

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

2024 STATE PARK DEER MANAGEMENT HUNT INFORMATION SHEET



Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources

Turkey Run State Park  
765-597-2635

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<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> and on December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. The park will be closed to the general public from 8 p.m. ET (7 p.m., CT) on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> through 8 a.m. ET (7 a.m. CT) on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> and from 8 p.m. on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> through 8 a.m. ET (7 a.m. CT) Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. **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 Nature Center for mandatory sign-in. Hunters may enter the field no earlier than 5:30 a.m. Additionally, all hunters must notify the Nature Center, regardless of their success, to **sign out** for the day. This can be done by calling (765) 597-2654, 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: 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 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> there will be an open house at Turkey Run State Park's Nature Center on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from noon to 3:30 p.m.
- For hunters drawn for December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be an open house at Turkey Run State Park's Nature Center on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</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 Nature Center. 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 hunting 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, including the use of crossbows, will NOT be permitted for these hunts.
- 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. *Located at the Nature Center of Turkey Run 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 Reduction” or “Late State Park Reduction.” Do not choose “Deer Reduction Zone.” The early management hunt is November 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> and the late management hunt is December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>; 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 10<sup>th</sup> for the first hunt and before November 27<sup>th</sup> 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 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 the owner’s 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 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, tree stands may be installed starting on Sunday November 10, 2024. If you were drawn for the late deer management hunt that is scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, tree stands may be installed starting on Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. All tree stands

will be removed on the last day of the two-day hunting period. If you were drawn for the early deer management hunt, you would need to have your tree stand removed by 5 p.m. on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. If you are participating in the late deer management hunt you would need to have your tree stand removed by 5 p.m. on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.

- 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 Turkey Run State Park during the deer management hunts. Participants may consider staying 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 online. 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 Turkey Run 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.

Hunters who were drawn for the *early hunt*: November 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> may begin scouting and installing their deer stands November 10<sup>th</sup> - November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Hunters who were drawn for the *late hunt*: December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> may begin scouting and installing their deer stands November 24<sup>th</sup> – November 27<sup>th</sup>.

NOTE: Hunters who 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, toward 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 provided at the front desk of the Inn.*

Park Boundaries:

**\*Turkey Run 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 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 Turkey Run 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.

*Please Read - OPERATIONAL CHANGE: (Important Information)*  
**unlike in previous deer hunts at Turkey Run 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 (Turkey Run’s Nature Center).**

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 consider donating your deer to Hunt for Hunger ([on.IN.gov/huntforhunger](http://on.IN.gov/huntforhunger)) if your freezer is full by the time of the hunt. You may also contact the Nature Center (Check Station) for a list of meat handling companies in the area that process deer if you wish to donate meat to charity for which you 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: Hunters may park only in designated areas. Designated areas include Turkey Run State Park’s service area West end of the employee’s parking lot, Turkey Run Inn’s parking lot, Cox Ford access parking, Canyon shelter, Olympic pool, and campground overflow parking lot, Lusk Home, Crow’s Nest and Robbins Road designated parking areas. Parking is prohibited along park roadways, county roadways, and in any other area not specified here. Parking on private property will NOT be acceptable during the deer reduction hunts, even if the landowner has granted written permission to the hunters. Do NOT block any gate. **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 18, 2024 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.
- Potential standby participants can apply onsite (Nature Center) beginning at 6 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” 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. Pick up your copy prior to entering the field.

## TAKING OF ANTLERED & ANTLERLESS DEER

Please keep in mind that 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 your 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.

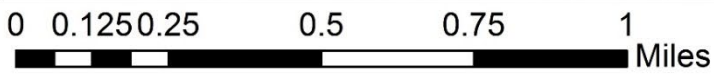
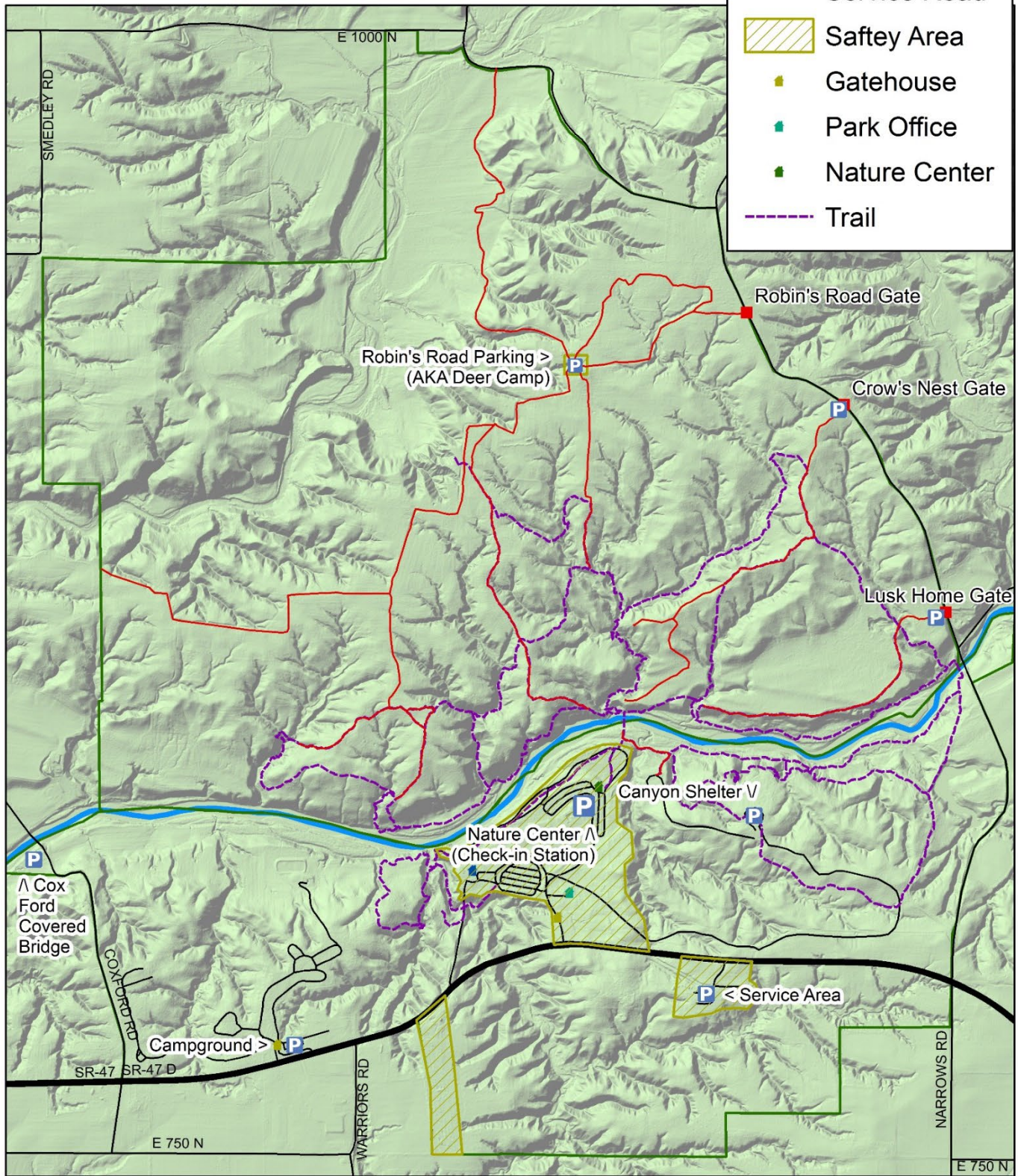
\

# Turkey Run State Park Deer Reduction Map



**Legend**

- Service Road
- Safety Area
- Gatehouse
- Park Office
- Nature Center
- - - Trail







# 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