

CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS RELATED TO HUNTING IN ILLINOIS

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) reminds Illinois Concealed Carry Permit holders that they must comply with current wildlife code laws and regulations while hunting in Illinois. Below are some common questions and answers to help guide Concealed Carry Permit holders who hunt on or utilize IDNR properties

1) May a person possessing a valid Illinois Concealed Carry Permit carry a concealed firearm when deer or turkey hunting?

Under the current regulations, Concealed Carry Permit holders **are not** allowed to possess **any** firearm, including a concealed firearm, when deer or turkey hunting unless the firearm carried is legal for taking the species being hunted. For example, an archery deer hunter would not be able to carry **any** firearm, whether concealed or not, when archery deer hunting. However, if a concealed carry permit holder is hunting deer during the legal "firearm" deer seasons, he/she may carry a concealed firearm, **but only if that firearm is of the legal type for firearm deer hunting**. It is not unlawful for a Concealed Carry Permit hunter to possess a concealed firearm in their vehicle. The specifications for legal deer hunting handguns can be found on page 17 of the 2013-2014 Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations at the following link; <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/HuntingTrappingDigests.aspx>

2) May an Illinois Concealed Carry Permit holder, who is training or running hunting dogs during the period when the hunting season is closed, carry a concealed firearm?

No. No person in any dog training party, during any period in which it is unlawful to take such species being pursued (closed hunting season) shall be in possession of a firearm, including a concealed firearm, unless such firearm is a pistol **capable of firing only blank cartridges**. In addition, no person in the dog training party shall be in possession of live ammunition.

3) May an Illinois Concealed Carry Permit holder be in possession of a concealed firearm when hunting or trapping any species, with the exception of questions 1 and 2 above?

Yes. With the exception of deer, turkey, or dog training as explained in questions 1 and 2 above, an Illinois Concealed Carry Permit holder may **possess** a concealed firearm on their person or in their motor vehicle while in the field hunting or trapping any species of wildlife, unless the Concealed Carry Permit holder is in one of the prohibited areas listed in the Illinois Concealed Carry Act. Trappers, who have a Concealed Carry Permit, may conceal carry their .22 while in a vehicle or on an ATV while checking traps.

4) May an Illinois Concealed Carry Permit holder use his/her concealed firearm to shoot the species which they are hunting?

Only if the concealed firearm carried is authorized by the Wildlife Code **and** IDNR administrative rules to take (shoot) the particular species of wildlife being hunted.

5) On what IDNR properties may an Illinois Concealed Carry Permit holder carry a concealed firearm?

Illinois Concealed Carry Permit holders may carry a concealed firearm on any IDNR real property (including bike trails, trails, or any other designated public hunting area or building where firearm possession is permitted by the IDNR) **with the following exceptions:** All IDNR Office buildings, including but not limited to the Joel D. Brunsvold Building (IDNR Springfield Headquarters Building), IDNR Regional Office buildings, IDNR State Museum buildings, and any other IDNR building marked with the ISP-approved sign prohibiting firearms. All firearms, including concealed firearms, are also prohibited on all IDNR State Refuge areas, IDNR Dedicated Nature Preserves, and IDNR children playground areas. When visiting any of these locations, Concealed Carry Permit holders are required to secure their concealed firearms in their vehicle in accordance with the Illinois Concealed Carry Act.

6) Can an Illinois Concealed Carry Permit holder possess a concealed firearm on or in a watercraft, off-highway vehicle, or snowmobile?

Yes, but only if the watercraft, off-highway vehicle, or snowmobile is operated in an area not prohibited under the Concealed Carry Act.

More information regarding the Illinois Concealed Carry Act can be viewed on the Illinois State Police web site at <https://ccl4illinois.com/ccw/public/home.aspx> . For other questions regarding the Illinois Concealed Carry Act related to activities regulated by the IDNR, persons may call the IDNR Office of Law Enforcement at 217-782-6431.