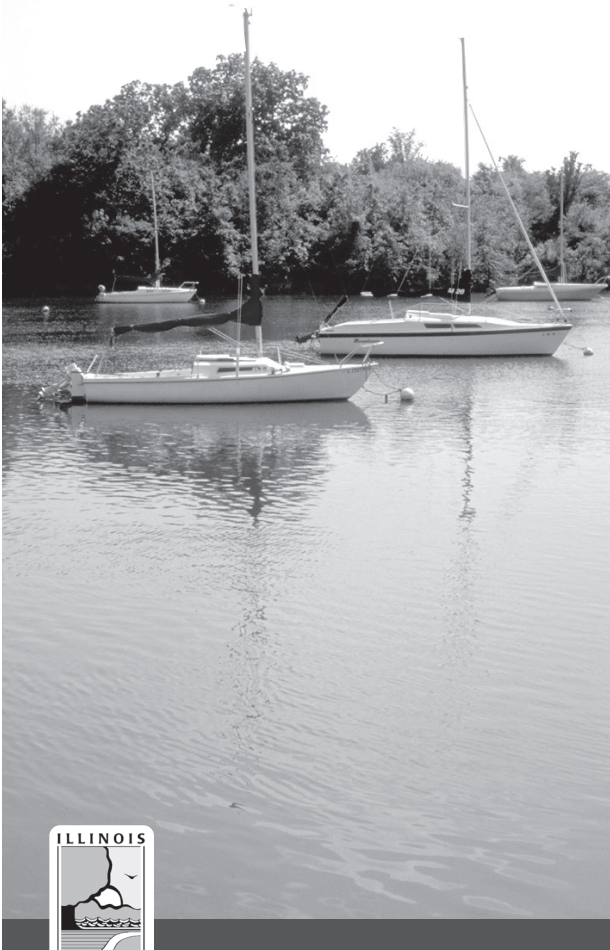




Clinton Lake

STATE RECREATION AREA



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 10 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 enjoying the outdoors 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 is owned by 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.

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.

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 at www.reserveamerica.com.

Concession Stand

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.

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.



Fishing

The biggest draw to the site is the 4,900 acre-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 to catch walleye, and boaters can hit the old creek channels or submerged flats. For some great springtime action the 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.



Clinton Lake State Recreation Area
7251 Ranger Road
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 Land Management, One Natural Resources Way, Office of Land Management, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, or visit our website at dnr.illinois.gov.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.
- Hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources' TTY number, (217) 782-9175, or use the Ameritech Relay Number, 1-800-526-0844.

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

Hunting

More than 3,000 acres are open to hunting at Clinton Lake. All hunters must obtain a windshield card online at *dnr.illinois.gov*. For a little practice time, try the archery range, just east of the North Fork boat access area, complete with a shooting tower.

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 shotgun and muzzleloader permits are available by lottery for specific areas of Clinton Lake. 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 apply with the park office for deer and waterfowl hunting opportunities.

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.

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, 277 Class A sites, and 9 class B/S and 5 Class C campsites

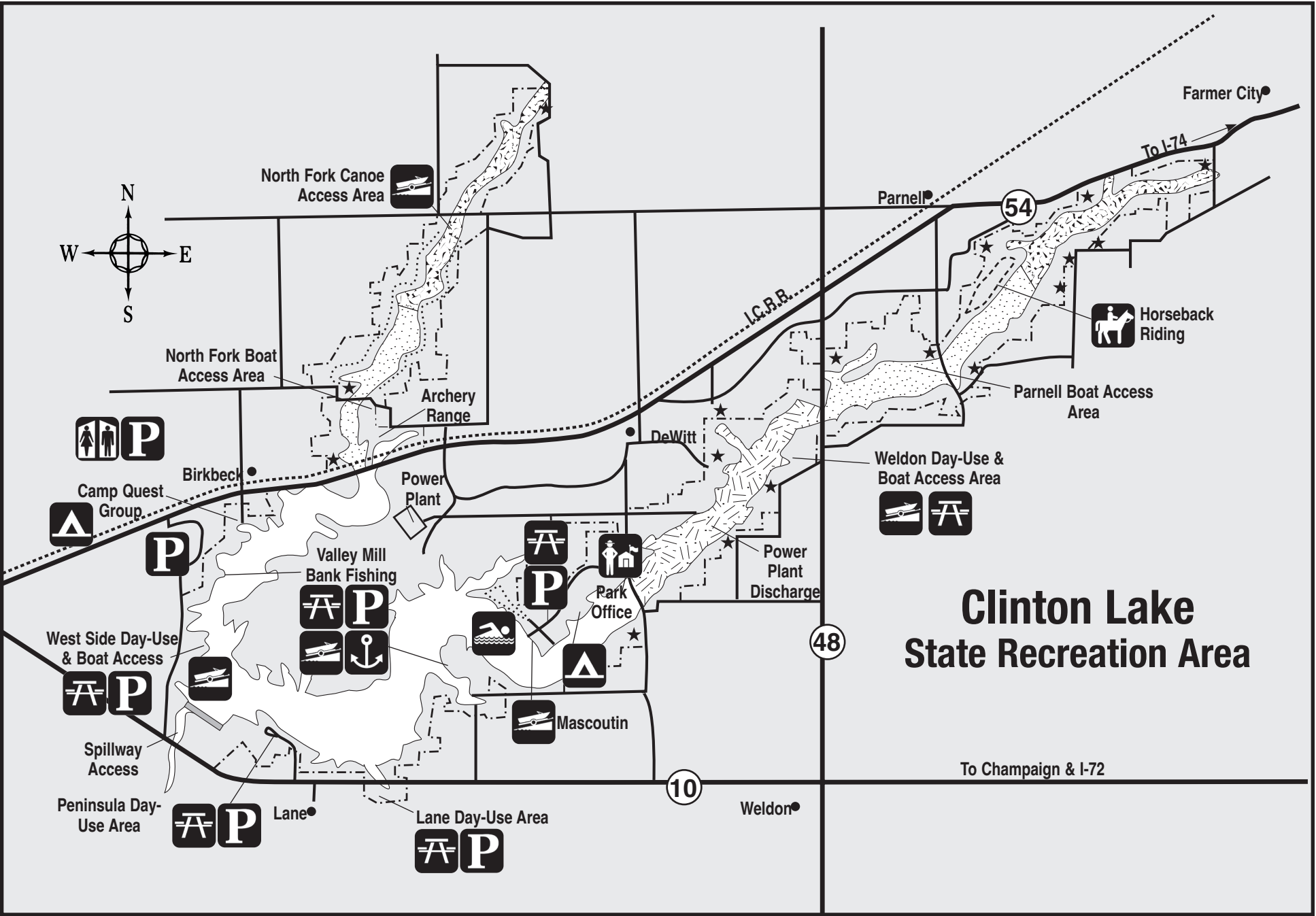


at Clinton Lake, with most adaptable to tents, trailers or motor homes. Showers and potable water are available from mid-April to November. Each site is equipped with a grill and picnic table. Reservations for campsites and shelters can be made at exploremoreil.com. The main campground is located in the Mascoutin (headquarters) area 8.5 miles east of Clinton on Friends Creek Road (1900 East).

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. This facility includes a large shelter with electricity, three RV pads with four electrical hookups, toilets, tables, grills and water. Reservations are suggested.

For more information contact Clinton Lake State Recreation Area, 7251 Ranger Rd., DeWitt, IL 61735-9701, (217) 935-8722.



Legend			
	Park Office/ DNR Region 3 Office		Campground
	Park Boundary		Electric Motors Only
	Hiking Trail		No Wake Area
	Horseback Trail		Parking
	Boat Ramp		Picnic Area
	Hunter-Access		Restroom
	Marina Parking Area		Swimming
			Horseback Riding
			Restricted Area No Fishing, Boating, or Hunting Oct. 10—March 31.

