

Henry Allan Gleason State Natural Area

Located in Mason County adjacent to the Sand Ridge State Forest, Henry Allan Gleason State Natural Area is 120 acres in size. Cover is primarily warm season grass and low growing woody shrubs interspersed with American Plum and Blackjack Oak thickets. Topography is that of a 60+ foot sand hill or dune with several blowouts (open bare sand areas). Soils are all sand, and there is no open water on the site. The site is bounded on the east and north by Sand Ridge State Forest and on the west and south by private land.

To access the area, travel north 4 miles on Mason County Road 2800E from US 136 to Forest City. At the intersection, turn west on Mason County Highway #20 and go 5 miles to Mason County Road 2300E. Turn north on 2300E and go approximately 2 miles to a signed parking lot on the west side of the road. A fire lane leads west out of the parking lot about 1/8 mile to the natural area.

Whitetail deer is the only species open to hunting. Firearm deer hunting permits are procured through random drawing, applications available online or at DNR offices. Archery deer hunting is by statewide permit available online or at licensed vendors. All hunters are required to register on internet web page <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/programs/windshieldcard/>. Sand Ridge State Forest is in the drop down box for region 4. Each hunter must register for a free site parking permit prior to hunting. Parking permits must be posted and visible from outside of vehicles. The completed permit must be returned within 30 days after close of season to record harvest. Permits are not valid until registration is completely filled out. **Deer stands or ground blinds must be removed at the end of each day's hunt.**

For further information, contact Sand Ridge State Forest, P.O. Box 111, Forest City, IL., 61532, phone (309) 597-2212 or go online at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov>.

March 10, 2012 jwm