

Richmond National Battlefield Park

Richmond, Virginia

Adaptive White-tailed Deer Management Plan

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

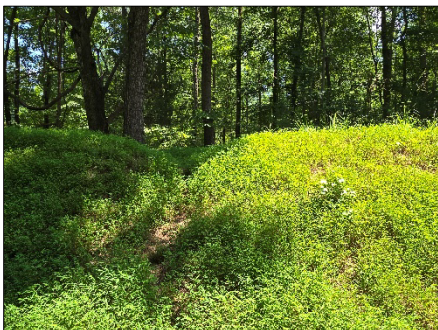


Two white-tailed deer at the edge of the forest at Richmond National Battlefield Park. *Photo credit: NPS*

What is the purpose of adaptive white-tailed deer management in Richmond National Battlefield Park?

The National Park Service (NPS) is in the early stages of developing an adaptive management plan for white-tailed deer (the plan) for Richmond National Battlefield Park (the park). The purpose of the plan is to provide a framework that supports a viable deer population while also protecting the park's cultural and natural resources.

The plan is needed to manage the impacts of deer overabundance in the park.



Cultural landscapes are human and natural environments associated with historic events, activities, and people, or with cultural or aesthetic values. Deer overbrowse (i.e., too many deer eating too much vegetation) inhibits preservation and maintenance of character-defining features, such as the forest understory, earthen military trenches and fortifications, and the forest-field configuration of the 1862 and 1864-65 battlefields.

Photo caption: Deer trail damage to earthworks. *Photo credit: NPS.*



Forest regeneration is at risk due to reduced survival of seedlings and saplings.

Many of the park's forest species are stunted or absent as a result of deer overbrowse, resulting in altered plant composition, insufficient understory growth to replace the forest canopy in the future, and increased forest vulnerability to disturbances such as storms, pests, and invasive species.

Photo caption: Late successional mixed hardwood forest at Gaines' Mill Battlefield.

Photo credit: NPS.



Native vegetation and wildlife diversity is at risk because deer overbrowse changes vegetation structure and composition, decreasing habitat and food for other native wildlife. Increased deer browsing pressure on native vegetation also allows invasive species to establish and spread, exacerbating habitat effects and resource availability.

Photo caption: Pine warbler on a branch. *Photo credit: NPS.*

Considerations for deer management and impacts at the park:

- What is important to you?
- Have you observed deer-related impacts on park resources?
- Are there other issues related to deer management at Richmond National Battlefield Park that you think the park could consider?

How to participate in the planning process:

Your input is vital to the development of the proposed plan. You can learn more about the plan and submit comments on the project website by scanning the QR code or viewing the project website.



Project website link:
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/RichmondNBPDeer>

All comments must be received or postmarked by 11:59 p.m. EDT on Thursday, October 22, 2026.

Written comments will also be accepted via email to:

Kristen.Allen@nps.gov

Or via mail to:

Superintendent
Richmond National Battlefield Park
3215 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23223

Please note that your entire comment, including any personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time because it becomes part of the project record. While commentors may ask that their personal identifying information be withheld from public view, NPS cannot guarantee this.

The NPS is hosting a public open house to solicit public input at the Varina Area Library, on Tuesday, September 22, 2026. There will be an additional opportunity to provide comments with the release of the Draft Adaptive White-tailed Deer Management Plan/Environmental Assessment in 2027.

Planning process and schedule:

The NPS is in the initial stages of the planning process, aiming to produce a management plan in Winter 2028 for implementation thereafter.

Date	Planning Stage
September 22, 2026	Civic Engagement Period Begins
September 22, 2026	Open House
October 22, 2026	Civic Engagement Period Closes
Fall / Winter 2026	Analysis of Civic Engagement Comments
2026 / 2027	Plan Development
2027	NEPA Process Begins
2027	Environmental Documents Released, Comment Period, and Public Meeting
2028	Analysis of Comments on Environmental Documents
2028	NPS Decision