



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

FREE DOVE HUNTING PERMIT



2026-27 Hunting Season

Instructions for applying online at: dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/dovehunting.html

APPLICATION DATES

June 30. The **second lottery is July 6 through July 20** for those unsuccessful resident applicants from the first lottery, residents who did not apply in the first lottery and non-residents. Hunters can acquire their first or second permit on a **first-come first-served basis beginning at 8:00 AM, July 27th through August 25th. Permits will not be available past August 25th.**

APPLICATION INFORMATION

- All initial applications for the Free Dove Hunting Permit program must be made via the Internet accessible at dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/dovehunting.html
- Navigate to Hunting ► Dove ► Free Dove Permit One Stop page.
- If you do not have a computer, ask for assistance from a relative, friend or neighbor, or go to a Public Library.
- **Kids must be between 10 and 17 to be eligible for Youth and Youth/Adult Permit Sites.**

APPLY FOR MULTIPLE SITES

Applicants may apply for five (5) sites and dates to hunt.

Please note: Drawings for permits at state sites may be canceled at any time due to flooding, weather, staff shortages or other conditions beyond DNR's control. There is also a chance that some fields will not be planted or managed due to budget issues or weather. Hunters are urged to scout sites before applying and select additional sites on their permit application.

APPLY WITH PARTNER

Applicants can list a partner on an application. If the applicant is successfully drawn, both the applicant and partner will receive a permit for the same date and hunting area. Partners cannot: 1) already have applied or 2) apply later on another application.

- Applicants submitting more than one application in each of the OPEN, YOUTH/ADULT and YOUTH categories prior to the first-come first-served period will be rejected and/or revoked.
- Successful applicants must access the reservation inquiry system to print out the permit and regulations for the site.
- Permits are not transferable.

HOW TO FIX ONLINE APPLICATION ERRORS

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 by emailing DNR.Upland@illinois.gov and include your name, birth date and IDNR customer number. Your application will be cancelled and you will need to re-apply with the correct information. **We will notify you once your application is deleted and the system is ready for your new application.**
- Call (217) 785-2614 or email DNR.Wildliferecep@illinois.gov for technical questions regarding the dove hunting program or hunting site specific questions.

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR HUNTING AREAS AND INFORMATION

FREE DOVE HUNTING PERMIT AREAS AND HUNTING



Dove hunting at the areas listed is by permit only for the first five days of the season, Sept. 1-5. Thereafter, no permits from Springfield Office are required. Note that some sites require windshield permits for hunting after Sept. 5 which can be obtained online or from the site. **The Youth and Youth/Adult hunt is on Sept. 5.**

HUNTING INFORMATION (ALL AREAS)

- NONTOXIC SHOT ONLY
 - Shot size: 6 non-toxic steel or smaller or 7 1/2 bismuth or smaller
 - **Exception: Lead allowed at Iroquois County SWA—only**
- Hunting hours: Noon - 5 p.m.
 - **Exception: Sunrise—11:30 am at Johnson Sauk Trail SP**
- Permits are not transferable
- Dove daily limit: 15 (1)
- Dove possession limit: 30 after the first hunting day (1)

(1) The daily bag and possession limits include mourning doves and white-winged doves in the aggregate. There is no bag limit on Eurasian-collared doves, pigeons, and ringed turtle doves. Hunters may not remain in the field for the purpose of taking Eurasian-collared doves, pigeons or ringed turtle doves after they reach their daily bag limit for mourning/white-winged doves.

OPEN (all ages)

- **Check in time: Consult Hunting Site page or contact site for exact times.**
- Stand-by permits: May be filled by a daily drawing if there are more stand-by hunters than openings available.
- **Permits void after allotted check-in time.**

[Big Bend - Whiteside Co. \(a\)](#)

[Des Plaines SFWA \(a\)](#)

[Edward R. Madigan \(Railsplitter\) SP \(a\)](#)

[Green River SWA \(a\)](#)

[Horseshoe Lake SP – Madison Co. \(Bend Road Unit\) \(a\)](#)

[Iroquois County SWA](#)

[Jim Edgar Panther Creek SFWA \(a\)\(e\)](#)

[Johnson Sauk Trail State Park \(a\)](#)

[Kankakee River SP \(a\)](#)

[Mackinaw River SFWA \(a\)\(b\)](#)

[Matthiessen —Starved Rock SP \(a\)](#)

[Sangchris Lake SP \(a\)](#)

[Silver Springs SFWA \(a\)](#)

[Snakeden Hollow SFWA/Victoria Pheasant Habitat Area \(a\)](#)

YOUTH ONLY & YOUTH/ADULT (permit required) (c)(d)

- **Check in time: 10-11 a.m.**
- Stand-by permits available at the site by lottery drawing if vacancies occur.
- Each youth must be accompanied by a supervising adult.
- Permit for Youth/Adult areas entitles supervising adult to hunt.
- **Permits void after 11 a.m.**

(YOUTH AND ADULT ALLOWED TO HUNT)

[Jim Edgar Panther Creek SFWA \(a\)](#)

[Jubilee College State Park \(a\)](#)

[Kankakee River SP \(a\)](#)

[Mackinaw River SFWA \(a\)](#)

[Mt. Vernon Game Farm \(a\)](#)

[Ramsey Lake SP \(a\)](#)

[Sam Parr SFWA \(a\)](#)

[Sangchris Lake SP \(a\)](#)

[Silver Springs SFWA \(a\)](#)

(YOUTH ONLY ALLOWED TO HUNT)

[Horseshoe Lake SP – Madison Co. \(Bend Road Unit\) \(a\)](#)

(a) non-toxic shot only

(b) each permit holder is allowed one hunting partner

(c) Youth & Youth/Adult hunts - each youth must be accompanied by a supervising adult. If the supervising adult is participating in the Youth/Adult hunt, all license requirements must be met.

(d) **Youth applicants must be between the ages of 10-17 inclusive**

(e) Check in time is 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

H.I.P. REGISTRATION

Annual registration with HIP (National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program) is a requirement for all dove hunters in Illinois. HIP registration is free and available at IDNR vendor locations, online at exploremoreIL.com or by calling (866) 668-6868

HABITAT STAMP

Before any person 18 years of age or older takes, attempts to take or pursues any species of wildlife protected by the Wildlife Code, except migratory waterfowl, coots and hand reared birds on licensed game breeding and hunting preserve areas and state controlled pheasant hunting areas, he or she shall first obtain a State Habitat Stamp. Disabled veterans, former prisoners of war and persons who obtained a Lifetime License before Jan. 1, 1993, are not required to obtain a State Habitat Stamp.

LICENSE INFORMATION

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

- an Illinois resident who is disabled and has a State 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 with a veteran's disability card (at least 10% service related), available from local Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs offices.

Hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1980 must show proof that they have successfully completed the DNR Hunter Safety Training Course. To obtain information about Hunter Safety Education classes scheduled in your area, visit dnr.illinois.gov/safety or call the Safety Education Unit 1-800-832-2599.

ILLINOIS YOUTH AND APPRENTICE HUNTING LICENSE

Any resident youth hunter age 18 and under may purchase a Youth Hunting License, which does not require the hunter to have a Hunter Education Card. A youth hunter with this license must hunt while supervised by a parent, grandparent or guardian who is 21 years of age or older and has a valid Illinois hunting license. An Apprentice Hunting License is also available and allows persons age 17 and under to hunt with a parent, grandparent or guardian. For additional information, please see the Hunting and Trapping Digest.

For more copies of this document visit our website at: dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/dovehunting.html