



State of Illinois
Illinois Department of Natural Resources



ADELINE JAY GEO-KARIS

Illinois Beach State Park

CULLERTON COMPLEX





Picnicking ■■■■

Views of Lake Michigan make this park a relaxing and enjoyable place to picnic with the family. Both the northern and southern units of the park contain ample picnic grounds complete with tables. Firewood and charcoal are available at the park concession, or bring your own along with your grill.

Camping ■■■■

A campground in the southern unit provides 241 Class A-Premium campsites, having availability to showers, electricity and vehicular access. Approximately 200 sites are available on a first come first serve basis, with the remaining sites being reservable. Please make a point of knowing campground rules and regulations!.

Concessions ■■■■

From mid-May to October, a camp store and gift shop is open near the main beach parking lot in the southern unit.

Swimming ■■■■

During the summer season, swimming is a major attraction along the sandy shorelines, and both units provide ample parking and a bathhouse with showers. There are no on-duty lifeguards so please be careful. No one should swim alone!

Fishing ■■■■

Fishing is allowed along the beach area in both units (except in the swimming areas and nature preserves), plus there are several small inland fishing ponds, including Sand Pond, where rainbow trout are stocked in the spring and fall. No fishing is allowed in the nature preserve.

Illinois Beach State Park ■■■■

A full range of recreational opportunities complement the expansive shoreline of Illinois Beach State Park. Interested in jogging and bicycling? The trails are waiting! Whether you're an active outdoor enthusiast or just interested in a quiet walk along some of the Midwest's most scenic beaches, this is the place for you!

Stretching leisurely for 6 1/2 miles along the sandy shore of Lake Michigan in northern Illinois, Illinois Beach State Park encompasses the only remaining beach ridge shoreline left in the state.



Illinois Beach is a unique and captivating natural resource for all to enjoy. It was created by the titanic forces of glacial advance and retreat and the steady winds that breathed across expansive Lake Michigan. The park has dramatic ridges and swales, dunes, sprawling marshes, forests of oak and vast arrays of animal life and vegetation.

The 4,160-acre park, consisting of two separate areas, offers ample opportunities for swimming, boating, picnicking, hiking, fishing, camping and just appreciating nature.

More than 650 species of plants have been recorded in the dunes area alone, including colorful wildflowers. Prickly pear cactus thrives in large colonies in the dry areas, and the wet prairies are carpeted with a wide variety of grasses and sedges. Large expanses of marsh in the swales support dense stands of cattail, bluejoint grass, prairie cordgrass, reed grass, big bluestem and sedges.

The sandy ridges are crowned by black oak trees with an open, savanna-like appearance. Several kinds of fragrant pines, intro-



and long-time friend of conservation.Cullerton, best known by the general public for his "Great Outdoors" show, which aired for many years on WGN-AM Radio, has spent nearly 50 years promoting fishing in the Midwest and supporting a multitude of outdoor-related organizations and events.

North Point Marina ■■■■

While in the area, be sure to visit North Point Marina, Illinois' newest and largest marina. Located on the north side of the Cullerton Complex, this full-service marina has 1,500 slips, a boat service center and food concession. For additional information about slip rental write the Department of Natural Resources, North Point Marina, 701 North Point Drive, Winthrop Harbor, IL 60096 or call (847) 746-2845.

Exotic Species ■■■■

Plants and animals not native to Illinois are exotic species. Most of them are harmless to our state; however, some can be very invasive to native plant communities and can overwhelm or wipe out native species. Prevention and control of exotic, invasive species requires tremendous cooperation between managers and all users of parks, natural areas, and privately owned land. To learn more about exotic and invasive species and how you can help prevent their spread, visit the IDNR Exotic Species Website at: <http://www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/ExoticSpecies/exoticspintro.htm>.

duced here a century ago, also prosper in the southern area. Just north of these pines is the Dead River, which is actually a stream that is blocked by a sand bar much of the year, forming an elongated pond. When the water finally rises high enough, it breaks through the sandbar and drains the surrounding marshes. The abundance of aquatic plants and fish flourishing in this changing environment belie its name.

History ■■■■

Long recognized for its complex geological structure, unique flora and spectacular beauty, the Lake Michigan dunes area originally was, in the 1700s, part of the "Three Fires" of the Algonquin Nation: the Potawatomi, Chippewa and Ottawa. Prior to then the area had been occupied by the Miami.

In the late 1600s, French explorers first visited the area as part of their survey of what was then known as the Northwest Territory. By the time Illinois became a state in 1818, the area was full of transient hunters and trappers. In 1836, a treaty was made with the local Native Americans, who were moved westward, and the area became part of Lake County.

The northern unit of the park contains Camp Logan, an area rich in military history. This installation severed as an Army basic training center through World Wars I and II (when it provided ideal conditions for practicing tank maneuvers), and, in the late 1940s, was turned over to the Illinois National Guard.

Preservation efforts were considered as early as 1888, when Robert Douglas, a Waukegan nurseryman, and Jens Jensen, a famous landscape architect, discussed making it a regional park. With industry advancing from the south, sand mining ravaging the dunes, and parts of the surrounding countryside succumbing to pasture and homesteads, legislative efforts to save the area finally began in the 1920s.

In 1948, the state finally acquired the first parcels of what is now Illinois Beach State Park. In 1950, the Illinois Dunes Preservation Society was established to protect the natural qualities of the area, and through its efforts and the efforts of the Department of Natural Resources the area south of Beach Road was dedicated in 1964 as the first Illinois nature preserve. The northern unit, from the Commonwealth Edison power plant to the Wisconsin border, was acquired between 1971 and 1982.



Adeline Jay Geo-Karis
Illinois Beach State Park Cullerton Complex
Zion, IL 60099, (847) 662-4811

- While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times and cannot be in the nature preserve or on the beach.
- Actions by nature can result in closed roads and other facilities. We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Clearinghouse, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271 visit our website at www.dnr.illinois.gov.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.
- Hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources' TTY number, (217) 782-9175, or use the Ameritech Relay Number, 1-800-526-0844.

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other nonmerit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; (217) 785-0067; TTY (217) 782-9175.