

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

2023 STATE PARK DEER MANAGEMENT HUNT INFORMATION SHEET



Indiana Department
of Natural Resources

Prophetstown State Park
(765)567-4919

THIS IS A FIREARMS 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 park beginning at 5:30 AM on hunt days. Each hunter will be required to show the gate attendant at the Main Gate a photo ID (driver's license). Hunters must be out of the park by 6:00 PM. A standby drawing will be held each morning at 8am for unfilled positions. Non-drawn hunters wishing to

participate must show up before 8am at the main entrance gate and have photo ID and their deer hunting license on hand.

- Open House:** There will be two opportunities for hunters to attend an optional open house. This will be located at the park office on Saturday, November 4th and 18th from Noon until 2:00 PM. These sessions are not required. You may attend either session you wish, and there will not be a gate fee charged for those attending. During these open houses, hunt operations will be explained and questions will be answered. Prophetstown State Park uses prescribed fire as a management tool. Hunters attending may want to ask which areas may be burned.
- Hunter Sign-In:** All entrances and exits to/from the park must be through the Main Gate located on Swisher Road. NOTE: Our entrance road veers to the right off of Swisher Road. No other entry/exit points will be allowed. All hunters will need to check-in and check-out when entering or exiting the property at the Main Gate. Only hunters that have been selected for the deer hunts will be allowed entry into the park. There will be no park entrance fee during the hunt period; however, those choosing to scout the area in advance of the hunt will be required to pay the gate fee if it is being collected. There will be no fee charged for those attending the informational open house. A photo ID and hunting license will need to be shown to enter the property. A standby drawing will be held each morning at 8am for unfilled positions. Non-drawn hunters wishing to participate must show up before 8am at the main entrance gate and have photo ID and their deer hunting license on hand.
- 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.
- Firearms:** All firearms, which may be legally used to hunt deer on public land in Indiana (as seen in the 2023-2024 Indiana Hunting & Trapping Guide) will be allowed. Archery equipment will NOT be permitted for these hunts, including the use of crossbows.
- 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. Check Station will be the Main Gate from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM on hunt days. Hunters must be out of the park by 6:00 PM.
- 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 6th for the first hunt and before November 20th 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. For the first hunt period, tree stands may be installed November 4th through November 14th. For the second hunt period, tree stands may be installed November 18th through November 28th.

All tree stands must be removed on the last day of the assigned hunt. All stands must have the hunter's name, address, and telephone number attached to it. Due to safety concerns, Ground Blinds are not permitted while participating.

- Ribbon/Flagging:** The Park has been divided into 3 zones. The colored zones are to be utilized if assistance is needed in the form of retrieval or emergency assistance. Hunters will be allowed to hunt in any zone. You may hunt anywhere within the 3 zones, except safety zones marked with yellow flagging tape. The boundaries of the hunt zones will be marked with WHITE flagging tape. When hunting within 200 feet of the white flagged boundary, hunters MUST be facing away from this boundary. **DO NOT SHOOT TOWARDS THE BOUNDARY.** Hunting beyond the white flagging tape will be considered trespassing.
- Ground Blinds:** Ground blinds will not be allowed for these management hunts.
- 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:** Camping will be allowed at Prophetstown State Park during the hunt period. Call the office at (765)567-4919 to place a reservation. Only registered hunters will be permitted to camp, non-hunting guests are not allowed. Alcohol is not permitted on the property during the deer hunt. Camp sites available are electric only. Vault toilets will be available. If you choose to camp at the park, reservations must be made before October 30th for the first hunt and before November 13th for the second hunt. Hunters are not permitted to hang deer from the trees at the park. However, hunters are permitted to provide their own mechanism for hanging deer.
- 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. Please stay within the park boundaries while scouting, going outside of park boundaries will be considered trespassing.
- Safety Zones:** Safety zones have been established and you may not enter these areas except to retrieve a deer. Loaded firearms 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, as well as the hunting zones, are marked on your map, as well as in the field. Safety Zones are marked with yellow flagging tape on trees and/or vegetation along the boundaries. You may not enter these areas at any time unless you are retrieving a wounded deer.
- Park Boundaries:** The boundaries of the hunt zones will be marked with WHITE flagging tape. When hunting within 200 feet of the white flagged boundary, hunters **MUST** be facing away from this boundary. **DO NOT SHOOT TOWARDS THE BOUNDARY.** Hunting beyond the white flagging tape will be considered trespassing. 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.
- If you are in need of assistance with deer retrieval due to a medical condition or physical impairment, please notify park personnel or inform the Main Gate at 765-320-1710 of your needs and refer to your location as indicated on MAP #2. To retrieve a deer that has gone beyond the hunt boundary (white flagging tape), you must contact property personnel at the Main Gate/Check Station or a Conservation Officer on the property. You will need to be escorted to the property in order to obtain permission to retrieve the deer. All harvested deer must be transported to the Deer Check Station at the Main Gatehouse in order to be checked-in and have biological data collected. The check station will close at 6:00

PM. All harvested deer must be covered or in the bed of a truck or van for transport off of the property. Hunters are permitted to harvest deer only. No other animals may be taken during the hunt period.

- Assigned Unit:** There are no assigned hunting units for these management hunts. You may hunt anywhere, except safety zones. The Park has been divided into 3 zones. The colored zones are to be utilized if assistance is needed in the form of retrieval or emergency assistance. Hunters will be allowed to hunt in any zone. You may hunt anywhere within the 3 zones, except safety zones marked with yellow flagging tape. The boundaries of the hunt zones will be marked with WHITE flagging tape. When hunting within 200 feet of the white flagged boundary, hunters MUST be facing away from this boundary. **DO NOT SHOOT TOWARDS THE BOUNDARY.** Hunting beyond the white flagging tape will be considered trespassing.
- 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. Hunters staying overnight in the area are not permitted to hang deer from the trees at the park. However, hunters are permitted to provide their own mechanism for hanging 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, 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 your vehicle in established parking lots or parking areas only. There will be no parking allowed along the road. There will be an additional temporary parking area that will be indicated on MAP #1 (attached). The campground area will be closed to vehicle traffic unless special needs apply or you are camping at the park for the duration of the hunt. Any special needs are to be pre-approved with the property manager prior to the hunt. Hunters wishing to hunt in this area will need to utilize the campground overflow parking area before the camp gate or the parking areas at Meadow or Prairie View Picnic areas. Access to the temporary parking area may not be available on the day of the hunt due to soil conditions and/or flooding. Do not park in front of gated roadways or access roads at any time and do not drive beyond **AREA CLOSED SIGNS.** You may park only in designated area.

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 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.

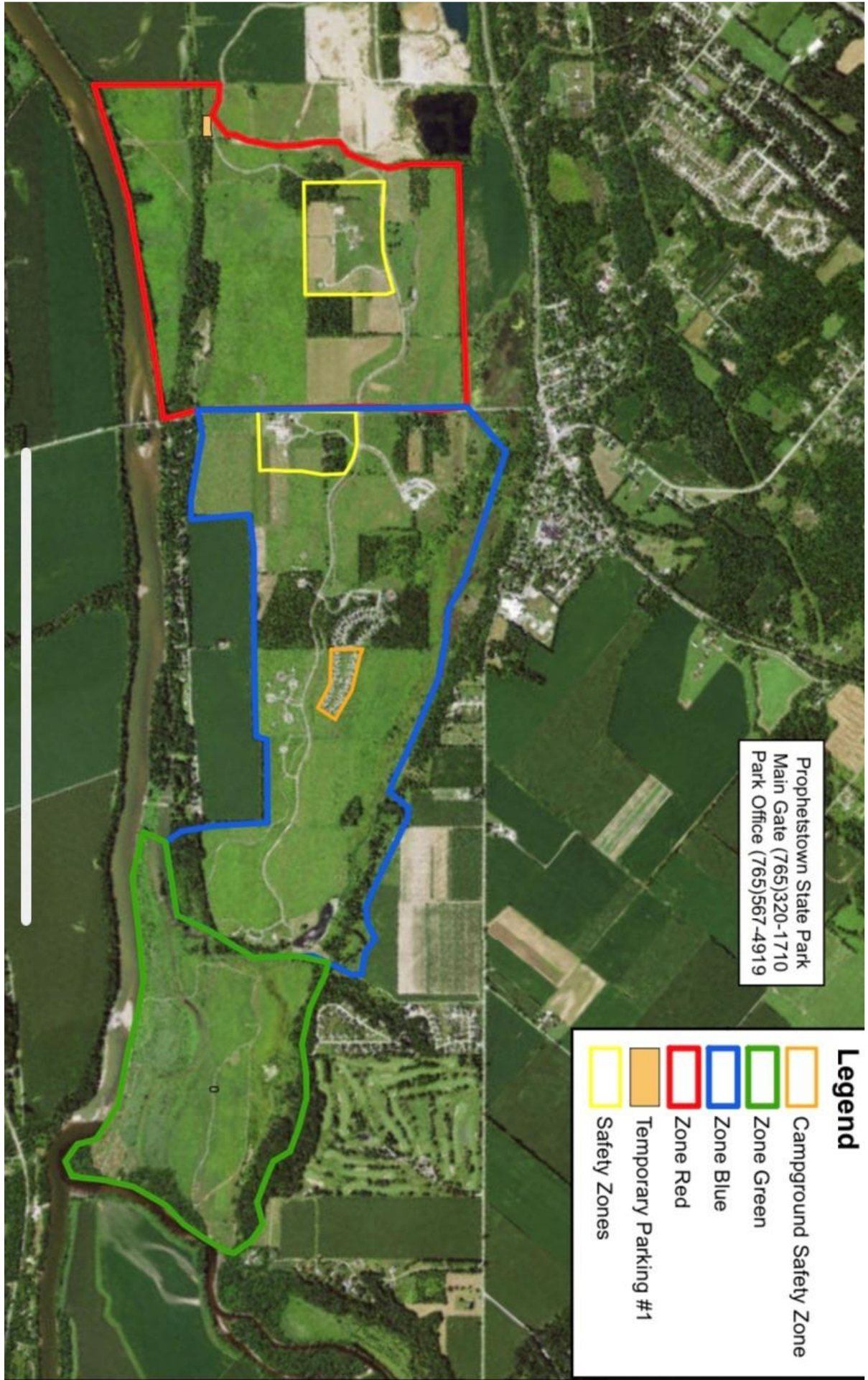
We may also have hunters passing up deer because they have filled their freezer. While we do not want deer to be taken that will be wasted, if you do not need the meat from the 2nd or 3rd deer, please consider trying to locate someone prior to our deer management hunt who needs additional deer meat.

Thank you for your help in this important effort.

Prophetstown State Park
Main Gate (765)320-1710
Park Office (765)567-4919

Legend

-  Campground Safety Zone
-  Zone Green
-  Zone Blue
-  Zone Red
-  Temporary Parking #1
-  Safety Zones







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