

James City County

Public Access Lands for Sportsmen “PALS” Rules

PALS is a program that opens additional lands for public use through cooperative agreements. This area is the first PALS project in eastern Virginia. Please treat it with respect to help us ensure its success. If you encounter any problems please call 804-829-6580. Please also report any wildlife crime to 800-237-5712 or email to wildcrime@dwr.virginia.gov

The James City County PALS is Open to archery/crossbow deer hunting only.

No other activities are allowed.

License/PASS Requirements- In addition to all applicable licenses e.g. Hunting License (Resident, Nonresident, Youth, Apprentice or Junior), Archery or Crossbow License, Big Game License (Tags) a **PALS Access Pass** is required to hunt this PALS property. PALS permits are only sold through license agents or on the DWR web site and smartphone APP. For more specific license information please see a license agent, the DWR Hunting and Trapping Guide found at agents, online <http://www.dwr.virginia.gov/> or Departments app GOOUTDOORSVA

Access- Is SELF-REGULATED AND limiting parking to the one gravel **parking lot area which is intended to restrict the number of daily participants to no more than 5 vehicles.** These spots are first come first serve. Please park with respect to others. Overnight parking is not permitted. Vehicles parked on highway right of way (ROW) Cell Tower ROW, Landfill Entrance ROW or outside the designated parking lot will be towed at owner's expense. Area Gates Open September 1, 2026 -March 31, 2027.

Tree Stands- Are permitted, but not required, Safety Harness are recommended. Climbing or Ladder Tree Stand Only, No screw in steps or permanent stands, Leave at own risk!

BLAZE ORANGE and PINK Requirements- Is recommended all the times when hunting but only **required on the September Youth/ Apprentice Days (September 26, 27) and during General Deer Firearm and Early and Late Firearms Seasons (September 5, 2026 – October 2, 2026) (January 3, 2027 - March 29th ,2027)** SEE REGULATIONS FOR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

James City County is an Earn a Buck (EAB) county but is not required on this property because it is a public land.

James City County PALS Archery/Crossbow Deer Hunting Season Dates and Limits:

September 1-4, 2026 - Scouting Only

September 5, 2026 through October 2, 2026 (Antlerless Only). 2 deer per day

October 3, 2026 through January 2, 2027 (Either Sex Full Season). 2 deer per day, up to 3 antlered deer per season

January 3, 2027 through March 28, 2027 (Antlerless Only). 2 deer per day

March 31, 2027 – GATES CLOSED FOR THE SEASON - 5:00 PM