



Illinois Department of Natural Resources PUBLIC DUCK AND GOOSE HUNTING AREA PERMIT

Instructions for Applying Online



APPLICATION DATES

Only online applications are accepted for Public Duck and Goose Hunting Area Permits. The following are dates and special restrictions for applications in regards to permit lotteries:

- First Lottery: August 16 through 31 (open to Illinois residents ONLY)
- Second Lottery: September 1 through 15 (open to residents that did not receive a first lottery permit AND non-residents)
- Third Lottery: September 16 through 28 (open to all applicants)

Beginning October 1, hunter may claim remaining permits online on a first-come first-serve basis. Hunters may receive 5 permits per season and may claim additional sites and dates, subject to availability until their 5 permit quota.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

All initial applications for the Free Waterfowl Hunting Permit must be made via the Internet, accessible [here](#).

If you do not have a computer, ask for assistance from a relative, friend or neighbor, or visit a Public Library.

Duck & Goose Applications (separate applications): You have 5 hunt area choices with 5 dates per hunt area. You may select the same area more than once to increase your date choices. Duck and Goose permits are separate, therefore, you may apply for and receive up to 5 of each.

- ⇒ Hunters under the age of 16 may apply for and receive a permit as long as they will be 16 by the day of the hunt. They must be at least 16 years of age at the time of the hunt for the permit to be valid to draw a pit, blind, or staked site/area.
- ⇒ Hunters applying for permits should understand that travel and transporting of all hunting equipment from designated parking areas to hunting locations and back may require walking a considerable distance.
- ⇒ Submitting more applications than permits allowed in the lotteries will result in the rejection of all applications and/or revocation of permits.
- ⇒ Successful applicants will not be mailed a permit, but can access the reservation inquiry system and print out the permit. Hunters applying on or after October 2 will be able to immediately print their permit or reprint their permit by accessing the reservation inquiry system. Permits are not transferable.

If you made a mistake on any portion of your application, mistakenly applied twice or need to cancel an application, notify DNR as soon as possible one of two ways: 1) Email us your name, birth date and a detailed explanation of what needs to be changed to DNR.Permits1@illinois.gov. Example: John Smith 01/01/1900 Change my Hunt Area Choice from Clinton Lake to Horseshoe Lake. 2) Call us at (217) 785-7305 (TTY-(217)782-9175).

LICENSE INFORMATION

You must have a valid Illinois Hunting, Sportsman's or Apprentice License unless you are:

- ⇒ An Illinois resident who is disabled. A State of Illinois disabled person I.D. card (available from the Secretary of State through the driver's license examining station) showing a P2, P2A, H2, or H2A disability.
- ⇒ An Illinois resident on active duty and on leave from the U.S. Armed Forces.
- ⇒ A disabled veteran. A veteran's disability card (at least 10% service related); available from local Illinois Department of Veteran's Affairs offices.

Hunters born on or after January 1, 1980 must have successfully completed the Hunter Safety Training Course provided by the Department unless you are:

- ⇒ Age 18 or under and hunting with a Youth Hunting and Trapping License and under the supervision of parent, grandparent or guardian who is 21 years of age or older and has a valid Illinois hunting license. The youth hunter shall not hunt or carry a hunting device unless the youth is accompanied by, and under the close personal supervision of one of these individuals.
- ⇒ Hunting with an Apprentice Hunter License. This license is available one time only to a resident or non-resident hunters. Those under age 17 must be accompanied by a parent, grandparent or guardians who has a valid Illinois resident or non-resident hunting license. Those 18 and older may be accompanied by any validly licensed Illinois hunter over the age of 21.
- ⇒ To obtain information about Hunter Safety Education classes scheduled in your area, call the Safety Education Unit 1-800-832-2599 or click [here](#).

WATERFOWL STAMP & H.I.P. REGISTRATION

Unless exempt, all hunters age 16 and older must possess both a Federal and State Migratory waterfowl stamp. Habitat Stamps are not required to hunt waterfowl. Licenses/stamps are available at [vendor locations](#) or [online](#).

Do you hunt doves, ducks, geese, snipe, woodcock, coots, or rails in Illinois? All licensed hunters must register with the H.I.P. if they intend to hunt migratory birds. It's free and it's easy. Registration with H.I.P. (National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program) is required to hunt migratory game birds in Illinois. H.I.P. certifications are available at [vendor locations](#) or [online](#).



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PUBLIC DUCK AND GOOSE PERMIT AREAS AND HUNTING INFORMATION



Click on the site name to familiarize yourself with site rules and hunting areas prior to your hunt. Site staff may not be present at all sites on hunt days.

DUCK AREAS

[Anderson Lake SFWA \(Fulton Co.\)](#) - 1.1 mile north of Browning on Rt. 100. Open every day, permits available Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. West Point Unit stakes (no blind) or unclaimed annual allocation blinds on Anderson or Carlson Lake. Boat recommended. Daily drawing for hunt location 1 hour prior to legal shooting hours. Permit holder may bring up to 3 guests. 3 permits available per day.

[Banner Marsh SFWA \(Fulton Co.\)](#) - 5 miles east of Banner on Rt. 24. Blinds, boats and decoys available. Daily drawing for hunt location 1 hour prior to legal shooting hours. Permit holder may bring up to 3 guests. 25 permits available per day. \$10 fee per hunter.

[Banner Marsh SFWA- Disabled \(1\)](#) - See information above and footnote below.

[Big Bend SFWA \(Whiteside Co.\)](#) - 4 miles west of Prophetstown on Vandamme Rd. Open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Walk-in hunting area assigned through permit system, no blinds. Permit holder may bring up to 3 guests. 2 permits available per day.

[Clinton Lake SRA- Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area \(DeWitt Co.\)](#) - 2 miles southwest of Farmer City on IL Rt. 54. Open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Blinds assigned through permit system. Permit holder may bring up to 3 guests. 2 permits available per day.

[Double T SFWA \(Fulton Co.\)](#) - 9 miles west of Canton, turn right on Co.Rd. 22H. Open every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. Daily drawing for hunt location at Rice Lake SFWA check station at 4:30 AM. Blinds and pits available. Permit holder may bring up to 3 guests. 6 permits available per day.

[Embarrass River Bottoms SHA \(Lawrence Co.\)](#) - 5 miles southeast of Lawrenceville near Billet. Open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday except during firearm deer seasons. Walk-in hunting areas assigned through permit system. Permit holder may bring up to 3 guests. 4 permits available per day.

[Horseshoe Lake SFWA \(Alexander Co.\)](#) - On Rt.3, 12 miles northwest of Cairo near Olive Branch. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays and December 24-28. Sites open with the Southern Zone Duck Season through the Canada Geese Season and on December 28, when the site will be open for a special youth waterfowl hunt ONLY. Blinds and pits available. Daily drawing to determine hunt locations. Permit holders may bring one hunting partner or 2 non-hunting partners. 15 permits available per day. \$10 fee per hunter.

[Horseshoe Lake SFWA- Disabled \(1\)](#) - See information above and footnote below.

[Kidd Lake SNA \(Monroe Co.\)](#) - 5 miles north of Prairie du Rocher on Kidd Lake Rd off Bluff Rd. Open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Walk-in hunting from pits or staked locations assigned through permit system. Permit holder may bring up to 2 guests. 2 permits available per day.

[Larry D. Closson SHA \(Douglas Co.\)](#) - 1.5 miles southeast of Hindsboro, 1/4 mile south on Co Rd 1975. Open Sundays in October and November and Saturdays in December, excluding the first weekend in November which marks the opening of pheasant season. Walk-in hunting at wetland on site. Permit holder may bring up to 3 guests. 1 permit per day.

[Marshall SFWA Duck Ranch Unit \(Marshall/Putnam Co.\)](#) - East side of Illinois River, east and south of Henry and Rt. 18. Open every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Blinds available. Daily drawing for hunt location at Marshall SFWA check station. Permit holder may bring up to 3 guests. 3 permits available per day. \$10 fee per hunter.

[Mermet Lake SFWA \(Massac Co.\)](#) - 11 miles north of Metropolis. Controlled Hunting Area open Tuesday through Saturday. Blinds and pools available, boats for rent. Walk-in areas open every day, no draw required. Daily drawing is 2 hours prior to sunrise for hunt location. Permit holder may bring up to 3 guests. 27 permits available per day.

Footnote for Duck and Goose (1): One blind will be allocated each day of the hunting season to a disabled person. Successful applicants must present a State Disabled person I.D. card showing a P2, P2A, H2, or H2A disability, along with their permit, at the check station when checking in for the hunt.



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DUCK AREAS CONTINUED

[Mermet Lake SFWA- Disabled \(1\)](#) - See information above and footnote below.

[Moraine Hills SP-Black Crown Marsh Unit \(Lake & McHenry Co.\)](#) - 3.5 miles east of McHenry. Lily Lake Rd to Wgner Rd. Open every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday of northern zone duck season. Walk-in hunting from marsh shoreline. No blinds or decoys provided. Permit holder may bring up to 3 guests. 1 permit per day.

[Rice Lake SFWA Walk-In Units \(Fulton Co.\)](#) - 3 miles south of Banner on Rt. 24. Open every day of the central zone duck season. Walk-In hunting, but boat recommended to access some locations. 3 hunt areas rotated daily. Daily drawing to determine hunt locations at 5 A.M. Permit holders may bring 2 guests. 5 permits available per day.

[Spring Lake SFWA-Spring Lake Bottoms Unit \(Tazewell Co.\)](#) - 5 mi. northwest of Manito. Hunting is allowed on opening day and every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday during the central zone duck season except the 2nd Sunday in November which is closed for the Youth Hunt. Blinds available. Daily drawing to determine hunt locations. Permit holders may bring 3 guests. 4 permits available per day. \$10 fee per hunter.

[Union County SFWA](#) - On Rt. 3, 6 miles south of Ware, turn east 1/4 Mi. at Reynoldsville. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays and December 24-28. Sites open with the Southern Zone Duck Season through the Canada Goose Season and on December 28 when the site will be open for a special youth waterfowl hunt ONLY. Blinds and pits available. Daily drawing to determine hunt locations. Permit holders may bring one hunting partner or 2 non-hunting partners. 20 permits available per day. \$10 fee per hunter.

[Union County SFWA Disabled \(1\)](#) - See information above and footnote below.

GOOSE AREAS

[Horseshoe Lake \(Alexander Co.\)](#) - On Rt.3, 12 miles northwest of Cairo near Olive Branch. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays and December 24-28. Sites open with the Southern Zone Duck Season through the Canada Geese Season and on December 28, when the site will be open for a special youth waterfowl hunt ONLY. Blinds and pits available. Daily drawing to determine hunt locations. Permit holders may bring one hunting partner or 2 non-hunting partners. 15 permits available per day. \$10 fee per hunter.

[Horseshoe Lake Disabled \(1\)](#)- See information above and footnote below.

[Moraine Hills - Black Crown Marsh Unit](#) - 1 mile south of Lakemoor on Darrell Rd. Open every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday of goose season . Walk-in field hunting. No blinds or decoys provided; portable blinds recommended. Permit holder may bring up to 3 guests. 1 permit available per day, field assigned through permit system.

[Snakeden Hollow \(Knox Co.\)](#) - On Rt. 167, 1 mile east of Victoria. Closed Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and December 24-26. Permit holders may bring 1 guest. 8 permits available per day. \$15 fee per hunter.

[Snakeden Hollow Disabled \(1\)](#) - See information above and footnote below.

[Union County](#) - On Rt. 3, 6 miles south of Ware, turn east 1/4 Mi. at Reynoldsville. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays and December 24-28. Sites open with the Southern Zone Duck Season through the Canada Goose Season and on December 28 when the site will be open for a special youth waterfowl hunt ONLY. Blinds and pits available. Daily drawing to determine hunt locations. Permit holders may bring one hunting partner or 2 non-hunting partners. 20 permits available per day. \$10 fee per hunter.

[Union County Disabled \(1\)](#) - See information above and footnote below.

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