**Picnicking**

Plenty of picnic areas can be found throughout the park, with tables, grills and trash containers provided. Three picnic shelters may be reserved.

**Boating & Fishing**

A wide variety of fish, such as bluegill, carp, catfish, crappie, drum, largemouth bass and white bass, attracts anglers to the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. Launching ramps and ample parking are provided, and courtesy docks are available when weather conditions and river levels permit. Future plans include a full-service marina.

**Hiking**

Approximately 12 miles of marked trails provide scenic hiking opportunities for beginners and experienced hikers alike. Lush forests, towering bluffs and an abundance of wildlife are the perfect backdrops for an outing. Trail maps are available at the Visitor Center.

**Interpretative Programs**

A full-time site interpreter and seasonal interpreters are available to provide educational programs to groups of all ages. Hikes, recreational activities and other interpretive events are scheduled on a regular basis, particularly in the fall. Eagle tours are offered from late December to late February.

**Horseback Riding**

Pere Marquette Riding Stable is open for trail rides from April through October, weather permitting, and by reservation only from November through March. For more information or to make a reservation, call (618) 786-2156.

For those who have a horse of their own, the park offers about 20 miles of equestrian trails and a parking area for trailers.

**Bike Trail**

The Sam Vadalabene Bike Trail runs from Pere Marquette State Park to the City of Alton, approximately 50 miles. The entire trail is paved.

**Bird Watching**

About 230 species of birds have been identified within, at the boundaries of, or flying over Pere Marquette State Park. A checklist has been prepared by local birders, in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, and is available at the Visitor Center. Popular locations for bird watching are Stump Lake, in the river bottoms, McAdams Peak and other overlooks along the scenic drive through the park.

**Hunting Programs**

The 2,000-acre public hunting area has good stands of mature oak and hickory timber, which provide excellent habitat for squirrel, deer and turkey. These game species may be hunted in this area in accordance with statewide seasons and regulations, with the exception of squirrel season, which begins the day after Labor Day in the park. All hunters using the public area must sign in at the check station.

Archery deer hunting is offered on an additional 3,000 acres in the three organized group camp areas by special permit. Three one-week seasons are offered, beginning on the Monday after the last Sunday in October (when the group camps close for the season). By random drawing, five hunters are selected for each season in each area. The drawing for this hunt is held on the first working day of April each year. Applications are available in February.

Spring Turkey Hunting also is available in the organized group camp areas by special permit. To be considered for this hunt, hunters must use the statewide Firearm Turkey Permit application, and apply for Pere Marquette Group Camp Area.

**Exotic Species**

Plants and animals not native to Illinois are exotic species. Most of them are harmless to our state; however, some can be very invasive to native plant communities and can overwhelm or wipe out native species. Prevention and control of exotic, invasive species requires tremendous cooperation between managers and all users of parks, natural areas, and privately owned land.

To learn more about exotic and invasive species and how you can help prevent their spread, visit the IDNR Exotic Species Website at: (http://www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/ExoticSpecies/exoticspintro.htm).