Mecklenburg County has 17 designated Wildlife Management Areas, most with free access, established parking, maps and all are open to hunting. The fertile fields and forests are home to whitetail deer, black bear, turkey, goose, duck and other species. Local outfitters or the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries website are great resources for seasons, licensing and safety information.

- The Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area (a DGIF fee area) is nationally known for the annual field trials held here.
- Occoneechee State Park, located on Kerr Lake, is one of only two Virginia state parks with an archery range.
- Outfitters for every activity are here, such as Buggs Island Archery, the largest archery retailer in the entire region.

With 9,000 acres of Wildlife Management Areas and a 50,000 acre lake, Mecklenburg County is Virginia’s top hunting and fishing destination.

For many people, the joy of being outdoors comes from fresh air, spectacular scenery and the pleasant company of friends and family. For avid hunters and fishermen, it means all that and sharing in the abundant natural resources of a thriving ecosystem. With 9,000 acres of Wildlife Management Areas and a 50,000 acre lake, Mecklenburg County is Virginia’s top hunting and fishing destination.

Fishing

The John H. Kerr Reservoir, known locally as Kerr or Buggs Island Lake, and several rivers and streams throughout the county provide excellent fishing for largemouth bass, striped bass, crappie and walleye. Just a few miles below the dam on the eastern end of Kerr Lake is Lake Gaston.

On the western end of Kerr Lake, the charming town of Clarksville has the only bridge-mounted night-time fishing light system in the United States. The system was designed and installed specifically for fishermen.

- The world record blue catfish was caught on Kerr Lake in 2011, weighing in at 143 pounds.
- In Mecklenburg County, there are 13 public boat ramps on Kerr Lake and 3 on Lake Gaston.
- Fishing and pontoon boats are available for rent at Occoneechee State Park Marina.