



# Jackson County Illinois Public Land Deer Hunting Opportunities

*Of the top 20 counties, Jackson County currently stands 8<sup>th</sup> for the state.*

Deer hunting activity in deep Southern Illinois continues to increase. There are many public land opportunities for hunters to choose from in Jackson County. In Illinois, private land can only be entered after permission has been obtained. But, the following list of public land can offer some quality hunts to those who do not have access to private land. We hope you find this information useful.

Shawnee National Forest – 50,000 acres. No 4-wheelers, equine only on approved trails, primitive camping allowed, hunting open to public following statewide regulations. Maps available for \$6 each. For more information, phone 618-687-1731.

Lake Kinkaid State Fish and Wildlife Area – 3,100 acres. Sign in/sign out required, hunting open to public following statewide regulations, no 4-wheelers, no horses, licensed vehicles on access roads during 7-day shotgun season. For more information, phone 618-684-2867.

Giant City State Park – 1,674 acres. Sign in/sign out required, statewide hunting regulations followed, no 4-wheelers, no horses, camping available with 85 Class A sites and 14 primitive. Camping fee required. For more information, phone 618-457-4836.

Pyramid State Park – 520 acres. Sign in/sign out required, no 4-wheelers, no horses, hunting follows statewide regulations. For more information, phone 618-357-2574.

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge – 335 acres. Access fee required, no 4-wheelers, equine currently granted access, statewide regulations followed. For more information, call 618-997-3344.

Kinkaid-Reeds' Creek Conservancy District – approximately 100 acres which mostly joins Kinkaid Wildlife Area. No special requirements but hunting follows statewide regulations. For more information, phone 618-687-2951.

Lake Murphysboro State Park – No hunting allowed, 54 electric campsites, 20 primitive campsites – showers closed during deer season. For more information, phone 618-684-2867

If you should decide a guided or semi-guided hunt is to your advantage, you might consider an outfitter. Outfitters by Illinois law should be licensed and can make no guarantee. A complete outfitters listing is available on IDNR website.



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*University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities  
in programs and employment.*

The acreage stated is approximate.

Use only portable type stands – no holes may be made in any trees. Stands must be tagged with name, address, zip code, phone number.

State sites require sign in/sign out.

State sites with camping sites require camping fees.

Primitive camp sites on federal land are allowed in most areas. No fee or permit required.

Crab Orchard Refuge does not allow camping.

Plat books are available at Jackson County Farm Bureau Office, 220 North 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Murphysboro, IL 62966 for a fee of \$26.81 including tax. The office phone number is 618-684-3129. This should be used only as a guide. Land ownership changes daily throughout the county.

### **For hunting success, consider the following:**

Go deeper into the woods. Most hunters hunt the edges. But when you go deeper, take a wheel transport to bring the animal out after harvest.

Lock and tag your stand. This way your stand will be there when you come back and the tag tells everyone who is there. (Name, address, phone, zip)

Stay in your stand longer. Those hunters leaving early or walking about could send a deer your way. Many quality deer have been taken mid-day.

Scout. Look for rubs on saplings and scrape signs on the ground. These signs tell you deer are present and using the area.

Be a marksman. Practice and know your limits and your weapon. Many trophies have been lost to poor shot selection.

Kinkaid Lake Fish & Wildlife Area – Lake Murphysboro State Park  
52 Cinder Hill Drive  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
Phone: 618-684-2867

US Forest Service – District Ranger  
2221 Walnut Street  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
Phone: 618-687-1731

Kinkaid-Reed's Creek Conservancy District  
1763 Waterplant Road  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
Phone: 618-687-2951

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge  
8588 Route 148  
Marion, IL 62959  
Phone: 618-997-3344

Giant City State Park  
235 Giant City Road  
Makanda, IL 62958  
Phone: 618-457-4836

Pyramid State Park  
1562 Pyramid Park Road  
Pinckneyville, IL 62274  
Phone: 357-2574

*Prepared by:  
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Jackson County  
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