Scuba Diving
Kickapoo State Park is unique in that it is one of only a few state parks and recreation areas in Illinois allowing scuba diving. Divers who register and who have proper certification may dive in the clear, deep waters of Kickapoo State Park.

Hiking, Biking and Running
If you’re into physical fitness, the 7.6-mile Out and Back run and hiking trail offers you a chance to exercise while enjoying awe-inspiring natural scenery. The course is rated “difficult” and is designed to meet the demands of experienced outdoor hikers or runners, passing through forests, bottomlands and the edge areas of abandoned croplands.

If you want a less demanding walk, there are a number of shorter and easier hiking trails in the park, as well as several nature trails. More than 6 miles of mountain bike trails are available.

Picnicking
You bring the hot dog and the burgers, and Kickapoo State Park has everything else you need for a summertime picnic. Six main picnic areas are available with shelters, tables, outdoor stoves, drinking water and playground equipment. A concession stand offers refreshments and souvenirs on summer weekends, and rents canoes and rowboats daily except Wednesday. Picnic shelters may be reserved upon request by writing or visiting the site.

Camping
For campers, Kickapoo has two major campgrounds for tent and trailer camping, with 180 sites. About half the sites have electrical hookups, and a sanitary dump station is available. Campers occupying electrical sites are required to pay for the availability of electricity even if the service is not used. A limited number of walk-in sites are available for primitive campers.

Several campists can be reserved in advance by writing to the site or applying in person. The maximum length of stay is 15 days in a 30-day period. Group camping is permitted.

Camps must have camping equipment with them when they register to camp. All campers must obtain a camping permit before entering the campgrounds.

Hunting
More than 1,000 acres — including forests, grasslands, edge and cropland — are available for the use of hunters each fall. Kickapoo State Park hunters may harvest white-tailed deer (both fawn and antlers), squirrel, dove woodcock, quail, coot pheasant, rabbit, raccoon, opossum and turkey. Special regulations and restrictions apply and all hunters must register before hunting the area.

Winter Sports
When winter blankets the central Illinois landscape with ice and snow, cross-country skiing, sledding and ice fishing become popular activities at Kickapoo. Because some fall-stocked trout usually survive over the winter, those fishing through the ice may catch a rainbow in addition to the species normally found at Kickapoo. Winter also is an excellent time of the year for photographers and wildlife observers to visit the park.