



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. **First lottery** applications accepted August 16–31. Illinois residents only. **Second lottery** deadline is September 15. Open to residents who did not receive a first lottery permit and non-residents. **Third lottery** deadline is September 28. Open to all applicants to apply for a first or second permit. 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, until their 5 permit quota is reached.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

All initial applications for the Free Waterfowl Hunting Permit program 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 go to 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, 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 will be notified by email or 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 (Example: 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 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 Veterans' 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 resident or non-resident hunters. Those under age 17 must be accompanied by a parent, grandparent or guardian 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](#), by phone at 1-888-6Permit or [online](#).

Do you hunt doves, ducks, geese, snipe, woodcock, coots or rails in Illinois? All licensed hunters must register with HIP 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. HIP certifications are available at DNR Direct Automated License System agents, by phone at 1-888-6Permit or online. Lifetime licenses holders must register annually with HIP.

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.) - 11 mi. north of Browning on Rt. 100. Open every day, permits available Tuesday, Thursday, 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 hr. prior to legal shooting hours. Permit holder may bring up to 3 guests. 3 permits available per day.

Banner Marsh SFWA (Fulton Co.) - 5 mi. 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 mi. 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 County) - 2 mi. southwest of Farmer City on IL Route 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 mi. 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.

Embarras River Bottoms SHA (Lawrence Co.) - 5 mi. southeast of Lawrenceville near Billet. Open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday except during gun deer seasons. Walk-in hunting areas assigned through permit system. Permit holder may bring up to 3 guests. 1 permit available per day.

Horseshoe Lake SFWA (Alexander Co.) - On Rt. 3, 12 mi. 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 Goose Season and on December 28, when the site will be open for a special youth waterfowl hunt. 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 mi. 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 mi. southeast of Hindsboro, 1/4 mi. south on Co Rd 1975. Open Sundays in October and November and Saturdays in December. 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 Tues-Sat, blinds and pools available, boats for rent. Walk-in areas open every day, no draw required. Daily drawing 2 hrs 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 mi. east of McHenry. Lily Lake Rd to Wegner Rd. Open every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday of duck season. Walk-in hunting from marsh shoreline. No blinds or decoys provided. Permit holder may bring up to 3 guests. 1 permit available per day.

Rice Lake SFWA Walk-In Units (Fulton Co.) - 3 mi. south of Banner on Rt. 24. Open every day. 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 duck hunting season except the second 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 mi. 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. 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

Moraine Hills - Black Crown Marsh Unit - 1 mi. south of Lakemoor on Darrell Rd. Open every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday of goose season. Walk-in field hunting. No blinds or decoys provided, portable blinds recommended. Permit holder may bring up to 3 guests. 2 permits available per day, field assigned through permit system.

Snakeden Hollow (Knox Co.) - On Rt. 167, 1 mi. 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.

Horseshoe Lake SFWA (Alexander Co.) - Dates after close of duck season. See DUCK AREAS for partner and fee information.

Union County SFWA - Dates after close of duck season - See DUCK AREAS for partner and fee information.

Footnotes 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 they check in.

