

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

2026 STATE PARK DEER MANAGEMENT HUNT INFORMATION SHEET



Indiana Department
of Natural Resources

Shades State Park
765-435-2810 or 765-810-3392

THIS IS A FIREARMS ONLY HUNT

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 No. 1 concern during this hunt is safety. With this in mind, the following information and rules apply:

- General: All Indiana 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 hunting periods.
- Date & Time: The 2026 deer management hunts will be conducted on November 16 & 17 and on November 30 & December 1. The park will be closed to the general public starting from 8 p.m. ET (7 p.m., CT) on Sunday, November 15 before the first hunt period through 8 a.m. ET (7 a.m. CT) on Wednesday, November 18 and 8 p.m. on Sunday, November 29 before the second hunt period through 8 a.m. ET (7 a.m. CT) Wednesday, December 2 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 p.m. ET (3 p.m. CT) on the days of the hunt. Hunters may enter the park at 5 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 \ (765) 810-3392, 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 p.m.*

- Open House: An informational open house will be held at the *service area of Shades State Park, October 31, 2026, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. ET. No formal presentation will be provided, but staff will be available to answer your questions.* Attendance is not mandatory but is encouraged. For additional questions and information, please contact the property office at (765) 597-2635.
- 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 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: Hunters are permitted to use firearms that meet the specifications set forth in IC 14-22-2-8 and described in the 2026-2027 Indiana Hunting & Trapping Guide). 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: GoOutdoorsIN.com

- Traditional check stations: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/hunting-and-trapping/hunting-trapping-guide/hunting-check-stations/>
- Phone-in option at 260-368-5880 (no fee)

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 Park Reduction Hunt” or “Late Park Reduction Hunt.” Do not choose “Deer Reduction Zone.” The early hunt is November 16 & 17, and the late hunt is November 30 & December 1; 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.

If you need assistance checking in a harvested deer, please email INHuntFish@dnr.IN.gov.

Accessibility:	If you have special needs, you should call the property office before November 12, 2026, for the first hunt and before November 26, 2026, 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 18 years of age by November 16, 2026, to assist them.
Tree Stands:	Portable tree stands may be used by those drawn for the hunts. The tree stand, steps, fasteners, and any other equipment, may not penetrate more than ½ inch into the tree. A safety harness is highly recommended. Any stand left overnight in the park must have the owner’s name, address, and phone number, or your DNR Customer ID 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. <i>Tree stands may be <u>installed one week prior to the first day of the hunt period for which you were drawn</u>. Tree stands must be removed by the end of the last day of the hunt period for which you were drawn.</i>
Ribbon/Flagging:	The use of plastic marking tape (what is commonly called flagging or colored surveyor’s 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 they 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 staying at Turkey Run State Park Inn 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 during the hunt.
- Scouting: Pre-hunt scouting will be allowed and is encouraged. All normal park fees apply. Property maps are available online (free) or are available for purchase (\$1.00) at the property. 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. Trail cameras may not be used for the management hunts.
- SCOUTING HOURS ARE 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. for those individuals accessing remote areas beyond access gates.
- SCOUTING HOURS ARE 8 a.m. – dusk for those individuals utilizing the property's defined trail system.
- 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; hunting is prohibited within these zones. 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, toward permanent man-made structures, or into or

across private property. Refrain from hunting within 50 feet of property boundaries.

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 provided 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. Refrain from hunting within 50 feet of park property boundaries.

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 for retrieving 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. ATVs, UTVs and other motorized conveyances are NOT allowed.

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 consider donating your deer to Hunt for Hunger (on.IN.gov/huntforhunger) if your freezer is full by the time of the hunt. When leaving the property with harvested deer, please cover them with a tarp or other suitable material.

CWD: Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal infectious disease affecting the nervous systems of white-tailed deer. This untreatable disease is caused by misfolded prions shed from infected deer through bodily secretions like saliva and urine. CWD was first detected in Indiana in 2024. Since then, cases have been detected in multiple counties across the state. You can see up-to-date detections at on.IN.gov/CWD.

CWD prions are highly resistant to disinfectants, freezing, and heat; cooking or burning will not inactivate them. Although it is not currently known to infect humans, DNR recommends testing your harvested deer for CWD. If the deer tests positive, DNR suggests not eating the meat. If you would like to have your harvested deer tested for CWD you can:

- Submit your deer's head to a DNR drop-off cooler (all hunting seasons).
- Submit samples to select private businesses across the state (all hunting seasons).
- Submit samples directly to Purdue's Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab (ADDL) for a fee.
- See on.IN.gov/CWD for more details about CWD, where it has been found, and testing locations.

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. Designated areas include West 1, West 2, West 3, numerous areas inside the park designated with a blue and white parking symbol 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. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Standby Draw 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 16, 2026 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 a.m. ET.
- Potential standby participants can apply onsite (Shades' Entrance Gate) beginning at 6:00 a.m.
- Standby drawing will take place at 6:30 a.m. ET.
- 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

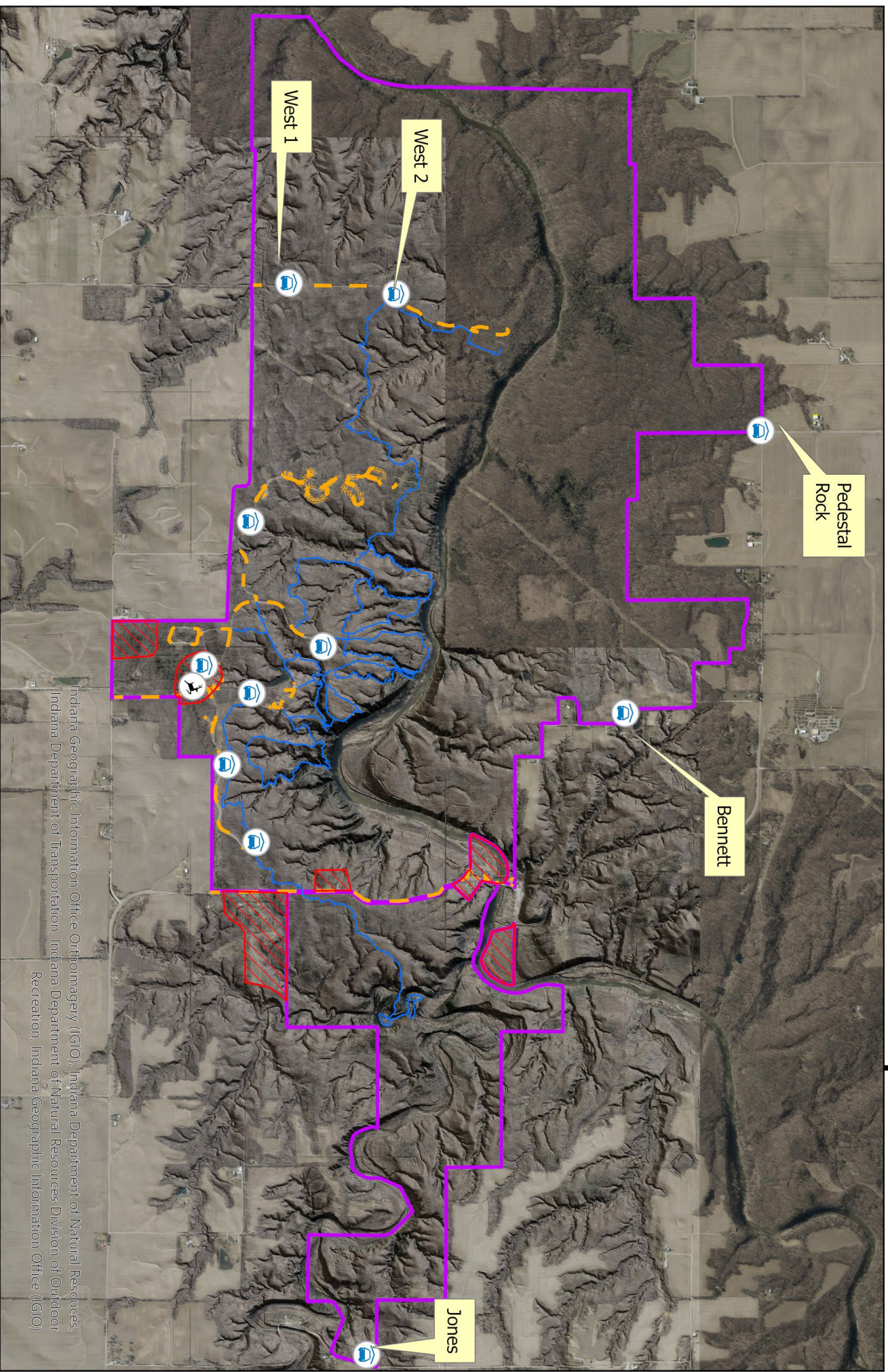
Please keep in mind the purpose of your deer hunting opportunity on Division of State Parks properties is to manage the deer herd in order to prevent overbrowsing and the resulting damage to the properties' vegetation.

Our primary goal is to take does because 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 your second or third 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.

Shades State Park Deer Hunt Map



Indiana Geographic Information Office Orthoimagery (IGIO), Indiana Department of Natural Resources,
Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Outdoor
Recreation, Indiana Geographic Information Office (IGIO)

- Check Station
- Parking Areas
- DNR Roads
- Trails
- Property Boundary
- Safety Zones

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles





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