



Des Plaines State Fish & Wildlife Area
28163 N. River Road, Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 423-5326

FIELD TRIALS & DOG TRAINING

Field Trials

Des Plaines hosts one of the largest and most heavily used field trial programs in the state. As many as four (4) trials are run simultaneously on the three ground and four (4) water courses during the spring and fall trialing seasons.

Some of the breeds that routinely trial at Des Plaines are Brittany Spaniels, English Pointers and Setters, German Shorthaired Pointers, Vizslas, Weimaraners, Beagles, Springer Spaniels, Labrador Retrievers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, German Wirehaired Pointers, and Irish Setters.

If you wish to inquire about grounds availability, please contact trial scheduling at (217) 785-8129. Seasonal trial schedules are available online. Schedule openings are tight as we currently host many trials per year.

Dog Training West Grounds

All of the grounds west of I-55 are open to sporting dog training from mid January through late October.

Training Guidelines:

- Blank ammunition only. (If you would like to use live ammunition, please make a reservation with park staff for the East Grounds.)
- Park vehicles in a designated, open, numbered parking lot.
- Display Windshield Care in vehicle dash. (Instructions below)
- No intrusions on trials in progress.
- No horses.

To obtain a Windshield Card for dog training:

1. <https://dnr2.illinois.gov/Windshieldcard/>
2. Go to Forest/Upland Game/Deer (and Dog Training) Print Windshield Card Start Here button.
3. Select NE region.
4. Under Hunter Information, enter Customer Number.
5. Under Site Information, select Des Plaines SFWA.
6. Select Next Step.
7. Check the Dog Training box.
8. Read and sign the Acknowledgement Statement.
9. Print your Windshield Card and display whenever you are dog training.