

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT

While there are various types of unmanned aircraft used for recreation, education, research and other purposes, the use of unmanned aircraft on DCR properties is prohibited per the Virginia Administrative Code.

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title4/agency5/chapter30/section400/>

- A. Recreational or hobbyist flights of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) is prohibited on DCR lands.
- B. Persons who seek to use unmanned aircraft on a DCR State Park or Natural Area Preserve for commercial or approved research operations shall apply for a special use permit at the site's office prior to engaging or participating in this activity. A commercial operation is defined as use of a UAS by a business to collect data or images for business purposes. The permit must be on hand while engaged in the activity. Permit applicant must provide copies of the following:
 - a. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Remote Pilot Certificate for the remote pilot-in-command during the operation of the UAS
 - b. FAA UAS registration for all UAS vehicles that will be used in the operation
 - c. Pre-flight checklist
 - d. Emergency response plan
 - e. Proof of liability insurance in the amount of \$1M
 - f. Purpose of flight
 - g. Flight plan with maps
 - h. A copy of the research permit if the use of the UAS is for research purposes
- C. The Site Manager may require that they or their designee be present during unmanned aircraft operations and /or may limit the time that the UAS can be operated. The Site Manager or their designee may prohibit the use of UAS's in the park or Natural Area Preserve or in portions of the site in order to:
 - a. Protect the health, safety and privacy of other park users
 - b. Protect the facilities on the area
 - c. Protect the peaceful and quiet atmosphere of the area
 - d. Prevent harassment of wildlife
 - e. Prevent other undesirable results not specifically listed above.
- D. If a permit is granted, the permit holder assumes full responsibility and liability for any damage or injury related to their use of the UAS aircraft.
- E. Populated recreational areas, scenic rocks, overlooks and vistas provide scenic beauty and aesthetic benefit for guests; therefore, they shall not be used for, or disrupted by, any UAS activity. Site managers may choose to restrict flight within specific buffers or at specific times around these amenities. [For example, a buffer of 500 feet surrounding cabin or campsite areas, docks, pools, or at times of low visitation, etc.]