

# Permitting Process for Campgrounds

Virginia Campground Association



# Overview

This presentation provides a step-by-step summary of the permitting process for campgrounds in Virginia

A toolkit can be found online at [www.virginiacampgrounds.com](http://www.virginiacampgrounds.com)



# What is a Campground?

- A campground in Virginia is defined as a place with **at least three campsites for overnight stays. (VA Code: 12VAC5-450)**
- Link:  
<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency5/chapter450>



# Key Permitting Steps



ZONING & LAND USE  
APPROVALS



VDH CAMPGROUND  
PERMIT



ENVIRONMENTAL &  
DEQ COMPLIANCE



BUILDING PERMITS



BUSINESS LICENSING  
& TAX COMPLIANCE

# Zoning & Land Use

1

Confirm zoning  
with your local  
planning office

2

Apply for  
Special/Conditional  
Use Permit if  
required

3

Submit a  
professionally  
drafted site plan

# VDH Campground Permit

Provide safe water and sanitary facilities

Water supply approval (well/public)

Approved sewage disposal system

Waste management plan

## Environmental Compliance

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Work with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to obtain:

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Land disturbance permits

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Stormwater management approvals

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Link: <https://www.deq.virginia.gov>



# Business Licensing & Taxes

- Register with the State Corporation Commission (SCC)
- Obtain sales and lodging tax permits
- Maintain liability insurance

Links:

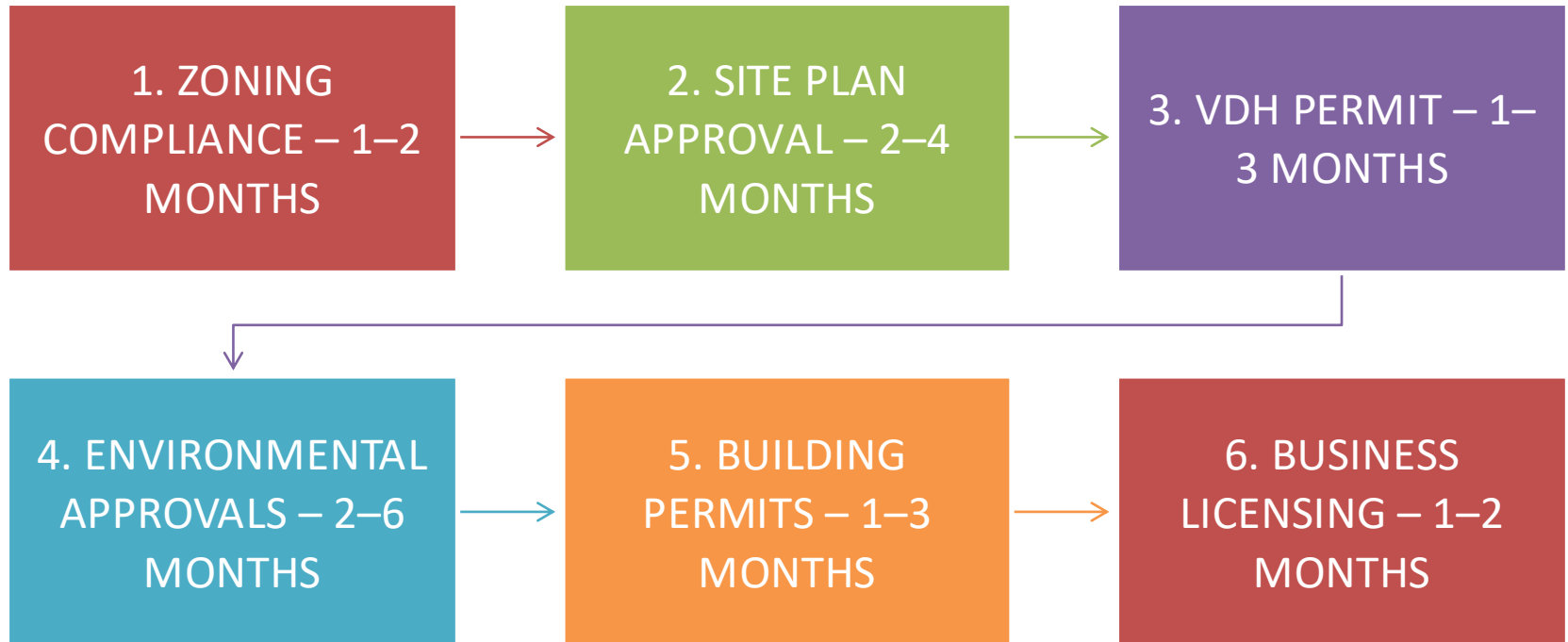
- <https://www.scc.virginia.gov>
- <https://www.tax.virginia.gov>





# Permitting Timeline

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# Frequently Asked Questions

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Is there a land minimum?  
Varies by zoning

Can I use ag land? Often  
yes, with a permit

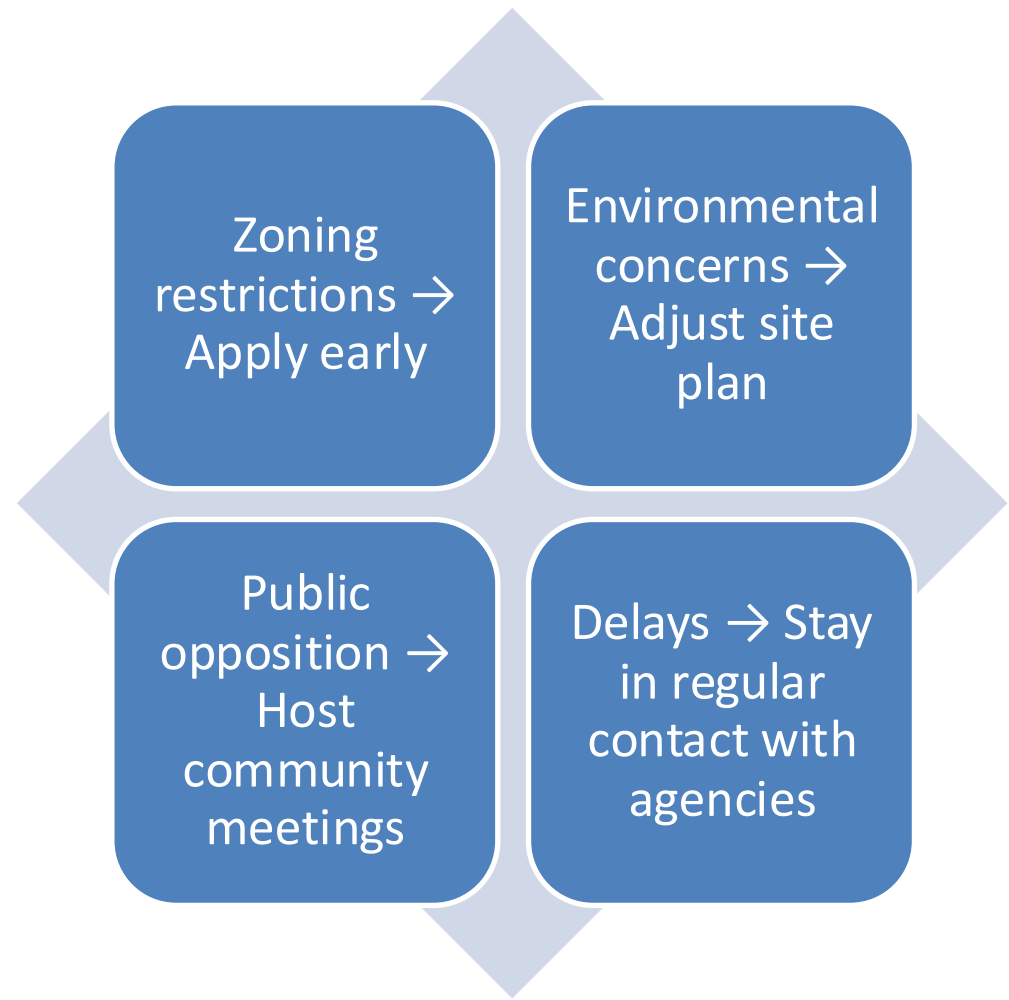
Fire safety? NFPA 1194 and  
local Fire Marshal

Seasonal campgrounds?  
Still require permits

Harvest Hosts? Require  
permits for 3 or more sites



# Common Challenges & Solutions



# Helpful Resources



VA Association of Counties:  
<https://www.vaco.org>



VA Department of Health:  
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov>



DEQ:  
<https://www.deq.virginia.gov>



# Thank You

For more information, contact  
the Virginia Campground  
Association.

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