

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

2026 STATE PARK DEER MANAGEMENT HUNT INFORMATION SHEET



Indiana Department
of Natural Resources

Tippecanoe River State Park
574-946-3213

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 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 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 no earlier than 5 a.m. ET and must vacate the property no later than 6:30 p.m. ET each day. All hunters, including campers, must check-in at the property's Main Entrance Gate House before entering the field and check-out at the conclusion of their hunt each day.

- Open House:** An informational open house will be held November 15, 2026, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. ET at the Park Office. Attendance is not mandatory but is encouraged. For additional questions and information, please contact the property office.
- Hunter Sign-In:** Hunters, including campers, are required to check-in and out each day of the management hunt no earlier than 5 a.m. ET at the property's Main Entrance Gate House. 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 property's Main Entrance Gate House also serves as the Check Station.
- 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. Tippecanoe State Park is in Pulaski County.
- 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 persons 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. Tree stands may be installed one week prior to the first day of the hunt period for which you were drawn. Tree stands must be removed by the end of the last day of the hunt period for which you were drawn.
Ribbon/Flagging:	The use of flagging tape is permitted only if all tape is taken down at the conclusion of the hunt. If flagging is not removed, its usage may be prohibited in future hunts.
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: Overnight accommodations will be available for hunters only.
- Non-hunters are not permitted in the park at any time when it is closed to the public.
 - Hunters who choose to camp at Tippecanoe River will be restricted to the camping or cabin area during non-hunting hours.
 - The use of alcohol is prohibited while camping, while in cabins, and during the hunt.
 - Hunters who choose to camp are still required to check in at the Main Gate House, no earlier than 5 a.m. ET, prior to going into the field on each day they hunt. And check out at the Main Gate at the conclusion of their hunt each day.
 - Reservations: To reserve a cabin or campsite call the park office at 574-946-3213 after drawing results are released. Reservations cannot be made prior to the release of drawing results.

Campground (The modern restrooms and showers will be closed.) Campers are restricted to campsite numbers 1 – 10 and 99 – 112. The vault toilet is located next to campsite 105. The normal winter camping fee will be charged. Water spigot, vault toilets, and electrical hookups will be available.

Rent-A-Camp Cabins (The modern restrooms and showers will be closed.) The Rent-A-Camp Cabins will be available to rent at the normal rate. These cabins come with two sets of bunk beds, electric, a light, and 2 outlets (20-amp service only). Cabins are not heated. A vault toilet is available near Cabins 1 and 12. A total of 12 cabins are available.

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. Trail cameras may not be used for the management hunts.

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, toward permanent man-made structures, or into or across private property. Refrain from hunting within 50 feet of property boundaries. Safety zones are indicated on the attached map and in the field with either “restricted area” signposts or Blue/White striped flagging.

Park Boundaries:	Most property boundary lines have signage, but it is not always obvious or in good condition. No hunting is allowed on the east side of the Tippecanoe River. 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 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. If you do need assistance retrieving your deer, contact Park Personnel/Gate House at 574-946-3213.
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. Hunters staying overnight in the area will be able to hang deer at their campsite or cabin.
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 anything you bring into the park. Please practice "leave no trace" ethics to ensure a clean and high-quality park.

Parking: When scouting, park only in property parking areas. During the hunt, hunters may park in property parking lots or on roadways. On roadways, please allow room for other vehicles to pass, do not park on or near curves, and park with two tires on the pavement.

SPECIAL RULE FOR PARKING on County Road 700: County Road 700 bisects the northern end of the property. Hunters wishing to park on this road must receive a vehicle pass from the entrance gate house on each day they plan to park at this location. Vehicles must be parked along the NORTH SIDE of CR 700, on State Park property, and off the roadway. Parking on the northside will ensure that there is room for large farm equipment to pass. Four-wheel drive is recommended. All vehicles that do not have a vehicle pass or are parked in unauthorized areas will be towed at the owner's expense.

Other Information: The property has identified potential prescribed fire areas indicated on the attached map. Prescribed fire operations may be conducted in the days prior to the hunt if weather conditions allow. Hunters should avoid these areas if placing a tree stand prior to the hunt. Prescribed fires will not be conducted during the days of the hunt.

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.

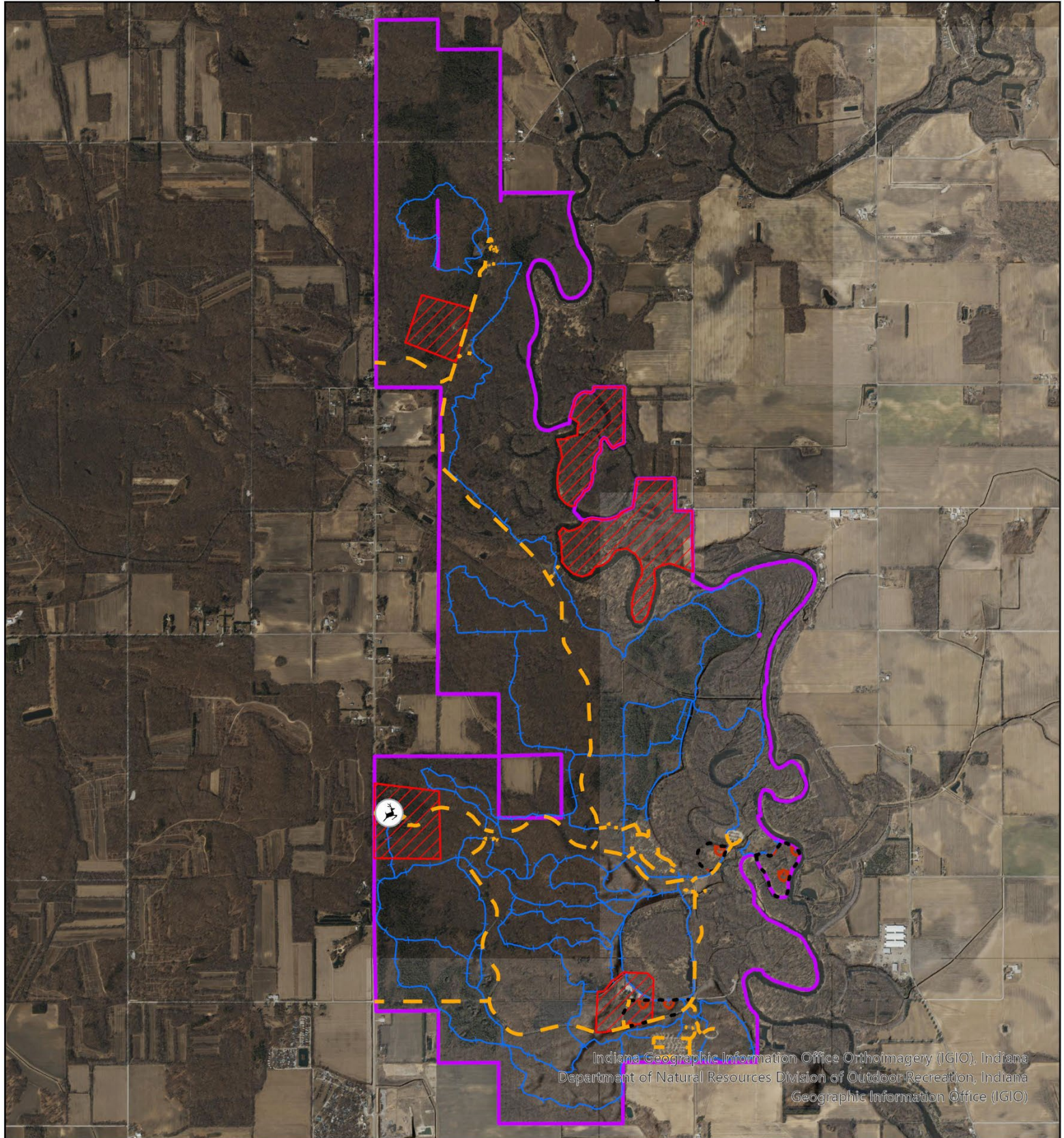
Our primary goal is to take does because they have the largest long-term impact on a population; however, we recognize that antlered deer also directly contribute to the grazing impacts on the

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.

Tippecanoe River State Park Deer Hunt Map



Check Station



Trails



Safety Zones



Property Boundary



Prescribed Fire Area



Current Roads

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



DNR
Indiana Department
of Natural Resources



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