

Summary Chart of Ordinances from Other Localities (2026)

Locality	Backstop or Containment Rules	Distance Rules	Time of Day Rules	Other Notes
Isle of Wight County	Unlawful to discharge in such a way as will, or is likely to, result in the load thereof leaving the boundaries of the property or parcel upon which the firearm is lawfully discharged, unless permission to do so has been granted by the adjacent land owner. A projectile leaving the boundaries of the property or parcel shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section. Section 12-11.1(1).	Prohibits firearms discharge within 100 yards of (i) dwelling of another, (ii) business establishment, (iii) public building, (iv) public gathering, or (v) public meeting place, unless dwelling owner or occupant has given permission. Section 12-11.1(2).	Prohibits target shooting between 9 PM and 9 AM. Section 12-11.1(3).	Any person violating section shall be guilty of class 1 misdemeanor. Section 12-11.1(4). There are exceptions for the following categories: (i) law-enforcement officer in the performance of his official duties; (ii) any person whose discharge of a firearm is justifiable or excusable at law in the protection of life or property; (iii) the discharge, on land zoned for agricultural use, of a firearm for the killing of deer pursuant to Section 29.1-529 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended); (iv) the discharge of a firearm that is otherwise specifically authorized by law; (v) the discharge of black powder firearms using blanks as part of historical re-enactments, historical living history programs and historical demonstrations; (vi) the discharge of starter blank weapons to initiate athletic competitions; or (vii) ceremonial and patriotic displays using blanks. Section 12-11.1(5).
Danville City	Detailed rules for backstops at outdoor shooting ranges, which need to be at least thirteen (13) feet high for pistols and at least thirty (30) feet high for rifles. Backstop slope should be as steep as possible, but no less than 45 degrees. Backstops can be natural hill or manmade embankment, they can consist of sandbags that are at least two feet thick, or they can be stacked and staggered automobile tires filled with sand or rock free earth. They can also include steel plates, with the thickness and hardness determined by which firearms are used at those sites. There are large safety zones for un baffled firing ranges, that would likely be difficult to achieve. City Code Section 40-3(a).	Gunfire prohibited, except for necessity or at a firing range approved by Chief of Police in compliance with standards. City Code Section 40-3(b).		These rules are for a City, but are the most detailed code of a Virginia locality regarding backstops that the County Attorney's Office has been able to find.
Chesterfield County	Any person target shooting with a firearm shall only discharge such firearm into a natural or man-made berm or backstop so that it prevents projectiles from entering the property of another. A backstop is defined as a device to stop, redirect, and or contain bullets fired on a range. A berm is defined as an embankment used for restricting bullets to a given area, or as a protective or dividing wall between ranges. Section 14-10(b).	No person shall discharge any firearm within the county within 600 feet of a (i) dwelling of another; (ii) business establishment; (iii) public building; (iv) public gathering; or (v) public meeting place. Section 14-10(a).	Chesterfield County noise ordinance does not mention firearms, and does not seem to cover them. Section 14-27.	Contains exceptions very similar to Isle of Wight. Section 14-10(c).
Amelia County	Was not able to find any local rules.	Was not able to find any local rules.	Amelia County noise ordinance does not mention firearms, and does not seem to cover them. Chapter 96.	
Nottoway County	There are rules regarding pre-approval for construction of any rifle, pistol or shotgun target range, including events normally known as "turkey shoots". Such pre-approval must be obtained from the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. Section 110-1; 110-3. There are construction requirements, which were stated to be on file at the office of the County Administrator in Nottoway County. Upon request, Nottoway did not seem to have any knowledge of the details of such construction requirements. Section 110-5. Annual reapproval is required Section 110-4 with a \$5 annual fee.	No discharge at a target shoot shall be within 100 yards of any public road.	Although Nottoway County noise ordinance does not mention firearms, it bans any "unreasonably loud, disturbing, or unnecessary noise". This formulation was deemed unconstitutional by the Virginia Supreme Court in a case known as <i>Tanner v. City of Virginia Beach</i> . Chapter 82.	The chapter is enforced by the County Administrator and Sheriff of Nottoway County. Section 110-6. Violations are punishable by \$1,000 fine and/or up to 30 days in jail. Section 110-7.

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Brunswick County	Was not able to find any local rules.	Was not able to find any local rules.	Was not able to find any local rules.	
Greenville County	Was not able to find any local rules regarding shooting ranges.	Was not able to find any local rules, except as it related to hunting within 10 feet of the outside banks of ditches of roads, particularly with respect to near roads and near a certain reservoir. (Sections 20-3 & 20-4)	Within constitutional limitations discussed above, Greenville Noise ordinance (Sections 15-51 to 15-55) does not appear to meaningfully limit firearms discharges.	
Sussex County	Pistol range is allowed with a conditional use permit. Section 34-217.	Was not able to find any local rules, other than some hunting rules.	There is a general prohibition on noises that can be heard more than 200 feet away between 10 PM and 6 AM. Section 20-103(1). There is an exception for sport shooting ranges if the range is in compliance with all ordinances relating to noise in effect at the time construction or operation of the range was approved. Section 20-104(13)	Penalty for first time offense of noise ordinance is \$250. Penalties for subsequent offenses are \$500. Section 20-106.
Prince George County	Prince George allows “turkey shoots” with a special exception in the A-1 general agricultural and R-A residential agricultural districts, subject to the following conditions (quoted verbatim here): (1) <i>Distance and direction of discharge from public road.</i> The point of discharge of firearms must be at least 300 feet from the right-of-way of a public road or private easement, and the direction of discharge of such firearms shall be in the opposite direction of such public road or private easement. (2) <i>Distance and direction of discharge from occupied dwelling or structure.</i> No firearm shall be discharged within 1,000 feet of an occupied dwelling, structure, or boundary of the applicant’s property. This subsection may be waived with written permission from adjoining landowners, provided that the direction of discharge of such firearms shall be in the opposite direction of such occupied dwelling or structure. (3) <i>Rifles prohibited.</i> The use of rifles is prohibited. Prince George Code Section 90-1031.	There are distance limitations, but they are in the context of hunting: (1) no person shall discharge or shoot any firearm or other weapon for the purpose of <i>hunting or attempting to hunt</i> in, along, toward, or within 50 feet of any primary or secondary highway in the county and (2) no person shall discharge or shoot any firearm or other weapon for the purpose of hunting or attempting to hunt within 100 yards of any building occupied or used as a dwelling or place where the public gathers, to include school property. (This building rule does not apply a person’s own dwelling, or if they have permission from the owner.) Section 6-9.	Prince George’s noise ordinances does not appear to apply to firearms discharges. Section 54-23.1	Turkey shoot does not appear to have a definition given to it in the Prince George Code, but a turkey shoot is an organized shooting event, often with a prize for those who shoot with the greatest accuracy. A violation would be treated as a zoning violation. Violations of Section 6-9 are a class 3 misdemeanor.
City of Petersburg	The discharge of firearms is generally prohibited in the City of Petersburg, with very narrow exceptions. Section 74-208.	The discharge of firearms is generally prohibited in the City of Petersburg, with very narrow exceptions. Section 74-208.	The discharge of firearms is generally prohibited in the City of Petersburg, with very narrow exceptions. Section 74-208.	City of Petersburg is a very different jurisdiction than the County of Dinwiddie and is included only because all other neighbors of Dinwiddie were included.
New Kent County	Very detailed rules are given in Section 98-873(c) for specific conditions for certain ranges (which are listed as “public, semipublic, institutional, recreational”, but it is not clear that these rules would	No shooting within 150 feet of public or semi-public road at a turkey shoot and no turkey	No turkey shoots before 9 AM or after 10 PM, except Friday and Saturday nights may go to 11 PM. Section 46-	

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	apply to a strictly small-scale private use). Section 98-745 also gives specific rules for pistol ranges. Section 98-745(b)(11) also gives rules for pistol ranges. There are also rules for turkey shoots that—among other things—prevent the discharge of firearms within 500 feet of any unrelated commercial building or residential dwelling. Section 98-745(b)(20)(e).	shoots in residential subdivisions. Section 46-226. No hunting with firearm within 100 yards of primary or secondary road. Section 46-223. Also see Section 98-873(c), which gives detailed rules for certain ranges.	226. Operation of certain ranges shall be between 7 AM and 7 PM, unless sunrise or sunset is more restrictive. Section 98-873(c)(1)(m). New Kent's noise ordinance contains the constitutionally frowned upon reasonableness standard in their noise ordinance, and exempts rifle ranges, gun clubs, and similar sporting facilities. See Section 46-124.	
Powhatan County		In RR district, shooting ranges must be further than 300 feet from roads and property boundaries. Section 83-177.	Although it is not clear that noise from firearms is prohibited by the noise ordinance within certain hours (10 PM to 7 PM), the noise ordinance does not apply “to any firearms discharges, except those occurring at non-sport shooting ranges, firing ranges or firearms training facilities not in operation at the time of adoption”. Section 42-32.	In RR zoning district, allows shooting or archery ranges permitted by property owner for benefit of non-profit, non-commercial or community service organizations, provided that the owner participates in the operation of the range. Range must be on parcel ≥ 30 acres, possibly including adjoining properties. No part of such use shall be located any closer than 300 feet to the public road right-of-way, or 300 feet from any other property boundary. Use of such range shall not be open to the general public. The range shall operate only during daylight, and not before 10 AM. No automatic weapons shall be used. Section 83-177. Commercial ranges are allowed with a CUP in other districts.
Goochland County		Short term renters (think AirBNB) may not discharge firearms on rented property. 15-285(G)(9).	All shooting of firearms that is lawful under state and local law is exempt from the Goochland noise ordinance. Section 10-44(4).	Gun ranges, rifle ranges, and skeet shooting ranges are allowed with a conditional use permit in the business and commercial/industrial zoning districts. These appear to be commercial ranges. Section 15-102 & 15-112.
Hanover County		No discharge of firearm w/in 100 yards of a public road or 100 yards of any building occupied or used as a dwelling, except residence of shooter. Exception for lawful defense. Section 24-4.	Although firearms are not mentioned, noise ordinance could potentially apply to firearms. Chapter 16.	Rifle and pistol ranges and trap and skeet shooting are permitted with conditional use permits in certain zoning classifications depending on the zoning classification. Sections 26-111, 26-21, and 26-36. This appears to apply to commercial ranges.
Louisa County		Intent may be limited to hunting, but it says: “It shall be unlawful for any person to illegally discharge firearms within the boundaries of any subdivision in which there are two or more dwellings and which is located within an area zoned residential, provided that clearly visible signs stating that hunting is prohibited in such subdivision have been posted to designate the boundaries of such subdivision. Section 54-6	There is an exception for lawful discharge of firearms. Section 51-5.	Indoor and outdoor shooting ranges for commercial purposes are defined. Section 86-13. They are allowed by right or with a conditional use permit, depending on district. Section 86-109.