

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

2024 STATE PARK DEER MANAGEMENT HUNT INFORMATION SHEET



Indiana Department
of Natural Resources

Chain O'Lakes State Park
(260) 636-2654

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 #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 hunt periods.
- Date & Time: The 2024 deer management hunts will be conducted on November 18 & 19 and on December 2 & 3. The park will be closed to the general public from 8 p.m. ET (7 p.m., CT) on Sunday, November 17 through 8 a.m. ET (7 a.m. CT) on Wednesday, November 20 and from 8 p.m. on Sunday, December 1 through 8 a.m. ET (7 a.m. CT) Wednesday, December 4. **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 will not be able to enter the field any earlier than 5:30 a.m. ET, although registration will begin at 5 a.m. ET at the park entrance gate. **Hunters must be out of the park by 6 p.m.**
- Open House: There will be an open house for hunters on the Sunday before each hunt period. Attendance is not mandatory but will allow you to visit, ask

questions, and receive information. Park personnel will be on hand to help in any way they can. If you have other questions or concerns, please feel free to call park headquarters at (260) 636-2654.

For hunters drawn for November 18 and 19, there will be an open house at the park on Sunday, November 17. The open house is from **2 p.m.-4 p.m. ET** at the Chain O'Lakes Park Headquarters.

For hunters drawn for December 2 and 3, there will be an open house at the park on Sunday, December 1. The open house is from **2 p.m.-4 p.m. ET** at the Chain O'Lakes Park Headquarters.

Hunter Sign-In: Hunters **must** sign in (and out) at the park entrance gate. **A photo ID and hunting license will need to be shown to enter the property.** Please follow property staff instructions to park, and bring identification items into the gatehouse for signing-in. During sign-in, please be sure to provide a mobile number that we can reach you at the day of the hunt, if you have one available.

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 that may be legally used to hunt deer on public land in Indiana (as seen in the 2024-2025 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 park headquarters.

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 Reduction” or “Late State Park Reduction.” Do not choose “Deer Reduction Zone.” The early management hunt is November 18 & 19, and the late management hunt is December 2 & 3; 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 11 for the first hunt and before November 25 for the second hunt, so we can try to accommodate you. 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 18, 2024, 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. Penetrating tree stands may not be used at Chain O’Lakes State Park, but non-penetrating tree stands may be installed **10 days prior to the hunt date for which you are drawn.** (November 8 for the first hunt period, November 22 for the second hunt period) All stands must be removed on the last day of the hunt for each period.

- Ribbon/Flagging: Flagging tape/ribbon will be allowed, but each flag/ribbon **must contain** your name and phone number. Any flag/ribbon that does not contain your name and phone number **will be removed**. Each flag/ribbon **must be** taken down the last day of the hunt.
- 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: Camping will **not** be allowed at Chain O'Lakes State Park during the hunt dates. Lodging is available nearby in Albion, Columbia City, and Kendallville.
- 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 on Chain O'Lakes State Park property.**
- 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 manmade structures, or into or across private property. Safety zones are clearly indicated on the property map in yellow. It is the hunter's responsibility to know where the safety zones are located. **Contact park headquarters immediately if you need to retrieve a deer from a safety zone or outside park boundaries.**
- Park Boundaries: Park boundaries are clearly indicated on the property map. 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. In order to receive assistance from park personnel please move the deer to a park trail or road and call Park Headquarters at (260) 636-2654 to give them a detailed description of the location, and 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 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 Park Headquarters, contact the check station the day of for more information.
- 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 can be found on the property map colored in green. **Please note the Department of Corrections area is off limits.** Park only in a designated parking area.
- Other Information:** *All* entry and exit from Chain O’Lakes State Park must be through the Main Entrance Gate off Indiana 9. Trail cameras may **NOT** be installed at Chain O’Lakes State Park. Boats (electric motor only) are allowed in the park during the deer hunts. These boats are not to be used to hunt from, but rather for use as transportation.

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.

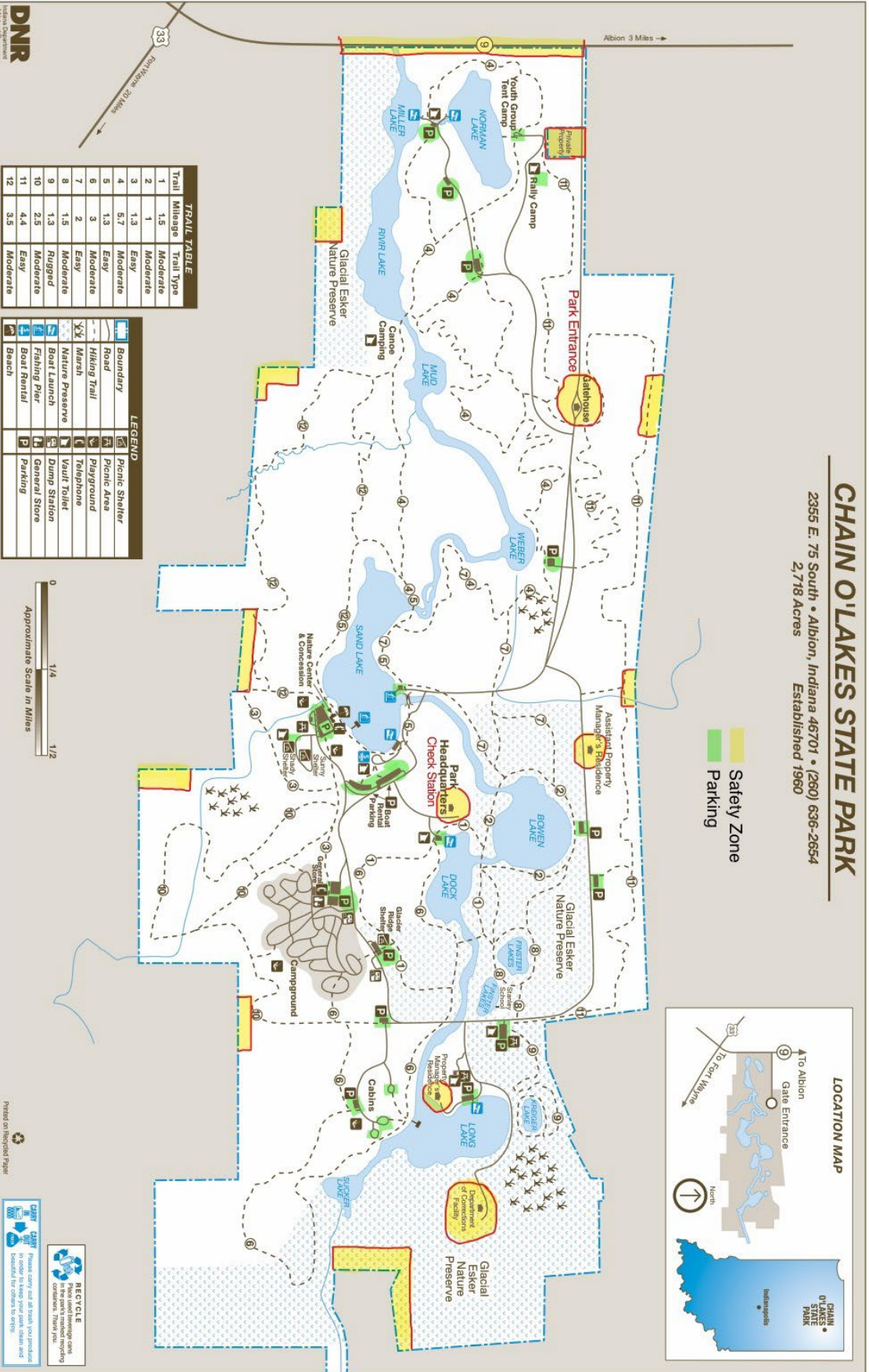
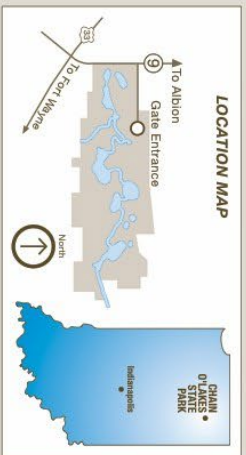
We may also have hunters passing up deer because they have filled their freezer. While we do not want deer to be taken that will be wasted, if you do not need the meat from the second or third deer, please consider trying to locate someone prior to our deer management hunt who needs additional deer meat.

Thank you for your help in this important effort.

CHAIN O' LAKES STATE PARK

2355 E. 75 South • Albion, Indiana 46701 • (260) 636-2654
2,718 Acres Established 1960

Safety Zone
 Parking



Trail	Mileage	Trail Type
1	1.5	Moderate
2	1	Moderate
3	1.3	Easy
4	5.7	Moderate
5	1.3	Easy
6	3	Moderate
7	2	Easy
8	1.5	Moderate
9	1.3	Rugged
10	2.5	Moderate
11	4.4	Easy
12	3.5	Moderate

LEGEND	
	Boundary
	Road
	Hiking Trail
	Marsh
	Nature Preserve
	Boat Launch
	Fishing Pier
	Boat Rental
	Beach
	Picnic Shelter
	Picnic Area
	Playground
	Tolchouse
	Vault Toilet
	Dump Station
	General Store
	Parking



Printed on Recycled Paper

RECYCLE
Please use all trash and recycling in the park's recycling containers. Thank you!

CLEAN WATER
Please carry out all trash and recycling in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy.

02/2022



Division 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: _____
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Deer harvest information:

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