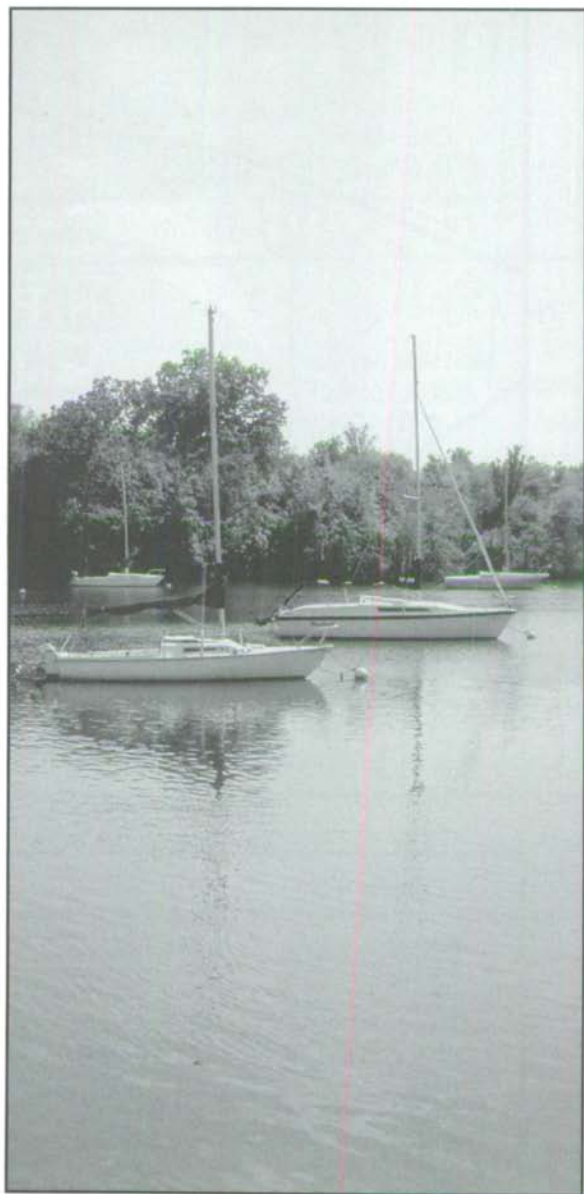


Clinton Lake

STATE RECREATION AREA



Illinois
Department of
Natural Resources

Clinton Lake State Recreation Area

If you're looking for the ideal place to drop your line and catch a record fish, look no farther than Clinton Lake State Recreation Area. Recreational opportunities abound at the 9,300-acre facility 3 miles east of Clinton in central Illinois. From picnicking, hiking and camping to swimming, water skiing and boating to hunting for upland game and waterfowl, people from all over the Midwest flock to Clinton Lake to enjoy the great outdoors.

If just relaxing and watching the animal life is your interest, Clinton Lake has various small mammals and nearly 40 species of birds, including osprey, which dive into the lake for fish. In the spring, it is the place to search for morels. In the fall, it is ablaze with a rainbow of color.

The park land actually belongs to AmerGen/Exelon, which operates a nuclear power plant in the area. The state of Illinois has operated the park since 1978 through a long-term lease with the utility company. The partnership demonstrates that state government and private businesses can work together to provide outstanding recreation.



History

Prior to the arrival of settlers, the land on which the park rests primarily was upland prairie and bottomland deciduous forest. Historians believe the area likely was the site of small villages and hunting camps of tribes of the Illini confederacy, with the Kickapoo residing in the area until the 1820s. The first permanent settlers came to the area in the 1830s. Many were from Kentucky and Tennessee and came to farm the

land. Most of the area had been used as pasture or crop land at the time construction of the lake began in the 1970s.

Fishing

The biggest draw to the site is the 4,900-lake and outstanding fishing opportunities. Accessible fishing piers are present at the Mascoutin, Valley Mill and Spillway access areas. Special size and creel limits are in effect for some species.

Crappie are the bread and butter fish at Clinton Lake. Hook them with white, yellow or chartreuse jigs and minnows, which seem to work the best. Hybrid and pure striped bass fishing are also popular, with numerous 10-plus pound fish taken every year.

Don't tell anyone, because the locals like to keep it quiet, but Clinton Lake is one of the best lakes in the state for catfish. Most are taken from the banks or in the upper arms of the lake.

For good eating, it is hard to beat a walleye. The bridges at Clinton Lake are excellent places walleye, and boaters can hit the old creek channels or submerged flats. For some great springtime action, spillway area yields large numbers of walleye and stripers, as well as crappie and catfish.

Boating

The upper arms of the lake are no wake areas. Portions of the lake are restricted to electric trolling motors only, however, there are no horsepower limitations in the main basin. Sailboating is also popular. When the wind gets up, the lake can be very rough. Small watercraft are urged to remain in the North Fork area of Salt Creek on rough days. There are six public boat ramps and one canoe launch.

The area in front of the power plant from the Illinois Route 54 bridge to a line of buoys approximately one mile south is permanently closed to all boat traffic. The only access to the area of the lake north of Route 54 is from the North Fork Boat Access or the North Fork Canoe Access Area. This portion of the lake is all posted as a no wake area.

For your convenience, a full service marina is located one mile north of Illinois Route 10, 6.5 miles east of Clinton on

Marina Road (1700 East). The marina is a privately run business and is not owned or managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.



Swimming and Water Skiing

A beautiful, 1,000-foot white sand beach awaits swimmers and sunbathers looking to catch some rays or frolic in the warm lake water. Open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, the beach area includes a changing facility with showers and restrooms as well as picnic tables and cooking grills. There are no lifeguards and all persons under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. All persons must remain inside the buoyed areas and swim with caution. No alcohol is allowed in the beach area and no pets, glass or sharp objects are allowed on the beach. The concession building is accessible from the southwest end of the beach.

Water skiing is permitted from the buoy line south of the Route 54 bridge to the Route 48 bridge.

Hiking

If just getting out and about is your interest, try the park's three hiking trails. The 4.7 mile Houseboat Cove Trail is rated moderately in difficulty and is north of the beach, following the shoreline and returning through the woods. The 11-mile, one-way North Fork Trail is more challenging, running through the steeply wooded banks of the lake and providing unparalleled views of the lake and opportunities to view wildlife. Beautiful wildflowers can be seen along both

trails and a 40-acre restored prairie is present along the North Fork Trail.

An approximate 10-mile equestrian/hiking/cross-country ski trail is located on the north side of the lake, east of the Parnell Access Area. Horse trailer parking is available, although there are no rentals and no horse camping facilities. All equestrian trails are closed to horses from October 1 to the end of archery deer season.

Picnicking

Day use areas located around the lake contain tables, fire grills, water, playground equipment and toilet facilities. Most are accessible. Shelters are available at the Mascoutin, Weldon, Lane, West Side and Peninsula access areas. Mascoutin, Weldon and Peninsula have electricity and excellent views of the lake. Mascoutin is within walking distance of the beach. All shelters except the Lane shelter are accessible from the lake and may be reserved for a fee by contacting the site office.

Concession Stand

The Boondocks Grill is located in the Mascoutin area between the beach and boat ramp. The restaurant features outdoor seating on the lake and air-conditioned, indoor seating for 50. An expansive menu is offered, including a Friday fish dinner.

The concession carries a variety of camping and picnicking supplies, bait, tackle, ice and firewood and is open from early April until mid-October. It is accessible by vehicle, boat and from the beach. The phone number is (217) 935-0925.



Hunting

More than 3,000 acres are open to hunting at Clinton Lake. All hunters must obtain a free permit from the park office prior to hunting. For a little practice time, try the archery range, just east of the North Fork boat access area, complete with a shooting tower and life-sized targets of deer and turkey.

The most common species hunted are rabbits, pheasants, squirrels and deer, although quail, woodcock and dove are also hunted. Most hunting is by archery or shotgun, however, .22 rimfire rifles may be used for squirrel north of the North Fork Boat Access Area.

Deer can be taken in season by bow and arrow, and a limited number of muzzleloader only deer permits are available for the North Fork Area. Shotgun turkey permits are available through the statewide lottery drawings. Waterfowl hunting is permitted from anchored boat blinds and in designated walk-in areas. Disabled hunters can participate in shotgun deer and waterfowl hunting programs, with expanded opportunities planned for the future.

Winter Sports

When the temperature drops, don't huddle inside. Come to Clinton Lake. Ice fishing, ice skating and snowmobiling are allowed on the frozen lake surface, when the ice is thick enough. The North Fork and the coves on Salt Creek are good for ice fishing and skating. Bank fishing takes place throughout the year in the warmer areas of the lake. Hiking trails double as cross-country ski trails in the winter for those looking for a great workout.



Camp Quest, located 4 miles east of Clinton on Route 54 at Birkbeck, is a secluded, wooded group camp area that can accommodate adult or youth groups up to 75 people. Most of the facility is barrier-free, and includes a large shelter with electricity, three RV pads with four electrical hookups, toilets, tables, grills and water. Reserve the area ahead of time by contacting the park office.

For more information contact Clinton Lake State Recreation Area,

RR 1, Box 4, DeWitt, IL 61735-9701, (217) 935-8722, fax (217) 935-6323.

Camping

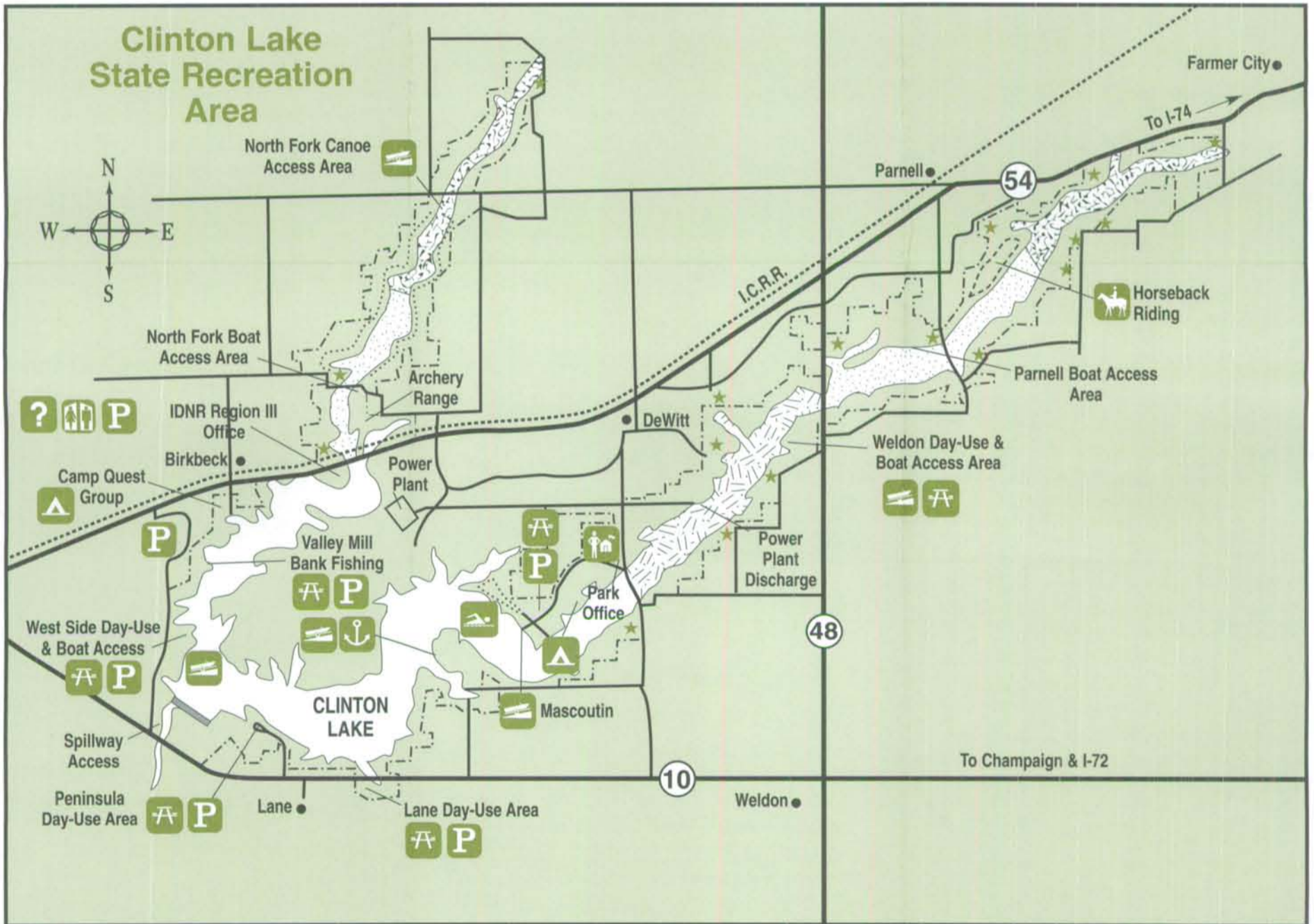
The wooded area along the lake provides the perfect setting to turn in after a long day of fun. There are 17 Class AA sites, 286 Class A sites and 5 Class B campsites at Clinton Lake, with most adaptable to tents, trailers or motor homes. Showers and potable water are available from April to mid-November. Each site is equipped with a grill and picnic table. Most spots are on a first come, first basis, however, 5 Class B sites, 21 Class A sites and 6 Class AA sites are available for reservation, including some accessible sites. The main campground is located in the Mascoutin (Headquarters) area 8.5 miles east of Clinton on Friends Creek Road (1900 East).

Keep Your Eye on Every Issue of Outdoor Illinois

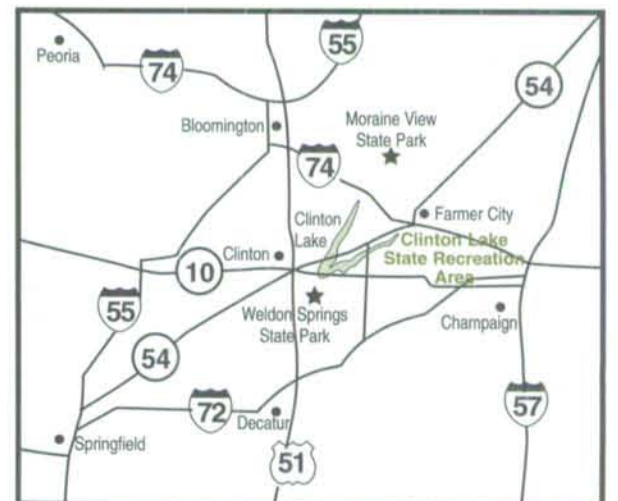
DNR's monthly magazine provides current news and articles on hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreational activities, as well as information on the natural and cultural resources of Illinois.



• A one-year subscription is only \$10, and each December you'll receive a full-color calendar featuring important outdoor dates and events. To subscribe, contact DNR at (217) 782-7454 or TTY (217) 782-9175.



| Legend | | | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|--|
| | Headquarters | | Hunter-Access Parking Area | | Restroom |
| | Park Boundary | | Marina | | Swimming |
| | Hiking/Cross-Country Ski Trails | | No Wake Area | | Visitor Center |
| | Horse Trail | | Parking | | Horseback Riding |
| | Boat Ramp | | Picnic Area | | Restricted Area No Fishing, Boating, or Hunting Oct. 10—March 31. |
| | Campground | | | | |
| | Electric Motors Only | | | | |





Clinton Lake State Recreation Area

R. R. 1, Box 4

Dewitt, IL 61735, 217-935-8722

- While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- Actions by nature can result in closed roads and other facilities. We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Public Services, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, call (217) 782-6302 or visit our website at <http://dnr.state.il.us>.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs' Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.
- Hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources' TTY number, (217) 782-9175, or use the Ameritech Relay Number, 1-800-526-0844.

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; (217) 785-0067; TTY (217) 782-9175. This information may be provided in an alternative format if required. Contact the DNR Clearinghouse at (217) 782-7498 for assistance.