

EXPLORE



the Federal lands of Southern Illinois

Volume 4, Issue 1 Spring/Summer 2013

ConnectUS

Wander the Wonders of Scenic Southern Illinois

This **FREE** guide provided by these
partners in land management



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

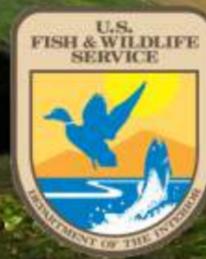


Photo Credit: Jeff Jones

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Calendar of Events

Spring / Summer



April 3

Understanding the Greenhouse Effect Roving Ranger Program at Harrisburg Memorial Park's Amax Shelter from 5:00 – 5:30 PM.

What is the Greenhouse Effect? Come learn why without it there would be no life on earth. Often a misunderstood concept this subject surrounds much debate. We ignore the hype and help your kids understand the mechanics of this very important phenomenon. Bring your kids to this fun, fact-based activity, and draw your own conclusions.



May 25

The Reptile Experience (11:00 AM & 2:00 PM)

Come to the Rend Lake Visitor Center to be a part of Serengeti Steve's educational program that consists of a variety of snakes, lizards, and more. This hands-on experience will let you get up close and personal as you pet, touch, and even hold these exotic creatures.



May 1

Eliminating Waste and Going Green Roving Ranger Program at Harrisburg Memorial Park's Amax Shelter from 5:00 – 5:30 PM.

Do you care about the environment? Want to learn about how you can Go Green and get your kids involved? Bring your recyclables and let your kids create unique art as well as useful objects from items you might have thrown away. Kids will gain insight into how and why we should reduce, reuse, and recycle.



June 1

Backyard Campout (8:00 – 10:00 PM).

We'll have some outdoor fun. Try your hand at putting up a tent, building a fire, and then enjoy some outdoor treats such as s'mores as we sing around the campfire and watch a short wildlife film. This ranger-led evening program runs from 8:00 – 10:00 PM. at the Rend Lake Visitor Center outdoor classroom.



May 18

Shawnee Family Fun Day

Geared towards families or individuals, this event at Touch of Nature near Carbondale will provide an opportunity for families and friends to connect with each other in a safe, fun environment tailored to their comfort level while fostering an outdoor culture within Southern Illinois communities. Many times a lack of awareness or lack of access to sites/equipment and/or fear of the unknown, limits us from enjoying the outdoors. Various programs and activities will be offered to give you the confidence and skills to embark safely on your own adventures. For more information, please contact the Mississippi Bluffs Ranger Station at 618-833-8576.



June 1

Rend Lake Beach Blast (Noon – 4:00 PM)

The Rend Lake Beach Blast will be held at the Rend Lake South Sandusky Beach from 12:00 to 4:00 PM. This event is an afternoon of free family fun in the sun. Come and join us for some fun games and water safety activities.



June 8

Glen O. Jones Kid's Fishing Derby

Don't miss out on this year's Kids Fishing Derby at Glen O. Jones Lake, Equality, IL. Bring a pole and your favorite bait and fish all morning. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in different fishing categories. Children will sign up by age. Registration starts at 7:30am with lunch provided at noon. For more information, please contact the Fishing Derby Committee at 618-273-3042.



Lake Glendale Fishing Derby

Don't miss out on this year's Kids Fishing Derby at the Lake Glendale Recreation Area, Glendale, IL. Bring a pole and your favorite bait and fish all morning. But don't forget to take a break to try some fun fish and water activities, including a casting contest. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in different fishing categories. Children will sign up by age. Registration starts at 7:30am. For more information, please contact the Hidden Springs Ranger District, Shawnee National Forest, at 618-658-2111.



June 11

Arborwild! at Evergreen Park, Carbondale from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Children and their families are invited to come learn about and participate in fun activities about topics such as recycling, fishing, birding, mammal identification, cultural heritage, nature's pollinators and wildland fires. Special guest appearances by Smokey Bear. For more information, please contact the Shawnee NF Headquarters at 618-253-7114.



June 11 & 12 Course Closed - All Filled

Rend Lake Hunter Safety Course (9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Both Days)

This is a State of Illinois required course for anyone born after January 1, 1980 to be eligible to purchase your first hunting license. This two-day course at the Rend Lake Project Office & Visitor Center will also teach hunters that are new to the sport or planning a trip out west, how to be safe and ethical while in the field. Students must attend both days and pass the written test to fulfill the requirements of this course. Pre-registration is required by calling 618-724-2493. Class size limited to 40 students.



June 12

Arborwild! at Memorial Park, Harrisburg from 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM.

Children and their families are invited to come learn about and participate in fun activities about topics such as recycling, fishing, birding, mammal identification, cultural heritage, nature's pollinators and wildland fires. Special guest appearances by Smokey Bear. For More information, please contact Shawnee NF Headquarters at 618-253-7114.

July 1-July 13
Photo Contest Entries Accepted
(8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

July 20
Photo Contest Winners Announced
2:00 p.m.



Rend Lake Photography Contest




Have you taken some interesting, eye catching, or unusual photos at Rend Lake in the past year? Enter your photo into the first Rend Lake Photo Contest. Your photo may be selected to be featured in one of Rend Lake's brochures, framed and displayed in the Rend Lake Visitor Center, or placed on the Corps' web site. Photo entries will be accepted July 1 through July 13, 2013. Winners will be announced at a 2:00 p.m. presentation on Saturday, July 20. Contact the Rend Lake Project Office/Visitor Center at 618-724-2493 for a complete list of contest rules.



US Corps
of Engineers
St. Louis District



ARBORWILD!

Connect with nature and your world



June 11

Carbondale, IL

June 12

Harrisburg, IL








Forest Service



Corps of Engineers

June 15

Whooo Knows about Owls? (11:00 AM & 2:00 PM)

Come to the Rend Lake Visitor Center and see these predators of the night up close and personal as Bev Shofstall from the Free Again Wildlife Rehabilitation Center as she introduces you to some of the owls currently at the center and discusses their natural history; why they have come to the rehab center; and their predatory nature.

June 22

Take a walk on the Moon (8:00 PM – 10:00 PM)

Have you ever wanted to know more about Earth's nearest neighbor the Moon? Join Rend Lake College professor Greg Hollmann to learn about the moon's eight major phases using Oreo cookies. Once darkness settles in, we will step outside the Rend Lake Visitor Center and use binoculars and a telescope to take a tour of the moon; surface features and Apollo mission landing sites.

June 29

Rend Lake Fireworks Festival (4:00 PM – 11:00 PM)

Join us as the Benton/West City Chamber of Commerce and the Corps of Engineers celebrates our Nation's Independence with one of the finest fireworks shows in southern Illinois. Fireworks will be shot from the Rend Lake Dam area at 9:30 PM. Gates open at 4:00 PM. Kids' activities, music, and food vendors will be available at the Spillway Event Area from 4:00 PM until 11:00 PM. Note: The main dam road will be closed to all thru traffic beginning at approximately 9:00 PM and will remain closed until approximately 20 minutes following the fireworks show. This closure is for the safety of our visitors.

July 6

Adventures with Outback Ed & Julius Squeezer (11:00 AM & 2:00 PM)

Snakes, Lizards and Frogs-oh my (maybe a few roaches too). Drop by the Rend Lake Visitor Center for a hands-on, experiential show-and-tell session with Outback Ed and his friends, featuring Julius Squeezer the 9' boa constrictor, and other animals from around the world.

July 13

Our Solar System (8:00 – 10:00 PM)

Discover the planets of our solar system with Rend Lake College Instructor, Greg Hollman at the Rend Lake Visitor Center. Participants will view Saturn and its majestic rings as they look through Rend Lake College's telescope. Learn about NASA missions to other planets and the reasons for Pluto's new status as a dwarf planet. The entire solar system will be brought down to scale as we take a short half mile walk around the Rend Lake Visitor Center grounds.

July 20

Photo contest entries announced

Winners of the photo contest will be announced on Saturday, July 20. All entries will be displayed at the Rend Lake Visitor Center from July 20 - August 10, 2012. The winning photos will be displayed in the hallway of the Visitor Center for approximately one year. All contest entries and the rights to use them become the property of the Rend Lake Project Office. For complete contest rules see the Rend Lake Project Office web site at www.CorpsLakes/Rend.

July 27 Course Closed - All Filled

Illinois Hunter Safety Field Day (9:00 AM – 3:00 PM)

Persons completing the Illinois Department of Natural Resources on-line hunter safety class at www.dnr.illinois.gov will have the opportunity to complete the requirements for certification by attending this "Field Day" class at the Rend Lake Visitor Center. Be sure to bring along your printed certificate for credit. To pre-register, call the Rend Lake Project Office/Visitor Center at 618-724-2493.

August 3

Birds of Prey (11:00 AM & 2:00 PM)

Ever wanted to see an eagle up close? Come to the Rend Lake Visitor Center to see flying predators such as red tail hawks, turkey vultures, kestrels, and eagles as Bev Shofstall from Free Again Wildlife Rehabilitation displays these amazing birds. Also, we will learn how they came to be at the rehabilitation center and a little about what they eat and where they live.



SPRING

Wildflower Walks

Join a knowledgeable guide on the Rocky Bluff for a hike and educational program about spring wildflowers. Meet at the Rocky Bluff trailhead on Tacoma Lake Road at 10 AM. For more information, please contact the Crab Orchard Refuge Visitor Center at 618-997-3344, ext. 1.

Saturdays...

March 23, 30
& April 6, 13



August 10

Nature Craft Day (11:00 AM & 2:00 PM)

Kids of all ages love this one at the Rend Lake Visitor Center. Let's do some hands on nature crafts that you can take home with you. Great fun for all! This program is designed for participants over 3 years of age. Adult supervision is required.

August 17

Wow! Science Show (11:00 AM & 2:00 PM)

Be prepared to be "Wow"ed when you come to the Rend Lake Visitor Center and watch a series of tricks that aren't magic - but science! Feel the force of the air cannon, be amazed by an egg, and see The Science Center of Southern Illinois' famous hovercraft in action!

August 24

Journey South – The Monarch's Story (11:00 AM & 2:00 PM)

The monarch butterflies' fall migration back to Mexico begins at the end of August. Park Ranger Kim Hammel from Carlyle Lake will help you discover the miracle of the metamorphosis and the complete yearly lifecycle of the monarch butterfly. After the program, visit the courtyard just outside the Rend Lake Visitor Center to look for monarchs and other butterflies.

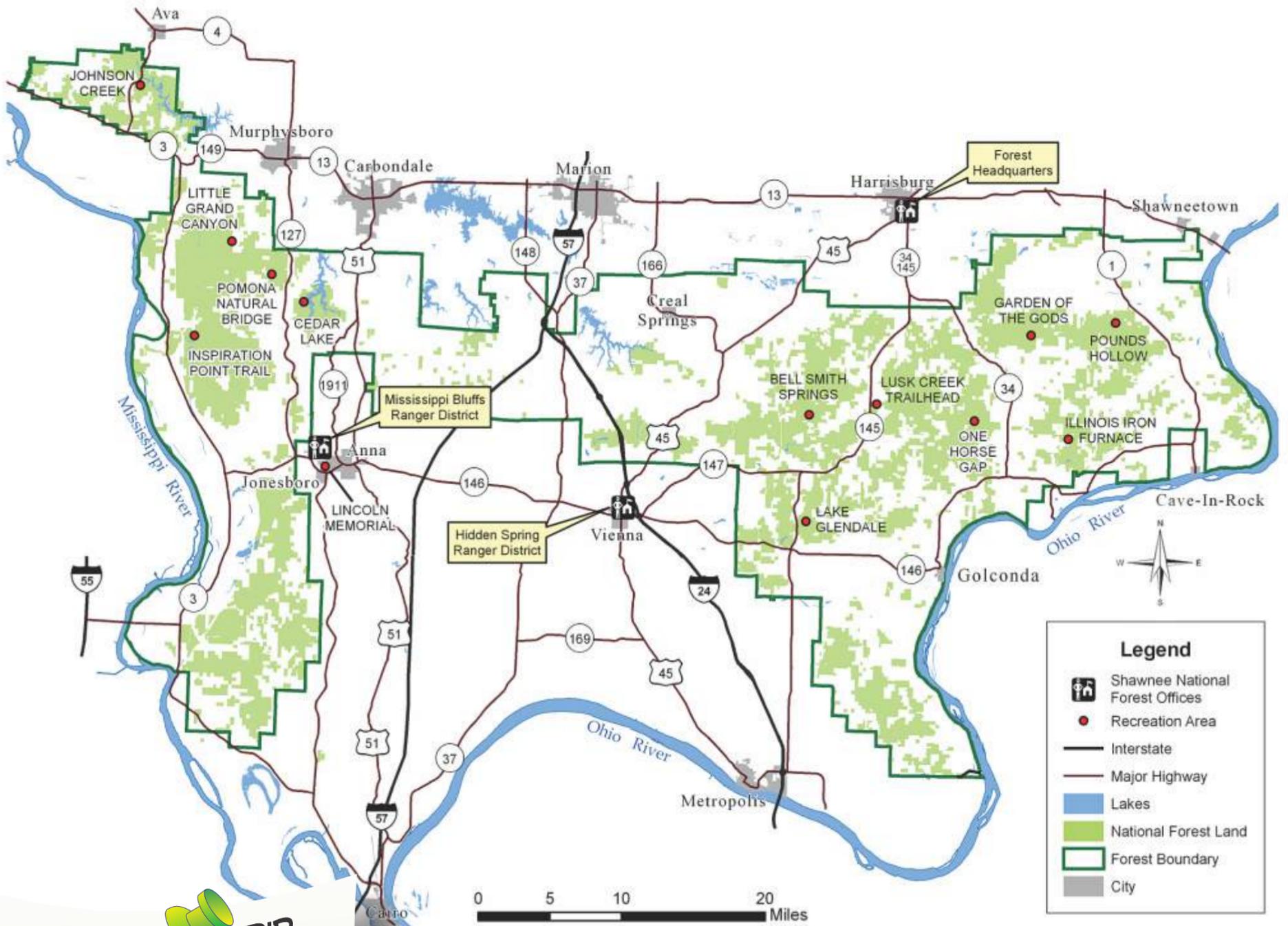
August 31

NHECM's Illinois Nocturnal Animals (11:00 AM & 2:00 PM)

The Natural History Education Company will feature its most popular nocturnal animals in the Rend Lake Visitor Center. In nature, these animals are just getting wound up as you are going to bed. This program will include a bobcat, raccoon, and several other exciting animal encounters at the Rend Lake Visitor Center.

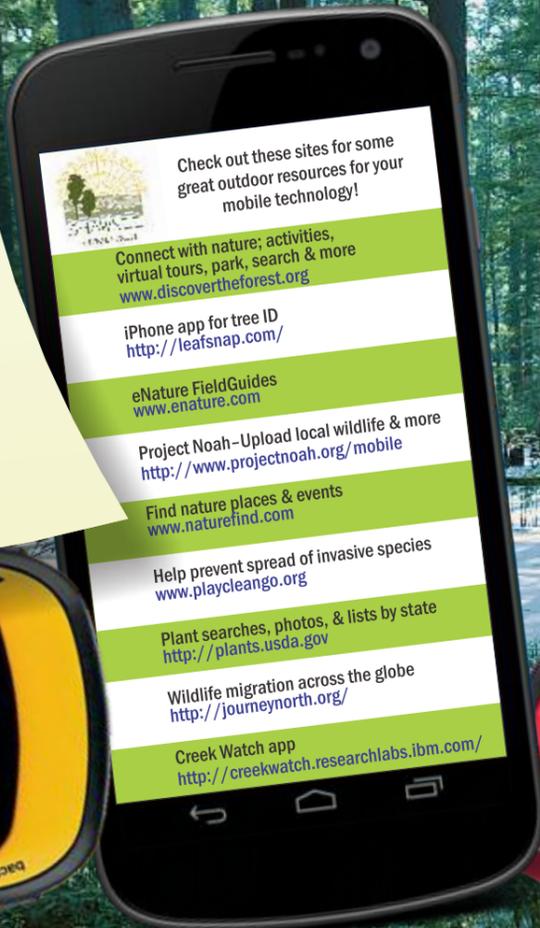


Shawnee National Forest Recreation Opportunities



SHAWNEE TRIP

- 1 CHECK LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST
- 2 CALL THE SHAWNEE FOR BROCHURES, AND OTHER INFORMATION.
- 3 PACK GPS, CELL PHONE, FIRST AID KIT, EMERGENCY NUMBERS
- 4 PACK FOOD AND WATER
- 5 LET SOMEONE KNOW WHERE I'LL BE AND WHEN I'LL BE BACK
- 6 PACK EXTRA CLOTHES, HIKING BOOTS & RAIN GEAR
- 7 PACK BUG SPRAY & SUN SCREEN
- 8 DON'T FORGET PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS



Contact Information

Shawnee National Forest offices are open from 8:00am to 4:30pm, Monday – Friday and are closed on holidays.

Forest Headquarters
50 HWY 145 South
Harrisburg, IL 62946
(800) 699-6637
(217) 253-7114
TTY (618) 253-1070

Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District
521 N. Main St., Jonesboro, IL 62952
(617) 833-8576

Hidden Springs Ranger District
602 North 1st Street, Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2111
www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee
<http://twitter.com/shawneenf>



There are several wonderful places in the Shawnee National Forest, but the best ones are often those that offer something for just about everyone.

The Shawnee NF prides itself on being the only national forest in Illinois and the largest public land owner within the state.

You Choose..... Bluffs....Lakes.... Or Trails..... Which is your niche?

HISTORIC POUNDS HOLLOW

Built in 1941 by the skilled Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Pounds Hollow was the Shawnee's first developed recreation area in the newly designated National Forest. Not much has changed since that time, the exceptional beauty of the Hollow continues to be a favorite location for swimming, picnicking, fishing, camping and hiking.



LINCOLN MEMORIAL PICNIC AREA

Debate Sites

Today the debate site is marked with life-size bronze statues of Lincoln & Douglas, along with a historical marker and interpretive signs. For a little exercise, park at the town square (the intersection of Hwy 146 & Main Street) and "Walk Where Lincoln Walked" retracing his steps to Lincoln Memorial Park on the day of the debate (footsteps mark the route).

Just north of the Jonesboro Square Lincoln Memorial Picnic Area is rich in local history. The site was the third of seven Lincoln-Douglas in 1858 Senatorial campaign.



Nature Niches

Has everyday life become routine?

Do you need a change and want to experience something different?

Then invite Nature into your Niche !!



- Fill a Feeder & Watch the Show.
- Open the Door, Step Outside for a Walk.
- Watch the Clouds or Enjoy a Sunset- no two are ever alike.
- Go for a Scenic Drive.
- Be a kid again- Stop & Closely look at a rock, leaf, bug, you name it!
- Plant a tree.

It's hard to believe with the technology that surrounds our everyday life we don't notice that nature is all around us. Without even a second thought, the average person comes in contact with hundreds of objects made from natural materials every day! We invite you to re-connect with nature, and rediscover why this rock we call Earth is so wonderfully diverse and changing! (discovertheforest.org)

LAKE GLENDALE RECREATION AREA

Centrally located, Lake Glendale is only 20 minutes east from Interstate 24 (exit 16) and lies in the heart of the Shawnee. Lakeside campsites make Lake Glendale's Oak Point Campground popular for those who want to spend their stay relaxing at camp or riding their bicycle around the recreation area or Lake Trail. Oak Point Campground is a full-service campground within minutes of other Forest points of interest, such as: Millstone Bluff Archaeology Trail, Bell Smith Springs, Lusk Creek Wilderness, Burden Falls, and Trigg Fire Tower.



Pounds Hollow

Amenity	
Campsites (a)	22
Picnic Tables (a)	6
Picnic Shelter (a)	9
Restroom (a)	yes
Water	yes
Fishing (a)	yes
Boating	Elec. motors
Hiking	yes
Nature Viewing	yes

(a)- Accessible Feature

Lincoln Memorial

Amenity	
Picnic Tables (a)	6
Picnic Shelter (a)	10
Restroom (a)	yes
Historical Site (a)	yes
Water	no
Camping	no
Boating	no
Hiking (a)	yes
Walking Path (a)	yes
Bicycling	yes
Nature Viewing (a)	yes

(a)- Accessible Feature

Lake Glendale Recreation Area

Campground Amenities	
Electric Campsites (a)	35
Non-electric Campsites (a)	57
Playground	yes
Shower House (a)	yes
Dump Station	yes
Picnic Areas Amenities	
Goose Bay Picnic	23
Picnic Shelter (a)	Tables
restrooms	yes
Pine Point Picnic (a)	20
Fishing	yes
Bicycling	yes
Boating	Elec. motors
Hiking	yes
Nature Viewing	yes
Swimming Beach	
Concession (a)	yes
Lifeguard on Duty	yes
Restrooms & Showers	yes
Boat Rental	yes

(a)- Accessible Feature

Site Amenities

Compare our list against yours

Each year, the Outdoor Foundation develops a report tracking participation in outdoor recreation. They found that almost 50% of Americans participated in some kind of outdoor recreation last year. Their most popular reasons for getting outside were exercise & fitness, time with family and friends, nature and beauty, and excitement or adventure. Overall, we find that getting outside is most important to us for pleasure and relaxation.

You will find the study's top ten activities that you can do at Rend Lake in the list below.



9 Bird Watching & Wildlife Viewing

Approximately 40,000 acres of water and land provide diverse habitats for a variety of wildlife species. Constructed levee systems provide wetland habitat for geese, ducks, frogs and turtles, as well as aquatic mammals, such as muskrats and beaver. The forests and fields surrounding Rend Lake support many wildlife viewing opportunities as well. In fact, if bird watching is your choice, Rend Lake is part of the Mississippi Flyway migration route and has had 272 different bird species documented at the lake.

Designated Watchable Wildlife viewing areas are the Rend Lake Refuge observation stand, the Gun Creek levees, and the Atchison Creek levees. Look for the binocular logo around the lake and pick up a free Watchable Wildlife Guide at the Rend Lake Project Office & Visitor Center.



8 Picnic

Adding a picnic lunch at a lake-side picnic table or a picnic shelter to a day at the lake might be the perfect addition to your next trip. Picnic sites are available in all the recreation areas and are located perfectly for a day at the South Sandusky Beach.

If you are interested in getting the entire family together for a reunion or birthday party or are planning a company picnic, Rend Lake offers 14 picnic shelters that you can rent or use for free for larger picnics if they are not reserved.



5 VISIT A MUSEUM

Rend Lake offers two top-notch opportunities to visit a museum or nature center. The first is the Southern Illinois Arts and Artisans Center located just off Hwy next to I-57, exit 77.

154 The museum sits next to the Rend Lake Golf Course and offers rotating art and museum exhibits from the Illinois State Museum; an artisans' gallery; and a unique shop where you can purchase the finest offerings from over 900 Illinois artisans.

Another wonderful opportunity awaits you at the Rend Lake Project Office & Visitor Center. The "Center" was opened two years ago and offers hours of fun exploring the new exhibits or attending programs. Located on the west end of the Rend Lake Dam, the Visitor Center exhibit hall has live animals, 3-D models of the different types of habitats around Rend Lake, and a theater presentation about the region. Saturdays during the summer bring free, family-friendly programs for all to enjoy. The schedule is available in the Calendar of Events in the front of this magazine.



2 Walking for pleasure or fitness

Whether it be an evening stroll in the campground, a family hike on the Blackberry Trail, or a brisk morning walk on the Rend Lake Bike Trail, Rend Lake offer limitless possibilities for getting out and enjoying nature while taking a walk. Walking for pleasure or fitness is the most popular crossover activity from indoor fitness pursuits to the great outdoors.



10 Hunting

With 18,000 acres of water and over 20,000 acres of land, Rend Lake, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers managed project, provides ample opportunity for the sportsman. Fields and woods are abundant with deer, rabbit, quail, dove, and squirrel, offering ample opportunity for the upland game hunter. Whether you favor the joy of working well-trained dogs on fast breaking quail or enjoy the thrill of outsmarting a wily buck, you have the chance to pursue your sport at Rend Lake. Foxes and gray squirrels can be hunted in the forest tracts that border the lake. Rabbit hunters should find populations of cottontails in fields and shrub areas.



7 Fishing

Fishing is the perfect activity to get started in outdoor recreation. It has been the most popular gateway activity for several years. And, Rend Lake offers 20,000 acres of opportunity to catch a Crappie, Largemouth Bass, White Bass, Bluegill, or several kinds of Catfish.

Just starting out? Try the Sailboat Harbor anytime of the year. It is perfect for little ones to safely drown some worms and for those with more experience to catch the big one. Don't forget; always wear a lifejacket anytime you are around the water.



4 BICYCLING

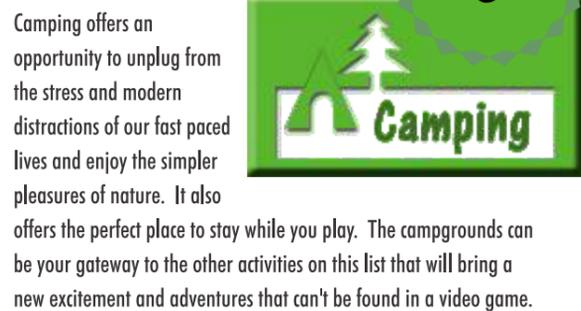
Whether you are a family with little ones or a tri-athlete, here at Rend Lake, we have miles of pathway ready to assist you in your cycling adventures. The Rend Lake Bike Trail offers a unique opportunity with over nineteen miles of scenic trails packed with memories waiting to happen. Three sections of this National Recreation Trail have been completed with access from all the campgrounds at Rend Lake. More miles are planned for the future to complete a loop around the southern half of the lake.

Stop in at the Rend Lake Project Office & Visitor Center to pick up a map for yourself and friends. You can also see the bike trail map on-line at www.CorpsLakes.us/Rend. So, grab your helmet and peddle into your next adventure.



#1 Running Jogging Trail Running

Tired of running on a treadmill looking at the person's backside on the elliptical in front of you? Come check out the Rend Lake Bike Trail for the most popular outdoor activity in the U.S. Try running on a section of this multi-use National Recreation Trail that meanders through forest, field, and wetland to give you an ever changing panoramic view of Rend Lake.



6 Camping

Camping offers an opportunity to unplug from the stress and modern distractions of our fast paced lives and enjoy the simpler pleasures of nature. It also offers the perfect place to stay while you play. The campgrounds can be your gateway to the other activities on this list that will bring a new excitement and adventures that can't be found in a video game.

The campgrounds at Rend Lake offer something for visitors with all types of camping equipment: from sites that provide universal accessibility to the secluded tent site nestled in the pines overlooking the lake - we have what you are looking for. The Corps of Engineers offer approximately 500 campsites at North Sandusky, South Sandusky, South Marcum, and Gun creek Campgrounds. For the family with kids, try a campsite around the playground in South Sandusky's Pine Tree loop. You can reserve one of these sites and many others by visiting www.recreation.gov or by calling 877-444-6777. Maps of the campgrounds are available at the Rend Lake Project Office & Visitor Center.

The Wayne Fitzgerald State Park offers another 250 campsites for you to explore. These include sites that are open year-round. You can find out more about the facilities available at the State Park on their website at: www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/PARKS/R5/wayne.htm.



3 DRIVING FOR PLEASURE

Beginning in the 1880's and becoming popular in the 20's and 30's, the "Sunday Drive" was the start of the third most popular outdoor activity. It offers a chance any day of the week for a drive around Rend Lake. Whether it is spring flowers, fall colors, spotting wildlife, or planning a picnic lunch with the family, the beauty and the scenery of the area is unsurpassed in any season. Make the Rend Lake Project Office & Visitor Center your first stop and pick up a map, a watchable wildlife guide, and some helpful hints from the staff.

Explore Rend Lake



Rend Lake is the perfect place to enjoy a wide variety of activities, events, and nature at its best. Even a short visit to Rend Lake will impress you with the versatility of this magnificent area. Whether you are looking for high adventure, a peaceful retreat, or something in between, you'll find it here.

Visitor Center
The Visitor Center is open all year on weekdays from 8 AM – 4 PM. April through October, it is also open weekends from 10 AM – 5 PM. This beautiful facility features exhibits which highlight many aspects of Rend Lake, such as natural features; geologic and cultural history; Rend Lake's missions; and inhabitants including live snakes, fish, and a working bee hive.

Hunting
Bow and gun hunting opportunities are available on almost 20,000 acres of land during the Illinois state hunting seasons. Deer, turkey, small game, and special pheasant hunts all challenge avid hunters.

Fishing
If you like to fish, you'll appreciate Rend Lake's excellent populations of crappie, largemouth bass, white bass, bluegill, and catfish. An intensive fisheries management program, run by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Corps of Engineers, is augmented by successful fish-stocking and habitat enhancement programs.

Camping
Rend Lake offers five campgrounds with over 800 campsites from which to choose. Sites range from primitive camping to sites with water sewer, and electric. Many of which are available to reserve in advance through www.recreation.gov or by calling 877-444-6777. Limited sites are available year-round at the Wayne Fitzgerald State Park. Most Corps of Engineers campgrounds are open from April through October. The Gun Creek campground remains open through the weekend after Thanksgiving.

Boating & Swimming
Water sports abound at Rend Lake. The area offers marinas, boat rentals, 26 boat ramps, and plenty of water to go water skiing, wake boarding, or paddling. Stop by the Visitor Center and check out a life jacket if you forget one.

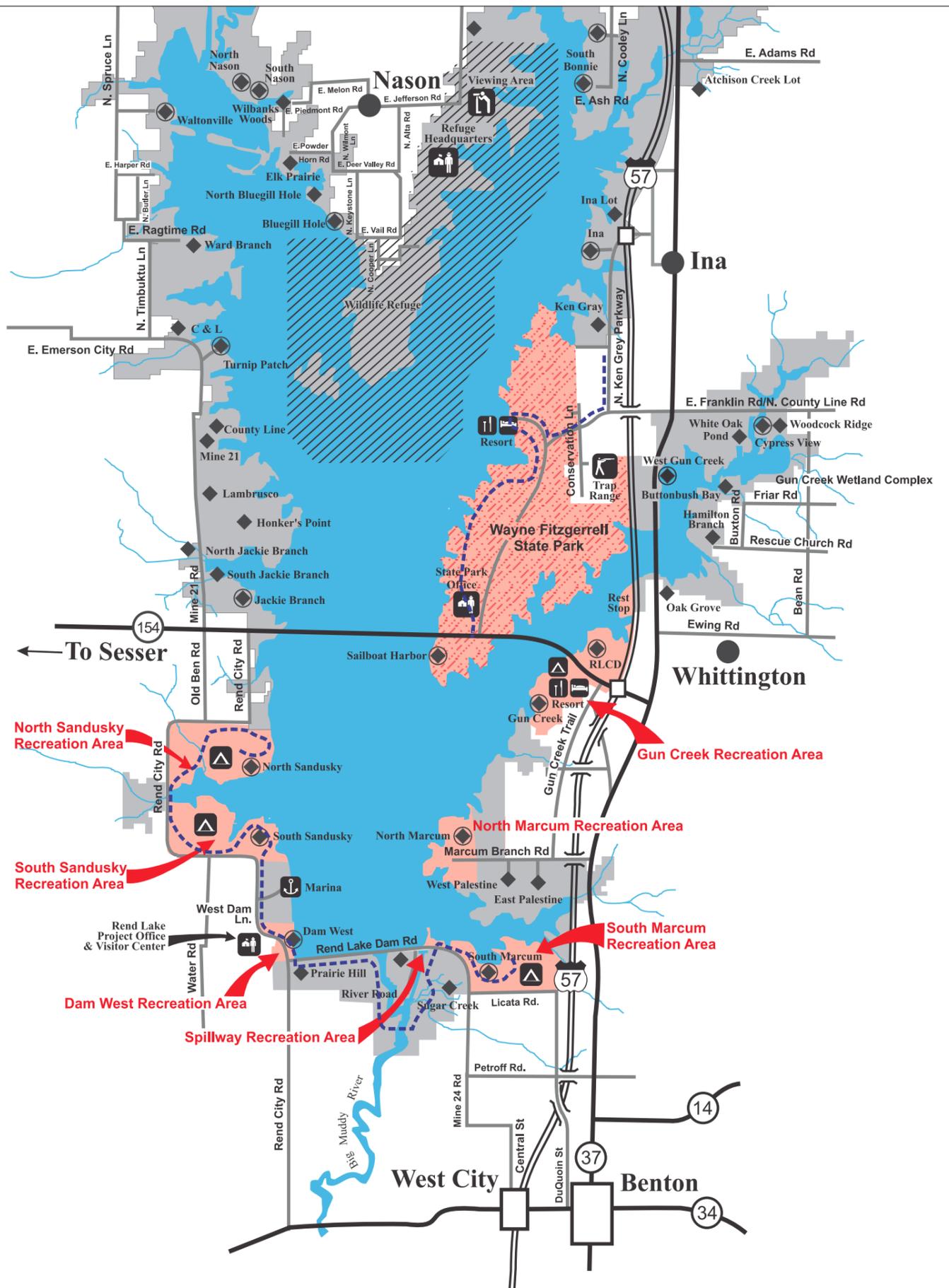
Hiking & Biking
Rend Lake offer interpretive trails, multi-use bike trails, and horse trails for a variety of speeds and modes of transportation. Three sections of the Rend Lake Bike Trail have been completed and offer over 20.6 miles of trail for your enjoyment.

Information
To get further information about all the recreational opportunities offered at Rend Lake, stop at the Rend Lake Project Office & Visitor Center, 11981 Rend City Road, Benton, Illinois 62812, located at the west end of the main dam. Additional information is also available at Rend Lake's homepage at www.corpslakes.gov/rend; facebook at Rend Lake Project Office/Visitor Center; or by calling 618-724-2493.

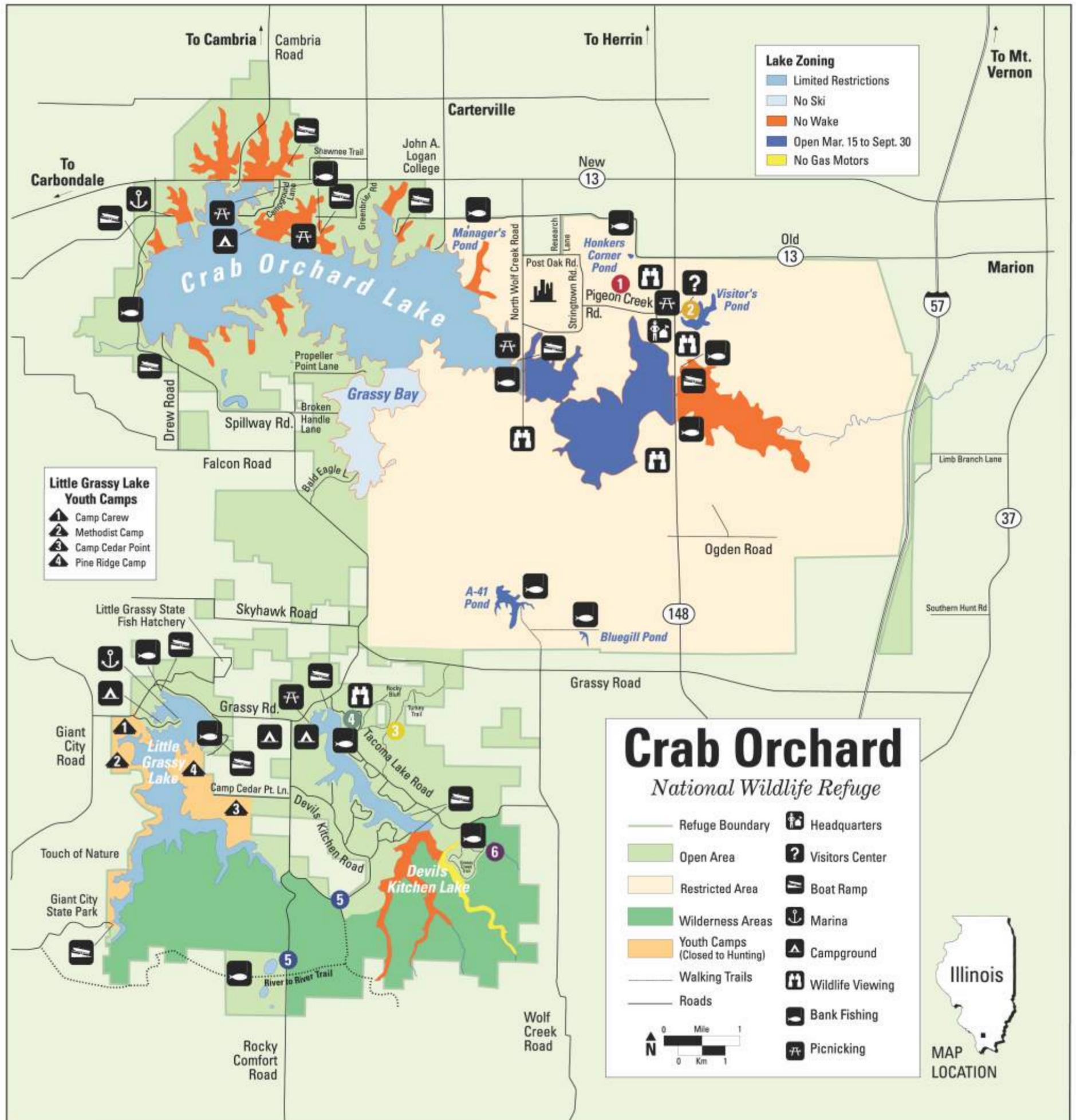


LEGEND

- Project Boundary, Hunting Areas
- Recreation Area
- State Park
- Wildlife Refuge
- Dual Highway with Median Strip
- Primary Highway
- Secondary Highway
- Rend Lake Bike Trail
- Hunter-Fisherman Parking
- Hunter-Fisherman Parking with Boat Ramp Access
- Hunter-Fisherman Parking with Seasonal Boat Ramp Access
- Waterfowl Viewing Area
- Ranger Station
- Marina
- Lodging
- Food
- Trap Range
- Camping



Enjoy Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge



Fee Schedule

Entrance Fees:

Vehicle (1 day)	\$2.00	per vehicle, covers all passengers
Vehicle (7 days)	\$5.00	per vehicle, covers all passengers
Vehicle (Annual Pass, July-June)	\$15.00	first vehicle, covers all passengers
Interagency Senior Pass	\$10.00	U.S. Residents 62 or older, lifetime
Interagency Annual Pass purchased	\$80.00	Valid one year from mo. purchased
Interagency Access Pass	Free	for medically proven to be permanently disabled, lifetime

For a family purchasing an annual entrance pass (excluding the America the Beautiful, Senior and Access Passports) additional annual passes for immediate family members at the same address will be \$5.

Special Recreation Permit Fees:

These fees exist for specialized uses such as group activities, recreational events and rental fees.

Fish-off Permit	\$35 per organization.
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(Permit allows the organization to host one fish-off at each of the three lakes per season)

Lake Use Fees:

All vessels/boats using the refuge will be assessed a lake fee use charge. This includes vessels that are in dry storage and/or maintained in slips at the marinas.

Vessel (1 day)	\$2.00	per vessel
Vessel (7 days)	\$5.00	per vessel
Vessel (Annual Pass, July-June)	\$10.00	first vessel
	\$5.00	each additional vessel

Holders of Interagency Senior and Access Passes are authorized to a 50% discount of the full value price for Lake Use Fees. Additional vessels are already discounted, therefore all additional passes are \$5.00.

In order for the pass to be valid, it must be affixed directly to the vessel on the port (left) bow next to, but not overlapping the state registration.



Connect US is a biannual publication dedicated to the recreational opportunities and land management activities on the federal lands in Southern Illinois.

Shawnee National Forest Contacts

Supervisor's Office
50 Highway 145 South
Harrisburg, IL 62946
(618) 253-7114

Hidden Springs Dist.
602 North First Street
Rt. 45 North
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2111

Mississippi Bluffs Dist.
521 North Main St.
Jonesboro, IL 62952
(618) 833-8576

Rend Lake Contacts

Rend Lake Project Office
& Visitor Center
11981 Rend City Road
Benton, IL 62812

E-Mail:
Rendinfo@usace.army.mil
(618) 724-2493
Fax: (618) 724-4089