



**Oak Mountain State Park
State Park Special Opportunity Area
Urban Deer Management Program
Hunt Guidelines/Rules**

This public hunting opportunity is a cooperative effort between the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division and the Alabama State Parks Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR).

State Park Special Opportunity Area (SPSOA) hunts serve as a wildlife management tool to help reduce the deer population within park boundaries. This population reduction is essential for maintaining a healthy and balanced ecosystem for both plant and animal species.

Successful applicants may be accompanied by a hunting guest(s) 16 years or older as outlined below. Permit holders and their appropriate guest(s) must remain within their assigned hunt unit during hunting. Each hunting unit is clearly defined on the State Park Special Opportunity Area (SPSOA) map.

Following hunt registration and permit selection, permit holders will receive an email with instructions on how to pay the SPSOA fee. After the "payment window" has passed all hunters who have paid the SPSOA fee will receive additional information covering specific SPSOA information and unit assignments.

Note:

- A valid State Hunting License and Wildlife Management Area (WMA) License are required to register for a limited quota hunt at SPSOA and must be held by all archery deer hunt permit holders and their guests.
- The statewide antlered buck season bag limit applies to all SPSOAs. All harvested deer must be recorded, with data collected at the kiosk and reported through Game Check.
- Administrators of the hunt shall have the right to inspect all vehicles or other equipment while on the park.
- Any violation of SPSOA regulations (220-2-.55 and 222-2-.140), or any other applicable law while hunting at Oak Mountain State Park, will result in loss of eligibility for future SOA and SPSOA hunts.
- Failure to unregister at least 7 days before the scheduled hunt, or to notify State Park personnel of a cancellation within 7 days of the assigned hunt dates at Oak Mountain State Park, will result in loss of eligibility for future SOA and SPSOA hunts.
- Hunters shall only hunt in their assigned unit.
- Hunters may scout during regular Oak Mountain State Park hours, except during scheduled hunts. (Day-use fees apply.)

- All hunters must attend the mandatory meeting. The meeting will be held at 12:00 PM on the first day of the hunt at the archery range.

OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK – STATE PARK SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY HUNTING AREA (Shelby County)

Archery Only Deer Hunts:

Hunting on the Oak Mountain State Park SPSOA is prohibited unless the individual has been selected through a random draw for a limited quota permit for specific hunt dates and an assigned hunt unit. The permit holder and one guest may access and hunt only the designated unit during the permitted times and dates. Substitutions are not allowed.

It is unlawful for any limited quota permit holder to hunt without first obtaining a daily permit from the self-service kiosk box located at the Archery Park.

Daily Check-in/out:

Hunters must be checked out of their units no later than 1.5 hours after legal sunset on Days 1 – 3 of the hunt.

On Day 4, hunters must be checked out of their hunt unit by 6:30 PM.

- Parking permits will be issued at the mandatory hunters meeting.

Hunting Guidelines:

- Each hunter may harvest up to four deer total during the hunt.
- Only one antlered deer may be harvested per hunter during the permit period.
- Antlered deer must have at least four (4) points on one side.
- All harvested deer must be reported, and required biological data must be submitted.
- Hunters must email photos of their harvest to the State Park Natural Resource Section.
- Statewide harvest regulations apply.

Deer hunters must record the harvest date, sex, lactation status, weight, and antler measurements on Observation/Harvest Report forms available at the SPSOA kiosk. They are also required to extract the jawbone and deposit it in the designated location at the kiosk.

(Shelby County)

DEER: (Archery) Stalk Hunting Hunter's Choice:

Hunting Schedule 2026-2027:

November 2 – November 5, 2026
November 9 – November 12, 2026
November 30 – December 3, 2026
December 7 – December 10, 2026
December 14 – December 17, 2026
December 28 – December 31, 2026
January 18 – January 21, 2027
January 25 – January 28, 2027
February 1 – February 4, 2027