

# Natural Resource Management Hunt

August 21<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>

Reed Bingham State Park will be working with the Wildlife Resource Division to conduct an alligator hunt to benefit visitors, staff, and the alligator population. Protected wildlife in state parks, such as deer, bears and alligators, can flourish leading to changes in their natural response to humans. The objective of this hunt is to facilitate appropriate, natural behaviors of alligators, while maintaining a healthy population. Equally important is the promotion of responsible human behaviors, such as not feeding and giving alligators distance when they are encountered.



- Hunting will only occur at dark, Sunday night through Friday morning
- There will be (6) weeks of hunting with (2) drawn hunters each week
- This managed hunt should have a limited impact on other visitors' experiences.

Alligators provide important ecosystem functions and are fundamental in our environment. Surveys indicate the park's population is well-established and wildlife experts agree that a managed hunt is warranted. As with other resource management hunts on Georgia State Parks, the intention is to promote visitor and wildlife protection while both share similar spaces. The goal is for alligators to have a greater aversion towards humans, and that people will gain a greater appreciation for alligators and follow best practices.

**Do your part! Never feed or approach an alligator. Keep your distance. Let staff know of any problematic alligator behavior.**

For more information on alligators and alligator hunting, please visit Georgia's Wildlife Resources Division's website.