleasant and rewarding outdoor experiences for all visitors. State Conservation Officers are empowered to enforce state regulations that some of these rules are taken from. Please take time to read and understand them.

When the need arises, staff from the PAA may issue orders that will close or restrict the use of certain areas. Such prohibitions will be posted so that visitors can reasonably be expected to be familiar with them. Copies of the orders will also be available at the offices of the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority at 125 Bowden Street, Saluda Virginia 23149.

Information on all permit requirements is available at the 125 Bowden Street office. If you have any questions or need help, please contact the PAA at 804-758-2311

Please remember to be careful! Each PAA tract has its own set of rules and as a visitor it is your responsibility to understand those governing rules. You are also primarily responsible for your own safety. Look out for natural hazards and dangers when you are on PAA lands. If you hike off trails or swim or dive in streams or rivers, you do so at **YOUR OWN RISK!**

Management Plans and PAA Policy

- The PAA develops a variety of management plans for use and conservation purposes. Management plans are available for viewing at www.virginiacoastalaces.net. The PAA Board of Directors may and any time amend plans or develop new policy. It is the responsibility of PAA users to make an honest attempt to understand the rule and management practices of the PAA

Day use and Camping

- As a general rule, PAA lands are open from dawn to dusk for public use. Some PAA land are managed as limited access. PAA lands are used by a variety of user groups and as such the responsibility for co-using lands rests with the public using the site. Please be courteous of other PAA users. During hunting seasons, some PAA lands are open for public hunting.
- As a general rule, camping is not permitted on lands managed by the PAA; however there are special exceptions. Please contact PAA land manager to discuss.
- If special permission is granted for camping, camp only in those places specifically marked or provided.

- At least one person must occupy a camping area during the first night after camping equipment has been set up, unless permission has otherwise been granted by the PAA land manager.
- Do not leave camping equipment unattended on PAA lands for more than 24 hours without permission from the PAA land manager. The PAA is not responsible for any loss or damage to personal property.
- Use picnic sites, swimming beaches, and other day use areas only between the hours of sun up and sun down.
- Recreation sites can be used only for recreation purposes.
- Remove all personal property and trash when leaving.

Good Neighbor Relations

- Property lines are not always marked and forest property owners - federal, state and private - are often intermingled. Each visitor is responsible for knowing where they are and are complying with the landowner's rules and restrictions.

Ethics and Responsibility

- The future of recreation, privileges on PAA lands depend on how users behave in the field, and how they present themselves to others. Consider how your actions reflect on yourself and the outdoor recreation community in general.

Access

- Visitors may not be provided year round access. Users understand that access and use may be restricted or closed at various times and places by the PAA; In order to minimize conflict between recreation users, seasonal restrictions may be placed on certain uses in certain areas. Public use is allowed during daylight hours only. No nighttime activities are allowed without specific authorization.

Operation of Vehicles

- As a general rule, motorized vehicles are not permitted on land managed by the PAA. The intention is to keep PAA lands natural. Please park in designated parking areas.
- If motorized vehicles are allowed, please restricted to designated roads
- ATV are not permitted on PAA lands
- When operating any kind of vehicle, do not damage the land or vegetation, or disturb wildlife. If possible, avoid unpaved roads or trails when they are wet or muddy
- Non motorized off road bikes are permissible
- Do not block, restrict, or interfere with the use of roads, trails or gates.

Roads and Gates

- Under certain terms and conditions, motor vehicle use of roads will be restricted to those roads open to public use. Visitors must comply with all posted signs and all gates and

roads must be kept clear at all times and passable for PAA staff. Do not park in front of gates or in roads.

Some roads may be closed during specific times of the year for the safety of visitors. Violation of road closures can be cause for termination of access privileges.

The road system is essential to management and protection of resources as well as providing recreation access. Keeping roads in good repair serves all interests. We ask visitors to restrict road use at times when excessive rutting will result.

Violating common sense rules of the road, speeding and reckless driving, when observed, are cause for termination of access privileges. Speed limit for all vehicles is 20 mph unless otherwise posted.

Public Hunting

- The PAA manages a variety of lands, some open to public hunting. Please contact the PAA office at 804-758-2311 for more specific information concerning hunting PAA lands
- Virginia Conservation Officers enforce all game laws of the Commonwealth and routinely visit PAA lands.

Campfires

- No open fires are permitted on PAA lands.
- Under special exceptions, camp fires are permitted within camping areas and other recreation sites. Fires should be constructed with a fire rings or pit, stove, or grill.
- Be sure your fire is completely extinguished before leaving. Do not leave fires unattended. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING FIRES UNDER CONTROL.**

Property

- Do not carve, chop, cut, or damage any live trees.
- Preserve and protect your PAA lands by leaving natural areas the way you find them.
- Enter buildings, structures, or enclosed areas on PAA lands only when they are expressly opened to the public.
- Native American, old cabins, and other structures-- along with all objects and artifacts associated with them--have historic or archeological value. Do not damage or remove any such historic or archeological resource.

Sanitation

- Throw all garbage and litter in containers provided for this purpose, or carry it out with you.

- Use sanitary disposal techniques properly. Do not throw garbage, litter, fish cleanings, or other foreign substances on the ground. Carry out or burry sanitary items.

Pets and Animals

- Saddle or pack animals are allowed on PAA lands. Please check with the PAA land manger for further instructions.
- All non-pelletized hay or straw must be tagged or marked certified as weed- or seed-free on each bail or container, or have original and current evidence of weed free certification. Marking must meet specific state and/or county standards for certification as weed free.

Fireworks and Firearms

- Fireworks and explosives are prohibited on PAA lands.
- Firing a gun is not allowed in any circumstance whereby any person may be injured or property damaged.

Fee Areas

- You must pay a fee to hunt lands open for public hunting. Such areas are clearly signed or posted. Please contact the PAA land manager for more information concerning public hunting at 804-758-2311
- Where fees are required, you must pay them before using the site, facility, equipment, or service furnished.

Public Behavior

- No alcohol consumption.
- No fighting or boisterous behavior.
- Keep noise at a reasonable level. Please be considerate of fellow visitors and respect the rights of adjoining property owners.

Business Activities

- If permissible, permits are required for any commercial activity.

Scientific Research

- From time to time, scientific research may happen on PAA lands. Please respect any scientific equipment and signage denoting user warnings.

Audio Devices

- Operate any audio device, such as a radio or musical instrument, so that it does not disturb other visitors and respects the rights of adjoining property owners.



Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority

Organized Community Group Application: *Request to visit PAA lands without Active Management Plans*

The Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (PAA) is excited to offer Organized Community Groups and Special Users the opportunity to visit PAA lands without Active Management Plans. Of the four tracts of land that the PAA has acquired only two currently have management plans (ie. Brown Tract and the Thurston Haworth Tract).

Therefore since the Shank Parcel and the Clay Tract do not have an active management plan, the PAA Board believes that providing limited access, under certain user conditions, is important and desires to offer the highest level of outdoor experience under semi-managed conditions. The Hall parcel is closed for public use at this time.

The PAA offers outdoor experiences for a variety of special conditions, including but not limited to scientific research, for those with disabilities, for those interested in gathering information pertaining to wildlife patterns, historic and cultural features of note as well as safety issues, such as abandoned wells and home sites, old fence lines, garbage dumps and debris piles, as well as information related to establishing new public hunting areas and new trail locations.

Ultimately this information and usage will assist the PAA in the updating and development of future management plans for these lands.

The Clay Tract is a 209 acre tract of mixed hard woods that abut the Dragon Run in King & Queen County. The Shank Parcel, located in Gloucester County, is a 14 acre parcel consisting wetlands as well as pine trees.

PAA is appreciative of previous assistance and recent offers to help with the exploration and maintenance of various lands owned by the PAA - land currently open to the public as well as lands not currently open to the general public. Hence, while the PAA is offering Organized Community Groups or Special Users the chance to visit and enjoy the natural amenities of PAA lands, those requesting to visit the Shank Parcel or Clay Tract, should consider ways to assist the PAA in either the maintenance and/or exploration of the tract.

Please take some time to fill out the following application if you are interested in visiting PAA lands. Also if you have any questions or need any assistance please feel free to contact PAA staff at 804-758-2311.

APPLICATION		Date of Application:
Name of Group/Organization/Special User:	Describe the Type of Group/Organization:	
Name of Group/Organization Contact:	Contact Phone Number:	
Visit Description		
Reason for Visit Request:	Land Requested to Visit:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clay Tract (<i>King & Queen County</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Shank Parcel (<i>Gloucester County</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Hall Parcel closed (<i>Mathews County</i>)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Day Visit <input type="checkbox"/> Overnight Visit	
Requested Date(s) of Visit:		
Proposed Actions to assist the exploration, maintenance and management of PAA land:		
<p>Please Send your Request to:</p> <p>Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority P.O. Box 286 Saluda, VA 23149</p>		

Description of Lands Owned by the
**MIDDLE PENINSULA CHESAPEAKE BAY PUBLIC ACCESS
AUTHORITY**

Lands open to the Public:

Brown Tract– Acquired in 2003, this 274 acre-parcel of land straddling Essex and King & Queen Counties, located within the Dragon Run Watershed, was purchased with funds from Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program. The Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (PAA) manages 137 acres of the tract as public open space, while the Virginia Department of Forestry manages the remaining 137 acres as a state forest. The PAA manages the property for long-term, passive and low impact public access; natural resource protection and sustainable, traditional uses, such as forestry and hunting. There are 9 public hunting zones available for big game, small game and waterfowl hunting. Also there is a small boardwalk provides access to the Dragon Run for car-top boat access.

Haworth Tract- Acquisition of this 167 acre property was funded by a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This property, located on State Route 608 in King and Queen County, is open to the public for passive and low-impact use, as well as non-motorized outdoor recreation and nature appreciation. In particular is tract offers 6 zones for bow hunting. Of its 167 acres, 69 acres are forested wetlands and greater than 88 acres are timberland forest.

****To register to hunt on the Brown Tract and Haworth Tract please contact the PAA at 804-758-2311****

Lands with limited access to the Public:

Clay Tract– The Dragon Bridge, Jackson and Clay tracts were acquired by the PAA under a 2005 NOAA federal grant award under the CELCP. Collectively, these three parcels are managed as a 400 acre holding referred to as the “Clay Tract”. This tract, located on Route 610 in King and Queen County, abuts the Dragon Run and has one water access site. The majority of the property is mixed hardwoods, but there is a field that offers great feeding grounds to deer, turkey, quail, and a variety of other animals.

Shenk Parcel –In 2006, the Board of Directors of the PAA accepted a gift of real property from Donald Shenk. This 14-acre property consists of a large pine plantation and wetlands. The property fronts the South West branch of the Severn River in Gloucester County. As the property is conveniently located near a marina, campground and several public access sites, this holding has enhanced the Authority’s mission of providing access opportunities to the waterways for the Middle Peninsula.

Lands closed to the Public:

Hall Tract– the PAA acquired a 9.119 acre parcel of land in Mathews County as a gift from Mr. Conrad Hall in December 2010. The majority of this waterfront property is upland consisting of densely forested mixed hardwood and pine trees; the land transitions to wetlands and gradually into a narrow sandy beach. The beach abuts Billup’s Creeks on eastern boundary which stretches approximately 800 feet. Also structures on the property include an 1178 square foot dwelling and the framework of a pier at the water’s edge.