

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

2023 STATE PARK DEER MANAGEMENT HUNT INFORMATION SHEET

**DNR**

Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources

Clifty Falls State Park  
812-273-8885

THIS IS AN ARCHERY ONLY HUNT



Memories made naturally.

**Please print a copy of this document for your reference. You are responsible for understanding all the following information.**

Important Note

We appreciate your willingness to help manage the impact from deer browsing. For this management hunt to be effective, please harvest any deer that presents a safe and ethical shot (within established bag limits), especially those that are antlerless. Please make every effort to be present during the management hunt. The number of hunters allowed at each park is strategically calculated. Your absence affects how successfully we reach our objective of a balanced ecosystem. Our #1 concern during this hunt is safety. With this in mind, the following information and rules apply:

- General: All IN DNR Property Rules and Indiana Hunting Regulations will be enforced. Hunters are permitted to harvest deer only. No other animals may be taken during the management hunt. Friends and family will not be permitted to wait for hunters on the property during the hunt periods.
- Date & Time: The 2023 deer management hunts will be conducted on November 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> and on November 27<sup>th</sup> & November 28<sup>th</sup>. The park will be closed to the general public starting from 8 p.m. EST (7 p.m., CST) on the Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> before the first hunt period through 8 a.m. EST (7 a.m. CST) on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> and 8 p.m. on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> before the second hunt period through 8 a.m. EST (7 a.m. CST) Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> following the second hunt period. **ALL HUNTERS WILL NEED A PHOTO ID TO ENTER AND EXIT THE PROPERTY.**
- Hunt Hours: Hunting hours are ½ hour before sunrise until 4:00 p.m. EST (3:00p.m. CST) on the days of the hunt. On Monday and Tuesday, **the earliest hunters may enter the property at Clifty Falls is 5:30am**. All hunters, campers included, must check in at the Park Office/ Service Area before entering the field to hunt. Property closes 6:30pm Monday at which time

all hunters must be off the property unless camping Monday night. All hunters must leave the park by 6:30pm Tuesday.

- Open House:** Questions can be answered at the optional "Open House" at the NATURE CENTER 12pm-4pm Nov.12 or Nov. 26 or phone the park office at 812-273-8885 8:30am-3pm Mon. - Fri.
- Hunter Sign-In:** During the management hunt you may only enter and exit through the South Gate located on State Road 56. All hunters (camping hunters included) must check in and out daily at the park office/ service area. Reduction headquarters is located at the Park Office/ Service Area. You are responsible for removing your deer and stand from the property by 6:30pm of your final day. Every hunter must check out at the Park Office/ Service Area when finished hunting for the day or when leaving the property for any reason. Your number will be kept on file at the Park Office while you are in the field hunting. To enter (or re-enter) you must show your Photo ID (valid Indiana driver's license). Carry your Photo ID at all times while in the park. A hunt Credential will be issued upon check in. Your Credential must be displayed in the front window of the vehicle in which you are traveling, readable from the outside. Again, while in the park your Credential is displayed in the front window of the vehicle in which you are traveling; your photo A photo ID and hunting license will need to be shown to enter the property.
- Bag Limit:** During each hunt period for which you have been drawn you are allowed to take up to three deer, only one of which can be antlered. These deer do not count against your regular state deer hunting license or bag limit. Please do not pass on antlerless deer for deer with antlers.
- Archery Equipment:** Hunters are permitted to use bows and arrows and crossbows that meet the specification set forth in 312 IAC 9-3-3 and described in the 2023-2024 Indiana Hunting and Trapping Guide.
- Check Station:** All deer must be transported to the check station in the designated location on the property for biological data collection prior to leaving the property. You will be asked the sex of the deer and whether it is antlered or antlerless. Legal check-in is the responsibility of the hunter and is described below. The check station is located at the **park office/ service area.**
- Deer Check-In:** Hunters who successfully harvest a deer at state park deer management hunts must bring the deer to the designated location on the property for biological information to be recorded. The deer must have a temporary transportation tag completed and attached immediately upon harvest. Temporary transportation tags are provided below. The deer must also be checked-in through the online check-in system. Staff at parks are only

keeping tallies of harvested deer, not checking them in. It is the hunter's responsibility to complete the legal check-in.

Deer can be checked in 3 ways:

- Online CheckIN Game System:  
<https://secure.in.gov/apps/dnr/portal/#/checkin/customer-information>
- Traditional check stations: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/hunting-and-trapping/hunting-trapping-guide/hunting-check-stations/>
- Phone-in option at 1-800-419-1326, however there will be a \$3 charge for this service (Visa or Mastercard only).

For general instructions on using the CheckIN Game system, visit this link:[https://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/files/fw-CheckIN\\_Game\\_how\\_to.pdf](https://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/files/fw-CheckIN_Game_how_to.pdf)

To check-in state park deer management harvests, use the following information:

- For county of harvest, please note that some properties span multiple counties
- You must select "Public – State" when asked for land type
- Select the appropriate property
- For license type, choose either "Early State Park" or "Late State Park." Do not choose "Deer Reduction Zone." The early management hunt is November 13 & 14 and the late management hunt is November 27 & 28; choose accordingly.

After submitting your information you will be given a Confirmation Number that must be recorded on your temporary transportation tag and kept on the carcass until processing.

**Accessibility:** If you have special needs, you should call the property office before Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> for the first hunt and before Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> for the second hunt, so we can try to accommodate any special needs you may have. If desired, drawn hunters who possess a persons with disabilities hunting permit may bring a non-hunting individual at least eighteen (18) years of age by November 13, 2023 to assist them.

**Tree Stands:** Non-penetrating tree stands may be put up by those drawn for the hunts. Steps must also be non-penetrating. A safety harness is highly recommended. Any stand left overnight in the park must have owners name, address, and phone number attached to the stand in some manner. We strongly suggest you place a lock on your stand. The park does not provide security for tree stands and is not responsible for missing or damaged stands. Pre-installation may be done 8am – 6pm Oct. 30 - 12 for

the first hunt or Nov. 15 – Nov. 26th for the second hunt. Stands must be removed when you leave the property at the conclusion of the hunt.

Ribbon/Flagging: Flagging tape/ribbon may be used but must be taken down after the hunt.

Ground Blinds: Ground blinds meeting specifications set forth in 312 IAC 9-2-15 are permitted.

Non-Hunters: If you encounter any non-hunters, other than those accompanying drawn hunters, please contact property personnel and they will handle it.

Hunter Orange: Hunters must wear both a solid hunter orange head covering (hat or cap) AND a solid hunter orange outer garment, such as vest, coat, or coveralls, during the time you are hunting in the park. This gear should be worn at all times.

Lodging: Sunday & Monday nights only, This includes pit toilet, potable water, and electricity (no showers). You may set up camp Sunday evening until 8pm.

Clifty Inn rooms will be available to hunters only. There will be no housekeeping service(s) or restaurant services during the deer hunt. **The room rate is \$69.00 a night.**

**Contact for room reservation is: 1-877-563-4371**

**Specify Deer Reduction as the code for the deer reduction room rate.**

**Camping hunters, while in the park, are restricted to the campground and Clifty Inn during non-hunting hours.**

Alcoholic Beverages: Absolutely NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES shall be possessed or consumed in the park or during the hunt.

Scouting: Pre-hunt scouting will be allowed and is encouraged. All normal park fees apply. No off-road vehicles are allowed. Scouting on foot may be done 8am – 6pm Nov. 6 - 12 for the first hunt or Nov. 20 – Nov 26 for the second hunt.

Safety Zones: Safety zones have been established and you may not enter these areas except to retrieve a deer. Bows with nocked arrows and crossbows with loaded bolts are not permitted in safety zones, buildings, or service areas. Do not shoot toward the safety zones if you are hunting near the boundaries. Shooting is not permitted into or across roadways, into or across waterways, towards permanent manmade structures, or into or across private property. Safety zones around residences, buildings, and other facilities are to be avoided. If you can see a structure, you are too close! Turn 180 degrees and move out of sight. Our perimeter is lined in several places with residential housing. We must not disturb our

neighbors. Our goal is to reduce the deer population from within this property, but retrieval must be kept in mind when setting up stands. Tracking of deer off property is illegal. Contact DNR officials before attempting to go off property. Concentrate on the uplands. It would be a waste of your productive time to have to track and retrieve deer from the canyon. Space yourself well away from others to allow everyone a successful hunt.

- Park Boundaries:** Property boundaries are indicated on the park map. It is the responsibility of each hunter to know these boundaries and to safely confine all hunting activities to these prescribed areas. It is the responsibility of each hunter to know these boundaries and to safely confine all hunting activities to these prescribed areas. Public scrutiny demands you act as responsible hunters. Respect the property of adjacent landowners.
- Field Dressing:** Please do not field dress deer in any mowed or public area; field dress at least 50 feet from any road or trail and cover the entrails with leaf litter. Field dressing should occur out of sight from trails, roads, and off property residences. All items and equipment used to dress a harvested deer must be removed by the hunter upon departure.
- Retrieval:** You are responsible to retrieve your deer from the field. All deer must be brought to the check station prior to leaving the park. Never leave a wounded deer down inside the property. **DO NOT** leave the property and trespass on private property in an attempt to retrieve a downed deer. Contact the check station, park personnel, or Law Enforcement personnel immediately. The property will not retrieve your deer for you.
- Assigned Unit:** There are no assigned hunting units for these management hunts. You may hunt anywhere, except safety zones.
- Meat Handling:** You must take possession of all deer you harvest. All hunters will be responsible for the processing of their own meat. No harvested deer should be left at the park. Please plan in advance for donating your deer to charity or a foodbank if your freezer is full by the time of the hunt. It is up to you to pay all processing costs. When leaving the property with harvested deer, please cover them with a tarp or other suitable material. It is up to you to pay all processing costs. When leaving the property with harvested deer, please cover them with a tarp or other suitable material. Hunters staying overnight in the area will be able to hang deer in assigned areas on the property. Hunters staying in the campground may use the campground area to hang deer. Hunters staying in the inn may use the service area to hang deer.
- Hunter Image:** Please leave a positive image of deer hunters for other park users by removing any trash at the conclusion of your hunt, covering any harvested

deer while leaving the property. As a rule, please take out anything you bring into the park. Please practice “leave no trace” ethics to ensure a clean and high-quality park.

**Parking:** You may park only in designated areas. Because Clifty’s road shoulders are especially soft and easily damaged we require that you park as follows: during the pre-hunt scout week park only in the parking lots. On hunt days (Mon-Tue) you may park either in the parking lots or on the roadway. When parking on the roadway keep vehicle wheels on the pavement; leave one lane open. At no time should you park on the road shoulder. **VEHICLES MUST STAY ON PROPERTY ROADS DURING HUNT, NO PARKING ON OUTSIDE ROADS.** On hunt days (Mon-Tue) each parked vehicle must have a readable Reduction Credential for each hunter in that vehicle visibly displayed in the front window.

#### TAKING OF ANTLERED & ANTLERLESS DEER

Please keep in mind the purpose of your deer hunting opportunity on Division of State Parks properties is to manage the deer herd in order to prevent over browsing and the resulting damage to the properties’ vegetation.

Our primary goal is to take does since they have the largest long-term impact on a population. However, we recognize that antlered deer also directly contribute to the grazing impacts on the properties and appreciate your help with their removal. We are concerned that some hunters may be passing up antlerless deer and deer with small antlers. Those hunters who pass on opportunities to remove deer with no or small antlers are actually hurting our ability to reduce the over browsing problem. Whenever you have an opportunity to safely make an accurate, well-placed shot, please help us by taking that deer, regardless of the antler size.

We may also have hunters passing up deer because they have filled their freezer. While we do not want deer to be taken that will be wasted, if you do not need the meat from the 2nd or 3rd deer, please consider trying to locate someone prior to our deer management hunt who needs additional venison.

Thank you for your help in this important effort.



# Deer Transportation Tag



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
License number: \_\_\_\_\_

Deer harvest information:

Antlered or Antlerless (circle one)

Harvest Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Harvest Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Confirmation number\* : \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Only required when using CheckIN Game



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Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
License number: \_\_\_\_\_

Deer harvest information:

Antlered or Antlerless (circle one)

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