

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

2023 STATE PARK DEER MANAGEMENT HUNT INFORMATION SHEET



Shades State Park  
(765)597-2635

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 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. Hunters may enter the park at 5:00 a.m. and report to the Main Gate for mandatory sign-in. Hunters may enter the field no earlier than 5:30 a.m. Additionally, all hunters must notify the Main Gate regardless if they were successful or not to sign-out for the day. This

can be done by phone by calling (765) 435-2810, or in person. **Failure to sign-out at the end of each day may affect your future hunting opportunities.** Regardless of the number of deer taken it is the responsibility of each hunter to plan their day to complete all retrievals and be checked-out by 5:00 p.m.

**Open House:** There will be an open house for hunters on the Sunday before each hunt period. Attendance is not mandatory, but it will allow you to visit, ask questions and receive information. Park personnel will be on hand to provide information.

For hunters drawn for November 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> there will be an open house at Shades State Park's Service Area on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from noon to 3:30 p.m.

For hunters drawn for November 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> there will be an open house at Shades State Park's Service Area on Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 3:30 p.m.

**Hunter Sign-In:** All hunters must enter the park through the main park entrance prior to hunting each day and check in at the Main Gate. Check-in begins at 5:00 a.m. Hunters will NOT enter the field to begin their hunt until 5:30 a.m. 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.

**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. The check station is *located at the Main Gate of Shades State Park.*

**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 November 5<sup>th</sup> for the first hunt and before November 19<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. If you were drawn for the early deer management hunt

scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, tree stands may be installed starting on Sunday November 5, 2023. If you were drawn for the late deer management hunt that is scheduled for November 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, tree stands may be installed starting on Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. All tree stands will be removed on the last day of the two-day hunt period. If you were drawn for the early deer management hunt you would need to have your tree stand removed by 5:00 p.m. on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023. If you are participating in the late deer management hunt you would need to have your tree stand removed by 5:00 p.m. on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Ribbon/Flagging: The use of plastic marking tape (what is commonly called flagging or colored surveyors tape) is **PROHIBITED**.

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: There is no camping available at Shades State Park during the deer management hunts. Participants may consider stay at Turkey Run State Park Inn or Raccoon State Recreation Area, or at one of the many private campgrounds found in the local community. Turkey Run State Park Inn is available for overnight accommodations for reservations for the Inn please call (877) 563-4371.

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. Property maps are available on-line. Hunters wanting to scout areas prior to hunting will be permitted to do so on the same dates given for installing tree stands. Vehicles parked illegally (along county roadways, blocking gates, or on private property, etc...) will be towed at the owner's expense. All parking within the park must be in designated parking areas. Entering and exiting the property must be accomplished only through access provided by Shades State Park. Parking on private property is prohibited. Letters from landowners granting permission to do so, will NOT be accepted.

SCOUTING HOURS ARE 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. for those individuals accessing remote areas beyond access gates.

SCOUTING HOURS ARE 8:00 a.m. – dusk for those individuals utilizing the property's defined trail system.

Hunters that were drawn for the *early hunt*: November 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> may begin scouting and installing their deer stands November 5<sup>th</sup> - November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Hunters that were drawn for the *late hunt*: November 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> may begin scouting and installing their deer stands November 19<sup>nd</sup> – November 26<sup>th</sup>.

NOTE: Hunters that violate the posted scouting hours may forfeit their rights to participate in the hunt for which they had been drawn.

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.

**All safety zones are marked with yellow caution tape.** All firearms must be cleared (unloaded) and locked in vehicles while in safety zones and property parking lots.

*Hunters staying at Turkey Run Inn must transport their weapons to and from the Inn in locked gun cases. Weapons may not be openly carried while at the Inn or Inn complex which includes the adjacent parking lots. Additional instructions will be provide at the front desk of the Inn.*

Park Boundaries: **Shades State Park's property boundaries have been flagged (marked) with PINK ribbon.** 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 away from all property facilities. 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. Terrain in Shades State Park can be extremely steep, making deer retrieval difficult. It is strongly recommended that hunters bring deer carts or other non-motorized means for hauling their deer to their vehicles. ATV's, UTV's and other motorized conveyances are NOT allowed.

*Please Read - OPERATIONAL CHANGE: (Important Information)*  
**unlike in previous deer hunts at Shades State Park, there will be “NO” State vehicle transportation or staff assistance given to hunters by park staff to extract deer from remote areas of the park. The hunter is responsible for retrieving deer and for its transportation to the park’s designated check station (Shades’ Main Gate).**

Assigned Unit: There are no assigned hunting units for these management hunts. You may hunt anywhere, except safety zones on State Park property.

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. Contact the Main Gate (Check Station) for a list of meat handling companies in the area that process deer if you wish to donate meat to charity. 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 area.  
**Designated areas include West 1, West 2, West 3, numerous areas inside the park designated with a blue dot and a “P” on the map, Jones, Bennett, and Pedestal Rock.** Parking is prohibited along park roadways, county roadways, and in any other area not specified above. Parking on private property will NOT be acceptable during the deer management hunts, even if the landowner is granting written permission to the hunters. Do NOT block any gate. **Hunters are to enter state park land, park only in designated state park designated parking lots, and confine all activities to state park property. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

## Standby Drawing Information:

### To Qualify:

- Must be an Indiana Resident (or possess an Indiana Lifetime license to take deer), individual at least eighteen (18) years of age by November 13, 2023 and possess any valid deer license for Indiana.
- Must Present a Photo ID and any valid filled or unfilled license to take deer.
- Cannot enter the property until 6:00 a.m.
- Potential standby participants can apply onsite (Nature Center) beginning at 6:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.
- Standby drawing will take place at 7:00 a.m. EST time.
- Applications can include up to 3 individuals.
- This is a “drawing” based on how many unclaimed spots there are for each day of the hunts.
- It is “NOT” a first come – first served.
- Spots will be limited as they are based on the number of no-shows each day. The need for stand-in hunters increases with each hunt day.
- All regulations regarding the deer reduction hunt are contained herein. Pickup your copy prior to entering the field.

## 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.

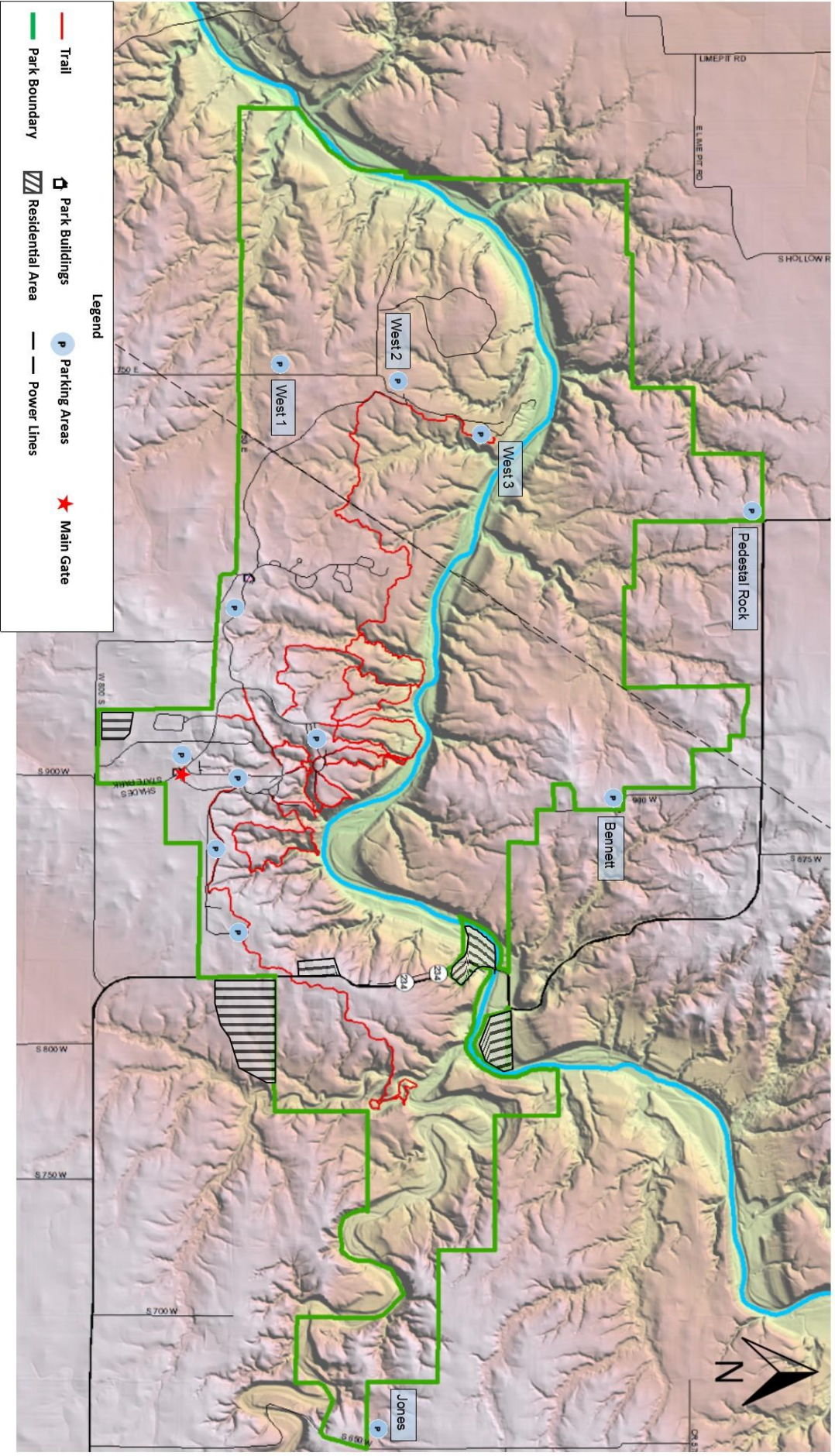
Our primary goal is to take does since they have the largest long-term impact on a population. However, we recognize that antlered deer also directly contribute to the grazing impacts on the properties and appreciate your help with their removal. We are concerned that some hunters may be passing up antlerless 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.



# Topographic Relief Map of Shades State Park







# 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)

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