



Cedar Lake Trail System



Cedar Lake and Little Cedar Lake are beautiful, deep, clear lakes perfect for fishing, boating, canoeing, kayaking and primitive camping. Construction of Cedar Lake was completed in 1973 and stocked with fingerlings in 1974. Private lands border the northern portion of Cedar Lake, but the entire southern half of the lake is surrounded by Shawnee National Forest land. This is the area where hardwood forests, cedar trees and sandstone bluffs line the lake's shores.

Trail Highlights

Three trailheads provide access to the Cedar Lake trail system. For the perfect day-hike try either Cove Hollow trail or Little Cedar Lake loop trail. Both feature spectacular scenic overlooks, views of the lake, rock shelters and sandstone bluffs. For the long distance hiker or equestrian, the River to River Trail passes through the area from Lirley Trailhead to Alto Pass. If you enjoy winter hiking, this area offers beautiful snow and ice-covered landscapes. Primitive camping is permitted off the trail, at least 150 feet from the lakeshore and a maximum of 14 days continuous stay applies.

Wildlife Viewing

Inhabitants of the area include white-tailed deer, raccoon, wild turkey and an occasional beaver. If you aren't lucky enough to encounter one of these inhabitants, you will likely see evidence of their presence. The trails offer excellent opportunities for bird watching and other nature viewing during any season.

Surrounding Area

Little Grand Canyon, Pomona Natural Bridge, Giant City State Park, Bald Knob Wilderness and Panther Den Wilderness.

Emergencies

The nearest hospital is St. Joseph's in Murphysboro or Memorial Hospital in Carbondale.

For More Information

Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District
521 North Main Street
Jonesboro, IL 62952
(618) 833-8576
www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee

Length: Total 16 miles

Little Cedar Loop – 4.3 miles

Cove Hollow Trail – 3.3 miles

Surface Type: Dirt/Natural

Difficulty Level: Moderate to difficult

Recommended Season: Year-round

Facilities: The boat launch parking lot offers accessible restroom, boat launch and trailer parking. Cove Hollow and Lirley Trailheads have small parking lots. Landreth Road trail access is an unimproved parking area.

Directions to Cedar Lake Trailhead:

From Murphysboro: Take Highway 127 south 10 miles to Boat Dock Road. Turn east (left) onto Boat Dock Rd., continue east about 0.8 mile to the trailhead.

From Jonesboro: Take Highway 146 west 2.5 miles, to Hwy 127, then north 12 miles on Hwy 127 to Boat Dock Road. Turn east (right) onto Boat Dock Rd., continue east about 0.8 mile to the trailhead. *A large gravel parking lot with vault toilets is available at the end of Boat Dock Rd.*

To Cove Hollow Trailhead: From Hwy 127 turn east onto Dutch Ridge Rd., then right onto Cove Hollow Rd., which deadends at the Cove Hollow Trailhead.

To Lirley Trailhead from Carbondale: Take Hwy 51 south 7 miles to Old Hwy 51; then west on Old Hwy 51 0.75 mile to McGuire Rd. Take McGuire Rd. 0.25 mile to Rowan Rd. Turn south (left) onto Rowan Rd. for 0.7 mile to the trailhead.

Safety: Extra caution should be used when the trail is near the bluffs and when crossing the causeway to Little Cedar Lake. Beware of poison ivy and poisonous snakes in the area.

Trail Markings: River to River Trail -  Blue 'i'

Trail Ethics: *Share the Trail;* This trail system has designated hiker/equestrian trails. Hikers should yield to equestrians. Practice the Leave No Trace outdoor ethics (www.lnt.org).

Cedar Lake Trail System



To Murphysboro

Big Branch

Cove Hollow Trailhead

Cove Hollow Rd.

127

Dutch Ridge Rd.

Boat Dock Rd.

Cedar Lake Trailhead

Gate

Landreth Rd.

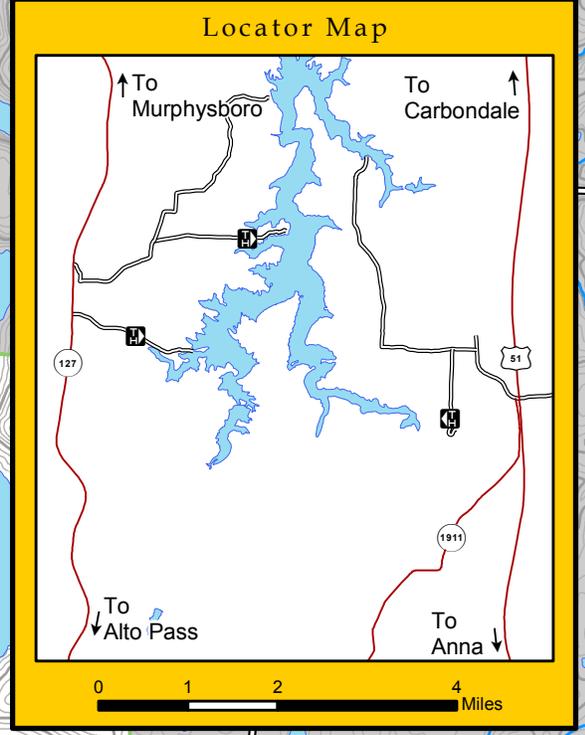
Gate

Little Cedar Lake

Lirley Trailhead

Gate

Contour interval = 20 feet



To Hwy 51

To Alto Pass

Road conditions vary widely, many are not passable by motor vehicle

Legend jvaughn 2014

	Point of Access		Dirt Road
	Parking		Hiker/Equestrian Trail
	Restroom		Cove Hollow Trail
	Trailhead		River to River Trail
	Boat Ramp		Stream
	State Highway		National Forest Land
	Road		Non-National Forest Land

0 0.5 1 Miles