

SAND RIDGE STATE FOREST

Sparks Pond State Natural Area

Located between Forest City and Manito, off the Manito Blacktop, the Sparks Tract contains 230.7 acres. Of this, 170 acres are timber and 60 acres were farmed fields retired to prairie grass in the spring of 1996. Approximately 30 acres are restricted and closed to hunting. In addition, two privately owned in holdings are posted and closed to hunting without landowner permission. The area also has three ponds, home for two state endangered or threatened species. Access to the area is via a gravel road approximately 2 mile north of Forest City on the Manito Blacktop; turn left at Edgewood Terrace mobile home park (2250N). Follow the gravel road to the hunter parking lot. Limited hunting is allowed for fall archery season and upland game. Squirrel, dove, firearm deer or turkey (spring included), fall muzzle loading, and furbearer hunting are not permitted.

Hunters have the opportunity to apply for free upland game hunts at Sparks Pond SNA. Application forms can be obtained by contacting your IDNR Regional Office at 618/462-1181 or the Permit Office in Springfield at 217/782-7305 or go online <<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov>>. Applicants may receive only one hunting permit each year. A drawing will be held in September at the Permit Office in Springfield to fill all available hunting dates. Additional information can be found on the application. Each hunter selected may bring up to 3 partners.

Upland Game Hunters are able to hunt **Rollo Prairie**. This land is located northeast of the intersection 2900E County Road 2400N in Mason County. This location is just north of Sparks Pond on 2900E. Hunters need to stay away from all places of residence at a distance of 100 yards.

Copies of statewide regulations are available at forest headquarters, and will apply at the Sparks Pond State Natural Area..

Please Remember that Safe Hunting is No Accident!!!

For more information, contact **Sand Ridge State Forest, P.O. Box 111, Forest City, IL 61532** or by phone #309-597-2212 or by fax #309-597-2240 or go online @ <<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov>>.

Updated
March 10, 2012 jwm