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Baltimore District



Plum Tree Island provides habitat for many species.

## Where is Plum Tree Island Range?



Plum Tree Island National Wildlife Refuge is located 11.2 miles east of Newport News and includes the largest portion of the Plum Tree Island Range.



A USACE Remedial Investigation team removes Jet-Assisted Takeoff rockets from Plum Tree Island Range.

## Preserving the future along the Chesapeake

Many federal, state, and regional stakeholders are involved in the restoration of the lands and waters in and around the former Plum Tree Island Bombing Range. These agencies are committed to human health and safety, preservation of environmental resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the individuals who rely on the waters of the Chesapeake Bay for their livelihood. Some of the organizations involved in this effort include:



**Virginia Department  
of Environmental Quality**



**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**



**Virginia Marine  
Resources Commission**



**United States Army Corps  
of Engineers**



**City of Poquoson**

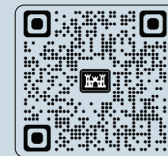
# Plum Tree Island Range

**Military Munitions Response Project  
at a Formerly Used Defense Site**



## Find more information

Scan QR code or contact  
US Army Corps of Engineers:  
nab-pao@usace.army.mil



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## Why this project matters

The Plum Tree Island Military Munitions Response Project is a restoration effort to



remove unexploded ordnance (UXO) from the island and the surrounding waters that could be dangerous to people and wildlife. Five land-based practice targets along with three water-based targets have been identified as possibly having munitions on the land

and in the waters, estuaries, salt marshes, and rivers flowing into the Chesapeake Bay.

## What's Next



Major field work planned for late 2024 includes warning sign (see left) installation and public awareness implementation to include distribution of fact sheets and 3R information at local marinas, boat ramps, and libraries. Future actions will include removal and

disposal of military munitions found on land and in waters on and adjacent to the former range.

## Get in touch

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working with local and state officials to keep you up to date about the work being conducted at Plum Tree Island Range. For questions, contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by email at [nab-pao@usace.army.mil](mailto:nab-pao@usace.army.mil)

# Plum Tree Island Range

## How we got here Military Use and Range History

From 1917 until the late 1950s, the site is used as a range for bombing and gunnery practice by the U.S. military.

1959

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service receives 3,300 acres for Plum Tree Island National Wildlife Refuge, a former military practice range.

1972

Report investigates the likelihood that unexploded munitions were left on Plum Tree Island.

1996

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers notifies FUDS response team as refuge staff finds 40 unexploded items.

2004

Testing and analysis of Plum Tree Island continues until a plan of action can be developed.

2005

The Army approves a plan and recommends a budget for removing munitions from Plum Tree Island Range.

2019



## What should I do if I find unexploded munitions?

Unexploded ordnance can look like everyday items such as soda cans, golf balls, or other safe objects. Never take a chance. If you see an item that cannot be easily identified, leave the area and notify someone. If you are unsure what an object might be, don't pick it up.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Remedial Investigation team removes a World War I MK-I fuze from Plum Tree Island Range. (USACE Photo)

## Don't forget the 3 Rs



**Recognize** when you may have found a munition. **Retreat** by carefully leaving the area. **Report** what you encountered. Tell officials what you saw and where.

**CALL 757-868-3510 or 911**  
(City of Poquoson Fire and Rescue)