



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 nonresidents)
- Third Lottery: September 16 through 28 (open to all applicants)

Beginning October 1, hunters 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.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

All applications must be made via the Internet, accessible [here](#).

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 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.
- Hunters applying for permits should understand that travel and transporting of all hunting equipment from designated parking areas to hunting locations 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 1 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 IDNR 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.Waterfowl@illinois.gov. 2) Call us at (217) 785-6384.

LICENSE INFORMATION

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

- An Illinois resident who is disabled 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 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 a legally licensed adult who is at least 21 years old. 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 Hunting License. This license is available one time only to resident or non-resident hunters. Apprentice Hunting License holders must be accompanied by a validly licensed adult at least 21 years of age.
- 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 a Federal Duck Stamp and all hunters age 18 and older must possess an Illinois migratory waterfowl stamp. Habitat Stamps are not required to hunt waterfowl. Licenses/stamps are available at [vendor locations](#) or [online](#).

Hunters must register with the H.I.P. if they intend to hunt migratory birds. H.I.P. certifications are available at [vendor locations](#) or [online](#).



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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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. 1 permit 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 and muzzleloader deer seasons. Walk-in hunting areas assigned through permit system. Permit holder may bring up to 3 guests. 1 permit available per day.

Fox Creek SFWA (Richland Co. & Wayne Co.) - 10 miles southwest of Olney. Open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of regular duck season except during the first firearm deer season. Permit holders may bring up to 3 guests. 2 permits per day.

Horseshoe Lake SFWA (Alexander Co.) - On Rt.3, 12 miles northwest of Cairo near Olive Branch. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays and December 24-26. Site open for the South Zone Duck Season. Blinds and pits available. Daily drawing to determine hunt locations. Permit holders may bring one hunting partner or 2 non-hunting partners. 10 permits available per day. \$10 fee per hunter.

Horseshoe Lake SFWA- Disabled (1) - See information above and footnote below.

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 and January, excluding the opening weekend 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, excluding Christmas. Blinds 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.

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 Wagner 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.

(1): One blind will be allocated each day of the hunting season to a disabled person. Successful applicants must present an 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

Rice Lake SFWA Walk-In Units (Fulton Co.) - 3 miles south of Banner on Rt. 24. Open every day of the regular 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.) - Due to ongoing construction and maintenance at the site, permits will not be awarded for the 2026-2027 duck season.

Union County SFWA - On Rt. 3, 6 miles south of Ware, turn east 1/4 Mi. at Reynoldsville. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays and December 24-26. Sites open for the South Zone Duck Season. 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.

Union County SFWA Disabled (1) - See information above and footnote below.

GOOSE AREAS

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, 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.

(1): One blind will be allocated each day of the hunting season to a disabled person. Successful applicants must present an 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.