

FIREARM DEER
Rules & Regulations for Hunting at
Chain O'Lakes State Park

INTRODUCTION: The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for providing outdoor recreation opportunities for the resident of the State. Of particular concern is providing adequate safe hunting areas on public lands throughout the State. This Hunter Fact Sheet contains information relating to the hunting program at Chain O'Lakes State Park.

DIRECTIONS: Site office is located on Wilmot Rd., just south of Route 173.

DESCRIPTION: Total area: 6,023 acres; huntable acres 2,500 consisting of woodland, prairie, marsh and ponds.

1. All regulations found in the Illinois Wildlife Code and Administrative Orders 510 & 650 will apply unless area regulations are more restrictive.
2. Hunting Dates: First season of statewide firearm season. Hunting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
3. Check in anytime after 4:30 am. Hunters must sign in; sign out, at main entrance. If a hunter needs to leave the park for any reason, they must check out prior to leaving.
4. Back patches will be issued and must be worn while hunting. Also cap and upper outer garment of solid & vivid blaze orange of at least 400 sq. in.
5. It is the hunter's responsibility to tag their deer with the leg/antler tag immediately upon kill and before the deer is moved, transported or field dressed.
6. Parking in designated parking areas only. All vehicles must remain on park roads (no driving down the trails).
7. Spectators (non-hunters) are prohibited.
8. Hunting Stations: There are 40 stations. Hunters are required to hunt from elevated stands (6 feet minimum above ground) and within a 50 yard radius of the hunter station marker. Tree stands and climbing devices must be portable & may not cut or pierce the tree bark, but do not have to be removed at the end of each day. Pruning branches up to 1 ½ "diameter is allowed on the stand tree only.
9. Permits are allocated during the spring statewide fire arm permit lottery. Additional either sex permits may be purchased on site.
10. A mandatory meeting & lottery for the specific hunting stations will be conducted at the park office on the third Sunday in September.
11. Deer stands will be allowed to be put in place beginning Thursday after 12 pm. Check in at check station prior to entering the park. All stands must be removed by Sunday.
12. Alcoholic beverages are absolutely prohibited.
13. Plastic markers or flagging tape are prohibited.
14. Shotgun with slugs, muzzle loading rifles, or handguns identified by regulations is legal for statewide use during the firearm deer season. Firearms must be unloaded and fully enclosed in a case, except while the hunter is in an elevated stand or as otherwise authorized by an employee of the IDNR. This requires your firearm to be cased whenever you are on the ground.
15. If it is necessary to track deer onto private property, you must first notify the check station and then obtain permission from the landowner. All property around the park is privately owned, please respect their rights.

For more information please contact: Site Superintendent, 8916 Wilmot Rd., Spring Grove, IL 60081, 847/587-5512 or District Wildlife Biologist, 815/675-2386 ext215.