

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

2023 STATE PARK DEER MANAGEMENT HUNT INFORMATION SHEET



Indiana Department
of Natural Resources

Fort Harrison State Park
Phone: 317-591-0904

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 13th & 14th and on November 27th & November 28th. The park will be closed to the general public starting from 8 p.m. EST (7 p.m., CST) on the Sunday, November 12th before the first hunt period through 8 a.m. EST (7 a.m. CST) on Wednesday, November 15th and 8 p.m. on Sunday, November 26th before the second hunt period through 8 a.m. EST (7 a.m. CST) Wednesday, November 29th 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. Hunters may enter the field no earlier than 5:30 a.m. Shooting may begin a half hour before sunrise and must cease at 4:00 p.m. EST. All deer taken must be checked in at the check station by 5:00pm.

- Open House:** Fort Harrison State Park will not be holding an open house for this year's hunt. Please contact the Park Office if you have any questions related to the hunt. The Park Office phone number is 317-591-0904.
- Hunter Sign-In:** All hunters must check-in at the property's Gatehouse, located inside the park entrance at 6000 N. Post Rd. Hunter check-in will begin at 5:00 a.m. each morning of the hunt. To enter the park on the days(s) of the hunt, hunters must present a valid picture ID (driver's license or state ID card) to the park staff working at the Gatehouse. Upon entering the property, hunters will be given a hang tag that must be kept visible in their vehicle while hunting and a slip which they will be required to carry on them at all times while hunting on the property. Please remember that hunting time does not begin until a half hour before sunrise.
- 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 in the Park's Service Area just south of the Visitor Center. Follow directional signs to the Visitors Center. Check Station Hours are 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- 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

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 November 13th, 2023, for the first hunt and before November 27th 2023 for the second hunt, so we can try to accommodate any special needs you may have. If desired, drawn hunters who possess a person 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. Stands may be installed beginning November 1st, 2023. All stands must be removed by the day following the final day of the hunt, which is November 29th, 2023.
- Ribbon/Flagging: Flagging tape/ribbon is prohibited at Fort Harrison State Park.

- 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: Fort Harrison State Park does not offer camping. Hunters are welcome to contact the Fort Harrison State Park Inn if overnight accommodations are desired. The front desk can be reached at 317-638-6000.
- 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. Included with this packet is a map of Fort Harrison State Park. Vehicles parked illegally or blocking gates, roads, etc. will be towed at owner's expense. All parking within the park must be in designated parking areas. **DO NOT PARK ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.** Scouting is prohibited on or around the Horse Trail without explicit permission from park management. Hunters interested in scouting this area **must** contact the Park Office, 317-591-0904, to arrange a date/time to scout that will not interfere with Saddle Barn operations.
- Safety Zones: Safety zones have been established and you may not enter these areas except to retrieve a deer. Loaded 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 are marked on your map. If you have a wounded deer that has not expired enter a Safety Zone and need assistance retrieving it, contact property personnel at the Visitor's Center, 317-591-0904, or a Conservation Officer on the property.
- Park Boundaries: 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 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. However, if you do need assistance, please make the check station/office/etc. aware of this and an effort will be made to provide assistance.
- 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.
- Hunter Image:** Please leave a positive image of deer hunters for other park users by removing any trash at the conclusion of your hunt, picking up all spent shells and casings, and covering any harvested deer while leaving the property. As a general 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. Hunters may park only in established parking lots or on other paved surfaces maintained by the property. Do not park in roadways, private drives, or other prohibited areas. Do not block gated areas or access roads as doing so may prevent staff or emergency personnel from accessing that area.
- Other Information:** All IN DNR Property Rules and Indiana Hunting Regulations will be enforced. If you have further questions, please, contact the Park Visitor’s Center at 317-591-0904.
- Indiana Conservation Officers will be on duty to enforce all hunting regulations and ensure a safe hunt during the deer management hunts. They will also be available to answer questions and provide assistance when required.

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 to prevent overbrowsing 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 overbrowsing 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 deer meat.

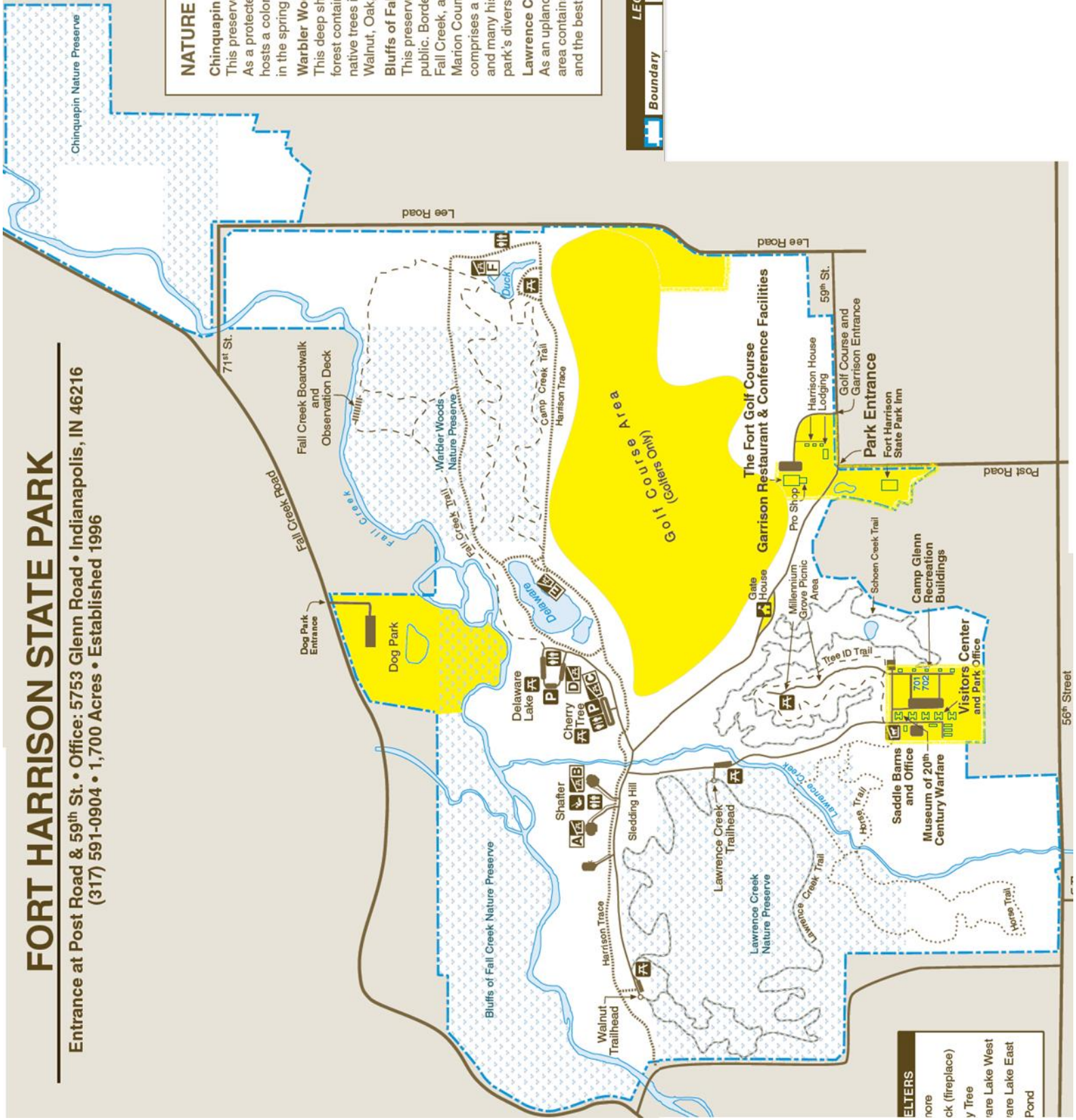
Thank you for your help in this important effort.

FORT HARRISON STATE PARK

Entrance at Post Road & 59th St. • Office: 5753 Glenn Road • Indianapolis, IN 46216
 (317) 591-0904 • 1,700 Acres • Established 1996

NATURE

Chinquapin: This preserve hosts a colorful array of native plants and animals in the spring and summer months. **Warbler Woods:** This deep shade forest contains many native tree species including White Oak, Red Oak, and Yellow Birch. **Bluffs of Fall Creek:** This preserve features a public viewing platform overlooking Fall Creek, a remnant of the original Fort Harrison site. **Lawrence C. Garrison:** As an upland area, this preserve contains a diverse array of native plants and animals.



- ELTERS**
- none
 - ck (fireplace)
 - y Tree
 - are Lake West
 - are Lake East
 - Pond

56th Street

Post Road

Lee Road

Lee Road

71st St.

59th St.



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



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



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