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2024/2025

Oh, Ranger!®

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE PARKS

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ACTIVITIES

SIGHTSEEING

LODGING

DINING

TRAILS

HISTORY

MAPS & MORE!

# ILLINOIS STATE PARKS

OFFICIAL  
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# Welcome



Welcome to Illinois! Thank you for picking up an Illinois State Parks guide to help plan your visit to our great state parks.

Illinois has an amazing array of state parks, fish and wildlife areas, conservation and recreation areas, and state forests, with an even wider display of natural features and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Illinois state parks boast some of the most unique landscapes in America, including the Lake Michigan shore at Illinois Beach; the river bluff vistas above the mighty Mississippi at Mississippi Palisades; the famed canyons and waterfalls at Starved Rock; the rare plants on the hill prairies of Jim Edgar Panther Creek; the sandstone walls of Giant City; and the internationally renowned bottomland swamps along the Cache River.

Recreation opportunities abound, with anglers enjoying lakes, rivers, and streams at our parks and downstate reservoirs. Hunters can check out seasonal opportunities that make Illinois state parks a prime destination for visitors from across the country.

Campers can go online to reserve a full-service campsite at dozens of locations, stay in a state park campground cabin, or pitch a tent in primitive seclusion. Our rustic state park lodges offer friendly accommodations, sumptuous food, and breathtaking settings.

Bicycle paths, rugged mountain bike trails, and equestrian trails are ready to be explored. This guide, produced in partnership with the American Park Network, is provided by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to enhance your enjoyment of all that outdoor Illinois has to offer. It is made possible by the support of many sponsors.

Here's hoping you plan a day trip to a state park, a weekend at a state park campground or lodge, or a hike in a state forest. Find more details on all our Illinois State Parks have to offer at **[dnr.illinois.gov](http://dnr.illinois.gov)**.

Once again, welcome and enjoy your visit to the outdoors in Illinois!

Sincerely,

**Natalie Phelps Finnie**

**Director**

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources**

# Contents



American Park Network® publishes Oh, Ranger! ParkFinder™, OhRanger.com, and Oh, Ranger!® guides—a collection of visitor guides for public lands all across America—and operates Oh, Ranger! Wi-Fi in parks and public lands. American Park Network is an official partner of the National Forest Foundation, National Parks Conservation Association, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, American Hiking Society and the Student Conservation Association.

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Sincere thanks to everyone at Illinois Department of Natural Resources for their collaboration.

**Cover:** *The Eternal Indian*, also known as the Black Hawk Statue, was sculpted by Lorado Taft and located in Lowden State Park • Scott Hartman

All photos are courtesy of Illinois Department of Natural Resources unless otherwise noted.



FOR ANSWERS TO ALL YOUR  
QUESTIONS, GO TO  
**OhRanger.com**



# What's New! Civility & Free Speech



*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*

- The First Amendment

I recently moved to a new neighborhood near a beautiful college campus, which has become an epicenter of conflict. Police barriers have sprung up everywhere in an effort to maintain order in the face of constant protests. So many angry voices, all competing loudly to make their points, which I fear are falling on deaf ears. It's upsetting to witness, especially as the situation escalates.

The current environment reminds me of a story a volunteer at a national historic park once shared, about consoling a visitor who was on the verge of tears, deeply disturbed by a group gathered in a designated free-speech zone. The volunteer explained that, while the voices of this group were hateful, they were lawfully asserting their First Amendment rights. She went on to recount the history of the hallowed ground on which they stood, the site of a pivotal battle where many died to preserve our way of life. After touring the site's monuments and museum, the visitor returned to thank the volunteer, leaving with a far deeper appreciation of the cost and value of free speech, a sometimes inconvenient right we must never take for granted.

It can take extra effort to withhold judgment and remain open, especially when strangers thrust unwanted views upon us as we're passing by. However, no matter how divergent or extreme, I believe we benefit by engaging in dialogue vs. barricading ourselves behind our own perspective.

If opposing views aren't heard, then how can compromise ever be achieved? It seems the framers of the Constitution foresaw this when they amended their revolutionary work to add one powerful sentence that enshrined the right to express ourselves. If only they could have compelled people to listen.

Recently, I met a young graduate student who grew up in a repressive autocracy where simply expressing an opinion can land you in jail or worse. Sadly, even while studying in the United States, he speaks cautiously, never quite sure if one of his peers will be a conduit of information back to officials at home. Admittedly, even with all the benefits of our democracy, free speech is not without consequence. There's a cost to saying our thoughts out loud, and finding common ground takes hard work and perseverance.

While touring our parks, whether historic, cultural or natural, please remember that treating each other with kindness and respect is critical to the success of any society, especially when we disagree. So next time someone says something you find objectionable, consider to pause, take a deep breath and reflect on all the sacrifices that were made to allow us the right to express our points of view.

With this in mind, let's agree to treat each other with civility and, if we have to fight, let's start by fighting for our right to disagree. Only then can this experiment we call democracy thrive.

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# Plan Your Visit




Welcome to the Land of Lincoln! The **Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)** manages 309 state parks and recreational sites on more than 475,000 acres of land. The Illinois State Museum system is part of this department, offering three public facilities across the state that showcase Illinois art and natural history. Each park offers its own variety of activities and scenery. To learn more, visit [dnr.illinois.gov/parks](http://dnr.illinois.gov/parks).

## PLANNING YOUR TRIP

This guide divides the state into five regions: Northwest, Northeast, East-Central, West-Central, and South. You will find general information for all regions in the first part of this guide. Each section features a map as well as a chart with detailed information about each park.

## SPECIAL SERVICES

Park activities and facilities accessible to visitors with disabilities are indicated throughout this guide by the  symbol. In accordance with the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**, the IDNR is working to expand the number of activities for those with disabilities. For more information about special services, please call **(618) 435-8138**, ext. 130. For hearing-impaired callers, the IDNR can also receive calls from a TTY: please call the text telewriter at **(217) 782-9175**.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Most IDNR sites are open year-round; closed only on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Some smaller sites are closed seasonally. Visitors may want

to call before visiting parks. Statewide attractions, sponsored by the IDNR and other agencies, are identified along the highways by brown signs.

## HIGHWAY TOURIST INFORMATION CENTERS

As you travel the state, stop at an Illinois highway welcome center for information and brochures. Plan which parks you would like to visit. Please see the centerfold map for locations.

## CAMPING

Select state parks and recreational areas offer advance reservations. IDNR and Explore More IL have partnered to bring camping, cabin, group camp and shelter reservations to the web. Please visit [camp.exploremoreil.com](http://camp.exploremoreil.com) to reserve a site. To locate a campground, simply type in your desired location into the search box or click "View All Parks and Search By Map" and select the desired location. Reservations for campsites can be made online or by calling **(866) 716-6550**. Reservations for campsites, group camps & cabins require a \$5 non-refundable transaction fee and payment of the full camping and utility fees when the reservation is made. Shelter reservations fees are \$50 (plus \$5 transaction fee) and are non-refundable. Campsites can be reserved for a maximum of 14 nights over a 30-day period and reservations must be made at least three days prior to arrival but not beyond 180 days. Reservations for holiday weekends may require a multi-night minimum stay. Please check with individual sites regarding site specific regulations.



# *Cody* YELLOWSTONE

Plan your trip today at

or call

## PARK REGULATIONS

### → ALCOHOL RESTRICTIONS

Several parks have complete or partial alcohol bans. Call ahead for information.

### → ARTIFACTS

Report any prehistoric or historic artifacts you find. Removal of resources, including fossils, is strictly prohibited.

### → BOATING

Your boat must be registered and titled prior to use. Call **(217) 557-0180** or **(800) 382-1696** for more information.

### → FIRES

Never build campfires on dry and windy days, and never leave them unattended. Only use designated fire rings or a camp stove so fires can't spread. Transporting firewood from outside parks is strictly regulated.

### → FISHING & HUNTING

Regulation digests are available wherever fishing and hunting licenses are sold, or by calling the IDNR clearinghouse at **(217) 782-7498**. Hunting and fishing licenses are available at [www.exploremoreil.com](http://www.exploremoreil.com).

### → HIKING

Stay on designated trails. Going off-path harms vegetation and causes erosion, requiring additional maintenance.

### → LITTER

Pack out what you pack in. Properly dispose of any litter, and use recycling bins wherever they are available.

### → PETS

For the safety of your pet, and for wildlife, always keep your pet leashed. Always dispose of pet waste properly.

### → SNOWMOBILING

Your snowmobile must be registered and insured. Please call **(217) 557-0180** or **(800) 382-1696** for more information.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

#### General Information

Springfield **(217) 782-6302**  
Chicago Area **(217) 782-6302**  
All DNR Information for the Hearing Impaired **(217) 782-9175 (TTY)**

Website **[dnr.illinois.gov](http://dnr.illinois.gov)**

Special Events/  
State Fairs **(217) 524-5861**

DNR Direct (Automated  
License System) **(888) 6PERMIT  
(673-7648)**

Boat/Snowmobile  
Registration **(217) 557-0180 or  
(800) 382-1696**

Deer/Turkey/Dove/  
Pheasant/Goose/  
Duck Permit **(217) 782-7305**

Fishing/Hunting  
License **(217) 782-2965**

Environmental/  
Sporting Series  
License Plate  
Information **(800) 252-8980  
(Illinois only)**

Safety Courses  
Hunting/Boating/  
Snowmobiling/  
Trapping **(800) 832-2599  
(Illinois only)  
(217) 557-9206  
(Out of state)**

Educational Services **(217) 524-4126**

Illinois State Museum **(217) 782-7386**

### OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

IDNR Internships **(217) 782-1274**

Illinois Historic  
Preservation Division **(217) 782-4836**

Illinois Tourist  
Information **(800) 2CONNECT  
(226-6632)**

Poacher Hotline **(877) 2DNRLAW  
(236-7529)**

Publications Request **(217) 782-7498**

Road Conditions  
(Recording) **(800) 452-4368**

Volunteer Network **(217) 782-1274**

World Shooting &  
Recreational Complex **(618) 295-2700**

# Lodging & Dining



Whether you are coming to Illinois for a week-long vacation, a weekend getaway or a day trip, you can enjoy comfortable accommodations and fine dining at seven Illinois state park locations. The Civilian Conservation Corps built some of the park lodges and cabins in the 1930s. Since then, all of the historic structures have been refurbished. The IDNR has also built additional accommodations. From family dining to a romantic dinner for two, lodge restaurants provide a convivial atmosphere. Dress code is casual in all park restaurants. All facilities accept major credit cards and traveler's checks. Visit [dnr.illinois.gov/parks](http://dnr.illinois.gov/parks) for more information.

## NORTHWEST ILLINOIS

### Starved Rock Lodge & Conference

**Center** ❄️ was built in part by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and is located in a park well known for its scenic river views, waterfalls, glacier-carved canyons and hiking trails. Guests return year after year to hike, picnic, bike, fish, boat, kayak, camp, enjoy a scenic boat tour, and cross-country ski in the winter.

**Amenities** include solid wood rustic furniture in each lodge room and cabin. There are 69 lodge rooms and 21 cabin rooms and some of the cabins are pet friendly with restrictions. All rooms have full baths, Wi-Fi, TV, DVD player, coffee maker, hair dryer and telephone. Lodge amenities include a two-sided fireplace in the Great Hall, banquet and meeting rooms, indoor swimming pool, kiddie pool, hot tub, sauna, gift shop, spa, and trolley tours. For more information, call


(800) 868-7625 or (815) 667-4211, or visit [starvedrocklodge.com](http://starvedrocklodge.com). 📶

**The Main Dining Room** offers casual dining in a rustic setting. Sunday brunch is a guest favorite. Gluten-free and other dietary options available. 🍷🍷🍷 **Starved Rock Cafe** serves coffee, pastries, sandwiches, ice cream, and other snacks. 🍷🍷 **Back Door Lounge** offers a laid-back atmosphere with great food and drink favorites. 🍷 **The Veranda** offers outdoor dining and live music with lovely views of the Illinois River. 🍷 **Trailheads Concessions & Souvenirs** is in the IDNR Visitor Center featuring a variety of fantastic ice cream and fudge flavors as well as quick service food.

**White Pines Lodge** ❄️ offers the historic log lodge, crafted from stone and timber and nestled in the heart of Black Hawk Indian country under majestic White Pines, making it seem forgotten by time. The Resort features cozy guest cabins, an outstanding landmark restaurant, a delightful country gift shop and a beautiful banquet hall which features a renowned live dinner theatre. **Amenities** include 21 charming one-room cabins with log queen beds and full-size trundles. There are two deluxe romantic suites with king-size canopy beds and old-fashioned soaking tubs. All the cabins have gas log fireplaces, private baths, TV, mini fridge, AC/heat, and beautiful forest views. The Lodge Restaurant serves up generous portions of hearty homemade dishes for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily March to December and is known far and wide for their award-winning Sunday Buffet.


The Lodge also has a large banquet hall that is used for a variety of events including plays, weddings, and corporate events. Call **(815) 655-2400**, visit **WhitePinesInn.com**, or email **info@visitwhitepines.com** for more information **B L D**


## NORTHEAST ILLINOIS


**Illinois Beach Hotel**  is nestled amid 4,100 acres of pristine Lake Michigan shoreline inside Adeline Jay Geo-Karis Illinois Beach State Park. It offers hiking, fishing, biking and swimming. Amenities include 92 guest rooms, and suites, WiFi, banquet and conference facilities, indoor swimming pool and gift shop. For more information, visit **illinoisbeachhotel.com**.

## WEST-CENTRAL ILLINOIS

**Hazlet Cottages on Carlyle Lake**  offers scenic views and a relaxing environment on Carlyle Lake at Eldon Hazlet State Recreation Area. It's a popular destination for fishing, boating, sailing, swimming, hiking, biking, hunting, and camping, but also great for midweek romantic getaway. The 20 cottages are furnished with kitchenettes, queen-size beds, secluded sleeping lofts, satellite TV, full bath and heat/AC, and a swimming pool nearby. For more information, call **(618) 594-8702** or visit **hazletcottages.com**.  **Carlyle Lakefront Camp Store** offers a limited dining menu but has a good variety of pre-packaged foods, camping supplies and grocery items. It also includes a bait shop and a laundry facility. **B L D**

**Pere Marquette Lodge & Conference Center**  is the centerpiece of wooded Pere Marquette State Park. The lodge is situated among 8,000 acres of land overlooking the Illinois River. Its rustic **Great Room**

boasts a 700-ton stone fireplace and a life-size chessboard. Pere Marquette is a favorite for hiking, biking, fishing, boating, horseback riding, and picnicking. The 50 lodge rooms and 22 stone cabins boast private baths, TVs, and telephones. Enjoy a conference center, indoor swimming pool, spa, playground, campground facilities, 25-mile bike trail, canoe, boat and kayak rentals, picnic areas, and nearby attractions. For more information, call **(618) 786-2331** or visit **pmlodge.net**. 

**Lodge Restaurant** offers a casual dining experience combining the best of Midwestern homestyle fare with rustic elegance. **B L D**  **Mary Michelle Winery**, located in the Lodge, features locally made, award-winning wines.

## SOUTH ILLINOIS

**Cave-in-Rock Lodge**  is located in historic Cave-in-Rock State Park, adjacent to the Shawnee National Forest. It takes its name from a large cave once used as a hiding place by pirates who preyed on Ohio River travelers until the 1830s. The lodge offers easy access to boating and great fishing, and has several marked and unmarked trails to enjoy the park's splendor. **Amenities** include four duplex cabins with eight suites, private balconies, deluxe bath, satellite TV, kitchenette, dining area, wet bar, gift shop, nearby playgrounds, boating access, and picnic shelters. For more information, call **(618) 289-4545** or visit **caveinrockkaylors.com**.  

**Cave-in-Rock Restaurant**  serves family-style food. Bask in the warmth of the indoor fireplace or take in the outdoors dining on the patio. Open daily until 7 p.m. **B L D**

**Giant City Lodge**  is a rustic lodge built in the 1930s, by the Civilian

Conservation Corps. Named for the area's unique rock formations, which resemble the towering walls and streets of mythical giant's city, the Lodge and Park are both listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It's a great spot for hiking, horseback riding, fishing, camping, rock climbing and picnicking. Amenities include 34 cabins with forest views, full baths, TV, telephone, refrigerator, coffee maker, meeting rooms and swimming pool. A gift shop and cocktail lounge are also located on premises. Bald Knob Dining Room serves excellent fare and is well known for its family style fried chicken. For more information call (618)

457-4921 or visit [giantcitylodge.com](http://giantcitylodge.com). Additional amenities within the Park are a Class A Campground **(618) 457-4836** and Giant City Stables **(618) 529-4110**. **LBDD**

**The Resort at Rend Lake is situated on Rend Lake in Wayne Fitzgerald State Park.** ❄️ ♿️ 📶 *Currently closed. Reopening date pending.*

**Harry Lee's Restaurant** ❄️ Opening in May 2024, guests can enjoy casual dining with a breathtaking panoramic view of Red Hills Lake on the restaurant's enclosed deck.

## KEY

<b>B</b>	Breakfast	<b>L</b>	Lunch	<b>D</b>	Dinner
📞	Reservations required	❄️	Open in winter	📶	Free Wi-Fi



# Things To Do



You can **bike, hike, ride horseback, explore nature trails, snowshoe, cross-country ski, kayak, rock climb, ice climb, geocache** and **ride trolley tours** and **snowmobile** the more than 3,500 miles of trails in Illinois. Spend the day **boating** on the numerous lakes, or participate in **fishing, hunting**, and recreation associated with **wildlife** throughout Illinois. To order activity-specific recreational guides, please visit the Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) at [dnr.illinois.gov](http://dnr.illinois.gov) or call **(217) 782-7498**.

## HIKING & BIKING TRAILS

### TRAIL NETWORKS

As it loops more than 500 miles between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River, the **Grand Illinois Trail** connects existing trails and on-road bike routes to create the state's longest continuous trail.

Illinois is also home to the **Route 66 Bike Trail**. From Chicago to St. Louis, this 400-mile route incorporates on- and off-road segments on or near the historic route. Experience the magic of Route 66 from behind your handlebars.

The **Mississippi River Trail**, a 585-mile route through Illinois, starts in Minnesota and ends in Louisiana. You can really appreciate the majesty of "Old Man River" as you meander through towns that developed along it.

## IDNR TRAILS

The **Rock Island State Trail**, near Peoria, is the first rail-trail conversion to be handled

by the IDNR. The trail offers natural and architectural attractions in a tree-canopied corridor that is only 50 to 100 feet wide. It stretches for 26 miles from Peoria County to Stark County. The IDNR manages 45 miles of cycling/walking trails at **Tunnel Hill State Trail** in southern Illinois. Also a rail conversion, the trail traverses a 540-foot-long tunnel built in 1870-1871.

The **Hennepin Canal Parkway**, located near Sheffield, offers more than 100 miles of trail along the historic canal. It was the first American canal built of concrete without stonecut facings and was a model for the construction of the Panama Canal.

Visitors to the 96-mile **Illinois & Michigan Canal** near Morris can visit nearby state parks and check out restored historical sites. There is an abundance of wildlife and distinctive landscapes, from bluffs to rolling hills.

## SPORTFISHING

Illinois' 1.6 million acres of surface waters, reservoirs, impoundments, and streams

attract millions of anglers. The most commonly caught fish in the one-million-acre portion of Lake Michigan owned by Illinois are salmon, perch, and trout. The IDNR stocks nearly one million fish annually, including lake, brown, and steelhead trout, as well as chinook and coho salmon.

Three of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reservoirs are popular for sportfishing: **Lake Shelbyville, Carlyle Lake, and Rend Lake.** They are stocked annually with muskie, walleye, and largemouth bass at Lake Shelbyville; largemouth bass, crappie, and sauger at Carlyle Lake; and largemouth and hybrid striped bass at Rend Lake.

Illinois has more than 91,000 other impoundments. Most of these stocked **lakes and ponds** are man-made and private. Each year, about 350 public lakes and ponds are supplementally stocked with species such as walleye, muskie, channel catfish, striped bass, hybrid striped bass, and largemouth bass. More than 26,000 miles of **streams** lace the

state where anglers vie for catfish, along with black bass, walleye, sauger, crappie, and sunfish.

## FISHING CLINICS

Free fishing clinics are offered as part of the **Illinois Community Outreach & Resource Enhancement (CORE) Fishing Program.** Its mission is to promote conservation of Illinois' aquatic resources. The program operates sites statewide and sponsors in-school, seasonal, and special event clinics for children under 16.

The clinics teach sportfishing ethics, fish ecology, fish identification, fishing techniques, and the care and preparation of caught fish. Participants in the program receive hands-on experience by using various types of fishing equipment provided by the IDNR. Sessions conclude with a supervised fishing trip to a stocked site. All bait and fishing tackle are provided free of charge.

For more information, contact regional fishing coordinators at:

**Region 1 & 2: (815) 732-4260**

**Region 3: (217) 649-7376**

**Regions 4 & 5: (618) 786-3323**

**Chicago area: (847) 294-4134**

## FISHING LICENSES

Fishing licenses are available to residents and nonresidents at most IDNR State Park offices, through various vendors around the state, such as sporting goods stores, bait shops and online at **ifishillinois.org**. Fishing licenses are effective March 1 of the issuing year and expire March 31 of the following year. Fishing license fees vary and are subject to change. For more information, please call **(217) 782-2965**.



### DNR ONE OUTDOOR

To best serve customers, vendors and agencies, **DNR One Outdoor** depends on an automated system to expedite hunting and trapping licenses, stamps and permits, and boat and snowmobile renewals. Customers' data is stored in a central database to ease future transactions and eliminate the need to re-enter information. Not only does this save time, but also it makes paper applications obsolete. It offers a quick, simple way for outdoor enthusiasts to do business—and get about their business of enjoying Illinois' nature! Call, go online or visit one of more than 1,000 terminal locations. For more information, call **(866) 716-6550** or visit **www.exploremoreil.com**.

**Illinois anglers** must have a sportfishing license in their possession while fishing (residents under age 16 and those who are legally blind or disabled are exempt).

Resident landowners and their tenants may fish without a license in waters on or flowing over land on which they reside. Illinois residents on active duty in the armed forces may fish without a license while they are on leave.

A **salmon stamp**, affixed to a regular fishing license, is required to take salmon or trout in Lake Michigan. There is a half price senior's license for those over 65 and a \$1.00 plus handling fee for those over 75. An **inland trout stamp** is required for those taking trout in waters other than Lake Michigan.

Nonresidents must buy a nonresident sportfishing license to fish in the state. Exceptions include individuals under the age of 16, disabled veterans, and anglers using fee-fishing areas licensed by the IDNR. Three types of licenses are available: **annual, three-day, and 24-hour**. For more information about fishing regulations, where to purchase a license or license fees, call **(217) 782-6424**.

## HATCHERIES

Three hatcheries produce approximately 12 million fish annually, including chinook and coho salmon, rainbow and brown trout, walleye, sauger, muskie, northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass, striped and hybrid-striped bass, crappie, bluegill, redear sunfish, and channel and blue catfish. Visit the following facilities:

### **Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery:**

25410 Fish Hatchery Road, Topeka, IL 61567; **(309) 968-7531**

**LaSalle Fish Hatchery:** 2649 North 21st Road, Marseilles, IL 61341; **(815) 357-6986**

**Little Grassy Fish Hatchery:** 1258 Hatchery Lane, Makanda, IL 62958; **(618) 529-4100**

## AQUATIC EXOTICS

Exotic species invade the lakes and rivers of Illinois, preying on and competing with native species. Recreational water users can unintentionally transfer exotic species from one body of water to another. Help prevent the spread of aquatic exotics by following these steps:

## HUNTERS/ANGLERS

- Switch to elliptical, bulb-shaped, or strap anchors on decoys to avoid collecting submerged and floating aquatic plants.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash or on land.
- Clean and dry anything that comes in contact with water.
- Drain water from bait buckets before leaving any body of water.
- Remove mud, plants, or animals on boat, boots, anchors, decoy lines, and other equipment.

## BOATERS

### **Before leaving the boat launch:**

- Drain boat of all lake or river water.
- Remove any plants and animals from the boat, trailer, and all other equipment.

### **After leaving the boat launch:**

- Wash all equipment with 104°F tap water or a high-pressure sprayer.
- Dry all equipment for at least five days.
- Be a hero, transport zero!

# HUNTING

Illinois is an great place to hunt. IDNR's public hunting areas, federal lands and private land offer access and opportunities to thousands of hunters each year.

**White-tailed deer** are found throughout the state. Our fertile soils and careful management have allowed us to build a world-class deer herd. Deer hunters enjoy a long archery season as well as firearm and muzzle loader seasons.

**Wild turkey** hunting is permitted in most of the state's 102 counties. The most popular hunting season is in spring, but turkey hunters can also enjoy fall firearm and archery seasons.

**Ducks and geese** abound in the fall and winter. Illinois serves as an important migration route, stopover, and wintering area within the Mississippi Flyway. A number of public and private hunting areas on and around Illinois' major rivers and reservoirs provide good opportunities for hunting ducks and geese.

**Squirrel** hunting provides challenges and enjoyment for hunters both young and old. It allows hunters a chance to hone their stalking and woodcraft skills and provide meat for the table. Many IDNR sites provide good opportunities to hunt fox and gray squirrels.

**Dove** hunting is a fun harvest-time activity. Many IDNR sites offer managed dove hunts over fields of sunflower and small grains.

**Upland game hunting** (rabbit, ring-necked pheasant, and bobwhite quail) is still a tradition in Illinois.

**Rabbits** are found statewide. **Pheasants** are generally limited to central and northern Illinois, and **quail** are found in much of southern and central Illinois.

Hunters must obtain permission to hunt on private property. Poaching is strictly prohibited. To report poaching, contact the **Target Poachers Hot Line** at **(877) 236-7529** or visit **[dnr.illinois.gov/lawenforcement](http://dnr.illinois.gov/lawenforcement)**.

## HUNTING LICENSES

Licenses are available to residents and nonresidents at the IDNR Headquarters, as well as through sporting goods stores, bait shops and at **[exploremoreil.com/agentlocator](http://exploremoreil.com/agentlocator)** or by calling **(217) 782-2965**.

**Illinois hunters** are required to have licenses. Exceptions exist for hunters with physical disabilities, members of the armed services on leave, and resident landowners or tenants hunting on property where they permanently reside.

Hunting and trapping licenses and state stamps are effective January 1 of the issuing year to March 31 of the following year and prices vary according to type. Visit **[dnr.illinois.gov/lpr/huntinglicensesfees](http://dnr.illinois.gov/lpr/huntinglicensesfees)** or call **(217) 782-2965** for more information.

Deer and wild turkey hunters, and those wishing to hunt in certain state areas, must obtain special permits. Contact IDNR offices at **(217) 782-7305**.

Hunters born on or after January 1, 1980, must prove successful completion of the IDNR's Hunter Education course or a recognized safety course from another state before a license is issued.

First-time hunters should take a safety course that covers hunter responsibility, firearm safety, wildlife conservation, and wildlife identification. Call **(800) 832-2599** (only in Illinois) or **(217) 557-9206** for more information.

For the **Firearm Owner's Identification Card**, Illinois residents can call the State Police at **(217) 782-7980**.

Anyone hunting **migratory birds** must register (at no cost) with the National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program before they hunt.

The program collects important harvest information on waterfowl, doves, woodcock, and other migratory game birds. A **State Habitat Stamp** is required for all persons age 16 or older who hunt wildlife, except those who hunt migratory waterfowl, coots and hand-reared birds on licensed hunting preserves and state-controlled pheasant-hunting areas. One is also required for any person age 16 or older who traps or sells the green hides of fur-bearing mammals. Veterans with disabilities, former prisoners of war, and any person who obtained a lifetime license before January 1, 1993, are

exempt. All those 16 or older who hunt migratory waterfowl and coots must obtain a **State Waterfowl Stamp** (unless otherwise exempt). Federal migratory waterfowl stamps, required for all hunters age 16 or older, may be obtained at any U.S. Post Office or through various IDNR vendors.

**Non-resident hunters** (except disabled veterans) are required to purchase non-resident hunting licenses. Annual and five-day licenses are available.

## STATE PARK INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Many state parks have visitor centers and offer year-round interpretive programs to help visitors learn about of Illinois' natural features, wildlife, and park facilities. When staff is not available, visitor centers provide educational exhibits and audio/visual programs. Special programming for Illinois school children includes hands-on activities that encourage learning by touching, seeing, and listening to the environment. School group programs are available by reservation only.

For information about state interpretive programs, please refer to the regional charts in this guide for their location, contact the individual park directly, or call the program manager at **(217) 782-7026**.

## FOR YOUR SAFETY

Upland game hunters who use firearms must wear a solid, blaze-orange or pink cap when hunting. In firearm deer season, hunters (except waterfowl hunters) and trappers are required to wear a solid blaze-orange or pink upper outer garment, equaling 400 square inches, and a blaze-orange or pink cap. To prevent exhaustion, frostbite, and hypothermia, avoid hunting in extreme weather.

## SPECIAL EVENTS 2024

Free Fishing Days	June 14-17	<a href="http://ifishillinois.org">ifishillinois.org</a>
Illinois State Fair	August 8-18	<a href="http://illinois.gov/statefair">illinois.gov/statefair</a>
DuQuoin State Fair	Aug. 23-Sept. 2	<a href="http://agr.state.il.us/dq">agr.state.il.us/dq</a>
Grand American Championship	July 31 - Aug. 10	<a href="http://shootata.com">shootata.com</a>
Rend Lake Shooting Classic & Banquet for Youth with Disabilities	Sept. 8	<a href="http://dnr.illinois.gov/doo">dnr.illinois.gov/doo</a>
S. Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days	Sept. 28-29	<a href="https://facebook.com/sihfd">facebook.com/sihfd</a>
Fort Massac Encampment	Oct. 19-20	<a href="http://metropolistourism.com/events">metropolistourism.com/events</a>
Youth Duck Hunt	Mid-November	<a href="http://illinois.gov/dnr/parks">illinois.gov/dnr/parks</a>
Youth Pheasant Hunt	Mid-November	(618) 629-2320
Youth Goose Hunt	Mid-January	(217) 785-8060

For more information about special events in Illinois, call **(217) 524-5861**.

## OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED

The IDNR is committed to providing greater access and programs for people with disabilities. The IDNR's goal is to make it easier for disabled people to hunt, fish, and pursue outdoor activities. In 1999, the IDNR addressed these issues, establishing a new program entitled "Disabled Outdoor Opportunities." Objectives for this program include:

- **Establish partnerships with organizations representing people with disabilities and working to mainstream IDNR programs and facilities to better meet the needs of the disabled.**
- **Develop and coordinate training programs. Provide knowledge with respect to needs and concerns by working with IDNR site planners to create barrier-free designs for**

**recreational facilities.**

- **Review existing opportunities to eliminate barriers to participation.**
- **Develop and coordinate training programs. Provide knowledge with respect to needs and concerns by working with IDNR site planners to create barrier-free designs for recreational facilities.**

Disabled hunters can participate in deer, pheasant, waterfowl, and dove hunting at various sites throughout Illinois. A number of fishing areas are accessible as well. IDNR's intention is to expand these opportunities so that more individuals may participate. **Outdoor Recreation & Retention Programs** at **(618) 435-8138, ext. 130; TTY (217) 782-9175; [dnr.illinois.gov/doo](http://dnr.illinois.gov/doo).**

# East Central



Unlike the agricultural fields existing in the region today, prairies and deciduous forests once covered much of east-central Illinois. The area around Lincoln Trail State Park, with its scrubby oak and dense hazel brush, was largely unsettled until the National Road passed through in 1827. This part of the state is also home to man-made lakes at Clinton and Shelbyville, which create a range of recreational opportunities.

Abraham Lincoln's connection to Illinois began in this region in 1830 when he and his father, cousin, and stepbrother built a log cabin in Macon County after arriving there from southern Indiana. The cabin was dismantled in 1876 and moved to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, but the Lincoln Trail Homestead State Memorial commemorates the site today.

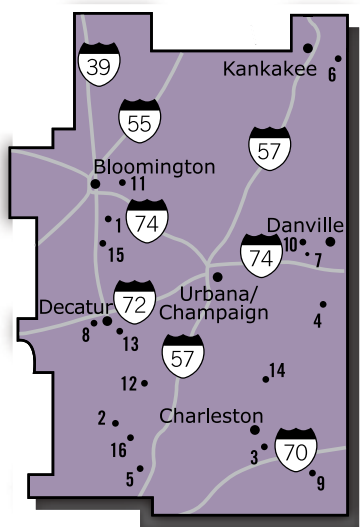
The Lincoln Log Cabin in Coles County was the last home of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, Abraham's parents. For more information about sites in East-Central Illinois, contact Lands Office, Department of Natural Resources, 1 Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702; [dnr.parkadmin@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.parkadmin@illinois.gov).

## CLINTON LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA (1)

Constructed in the 1970s and located 10 miles east of Clinton, Clinton Lake is popular among anglers, boaters, campers, and swimmers. Clinton Lake also offers a range of hunting opportunities, attracting sportsmen from across the state. A variety of trails are available for hiking and horseback riding. 7251 Ranger Road, DeWitt 61735; GPS: 40.15709, -88.798053; **(217) 935-8722**.

## EAGLE CREEK RECREATION AREA (2)

A favorite of walkers and hikers, this park offers year-round camping and scenic hiking trails, many of which hug the Lake Shelbyville shoreline. Near Wolf Creek State Park, the 1,463-acre site is north of Shelbyville and an easy drive from several central Illinois communities, including Springfield, Decatur, and Effingham. Nestled in the heart of over 34,000 acres of woods and prairie in the park is the Eagle Creek Golf Course. This challenging yet fair test for the golfer of any ability is on the banks of Lake Shelbyville. For more information, visit [golfateaglecreek.com](http://golfateaglecreek.com). 2341 Eagle Creek Road, Findlay 62534; GPS: 39.492384, -88.707733; **(217) 756-8260**. 🇺🇸



### FOX RIDGE STATE PARK (3)

Amid the rolling hills and thickly wooded ridges of the Embarras River, this park features two Rent-A-Camp cabins and other camping sites, two baseball diamonds, volleyball courts, a horse trail, and nine hiking trails. A youth group area is available for youth camping only. 18175 State Park Road, Charleston 61920; GPS: 39.402781, -88.134822; **(217) 345-6416**.

### HARRY "BABE" WOODYARD STATE NATURAL AREA (4)

This wooded area encompasses 2.2 miles of the Little Vermilion River, listed as a significant stream because of its aquatic features. The site supports 12 state endangered or threatened species and provides homes for 23 forest interior species. 19268 East 670 North, Georgetown 61846; GPS: 39.9642042, -87.5765551; **(217) 442-4915**.

### HIDDEN SPRINGS STATE FOREST (5)

Part of the state forest system, Hidden Springs offers 1,200 acres of camping, picnicking, hunting, and hiking opportunities to visitors. A forest improvement demonstration area shows the types of trees that would be removed in managed woodlands. 2438 East 700 North, Strasburg 62465; GPS: 39.317256, -88.687101; **(217) 644-3091**.

### IROQUOIS COUNTY STATE WILDLIFE AREA (6)

This site is situated in a low, glacial outwash plain associated with the Kankakee River Valley, which consists of marshlands, sand ridges, and dunes. The area features some of the finest and most extensive prairie-marsh and sand dune vegetation remaining in Illinois. Primarily operated as a permit pheasant hunting area, hiking, picnicking, and snowmobiling

opportunities are also available. 2803 East 3300 North Road, Beaverville 60912; GPS: 40.991042, -87.603951; **(815) 435-2218**.

### KICKAPOO STATE PARK (7)

West of Danville, the country's first park to be built on surface-mined land is an angler's paradise. The park also offers scuba diving, disc golf and camping, plus miles of hiking and mountain biking trails. In addition, the concessioner within the park offers canoe river trips, tube float trips and pedal boat rentals, and the restaurant hosts several musical performances a week throughout the summer. 10906 Kickapoo Park Road, Oakwood 61858; GPS: 40.140828, -87.740593; **(217) 442-4915**.

### LINCOLN TRAIL HOMESTEAD STATE MEMORIAL (8)

This is the site of Abraham Lincoln's first Illinois home. Bisected by the Sangamon River, the site offers picnicking and hiking. South Lincoln Memorial Parkway, Decatur 62521 GPS: 39.802756, -89.10187; **(217) 864-3121**.

### LINCOLN TRAIL STATE PARK (9)

Within the thickly wooded land of this park—which features a 146-acre lake and over 200 campsites—lies American Beech Woods Nature Preserve. This preserve hosts ravines that hold a beech-maple forest just as they did in pioneer days. The Lincoln family passed through this area, south of Marshall, en route from Indiana to Macon County in 1830. There is also a full-service restaurant and bait shop. 16985 East 1350th Road, Marshall 62441; GPS: 39.346555, -87.703979; **(217) 826-2222**. 🚗

### MIDDLE FORK STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (10)

The Middle Fork River is the first Illinois waterway to be included in the National



Wild & Scenic Rivers System. Paddling is popular along the river's length, which winds through a mixture of forests and prairies. Forest and upland game hunting are popular at the 2,700-acre site. Horseback riding on 35 miles of trails is available, as well as an equestrian campground. 10906 Kickapoo Park Road, Oakwood 61858; GPS: 40.14004, -87.735958; **(217) 442-4915**.

#### **MORaine VIEW STATE RECREATION AREA (11)**

Ridges left by glacial movement, now dotted with scattered groves of hardwood trees, serve as the backdrop for this park. It offers year-round recreational opportunities from its location east of Bloomington-Normal and near Le Roy. This facility has a concession stand with both indoor and patio seating, and also serves as a check station for permit pheasant hunters in the fall. 27374 Moraine View Park Road, Le Roy 61752; GPS: 40.413888, -88.739147; **(309) 724-8032**.

#### **SHELBYVILLE STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (12)**

A 6,400-acre wildlife area on the north end of Lake Shelbyville, this park is composed of the Kaskaskia and West Okaw units. Hunting for waterfowl and forest and upland game is popular. Boat access is provided to accommodate anglers and hunters. 562 State Highway 121, Bethany 61914; GPS: 39.632069, -88.708125; **(217) 665-3112**.

#### **SPITLER WOODS STATE NATURAL AREA (13)**

Two-thirds of the area is a dedicated nature preserve with one of the few remaining stands of old-growth timber in Illinois. Two trails wind throughout, allowing hikers to enjoy the unspoiled beauty of the forest. Public facilities include a large, picnic and day-use

area convenient to parking spaces. 705 Spitler Park Drive, Mt. Zion 62549; GPS: 39.778431, -88.862568; **(217) 864-3121**.

#### **WALNUT POINT STATE PARK (14)**

Known for its natural beauty and tranquil surroundings, the park is an oasis of hardwoods and wildlife amid fertile farm fields. Featuring a 60-acre lake, a 60-site campground, two hiking trails, numerous lakeside picnic areas, and a seasonal concession operation, Walnut Point offers something for everyone. Please note: Due to campground popularity, reservations are recommended during the busy summer months. 2331 East Country Road 370N, Oakland 61943; GPS: 39.69901, -88.038; **(217) 346-3336**.

#### **WELDON SPRINGS STATE PARK (15)**

The park features natural springs, a concession with indoor seating, a campground with showers, interpretive trails, a 29-acre lake, and a wildlife observation deck. A one-room school and historic town hall house the interpretive facilities. Located three miles southeast of Clinton, the area also offers sledding, ice fishing, and cross-country skiing. 4734 Weldon Springs Road, Clinton 61727; GPS: 40.119246, -88.918824; **(217) 935-2644**. ♿

#### **WOLF CREEK STATE PARK (16)**

Wildlife watching is a favorite pastime at Wolf Creek State Park on Lake Shelbyville's eastern shore. Like nearby Eagle Creek State Park, the 2,000-acre site has barrier-free facilities, such as year-round camping, picnicking, and deer hunting. 1837 North Wolf Creek Road, Windsor 61957; GPS: 39.484641, -88.68882; **(217) 459-2831**. ♿

EAST-CENTRAL ILLINOIS

	PARK	CLINTON LAKE	EAGLE CREEK	FOX RIDGE (PC♿)	HARRY "BABE" WOODWARD	HIDDEN SPRINGS	IROQUOIS COUNTY	KICKAPOO	LINCOLN TRAIL HOMESTEAD	LINCOLN TRAIL	MIDDLE FORK	MORAINES VIEW	SHELBYVILLE	SPITLER WOODS	WALNUT POINT	WELDON SPRINGS	WOLF CREEK (PC♿)
ACREAGE		9,307	1,463	1,683	1,106	1,229	2,557	4,000	162	1,066	2,700	1,687	6,400	202	671	550	1,967
CONCESSION		♿	•					♿		♿		♿			♿	♿	
DRINKING WATER		♿	♿	♿		•	•	♿		♿	•	♿			♿	♿	•
HISTORIC STRUCTURE				•	•			♿								♿	
RESTAURANT		♿								♿		♿			♿	♿	
RESTROOMS		♿	♿	♿		•	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿
SANITARY DUMP STATION*		♿	•	•				♿		•		•			•	•	•
VISITOR CENTER † With Interpretive Staff																†	
BIKE TRAILS								M		•							
BOATING		♿	♿					♿		♿		♿	•		•	•	♿
BOAT LAUNCHING RAMP		♿	♿					♿		♿		♿	•		♿	•	♿
BOAT MOTORS		U	U					E		10		U			E	E	U
BOAT RENTALS								♿		♿		♿			•	•	
CAMPING (See key for camp site type) ♿ Canoe 🐾 Horse		A♿ AA- BS C,Y + ~	A♿ C♿ Y♿ +	A♿ V +		C		A♿ BS DY +		A♿ BS C♿ Y♿ +	C D	A♿ BE DY +			A♿ BS C Y +	A♿ BS C,D Y♿ + ~	A♿ BE C♿ Y♿ + ~ 🐾
CANOE ACCESS / RENTAL (R)		♿		•				R♿	•	•	•	R♿	•		•	•	
FISHING		♿	•	♿	•	•		♿	•	♿	•	♿	♿		♿	♿	•
HIKING		♿	•	♿	•	•	•	♿	•	♿	•	♿	•	♿	♿	♿	•
HORSE CAMPGROUND											•	♿					•
HORSE RENTAL												♿					
HORSE TRAILS		♿		•							•	♿					•
HUNTING		♿	♿	•	•	•	•			•	•	♿	•		•		♿
KAYAKING		•		•				•		•		R♿	•		•	•	
NATURE PRESERVE							•	•		•	•			♿	•		
PICNICKING		♿	♿	♿		•	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿		♿	♿	♿	♿
SWIMMING BEACH		♿										♿					•

\*Fee for non-campers

KEY

CAMPING

- Class AA sites** Showers, electricity, sewer, water, and vehicular access; \$25/night<sup>1</sup>
- Class A sites** Showers, electricity and vehicular access; \$20/night<sup>1</sup>
- Class BE sites** Electricity and vehicular access; \$18/night
- Class BS sites** Showers and vehicular access; \$10/night
- Class C sites** Vehicular access or walk-in w/ shower access; \$8/night

- Class D sites** Tent camping or primitive sites (walk-in or backpack) with no vehicular access; \$6/night
- Class Y sites** Youth groups only; \$2/person with minimum daily fee of \$20
- + Advanced Reservations
- ~ Accepts Credit Cards
- Camping rates are subject to change*
- <sup>1</sup>Additional \$10 fee for holiday weekend

BOATING MOTORS

- E** Electric trolling only
- 10** 10 horsepower limit
- 15** 15 horsepower limit
- 25** 25 horsepower limit
- U** Unlimited
- ♿ Accessible to visitors with disabilities
- N** Nature preserve nearby
- L** Lodging/resort
- M** Mountain bike trail
- PC** Primitive cabins

# Northwest Illinois



Although much of Illinois has landscape shaped by glacial activity, this is not the case with the extreme northwest corner. Its rolling hills, limestone cliffs, and rugged terrain owe their existence to erosion by the Mississippi River and local tributaries.

Among noteworthy names aligned with this area is **John Deere**, who in 1837 made the first steel plow. The home that Ulysses S. Grant lived in prior to the Civil War can be toured in historic Galena, and the birthplace of poet and Lincoln biographer Carl Sandburg is open to visitors in Galesburg.

## **ANDERSON LAKE STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (1)**

Located on Highway 100, about 11 miles north of Browning, Anderson Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area provides fishing, hunting, and camping on a backwater lake of the Illinois River. Major recreational

features include dove, squirrel, and waterfowl hunting, as well as excellent catfish and bluegill fishing. Sites at south camp available on a limited basis due to flooding. 647 North State Highway 100, Astoria 61501; GPS: 40.196446, -90.203247; **(360) 902-8844**.

## **APPLE RIVER CANYON STATE PARK (2)**

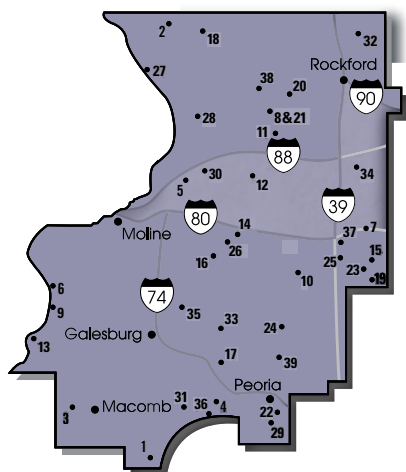
With its massive limestone cliffs, deep ravines, and timbered hills, Apple River Canyon State Park credits its rugged good looks to centuries of erosion. Just under 300 acres in size, it offers primitive camping, beautiful trails, and river fishing. Other opportunities include hunting, lake fishing, nature preserves, and many habitat restorations. 8763 East Canyon Road, Apple River 61001; GPS: 42.447059, -90.052417; **(815) 745-3302**.

## **ARGYLE LAKE STATE PARK (3)**

Located along an old stage route between Galena and Beardstown, Argyle Lake State Park is home to rough terrain, beaver dams, and more than 200 bird species. The 1,700-acre park, which includes the 90-acre Argyle Lake, is west of Macomb and north of Colchester. 640 Argyle Park Road, Colchester 62326; GPS: 40.452859, -90.800532; **(309) 776-3422**.

## **BANNER MARSH STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (4)**

This area boasts over 2,400 surface acres of water with three concrete boat ramps and ample shoreline fishing access areas. Banner Marsh is 25 miles southwest of Peoria in Fulton and Peoria counties. Freshwater marshes established on-site provide excellent habitat and wildlife



viewing. Contact Rice Lake, 19721 North U.S. 24, Canton 61520; GPS: 40.480643, -89.948158; **(309) 647-9184**.

### **BIG BEND STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (5)**

In Whiteside County near Prophetstown, Big Bend contains 2,376 acres of wetland habitats consisting of fallow agricultural fields, bottomland forest, emergent marsh, and remnant oxbow backwaters, making it an ideal place for hunting, limited fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing. P.O. Box 181, Prophetstown 61277; GPS: 41.64450, -90.01365; **(815) 537-2926**.

### **BIG RIVER STATE FOREST (6)**

Encompassing 3,000 acres along the Mississippi River, Big River State Forest is a remnant of the woodland that once bordered the vast prairies. The 1.5-mile Lincoln Hiking Trail commemorates Abraham Lincoln's march through the area in 1832, when he led 2,000 militiamen to fight in the Black Hawk War. RR 1, P.O. Box 118, Keithsburg 61442; GPS: 41.045608, -90.930245; **(309) 374-2496**.

### **BUFFALO ROCK STATE PARK & EFFIGY TUMULI (7)**

On the bluffs of the Illinois River—about two miles west of Ottawa on Dee Bennett Road at Buffalo Rock State Park—stand five earthen sculptures molded from Illinois clay. Called Effigy Tumuli, this unique “earth art” is a grand sculpture. All five subjects—snake, turtle, catfish, frog, and an insect called a “water strider”—are native to the Illinois River area. 1300 North 27th Road, Ottawa 61350; GPS: 41.327411, -88.907545; **(815) 433-2220**.

### **CASTLE ROCK STATE PARK (8)**

Named for its St. Peter sandstone rock formations, the park offers picnicking,

hiking, hunting, fishing, and a primitive canoe area campground on the shore of the Rock River. Campers must access it by water, ideal for the day visitor. Located three miles south of Oregon on Highway 2, more than 700 of the park's nearly 2,000 acres are designated as an Illinois nature preserve. 1365 West Castle Road, Oregon 61061; GPS: 41.969006, -89.37988; **(815) 732-7329**.

### **DELABAR STATE PARK (9)**

Located along the Mississippi River about 1.5 miles north of Oquawka near Highway 164 in Henderson County, Delabar State Park offers quality outdoor experiences for anglers, hikers, campers, and picnickers. Many of the site's 89 acres are forested with sturdy oak, birch, and hickory trees. RR 2, P.O. Box 27, Oquawka 61469; GPS: 40.964038, -90.939777; **(309) 374-2496**.

### **DONNELLEY/DEPUE LAKE STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA & COMPLEX (10)**

This important waterfowl migration corridor is located on the “Great Bend” of the Illinois River. Much of the 3,838-acre complex is managed for waterfowl feeding, nesting, hunting, and viewing. Visitors enjoy bird watching, boating, fishing, hunting, hiking, photography, and nature study. 1001 West Fourth Street, Depue 61322; GPS: 41.3242025, -89.3083221; **(815) 447-2353**.

### **FRANKLIN CREEK STATE NATURAL AREA (11)**

Developed by local volunteers, this site boasts scenic trails for hiking and horseback riding, as well as fishing and limited hunting. Tours of the historic Grist Mill are available. Located in Lee County, one mile northwest of Franklin Grove and eight miles east of Dixon, it contains a 300-acre nature preserve. 1872 Twist Road,

Franklin Grove 61031; GPS: 41.85211, -89.34193; **(815) 456-2878**.

### **GREEN RIVER STATE WILDLIFE AREA (12)**

Six miles northwest of Ohio off of Highway 26, this 2,565-acre area contains the best remaining example of the wetland-prairie mosaic that once covered nearly one-half million acres of the area's historic lowlands, known as the Great Winnebago Swamp. Today, the site is home to prairie, forest, and wetland wildlife. This multi-use site provides hunting, hiking, bird watching, horseback trail riding, and camping. 375 Game Road, Harmon 61042; GPS: 41.628387, -89.516455; **(815) 379-2324**.

### **HENDERSON COUNTY STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (13)**

Offering camping, picnicking, fishing, boating, and winter sports, this conservation area is about 20 miles southwest of Monmouth and five miles east of the Mississippi River. RR1, Keithsburg 61442; GPS: 40.85384, -90.97739; **(309) 374-2496**.

### **HENNEPIN CANAL STATE TRAIL (14)**

The Canal was completed in the early 20th century as a commercial waterway connecting the Illinois River with the Mississippi. Visitors can boat, hike, or paddle its full length—104 miles. 16006 875 East Street, Sheffield 61361; GPS: 41.381854, -89.691308; **(815) 454-2328**.

### **ILLINI STATE PARK (15)**

Located on the southern bank of the Illinois River south of Marseilles, this 510 acre park has 104 campsites, many with outstanding river views. It is a haven for songbirds, waterfowl, and other wildlife. There are multiple shelters with old-world stone fireplaces constructed in the 1930's

by the young workers of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Home to the Illinois Fallen Soldiers Tree Memorial, a unique living monument of 250 White Oak trees honoring each of Illinois' fallen soldiers from the Middle East Conflicts 2660 East 2350th Road, Marseilles 61341; GPS: 41.317781, -88.700409; (815) 795-2448. 2660 East 2350th Road, Marseilles 61341; GPS: 41.317781, -88.700409; **(815) 795-2448**.

### **JOHNSON-SAUK TRAIL STATE RECREATION AREA (16)**

One of the largest round barns in the country can be seen here. For a tour, call the Friends Foundation at (309) 721-0305. Situated on a glacial moraine five miles north of Kewanee, the park is along a trail Sauk Indians used in their treks between Lake Michigan and the confluence of the Mississippi and Rock rivers. 28616 Sauk Trail Road, Kewanee 61443; GPS: 41.322623, -89.890502; **(309) 853-2425**.

### **JUBILEE COLLEGE STATE PARK (17)**

Home to one of the earliest educational enterprises in Illinois, the park and its sister site, Jubilee College State Historic Site, are located 15 miles northwest of Peoria near Kickapoo. In addition to the rich history of the college, the park offers camping, picnicking, hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding facilities. 13921 West Route 150, Brimfield 61517; GPS: 40.821235, -89.808295; **(309) 446-3758**. 🇺🇸

### **LAKE LE-AQUA-NA (18)**

This 715-acre park is nestled between Stephenson County's glacial plains and rolling hills. It offers a variety of outdoor recreational activities, including 10+ miles of multi-use trails, a 40-acre lake for sport

fishing, a swim beach, and 3 campgrounds, totaling more than 170 campsites. 8542 North Lake Road, Lena 61048; GPS: 42.415219, -89.823704; **(815) 369-4282**.

### **LASALLE LAKE STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (19)**

Called a “perched” lake because it is formed by levees that rise above the surrounding land, LaSalle Lake is approximately eight miles southeast of Marseilles. High winds require adherence to safety precautions to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience. 2660 East 2350th Road, Marseilles 61341; GPS: 41.25943, -88.61798; **(815) 357-1608** or **(815) 795-2448**.

### **LOWDEN STATE PARK (20)**

Assuming a restful, reverent pose, a 48-foot-tall concrete monolith of an American Indian towers above the Rock River at Lowden State Park. Local residents named it “Black Hawk” in honor of the great Sauk warrior. 1411 North River Road, Oregon 61061; GPS: 42.03495, -89.328133; **(815) 732-6828**.

### **LOWDEN-MILLER STATE FOREST (21)**

Situated three miles south of Oregon along the Rock River, Lowden-Miller State Forest provides excellent deer and turkey habitat on its 2,291 acres. It offers hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing, and equestrian trails. Contact Castle Rock State Park, 1365 West Castle Road, Oregon 61061; GPS: 41.962171, -89.36245; **(815) 732-7329**.

### **MACKINAW RIVER STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (22)**

The site covers 1,448 acres of diverse landscape, including timbered hills, open meadows, and river bottoms. Canoe

access enables visitors to float the scenic Mackinaw River. Other activities include fishing, hunting, and hiking. 15470 Nelson Road, Mackinaw 61755; GPS: 40.550592, -89.294472; **(309) 963-4969**.

### **MARSEILLES STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (23)**

2,514 acres of rugged wooded terrain allocated to IDNR permitted hunters in Site Specific Hunting Programs only. The National Guard has jurisdictional use of the site for training purposes and their schedule dictates what days and times hunting programs are allowed. Heightened security measures can also cause closures with little to no notice and are posted at the site, on the IDNR website, and by calling the park office. 2374 East 25th Road, Marseilles 61341; GPS: 41.3186822, -88.7111234; **(815) 795-2448**.

### **MARSHALL STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (24)**

Located along nearly 10 miles of scenic Illinois River backwaters, bottomlands and bluffs support a variety of animals, plants, and outdoor pursuits, including picnicking, camping, fishing, hunting, and hiking. Migrating waterfowl, great blue herons, and bald eagles provide birders exceptional viewing opportunities. 236 State Route 26, Lacon 61540; GPS: 40.95872, -89.426002; **(309) 246-8351**.

### **MATTHIESSEN STATE PARK (25)**

Bluffs composed of 450-million-year-old St. Peter sandstone, canyons formed by water erosion, and the streaming Cascade Falls are a few of the park's striking features. The 1,938-acre park is home to more than 200 species of birds and woodland flowers. P.O. Box 509, Utica 61373; GPS: 41.294568, -89.010174; **(815) 667-4726**.

### **MAUTINO STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (26)**

South of Sheffield, this site encompasses 911 acres of mostly unreclaimed strip-mined land. The area is dotted with 15 stocked lakes for fishing. Shore access is limited and shorelines tend to drop off suddenly into deep water. Hennepin Canal Parkway, 16006 875 East Street, Sheffield 61361; GPS: 41.3214872, -89.7226674; **(815) 454-2328**.

### **MISSISSIPPI PALISADES STATE PARK (27)**

Untouched by glaciers, this park is rich with rock formations carved by erosion. Situated north of Savanna along the lofty, wooded palisades of the Mississippi River, the park's inhabitants include pileated woodpeckers, migratory waterfowl, and a variety of upland wildlife. 16327 A, Route 84, Savanna 61074; GPS: 42.154848, -90.165773; **(815) 273-2731**.

### **MORRISON-ROCKWOOD STATE PARK (28)**

Located in Whiteside County, 2 miles north of Morrison, is an outdoor paradise. Visitors can enjoy boating (no wake), kayaking, and fishing on Lake Carlton, a 78-acre lake in the heart of the park. Lake Carlton offers easy access with an ADA accessible 2 lane boat ramp and docks, as well as a handicapped fishing pier and shoreline fishing. Abundant wildlife make it a great place for hunting, as well as wildlife viewing. 18750 Lake Road, Morrison 61270; GPS: 41.847068, -89.961731; **(815) 772-4708**.

### **POWERTON LAKE STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (29)**

The lake was built on the floodplain of the Illinois River in 1971 by Commonwealth Edison Company as a cooling reservoir for the fossil-fueled power plant. Today, the diked, 1,426-acre lake is leased by

the Department of Natural Resources for visitor fishing and hunting. The entire shoreline is rocky. 11930 E Manito Rd. Pekin, IL 61554; GPS: 40.538698, -89.703079; **(309) 968-7135**.

### **PROPHETSTOWN STATE PARK (30)**

The historical Prophetstown State Recreation Area featuring a variety of recreational opportunities like picnicking, fishing, camping, hiking, and wildlife viewing. This 52-acre site, situated on the northeast edge of Prophetstown along the south bank of the Rock River, is great for family outings. Riverside Drive and Park Avenue, P.O. Box 181, Prophetstown 61277; GPS: 41.670796, -89.923868; **(815)-537-2926**.

### **RICE LAKE STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (31)**

Just 15 miles north of Havana in Fulton County, Rice Lake is an outdoor enthusiast's dream. Its high-quality habitat attracts thousands of migrating birds annually. Areas are open for fishing, boating, camping, and wildlife observation. 19721 North U.S. 24, Canton 61520; GPS: 40.479598, -89.946785; **(309) 647-9184**.

### **ROCK CUT STATE PARK (32)**

Located one mile west of the State Route 173 exit off I-90 north of Rockford, the park's 3,100 acres offer many summer and winter activities, including fishing, swimming, camping, and cross-country skiing. There is also a restaurant where visitors can enjoy beautiful views of the lake from either inside or outside. It also has a bait shop that offers kayaking, boat rentals, and fishing supplies. 7318 Harlem Road, Loves Park 61111; GPS: 42.369874, -88.978259; **(815) 885-3311**. ☎

### ROCK ISLAND STATE TRAIL (33)

Located in north-central Illinois, between Alta in Peoria County and Toulon in Stark County, the Rock Island Trail provides 27 miles for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing. A primitive campground is also available. The trail is one of the premier rails-to-trails facilities in Illinois. 311 East Williams, Wyoming 61491; GPS: 41.0615742, -89.7697203; **(309) 695-2228**.

### SHABBONA LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA (34)

Named for the Potawatomi chief who briefly held a small parcel of this land 10 years after the 1832 Black Hawk War, Shabbona Lake State Recreation Area is off U.S. 30, midway between DeKalb and LaSalle-Peru. Fishing fans can take advantage of one of the best fishing lakes in Illinois. Shabbona Lake campground is a semi-wooded area with 150 Class A Premium sites featuring electricity, showers and vehicular access. 4201 Shabbona Grove Road, Shabbona 60550; GPS: 41.7567333, -88.8695028; **(815) 824-2106**. 🚰

### SLAKEDEN HOLLOW STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (35)

The 2,740-acre Snakeden Hollow State Fish & Wildlife Area, located in Knox County, one mile southeast of Victoria, is known for its exceptional waterfowl hunting. The 112 water impoundments offer largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegill, crappie, channel catfish, bullhead, muskellunge, and walleye for fishing. Seasonal restrictions and limited access may apply. 1936 Route 167, Victoria 61485; GPS: 41.031974, -90.071926; **(309) 879-2607**.

### SPRING LAKE STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (36)

Containing a large bluff overlooking a

long, narrow lake, the Spring Lake area is 25 miles southwest of Peoria on the east side of the Illinois River. Camping, picnicking, fishing, hiking, and hunting opportunities provide many recreational experiences. 7982 South Park Road, Manito 61546; GPS: 40.4619959, -89.8871953; **(309) 968-7135**.

### STARVED ROCK STATE PARK (37)

Seasonal waterfalls, inspiring bluffs and canyons, dominate the landscape at Starved Rock State Park, located one mile south of Utica, midway between the cities of LaSalle-Peru and Ottawa. Legend tells of a band of Illinois that was under attack by rival Ottawa-Potawatomis, starving here in the 1760s atop a 125-foot sandstone bluff. Routes 178 and 71, P.O. Box 509, Utica 61373; GPS: 41.318114, -88.997562; **(815) 667-4726**. 🚰

### WHITE PINES FOREST STATE PARK (38)

Located southwest of Mount Morris, White Pines Forest State Park features one of the largest southernmost stands of native white pines in Illinois. It is also noted for its vine-covered limestone bluffs. Concrete fords span Pine Creek, allowing cars to drive through the flowing stream. 6712 West Pines Road, Mt. Morris 61054; GPS: 41.98876, -89.4580; **(815) 946-3717**. 🚰

### WOODFORD STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (39)

Situated east of the Illinois River, northeast of Peoria just off Highway 26, Woodford is a picturesque bottomland setting with silver maple, cottonwood, ash, and willow trees. Picnicking, camping, boating, fishing, and hunting are enjoyed. 524 Conservation Lane, Lowpoint 61545; GPS: 40.879282, -89.4583149; **(309) 246-8351**.



## NORTHWEST ILLINOIS

	PARK	BUFFALO ROCK	ANDERSON LAKE	APPLE RIVER CANYON	ARGYLE LAKE	BANNER MARSH	BIG BEND	BIG RIVER	CASTLE ROCK	DELABAR	FRANKLIN CREEK	GREEN RIVER	HENDERSON COUNTY	HENNEPIN CANAL	ILLINI (PC <sub>3</sub> )	JOHNSON-SAUK (H, IN)	JUBILEE COLLEGE
ACREAGE		298	2,240	297	1,722	3,979	2,376	2,970	2,014	89	922	2,565	88	5,348	507	1,361	3,184
CONCESSION					♿			♿							♿	♿	
DRINKING WATER		•	•	•	♿			♿	•	♿	•	•			♿	♿	♿
HISTORIC STRUCTURE											♿			•	♿	♿	•
RESTAURANT															♿	♿	
RESTROOMS		•	♿	♿	♿	♿	•	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	•	♿	♿	♿	♿
SANITARY DUMP STATION*			•	•	•			•		•	•	•			♿	•	♿
VISITOR CENTER † With Interpretive Staff					♿						•			•			
BIKE TRAILS		•			M									•			M
BOATING			•		•	•		•	•	•			•	•	•	•	
BOAT LAUNCHING RAMP			•		♿	♿		♿	•	•			•	•	•	♿	
BOAT MOTORS			U		U	U		U	U	U			E	U	U	E	
BOAT RENTALS					•											•	
CAMPING See key for camp site type) ☞ Canoe camping 🐾 Horse camping			C	C (NS) Y + ♿	A BE C D Y ♿			C D +	BE C D	BE C D	♿	C	C	C (NS) Y	A BS Y	A ♿ + C ♿ Y + PC +	A BS C Y
CANOE ACCESS / RENTAL (R)			•		• R	•		•	•	•			•	•	•	•	
FISHING			•	•	♿	♿	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	♿	•
HIKING		•		♿	♿		•	•	•	•	♿	•	•	♿	♿	•	•
HORSE CAMPGROUND					♿			•			•	•		•			•
HORSE RENTAL																	
HORSE TRAILS					•			•			•	•		•			•
HUNTING			•	•	•	♿	•	•	•		•	•		•		•	•
KAYAKING									•								
NATURE PRESERVE				•	•				•		•			N		N	•
PICNICKING		•	•	♿	♿	•		♿	•	•	•		•	♿	♿	♿	♿
SWIMMING BEACH																	

\*Fee for non-campers

## KEY

### CAMPING

#### Class AP (Premium) sites

Showers, electricity, and vehicular access; \$25/night<sup>1</sup>

**Class A sites** Showers, electricity, and vehicular access; \$20/night<sup>1</sup>

**Class BE sites** Electricity and vehicular access; \$18/night

**Class BSP (Premium) sites** Showers and vehicular access, \$12/night

**Class BS sites** Showers and vehicular access, \$10/night

**Class C sites** Vehicular access or walk-in with shower access; \$8/night

**Class D sites** Tent camping or primitive sites (walk-in or backpack) with no vehicular access; \$6/night

<sup>1</sup>Additional \$10 fee for holiday weekend

**Class Y sites** Youth groups only; \$2/person with minimum daily fee \$20

**PC** Primitive cabins

**NS** No Showers

+ Advanced Reservations

~ Accepts Credit Cards

Camping rates are subject to change

LAKE LE-AQUA-NA	LA SALLE LAKE	LOWDEN (PC&)	LOWDEN-MILLER	MACKINAW RIVER	MARSEILLES	MARSHALL	MATTHIESSEN	MAUTINO	MISSISSIPPI PALISADES	MORRISON-ROCKWOOD	POWERTON LAKE	PROPHETSTOWN	RICE LAKE	ROCK CUT	ROCK ISLAND TRAIL	SHABONA LAKE (PC&)	SNAKEDEN HOLLOW	SPRING LAKE	STARVED ROCK (H.L.)	WHITE PINES FOREST (H.L.)	WOODFORD
715	2,073	207	2,291	1,448	2,514	5,658	1,938	911	2,550	1,152	1,426	52	6,940	3,092	392	1,546	2,498	2,032	2,630	385	2,901
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## BOATING MOTORS

**E** Electric trolling only

**10** 10 horsepower limit

**15** 15 horsepower limit

**25** 25 horsepower limit

**U** Unlimited

♿ Accessible to visitors with disabilities

**N** Nature preserve nearby

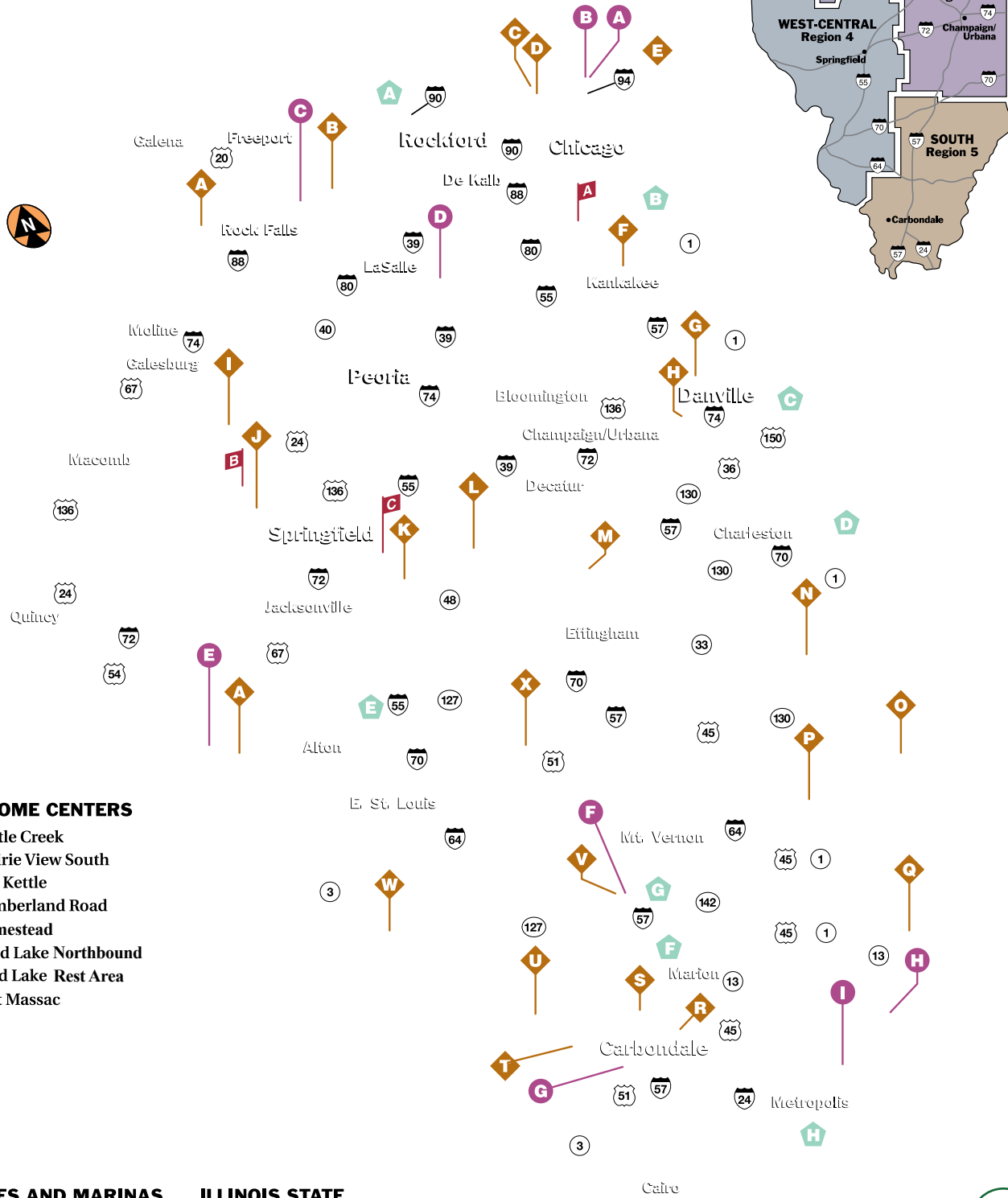
**H** Historic/archeological site

**L** Lodging/resort

**M** Mountain bike trail

† Pilot no-wake program

# ILLINOIS



## WELCOME CENTERS

- A Turtle Creek
- B Prairie View South
- C Salt Kettle
- D Cumberland Road
- E Homestead
- F Rend Lake Northbound
- G Rend Lake Rest Area
- H Fort Massac

## LODGES AND MARINAS

- A Illinois Beach Resort
- B North Point Marina
- C White Pines Inn
- D Starved Rock Lodge
- E Pere Marquette Lodge
- F **Rend Lake Resort\***
- G Giant City Lodge
- H Cave in Rock Lodge
- I Golconda Marina

\* Currently closed

## RIVERS AND LAKES

- A Mississippi River
- B Rock River
- C Fox River
- D Fox Lake
- E Lake Michigan
- F Kankakee River
- G Middlefork National Scenic River
- H Vermilion River
- I Spoon River
- J Illinois River
- K Lake Springfield
- L Sangamon River
- M Lake Shelbyville
- N Embarras River
- O Wabash River
- P Little Wabash River
- Q Ohio River
- R Lake Egypt
- S Crab Orchard Lake
- T Cedar Lake
- U Kinkaid Lake
- V Rend Lake
- W Kaskaskia River
- X Carlyle Lake

## ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM SITES

- A Illinois State Museum Lockport
- B Dickson Mounds Museum
- C Illinois State Museum

## PUT THE PARKS ON YOUR PLATE

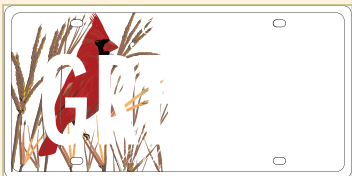
Illinois residents can show their support for the state's conservation and outdoor recreation programs by purchasing specialty license plates.

Sporting Series License Plates featuring a largemouth bass, white-tailed deer, ring-necked pheasant, Canada goose, mallard duck or wild turkey are available. Twenty-five dollars of the application fee goes to the Illinois Habitat Fund.

features a colorful cardinal (the state bird) perched on native prairie grass. Twenty-five dollars of the application fee goes to the State Park Fund.

Specialty plates can be used on all passenger and recreational vehicles, recreational trailers and small trucks (under 8,000 pounds). For more information, call the Secretary of State at **(800) 252-8980** (Illinois only); TTY **(800) 252-2904**.

The Environmental License Plate



# Northeast Illinois



Remnants of the great prairies that once covered nearly 60 percent of the land are evident in Northeast Illinois, as are most of the state's glacial lakes and true bogs. The six miles of Illinois Beach dunes along Lake Michigan display thousands of years of geologic development and nearly 700 different plant species.

The Wea tribe of Miami occupied the Illinois Beach State Park area at the end of the 17th century. In 1802, Fort Dearborn was erected in Chicago on land used by the Potawatomi and Ottawa. Ten years later, U.S. forces abandoned the fort and, by 1830, fewer than 100 people lived there. However, following the 1832 Black Hawk War, Chicago's population swelled to 1,800 people, and the city was established as a shipping port by 1838. For more information about sites in northeast Illinois, contact Region 2 Office,

Tri-County State Park, 2050 West Stearns Road, Bartlett, IL 60103; **(847) 608-3100**; **Hours are Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., [dnr.r2parks@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.r2parks@illinois.gov).**

## ADELINE JAY GEO-KARIS ILLINOIS BEACH STATE PARK (1)

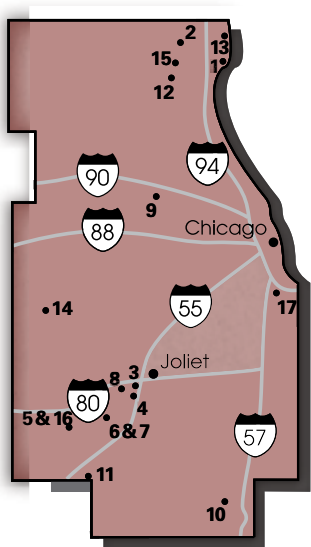
Stretching more than 6.5 miles along the shore of Lake Michigan, Illinois Beach State Park contains the only beach ridge shoreline in the state. The park has dramatic ridges and swales, dunes, sprawling marshes, oak savannahs, and a vast array of animal life and vegetation. Lakefront, Zion 60099; GPS: 42.419967, -87.806625; **(847) 662-4811**. ♿

## CHAIN O'LAKES STATE PARK (2)

Covering 6,063 acres of northeastern Illinois, Chain O'Lakes State Park borders three natural lakes, and the Fox River, which connects seven others. Firearm hunting for deer and waterfowl is offered by lottery. Bowhunting for deer and turkey is also available. Fishing is best from boats or piers due to the marshy environment. Camping, hiking, biking, and boating are also popular. Eight miles of equestrian trails with parking. 8916 Wilmot Road, Spring Grove 60081; GPS: 42.4577652, -88.2002891; **(847) 587-5512**.

## CHANNAHON STATE PARK (3)

One mile south of U.S. 6 off Canal Street in Channahon, this state park serves as the trailhead for the 61-mile I & M Canal State Trail. Historic structures include a canal lock-tender's house and canal locks 6 and 7. 25302 West Story Street, Channahon 60410; GPS: 41.4237179, -88.225712; **(815) 467-4271**.



#### **DES PLAINES STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (4)**

Located on I-55, eight miles south of I-80, this site's 5,500 acres make up one of the largest and most used hunting and field training areas in the state. Visitors can also picnic, boat, and fish. There are two small natural areas and 8 miles of equestrian trails. 28163 North River Road, Wilmington 60481; GPS: 41.3723733, -88.2072219; **(815) 423-5326**.

#### **GEBHARD WOODS STATE PARK (5)**

Dotted with shade trees, Gebhard Woods State Park stretches along the I & M Canal in the city of Morris. Hikers, campers, picnickers, and paddlers frequent this 30-acre site, making it one of the state's more popular parks. 401 Ottawa Street, Morris 60450; GPS: 41.357726, -88.436289; **(815) 942-0796**.

#### **GOOSE LAKE PRAIRIE STATE NATURAL AREA (6)**

Visit Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area to see Illinois as it was 150 years ago. Big bluestem, Indian grass, and switchgrass thrive here, as do broad-leaved flowering plants known as forbs. 5010 North Jughtown Road, Morris 60450; GPS: 41.3590452, -88.3253494; **(815) 942-2899**.

#### **HEIDECKE STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (7)**

Just north of Goose Lake Prairie is Heidecke State Fish & Wildlife Area. Heidecke Lake, itself, is leased to the IDNR for hunting and fishing. Regulations apply at this 2,129-acre site. 5010 North Jughtown Road, Morris 60450; GPS: 41.365215, -88.325615; **(815) 942-6352**.

#### **I & M CANAL STATE TRAIL (8)**

The I & M Canal linked Lake Michigan to the Illinois River at LaSalle when it was

constructed in 1848. Today, the towpath is used as a 61-mile hiking, biking and snowmobiling trail. 402 Ottawa Street, Morris 60450; GPS: 41.569722, -88.069722; **(815) 942-9501**.

#### **JAMES "PATE" PHILIP STATE PARK (9)**

This park conserves 501 acres of open space at the junction of Cook, Du Page, and Kane counties. Years of restoration has reestablished grassland, woodland, and wetland communities that support native plants, wildlife, and a tributary to the east branch of Brewster Creek. The visitor center contains photomurals and displays highlighting valuable ecosystems. A video presentation tells the story of evolving land uses, from pre-settlement times to today. Outdoor recreation opportunities include a 3.8-mile, multi-loop trail system (hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing) and a picnic area with a shelter building and restrooms. 2050 West Stearns Road, 2.5 miles west of IL Route 59 in Bartlett 60103; GPS: 41.97621, -88.267078; **(847) 608-3100**.

#### **KANKAKEE RIVER STATE PARK (10)**

Recreation seekers from Chicago used the area now known as Kankakee River State Park as early as the 1890s. Today, visitors from Chicago, Kankakee, and throughout northeastern Illinois are drawn to the park for its fishing, canoeing, hunting, camping, and bicycling trails, as well as its 12-mile equestrian trail. 5314 West Route 102, Bourbonnais 60914; GPS: 41.202036, -87.973709; **(815) 933-1383**. ♿

#### **MAZONIA-BRAIDWOOD STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (11)**

Mazonia Braidwood State Fish & Wildlife Area provides more than 1,700 acres of grassland, brushy draws, and shrubs on

its 6,120 acres. Water impoundments contain bass, crappie, channel catfish, and more. Hunters will enjoy excellent deer, pheasant, goose, duck, and rabbit hunting. P.O. Box 126, 7705 E. Huston Road, Braceville 60407; GPS: 41.203844, -88.274288; **(815) 237-0063**.

### **MORaine HILLS STATE PARK & MCHENRY DAM (12)**

Named for its boulders, stones, and glacial debris, Moraine Hills State Park hosts marsh and fen communities in 2,247 acres of rolling hills. Ten miles of trails and the Fox River make the park popular for hikers, bicyclists, birders, anglers, and other enthusiasts. 1510 South River Road, McHenry 60051; GPS: 42.309232, -88.227979; **(815) 385-1624**.

### **NORTH POINT MARINA (13)**

On Lake Michigan's northern Illinois shoreline between Chicago and Milwaukee, this marina features 1,500 boat slips and 46 charter captains. It is bordered on the west by an area of natural wetland, forest, and prairie. 701 North Point Drive, Winthrop Harbor 60096; GPS: 42.487961, -87.80163; **(847) 746-2845**.

### **SILVER SPRINGS STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (14)**

Named after a small pool of clear, bubbling water found at the site, this park and wildlife area is situated five miles west of Yorkville off Highway 47. Picnicking, fishing, hiking, hunting, and wildlife viewing are all popular attractions. 13608 Fox Road, Yorkville 60560; GPS: 41.62635, -88.538132; **(630) 553-6297**.

### **VOLO BOG STATE NATURAL AREA (15)**

Volo Bog was created when melting glaciers sculpted the land 12,000 years ago. Sphagnum moss, leatherleaf, and a tamarack forest are part of the bog's interesting plant life to be seen along the floating boardwalk. The Visitor's Center is located in a historic dairy barn that was remodeled in the 1990s and is also used as an education center. 28478 West Brandenburg Road, Ingleside 60041; GPS: 42.350171, -88.169575; **(815) 344-1294**.

### **WILLIAM G. STRATTON STATE PARK (16)**

Although it is only seven acres, William G. Stratton State Park is widely used by boaters and anglers from northeastern Illinois. Launch ramps with docks serve boaters from the Illinois River bridge in Morris. 401 Ottawa Street, Morris 60450; GPS: 41.360517, -88.409413; **(815) 942-0796**.

### **WILLIAM W. POWERS STATE RECREATION AREA (17)**

Offering fishing, waterfowl hunting, picnicking, and winter sports, William W. Powers State Recreation Area is on Chicago's far southeast side, along the Indiana border. At the center of its attraction is Wolf Lake, which is segmented by dikes and offers six miles of some of the area's best shoreline fishing to bank anglers. The park also has a brand new visitor's center, offering a range of interpretive programs to guests, including bilingual offerings. See website for hours of operation. 12949 South Avenue "O," Chicago 60633; GPS: 41.66893, -87.536876; **(773) 646-3270**.



For answers to all your  
questions, go to [OhRanger.com](http://OhRanger.com)

NORTHEAST ILLINOIS

	PARK	CHAIN O' LAKES (♿)	CHANNAHON	DES PLAINES	GEHARD WOODS	GOOSE LAKE PRAIRIE	HEIDECKE LAKE	I & M CANAL (H)	ILLINOIS BEACH (L)	JAMES PATE PHILIP	KANKAKEE RIVER (PC♿)	MAZONIA/BRAIDWOOD	MORAIN HILLS/MCHENRY DAM	NORTH POINT MARINA	SILVER SPRINGS	VOLO BOG	WILLIAM G STRATTON	WILLIAM W. POWERS
ACREAGE		6,063	25	5,500	30	2,468	2,129	2,802	4,160	501	3,932	6,120	2,247	140	1,314	1,243	7	624
CONCESSION		♿		•					♿	•			•	♿				
DRINKING WATER		♿	•		•	•		•	♿	•			♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	•
HISTORIC STRUCTURE			•		•			•								•		•
RESTAURANT		•							♿					♿				
RESTROOMS		♿	•	♿	•	♿	♿	•	♿	•	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿
SANITARY DUMP STATION*		•							♿		♿							
VISITOR CENTER † With Interpretive Staff								†		•	•		♿			†	♿	†
BIKE TRAILS		•	•		•			•	♿	•	•		♿	♿			•	•
BOATING		•		•				•			•	•	•	•	•		•	•
BOAT LAUNCHING RAMP		♿		♿			•				•	•		•	♿		♿	•
BOAT MOTORS		U		U/10			U	E			10	U/E	E	U	E		U	U
BOAT RENTALS		•											•					
CAMPING (See key for camp site type) ♿ Canoe camping † Horse camping		AP♿ BSP Y + ~	D Y		D Y			D Y♿	AP♿ Y + ~		AP♿ BEP C Y +							
CANOE ACCESS / RENTAL (R)		• R	•					•			•	• R		♿			•	•
FISHING		♿		♿	•		•	•	•		♿	•	♿	♿	♿		•	•
HIKING		♿	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	♿	♿	♿	•		•
HORSE CAMPGROUND											•							
HORSE RENTAL											•							
HORSE TRAILS		•		•							•	•	•		•			
HUNTING		•		♿		•	•		•		♿	♿	•	•	•	•		•
KAYAKING		•		•							•	•	•		•			
NATURE PRESERVE		•		•		•		•	•		•	•	•	♿		•		
PICNICKING		♿		♿	♿	♿		•	♿	•	♿		♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿
SWIMMING BEACH									•					♿				

\*Fee for non-campers

KEY

CAMPING

**Class AP (Premium) sites**  
Showers, electricity, and vehicular access; \$25/night<sup>1</sup>  
**Class BEP (Premium) sites**  
Electricity and vehicular access; \$20/night  
**Class BSP (Premium) sites**  
Showers and vehicular access, \$12/night  
**Class C sites** Vehicular access or walk-in w/ shower access; \$8/night

**Class D sites** Tent camping or primitive sites (walk-in or backpack) with no vehicular access; \$6/night  
**Class Y sites** Youth groups only; \$2/person with minimum daily fee of \$20  
+ Advanced Reservations  
~ Accepts Credit Cards  
*Camping rates are subject to change*  
<sup>1</sup>Additional \$10 fee for holiday weekend

BOATING MOTORS

**E** Electric trolling only  
**10** 10 horsepower limit  
**15** 15 horsepower limit  
**25** 25 horsepower limit  
**U** Unlimited  
♿ Accessible to visitors with disabilities  
**H** Historic/archeological site  
**L** Lodging/resort  
**PC** Primitive cabins

# South Illinois



With bald cypress swamps, this area is reminiscent of the bayous of the Deep South. It is home to wooded hillsides and intriguing rock formations. Fort Massac State Park stands as a sentinel in the course of early American history. The fort was used during the French-Indian, Revolutionary, and Civil wars. Superman, also from Metropolis, has a statue in his honor in the town square.

For more information about sites in southern Illinois, contact Region 5 Office, Department of Natural Resources, 11731 State Highway 37, Benton, IL 62812; **(618) 435-8138**; **[dnr.r5parks@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.r5parks@illinois.gov)**.

## BEALL WOODS STATE PARK (1)

This park supports 64 species of trees within its 635 acres. Several miles of scenic nature trails start at the visitor center. The park is six miles south of Mount Carmel. 9285 Beall Woods Avenue, Mt. Carmel 62863; GPS: 38.35538, -87.826648; **(618) 298-2442**.

## CACHE RIVER STATE NATURAL AREA (2)

This 18,047-acre natural area has three nature preserves—Heron Pond/Wildcat Bluff, Little Black Slough, and Section 8 Woods. The area contains 100 threatened or endangered plant and animal species and 11 state champion trees. The Cache River Wetlands Center is open Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 8885 State Route 37 South, Cypress 62923; GPS: 37.31290 - 89.02120; **(618) 657-2064**.

## CAVE-IN-ROCK STATE PARK (3)

This park is named for a 55-foot-wide, 500-foot-long cave that served as a headquarters for bands of famous outlaws until the mid-1830s. The park offers camping, picnicking, hiking, boating, and fishing. Located in the park is Cave-in-Rock Restaurant and Lodge. 420 E Park Ave, Cave-in-Rock 62919; Mailing Address: PO Box 125, Carrier Mills 62919; GPS: 37.46976, -88.15540; Park Office: **(618) 289-4325**; Lodge: **(618) 289-4545**.

## CRAWFORD COUNTY STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (4)

Managed primarily for hunting and fishing, this 1,100-acre area of wildlife habitat and nine fishing ponds is two miles west and one mile south of Hutsonville. 12609 East 1700th Avenue, Hutsonville 62433; GPS: 39.0997428, -87.7103743; **(618) 563-4405**.

## DIXON SPRINGS STATE PARK (5)

In the 19th century, springs of mineral-enriched water attracted people to Dixon Springs. Today, visitors can relax near moss-covered boulders, craggy overhangs, and rushing brooks. Route



146, Golconda 62938; GPS: 37.38232, -88.66960; **(618) 949-3394**. 🚶

### **FERNE CLYFFE STATE PARK (6)**

This park is defined by the flora and geologic formations of the scenic Shawnee Hills. Trails wind past an intermittent waterfall and the largest shelter bluff in southern Illinois. Route #37 South, P.O. Box 10, Goreville 62939; GPS: 37.531767, -88.98555; **(618) 995-2411**.

### **FORT DEFIANCE STATE PARK (7)**

Historical day use site with picnicking available, featuring a large observation tower overlooking the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. **Named the tenth most amazing confluence in the world by World Geography.** U.S. 60 & U.S. 62, Cairo 62914; GPS: 36.985243, -89.144869; **(618) 776-5689**.

### **FORT MASSAC STATE PARK (8)**

The military history at the first Illinois state park predates the Revolutionary War. Fort Massac Encampment, held the third week of October, and other living history weekends bring the past to life. The site has a visitor center, museum (please call for hours of operation), and replica of the American fort, and offers camping, picnic areas, hunting, and a boat ramp. It is also home to a new PDGA 18-hole Disc Golf Course and the George Rogers Clark Discovery Bike/Walking Trail. 1308 East 5th Street, Metropolis 62960; GPS: 37.149932, -88.695512; **(618) 524-4712**. 🚶

### **GIANT CITY STATE PARK (9)**

Giant City State Park tells a geologic tale 315 million years old. To early settlers, the pattern of the area's Pennsylvanian bedrock, called Pounds sandstone, reportedly looked like streets of a

giant city. Giant City Lodge, 460 Giant City Lodge Road, Makanda 62958; (618) 457-4921; Giant City Visitor Center, 235 Giant City Road, Makanda 62958; GPS: 37.6063419, -89.1868429; **(618) 457-4836**.

### **GOLCONDA MARINA (10)**

One of the finest fishing and boating areas in the nation, this marina is on a scenic stretch of the Ohio River and the gateway to the Ohio River's Smithland Pool. The full-service marina has more than 200 slips. P.O. Box 178, RR 2, Golconda 62958; GPS: 37.38325, -88.49110; **(618) 683-5875**.

### **HAMILTON COUNTY STATE**

#### **FISH & WILDLIFE AREA—DOLAN LAKE (11)**

Dolan Lake teems with bass, bluegill, and channel catfish. Hunting is welcome on 1,680 acres. 10279 Sunrise Point Road, McLeansboro 62859; GPS: 38.081609, -88.409729; **(618) 773-4340**.

#### **HORSESHOE LAKE STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (ALEXANDER COUNTY) (12)**

This area is noted for its large stands of tupelo, swamp cottonwood, and cypress trees, as well as fall and winter waterfowl and bald eagle populations. This area is known locally and statewide for its 4,190-acre public waterfowl hunting area. The area is also great for deer, squirrel, turkey, and dove hunting. The site offers a 2,400-acre lake that provides great crappie fishing in the spring and fall. It has also become very popular for kayaking and canoeing. West campground is open year-round. East campground is open May 1 through September 30. 21204 Promised Land Rd, Miller City 62962; GPS: 37.134045, -89.349232; **(618) 776-5689**. 🚶

### **KINKAID LAKE STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (13)**

This 3,685-acre site is dominated by sandstone bluffs, rolling hills, and an oak-hickory forest. Picnicking, fishing, boating, and hunting are popular. 492 Lake Access Road, Murphysboro 62966; GPS: 37.7724272, -89.3787358; **(618) 684-2867**.

### **LAKE MURPHYSBORO STATE PARK (14)**

A 145-acre manmade lake draws anglers in search of largemouth bass, sunfish, crappie, and channel catfish. Much of the 1,000 acres are wooded and include a variety of native wild orchids. 492 Lake Access Road, Murphysboro 62966; GPS: 37.782608, -89.37959; **(618) 684-2867**.

### **MERMET LAKE STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (15)**

A 460 acre fishing lake, walking trails, hunting, 110+ acres of preserve, restored wetlands, and a restored prairie are popular for wildlife and bird watching. A national archery tournament is held the last week of June. 1812 Grinnel Road, Belknap 62908; GPS: 37.270365, -88.848496; **(618) 524-5577**.

### **NEWTON LAKE STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (16)**

This 6,400-acre area hosts various fauna, including the endangered prairie chicken. It offers fishing, picnic areas, a shoreline trail system, and 1,775-acre lake. 3490 East 500th Avenue, Newton 62448; GPS: 38.915346, -88.279953; **(618) 783-3478**.

### **PYRAMID STATE PARK (17)**

Illinois' largest park has approximately 19,000 acres to enjoy. Expect excellent fishing, waterfowl hunting, and wildlife viewing opportunities. Five miles south of Pinckneyville on Highway 127. 1562 Pyramid

Park Road, Pinckneyville 62274; GPS: 38.031327, -89.404678; **(618) 357-2574**.

### **RAMSEY LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA (18)**

Rolling hills, timbered shoreline, and the lake itself produce picturesque fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, and picnicking opportunities. P.O. Box 97, Ramsey 62080; GPS: 39.160681, -89.1259; **(618) 423-2215**.

### **RED HILLS STATE PARK (19)**

This 967-acre site offers wooded hills, meadows, and nature areas for camping, hiking, fishing, and hunting. The park is home to the 627-acre Chauncey Marsh Wetland. 3571 Ranger Lane, Sumner 62466; GPS: 38.728688, -87.836322; **(618) 936-2469**. ♿

### **REND LAKE STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (20)**

Anglers looking for crappie, catfish, and bass drop their lines in 18,900-acre Rend Lake. Marsh habitat supports ducks, shore, and wading birds. 10885 East Jefferson Road, Bonnie 62816; GPS: 38.1982073, -88.9900258; **(618) 279-3110**.

### **SAHARA WOODS STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (21)**

Donated to the state in 1998, this area was once a thriving strip coal mine. It offers archery and late winter firearm deer hunting and fishing on 375 acres of water. Upland game and spring turkey hunting are available by site specific permits. 1210 Tipple Road, Carrier Mills 62917; GPS: 37.7158622, -88.6619659; **(618) 994-2022**.

### **SALINE COUNTY STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (22)**

This site offers opportunities for the sportsman and recreationist alike. The site has a 105-acre lake, a 1,000-acre hunting area, 43 class C camp sites, a seven-mile bike path, an equestrian campground, and

a seasonal trout pond. 85 Glen O. Jones Road, Equality 62934; GPS: 37.690409, -88.380192; **(618) 276-4405**.

#### **SAM DALE LAKE STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (23)**

The lake and 1,300-acre recreational area provides habitat for shorebirds and upland game, and offers camping, hunting, hiking, fishing, and horseback riding. 620 County Road 910 North, Johnsonville 62850; GPS: 38.538633, -88.584652; **(618) 835-2292**. 🚲

#### **SAM PARR STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (24)**

The 1,100-acre site boasts a 183-acre lake and offers picnicking, hiking, camping, fishing, and hunting. 13225 East State Highway 33, Newton 62448; GPS: 39.012248, -88.120308; **(618) 783-2661**.

#### **STEPHEN A. FORBES STATE RECREATION AREA (25)**

Stephen A. Forbes State Park spans over 3,100 acres, offering a serene escape for nature enthusiasts. The centerpiece of the park is its 585-acre lake with a 200-foot sandy beach for swimming. Visitors can fill their day with an array of activities including hunting, fishing, water skiing, kayaking, hiking, and camping. The park boasts picnic areas that offer the perfect spot to relax and unwind after a day of adventure. 6924 Omega Road, Kinmundy 62854; GPS: 38.726099, -88.779831; **(618) 547-3381**.

#### **TEN MILE CREEK STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (26)**

Located in Jefferson and Hamilton counties, these 5,910 acres vary from flat bottomlands to rolling forestlands. Fields throughout the site provide 1,000 acres of planted food for wildlife. Hunt for rabbit, quail, and waterfowl; fish in its 250 acres of lakes and ponds. 4283 St. Rt. 14, McLeansboro 62859; GPS: 38.08171, -88.62564; **(618) 643-2862**.

#### **TRAIL OF TEARS STATE FOREST (27)**

This forested site offers picnic shelters with fireplaces and grills. In spring, up to 620 native species of flowering plants bloom along a network of hiking and horseback trails. 3240 State Forest Road, Jonesboro 62952; GPS: 37.496461, -89.356691; **(618) 833-4910**.

#### **TUNNEL HILL STATE TRAIL (28)**

The 45-mile-long biking-hiking trail starts at Feazel Street in Harrisburg and ends at the Barkhausen/Cache River Wetlands Center in Whitehill. Visitors pass scenic farmland, hills, bluffs, and bottomland areas in the Shawnee National Forest and the Cache River State Natural Area. Visitor Center, State Highway 146 East, Vienna 62995; GPS: 37.417200, -88.887900; **(618) 995-2411**. 🚲

#### **UNION COUNTY STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (29)**

The 2,400-acre area is known locally and statewide for its waterfowl hunting. Opportunities also exist for hunting deer, squirrel, and doves at other locations on its main site and satellite areas. Birders enjoy over 168 species counted on the refuge, including eagles and swans. Fishing is available March through mid-October. 2755 Refuge Road, Jonesboro 62952; 37.422112, -89.3733345; **(618) 833-5175**.

#### **WAYNE FITZGERRELL STATE RECREATION AREA (30)**

This 3,300-acre paradise offers outstanding opportunities for field trials, camping, picnicking, hiking, biking, fishing, and hunting. Upland game hunters flock here to participate in a controlled pheasant hunt. 11094 Ranger Road, Whittington 62897; GPS: 38.089715, -88.948059; **(618) 629-2320**.

SOUTH ILLINOIS

	PARK	BEALL WOODS	CACHE RIVER	CAVE-IN-ROCK (L)	CRAWFORD COUNTY	DIXON SPRINGS (POOL)	FERNE CLYFFE	FORT DEFIANCE	FORT MASSAC (H)	GIANT CITY (L)	GOLCONDA MARINA	HAMILTON COUNTY	HORSESHOE LAKE	KINKAID LAKE
ACREAGE		635	18,047	204	1,129	931	2,470	21	1,499	4,055	619	1,683	9,550	3,685
CONCESSION				♿		♿				♿	♿	♿		
DRINKING WATER		♿	•	♿		♿	♿		♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿
HISTORIC STRUCTURE				•					•	•				
RESTAURANT				♿						♿		♿		
RESTROOMS		♿	♿	♿	•	♿	♿		♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿
SANITARY DUMP STATION*		•		♿		♿	•		♿	♿		•	♿	
VISITOR CENTER † With Interpretive Staff		†	†						†	†				
BIKE TRAILS				•					•			•	•	
BOATING		•	•	♿					•		•	•	•	•
BOAT LAUNCHING RAMP		•	•	♿					•		•	•	♿	•
BOAT MOTORS		E	10	U					U		U	10	10	U
BOAT RENTALS											•			
CAMPING (See key for camp site type) 🚣 Canoe 🐾 Horse		C&Y		A♿ BS Y+ x		BE♿ D Y	A♿ BE♿ C Y		A♿ BS♿ C Y	A♿ C Y	C	A C Y	A♿ BE C	
CANOE ACCESS			•	♿				•				•	•	•
FISHING		•	•	♿	•		♿	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HIKING		•	♿	•	•	•	♿		•	♿	•	•	•	•
HORSE CAMPGROUND							•			A				
HORSE RENTAL														
HORSE TRAILS					•		•			•		•		
HUNTING		•	•		•	♿	•		•	•	•	•	♿	•
KAYAKING			•											•
NATURE PRESERVE		•	•			•	•		•	•			•	
PICNICKING		♿	•	♿	♿	♿	♿	•	♿	♿	•	•	♿	•
SWIMMING BEACH														

\*Fee for non-campers

KEY

CAMPING

**Class A sites** Showers, electricity, and vehicular access; \$20/night<sup>1</sup>  
**Class BE sites** Electricity and vehicular access; \$18/night  
**Class BS sites** Showers and vehicular access; \$10/night  
**Class C sites** Vehicular access or walk-in w/ shower access; \$8/night  
+ Advanced Reservations  
~ Accepts Credit Cards

**Class D sites** Tent camping or primitive sites (walk-in or backpack) with no vehicular access; \$6/night  
**Class Y sites** Youth groups only; \$2/person with minimum daily fee of \$20  
*Camping rates are subject to change*  
<sup>1</sup>Additional \$10 fee for holiday weekend  
♿ Accessible to visitors with disabilities  
x Free WiFi

BOATING MOTORS

**E** Electric trolling only  
**10** 10 horsepower limit  
**15** 15 horsepower limit  
**25** 25 horsepower limit  
**U** Unlimited  
**N** Nature preserve nearby  
**H** Historic/archeological site  
**L** Lodging/resort  
**M** Mountain bike trail  
**PC** Primitive cabins

LAKE MURPHYSBORO	MERMET LAKE	NEWTON LAKE	PYRAMID	RAMSEY LAKE (PC♿)	RED HILLS (PC♿)	REND LAKE	SAHARA WOODS	SALINE COUNTY	SAM DALE LAKE	SAM PARR	STEPHEN A. FORBES (PC♿)	TEN MILE CREEK	TRAIL OF TEARS	TUNNEL HILL	UNION COUNTY	WAYNE FITZGERRELL
1,024	2,625	6,400	19,000	1,960	967	12,690	4,004	1,270	1,302	1,133	3,100	5,910	5,220	904	6,202	3,300
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					♿						♿		•			
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♿	•	•	♿	•	•	•	♿	•	•	•	♿	•			•	•
10	U	25	U	E	E	U	E/10	10	10	10	U	10			10	U
	•							•			•					
A♿ BS♿ Y			C D Y	A BE C,D Y♿ + ~	A♿ C Y#			C	BE♿ D Y +	BE C D Y	A♿ BS C Y		C D Y +			A♿ Y
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♿	♿	•	•	♿	•	•	•	♿	•	•	♿	♿			•	♿
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♿	•	♿	•	♿	♿			♿	♿	•	♿	•	♿	♿		♿
											♿					

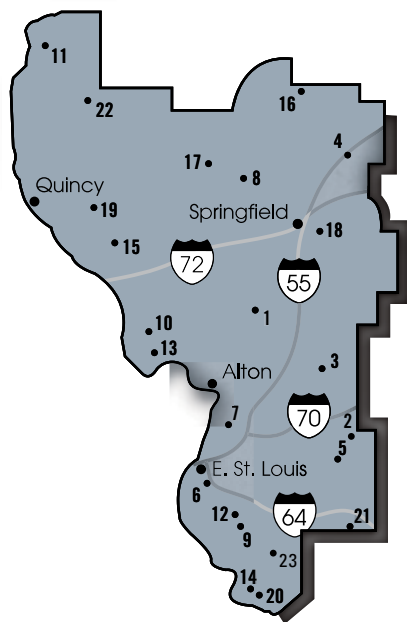
# West Central Illinois



Bordered by the Mississippi River on the west and bisected by the Illinois River, this area is popular among anglers and recreation seekers. Thousands are drawn to historic sites in west-central Illinois, which include Lincoln's New Salem and Springfield landmarks. For more information about sites in west-central Illinois, contact Pere Marquette State Park; **(618) 786-3323**; **DNR.PereMarquette@Illinois.gov**.

## BEAVER DAM STATE PARK (1)

On its 750 acres, the park offers fishing, picnicking, hiking, and camping among its most popular activities. 14548 Beaver Dam Lane, Plainview 62685; GPS: 39.208424, -89.972904; **(217) 854-8020**.



## CARLYLE LAKE STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (2)

A stopping point for migrating waterfowl, this 9,520-acre area has great waterfowl, deer, turkey, and upland game hunting. 712 North 300th Street, Vandalia 62471; GPS: 38.8106972, -89.212008; **(618) 425-3533**.

## COFFEEN LAKE STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (3)

Twenty-two fish species live in the 1,100-acre lake, ringed by native oak-hickory forests with picnic areas and hiking trails, plus hunting and trapping opportunities. 15084 North Fourth Avenue, Coffeen 62017; GPS: 39.05720, -89.39743; **(217) 537-3351**.

## EDWARD R. MADIGAN STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (4)

Escape to secluded picnic areas and trails or paddle along Salt Creek to discover the park, which also offers dove hunting in September and pheasant and rabbit hunting in late fall. 1366 1010th Avenue, Lincoln 62656; GPS: 40.1147043, -89.4027681; **(217) 732-1552**.

## ELDON HAZLET STATE RECREATION AREA (5)

The area is named for the first president of the Kaskaskia Valley Association who worked to make the largest man-made lake in Illinois a reality. Visitors enjoy camping, boating, fishing, hunting, picnicking, bird watching, and hiking 9 miles of trails. The Hazlet Cottages, Campground Store and Hazlet public swimming pool are also located in the park. 20100 Hazlet Park Road, Carlyle 62231; GPS: 38.664871, -89.3367; **(618) 594-3015**.

## FRANK HOLTEN STATE RECREATION AREA (6)

The 1,080 acres feature a championship 18-hole golf course and the Grand Marias

Club House, which caters events. There are two lakes, basketball courts, and picnic shelters. 4500 Pocket Road, East St. Louis 62205; GPS: 38.591382, -90.093041; **(618) 874-7920**.

### **HORSESHOE LAKE STATE PARK (MADISON COUNTY) (7)**

Horseshoe Lake offers hunting, camping, fishing, and hiking. The 2,850-acre park and its natural lake was home to the American Indians who built the nearby Cahokia Mounds. Campgrounds are open May 1 through September 30 only. 3321 Highway 111, Granite City 62040; GPS: 38.690124, -90.091423; **(618) 931-0270**. 🇺🇸

### **JIM EDGAR PANTHER CREEK STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (8)**

The site is wooded and has 53 miles of trails for horseback riding, hiking, and mountain biking. Boating is permitted. Camping is available with showers, electricity, water, and sewer hookup. 10149 Highway 11, Chandlerville 62627; GPS: 40.033444, -90.132465; **(217) 452-7741**.

### **KASKASKIA RIVER STATE FISH WILDLIFE AREA (9)**

At more than 20,000 acres, the site is a favorite of recreationists. It contains 36 miles of rivers, the 2,018-acre Baldwin Lake and diverse wildlife. 10981 Conservation Road, Baldwin 62217; GPS: 38.2125128, -89.8768396; **(618) 785-2555**.

### **MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE FISH WILDLIFE AREA (10)**

The Mississippi River State Fish & Wildlife Area manages many of its 24,878 acres to accommodate waterfowl hunting and habitat enhancement. Its headquarters is located on Highway 100, approximately 11 miles north of Grafton. 17836 State

Highway 100 North, Grafton 62037; GPS: 39.041421, -90.5555135; **(618) 376-3303**.

### **NAUVOO STATE PARK (11)**

Mormon settlers changed the name of this place to Nauvoo, a Hebrew word for "pleasant land." The nearby park has a two-mile timbered nature trail and man-made fishing lake full of largemouth bass, channel catfish, and bluegill. Cedar Glen Natural Area, which consists of 1,202 acres, is mostly used for deer hunting. P.O. Box 426, Nauvoo 62354; GPS: 40.542838, -91.380909; **(217) 453-2512**.

### **PEABODY RIVER KING STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (12)**

Dominated by lakes and ponds, this area is a former coal-mining site. Its 2,220 acres feature more than 20 fishing lakes and a waterfowl refuge. 8900 New Athens Darmstadt Road, New Athens 62264; GPS: 38.3148265, -89.8481299; **(618) 475-9339**.

### **PÈRE MARQUETTE STATE PARK (13)**

Known as Père, French for "Father," Jacques Marquette explored this area with Louis Joliet in 1673. The park encompasses 8,050 acres. 13112 Visitor Center Lane, Grafton 62037; GPS: 38.97717, -90.521868; **(618) 786-3323**. 🇺🇸

### **RANDOLPH COUNTY STATE RECREATION AREA (14)**

This area is a hunter's dream, inhabited by quail, deer (archery only), squirrel, dove, and rabbit. Bass and channel catfish live in its 69-acre lake. The site provides equestrian trails, picnicking, and camping facilities. 4301 South Lake Dr., Chester 62233; GPS: 37.9696562, -89.7967889; **(618) 826-2706**. 🇺🇸

### **RAY NORBUT STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (15)**

1,380 acres offer exceptional habitat for deer and squirrel and is good for hunting. In the winter, sightseers often spot bald eagles along the Illinois River. P.O. Box 55C, Griggsville 62340; GPS: 39.7089361, -90.7245722; **(217) 833-2811**.

### **SAND RIDGE STATE FOREST (16)**

The largest state forest in Illinois, with 7,500+ acres of oak-hickory hardwoods and pines. Recreational opportunities include camping, hunting, horseback riding, snowmobiling, and picnicking. Enjoy over 50 miles of trails. 25799 East County Road 2300 North, P.O. Box 111, Forest City 61532; GPS: 40.402492, -89.880918; **(309) 597-2212**.

### **SANGANOIS STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (17)**

A 10,360-acre environment of sloughs and backwater lakes, Sanganois is a refuge for waterfowl and a public duck hunting area. It also offers upland and forest game hunting. 3594 County Road 200 North, Chandlerville 62627; GPS: 40.112214, -90.353966; **(309) 546-2628**.

### **SANGCHRIS LAKE STATE PARK (18)**

With a record-setting bass population, the three-fingered lake extends into both Sangamon and Christian counties, earning it the name "Sangchris." 9898 Cascade Road, Rochester 62563; GPS: 39.650112, -89.473515; **(217) 498-9208**.

### **SILOAM SPRINGS STATE PARK (19)**

The forested terrain is dotted with wildflowers and is popular for hunting, fishing, hiking, and appreciating nature. 938 East 3003rd Lane, Clayton 62324; GPS: 39.890531, -90.934594; **(217) 894-6205**. ♿

### **TURKEY BLUFFS STATE**

#### **FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (20)**

Hike, horseback ride, and view wildlife at this site. Hunt for upland game, furbearers, and deer on the 2,265 acres overlooking the Mississippi River. 4301 South Lake Drive, Chester 62233; GPS: 37.9723023, -89.8041022; **(618) 826-2706**.

### **WASHINGTON COUNTY STATE**

#### **RECREATION AREA (21)**

This 248-acre lake is Washington County's focal point. Activities include camping, hunting, picnicking, and a fishing pier. Two lakefront cabins are also available for rent. 18500 Conservation Drive, Nashville 62263; GPS: 38.234464, -89.724602; **(618) 327-3137**.

### **WEINBERG-KING STATE**

#### **FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (22)**

William Creek is home to an abundance of wildlife. Weinberg-King is especially popular in winter for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. The park is located three miles east of Augusta on Highway 101. P.O. Box 203, Augusta 62311; GPS: 40.233474, -90.897673; **(217) 392-2345**. ♿

### **WORLD SHOOTING &**

#### **RECREATIONAL COMPLEX (23)**

This state-of-the-art shooting facility has 120 trap fields, two 15-station clay courses, 24 skeet fields, and 12 pistol and rifle bays. Visitors can fish in three fishing lakes. The 34,000-square-foot events center houses a 7,000-square-foot main room, conference rooms, restaurant, and gift shop. The Complex also offers 1,001 recreational vehicle campsites. GPS: 38.190264, -89.757096; **(618) 295-2700**. ♿



# WEST-CENTRAL ILLINOIS

WEST-CENTRAL ILLINOIS	PARK	BEAVER DAM (PC)	CARLYLE LAKE	COFFEEN LAKE	EDWARD R. MADIGAN	ELDON HAZLET (L, PC &)	FRANK HOLTEN	HORSESHOE LAKE (H)	JIM EDGAR PANTHER (PC)	KASKASKIA RIVER	MISSISSIPPI RIVER	NAUVOO (H)	PEABODY-RIVER KING	PERE MARQUETTE (H, L, PC &)	RANDOLPH COUNTY	RAY NORBUT	SAND RIDGE	SANGANOIS	SANGCHRIS LAKE (PC &)	SILGAM SPRINGS (PC &)	TURKEY BLUFFS	WASHINGTON COUNTY (PC)	WEINBERG-KING	WORLD SHOOTING & RECREATIONAL COMPLEX
		750	9,520	2,750	751	3,500	1,080	2,854	16,551	20,000	24,878	148	2,220	8,050	1,103	1,380	7,500	10,360	5,280	5,586	2,264	1,440	772	1,600
ACREAGE		♿				♿		•		♿				♿	♿		♿		•	♿		♿		♿
CONCESSION		♿				♿								♿	♿		♿		•	♿		♿		♿
DRINKING WATER		♿		•		♿	•	•	♿	♿		♿		♿	♿		♿	•	•	♿		♿	♿	♿
HISTORIC STRUCTURE						♿					•			♿		•	•			♿				
RESTAURANT		♿					♿							♿								•		♿
RESTROOMS		♿		♿		♿	♿	♿	♿	♿		♿	•	♿	♿		•		♿	♿		♿	♿	•
SANITARY DUMP STATION*		•				♿		•	♿			•		♿	•		•		•	♿		♿	♿	•
VISITOR CENTER † With Interpretive Staff														♿										
BIKE TRAILS					•				•					•										
BOATING		♿	♿	♿		•	•	♿	♿	♿	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•		•		•
BOAT LAUNCHING RAMP		•	•	♿		♿	•	♿	♿	♿	•	•	•	•	♿			•	•	♿		•		•
BOAT MOTORS		E	25			U	10	50	E/10	U	U	E	10	U	10			U	25	E		10		E/10
BOAT RENTALS		•																				•		
CAMPING (See key for camp site type) ♿ Canoe camping ♿ Horse camping		A BS Y				A C PC Y +		C Y +	A ♿ AA +			A BS Y		A BS Y +	C BE ♿ DY +		C ♿ DY +		A BS C Y +	A ♿ BS D +		A C Y	BE C ♿ DY	AA A BE Y +
CANOE ACCESS/RENTAL (R)		•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	R	•		
FISHING		♿	•	•	•	♿	•	♿	♿	♿	•	•	•	•	♿	•		•	•	♿	•	•	♿	•
HIKING		•	•	•	•	♿		•	•	♿		•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HORSE CAMPGROUND									♿						•		•		•	•			♿	
HORSE RENTAL														♿										
HORSE TRAILS									•	•				•	•		•		•	•	•		•	
HUNTING		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	♿	♿	•		•	♿	♿	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
KAYAKING		•					•							•					•			•		
NATURE PRESERVE								N		•		N		•	N	•	N	N	N	N	N	•		
PICNICKING		•		•	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿		♿	•	♿	♿		♿		•	N	N	♿	♿	♿
SWIMMING BEACH																	♿	•	•					

\*Fee for non-campers

## KEY

### CAMPING

**Class AA sites** Showers, electricity, sewer, water, and vehicular access; \$25/night<sup>1</sup>

**Class A sites** Showers, electricity, and vehicular access; \$20/night<sup>1</sup>

**Class BE sites** Electricity and vehicular access; \$18/night

**Class BS sites** Showers and vehicular access, \$10/night

**Class C sites** Vehicular access or walk-in w/ shower access; \$8/night

**Class D sites** Tent camping or primitive sites (walk-in or backpack) with no vehicular access; \$6/night

**Class Y sites** Youth groups only; \$2/person with minimum daily fee of \$20

Advanced Reservations

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Camping rates are subject to change

<sup>1</sup>Additional \$10 fee for holiday

weekend

### BOATING MOTORS

**E** Electric trolling only

**10** 10 horsepower limit

**15** 15 horsepower limit

**25** 25 horsepower limit

**U** Unlimited

♿ Accessible to visitors with disabilities

**N** Nature preserve nearby

**H** Historic/archeological site

**L** Lodging/resort

**PC** Primitive cabins

# Preservation



Working together with both residents and visitors, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) strives to protect the state's diverse wildlife and scenic beauty for present and future generations to enjoy.

## FORESTRY & NATURE PRESERVES

The state's forests, which comprise 12 percent of Illinois' land area, provide habitat to wildlife and more than 250 species of trees. Since most of the population lives in urban areas, the benefits of urban forests—temperature modification, energy conservation, abatement of air, water and noise pollution—have become increasingly valuable to the state of Illinois.

The Illinois Nature Preserves System, the oldest such system in the nation, comprises 513 sites encompassing more than 94,133 acres of registered land and water and allowing public access (at owner's discretion) to prairies, forests, marshes, swamps, fens, and savannas.

## DIVISION OF NATURAL HERITAGE

The Division of Natural Heritage coordinates conservation efforts aimed at protecting some of the state's rarest natural resources. It works in partnership with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission to implement monitoring and recovery efforts for imperiled natural communities.



## ILLINOIS CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

The **Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF)** inspires today's youth—tomorrow's leaders—by providing quality outdoor education and programs that instill interest in conservation, ecology and sustainability. As a private charitable organization, the ICF is dedicated to providing future generations opportunities to experience and learn the value of our state's natural resources.

As an independent 501(c)(3) charity, the ICF does not receive taxpayer funds and is supported entirely through private donations. Created in 1994 on the recommendation of the **Conservation Congress**, the ICF has administered more than \$30 million in federal, private, and conservation organization grants and has assisted in executing private land donations to the IDNR. The charity also provides an avenue for funding of statewide conservation efforts, youth outdoor educational activities, scholarships,

and other additional projects to inspire our next generation of conservation leaders.

In 2010, the Torstenson Family made a generous gift to the ICF of 750 acres near Rockford. This property features conservation education activities for children and families, tailored specifically for each visitor. There is a Learning Center for classroom activities, a fishing pond, camping areas, a shooting range for hunter safety, and much more. Programs can also be taken into the community thanks to the Torstenson Education Station, a 20-foot trailer accommodating nearly all educational programs provided at the property.

For more information, to book the property or trailer, or to make a tax-deductible gift to support activities that share these great lessons with youth in Illinois, please visit [ilconservation.org](http://ilconservation.org) or call **(217) 785-2003**.



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# Photography



National parks and public lands offer a wealth of natural beauty and photographic opportunities, but to capture unique and compelling images it helps to think a little differently. While iconic landscapes and wildlife sightings are staples of park photography, you can capture more creative images by pushing your own boundaries and those of your camera. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a newbie, here are some ideas to inspire your next photo safari.

## 1. Capture the Golden Hour Magic:

Sunrise and sunset are the best times for photography; the golden hour serves up soft, warm light that can transform even the most mundane scenes into ethereal landscapes. Experiment by shooting during these periods to capture the park bathed in golden hues, illuminating the landscape with a soft, dreamy glow.

**2. Embrace Reflections:** Parks are replete with pristine lakes, rivers, and streams, perfect for capturing stunning reflections. Seek calm waters during early morning or late evening when the light is low, and experiment with compositions that incorporate reflections to add depth and symmetry to your images.

**3. Seek Out Abstract Patterns:** Beyond sweeping vistas and iconic landmarks, parks are teeming with intricate patterns and textures waiting to be captured. Look for natural patterns everywhere and use them as the focal point of your compositions to create abstract and visually arresting images.

**4. Play with Silhouettes:** Silhouettes can add drama and mystery to your photographs, especially during sunrise or sunset when the sky is ablaze with color. Position your subject against the light to create

striking silhouettes that emphasize shape and form while obscuring detail.

**5. Extend your Exposure:** Photograph waterfalls, rivers, and crashing waves using a long exposure to capture silky smooth effects or create dynamic cloud movement in the sky, adding a sense of motion and energy to your images. Don't forget to use a tripod and a neutral-density (ND) filter.

**6. Focus on Details:** Skip the grand landscapes in favor of oft-overlooked small-scale scenes and intricate details. Get up close and personal with your subjects—whether it's a delicate wildflower or a textured rock formation—using macro photography techniques to capture the finer details to tell a different park story.

## 7. Experiment with Creative Angles:


Challenge yourself to see the park from a different perspective by experimenting with creative and atypical viewpoints. Get on the ground for dramatic low-angle shots, climb to higher vantage points for bird's-eye views to add visual interest and intrigue to your photographs.

**8. Tell a Story:** Use your photography to tell a compelling narrative about your experience. Whether it's documenting a hike, capturing the beauty of a sunset picnic, or showcasing the resilience of wildlife in their natural habitat, let your images tell the story of your journey and the unique moments you've encountered along the way.

While it's easy to be captivated by the grandeur of national parks, don't be afraid to think outside the box when it comes to photography. When you embrace new techniques, explore different perspectives, and tell compelling stories through your images, you can elevate your photography from ordinary to extraordinary!



# Illinois State Museum

Visit the Illinois State Museum (ISM) and see the worlds of art and nature unfold. The main facility is in Springfield, and the museum operates three other facilities around the state. For more information, visit [illinoisstatemuseum.org](https://illinoisstatemuseum.org). 

## → ISM-Springfield (West Central)



Visitors to the Illinois State Museum are treated to world-renowned, interactive exhibits, and engaging educational programs and special events. Adults and children alike will enjoy traveling back in time to the days when Illinois was covered by a shallow, tropical sea or Ice Age behemoths roamed the glacial expanses, as well as learning about 12,000 years of Illinois' human history. Rotating art exhibitions demonstrate the rich tradition of the both decorative and fine art within Illinois. Children will especially love the Mary Ann MacLean Play Museum where they can join the Museum staff—excavating fossils, collecting specimens, and creating exhibits—through the power of imagination and free play. This museum truly is a Springfield gem. 502 South Spring Street, Springfield, IL 62706; **(217) 782-7386**; open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## ↓ ISM-Dickson Mounds Museum, Lewistown (Northwest)

This National Register Historic Site is one of the major on-site archaeological museums in the United States. It offers a unique opportunity to explore the world of the American Indian in an awe inspiring journey through 12,000 years of human experience in the Illinois River Valley. Visitors to the museum encounter innovative interpretive exhibits; exciting hands-on activities; archaeological sites; and a variety of special events. The nearby, restored wetlands at the Emiquon Preserve and Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge provide an opportunity to see ancient land and waterscapes. 10956 North Dickson Mounds Road, Lewistown, IL 61542; **(309) 547-3721**; open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## → ISM-Lockport Gallery, Lockport (Northeast)

Enjoy changing exhibitions of art created by past and contemporary Illinois artists and artisans. Paintings, drawings, sculptures, quilts, and other decorative and ethnographic arts are showcased in rotating, theme-based exhibitions augmented by interpretive materials. The exhibitions are given an added dimension through educational events, group tours, and outreach activities for both children and adults. Norton Building, along the Illinois & Michigan Canal, 201 West 10th Street, 1st Floor, Lockport, IL 60441; **(815) 838-7400**; open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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