From the traffic light south of Clinton on U.S. route 51, follow the Day, Labor Day, Patriots Day, Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor Fifty “Flags of Freedom” are flown on Memorial Day, July 4, Flag Lakeview Hill Picnic Area. They’ll also find accessible toilets at pier and accessible campsites, disabled visitors will find a shel-Virtually every part of the park is available to people with physical walkway accommodates the addition of memorials in perpetuity. Veterans Point honors all veterans for the sacrifices they have made, granite recognizes supporters of Veterans Point in honor or memory of loved ones. The Natural Scene of native tallgrass prairie can be seen in the park’s southeast corner. Bird species include songbirds, hawks and owls beauties, violets, red trillium and Dutchman’s breeches. Patches Weldon Springs' forest is dominated by hardwoods such as oak, black locust and honey locust. Wildflower fanciers will find spring wildlife observation areas, especially at Lookout Point, you can listen to frogs and insects in spring/summer and owls year-round. Nature has provided Weldon Springs with a wide variety of habitats where the forest and lake communities meet. Certainly the most popular hiking trail, Lakeside is well-shaded during the warmer months. Watch for shorebirds and waterfowl, migrating and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individ-
uals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNr, One Natural resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271. Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois
Salt Creek Backpack Trail provides six sites along its route for those who prefer a more rustic setting for camping. Campers may hear the evening serenades of coyotes as well as great-horned, barred and screech owls. Wild turkey, white-tailed deer, beaver, muskrat and mink are frequently seen along this trail. Backpackers are asked to register at the campground before heading out.

Schoolhouse Trail began as a loop of the park’s eastern bluebird nest box trail. Eastern bluebirds can be observed from late February through October. Circling the native prairie restoration project, walkers may observe a succession of blossoms. Watch for spiderwort, lance-leaf coreopsis, purple coneflower, compass plant, indigo, rattlesnake master, blazing star, bergamot, gray coneflower, compass plant, prairie dock, New England and New York asters, and goldenrod, to name a few. Big bluestem and Indian grass may reach heights of six to ten feet by September.

More than thirty butterfly species have been identified among the prairie flowers and a variety of dragonfly species cruise overhead. Listen for dickcissels, common yellowthroats, field sparrows and indigo buntings along this trail. A small wetland near the east end of the trail hosts a succession of frogs and toads through the warmer months as well as an occasional smallmouth salamander.

Old Farm Trail traverses forty acres of the original Weldon Farm. Old buildings, natural springs and abundant wildlife await the more adventurous hiker. Cundiff Cemetery, dating back to the mid-1800s, lies on a ridge amidst a hickory grove. A magnificent venerable white oak with a huge, spreading crown awaits discovery. Rare Henslow’s sparrows, bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks, bobwhite quail and ring-necked pheasants inhabit the grasslands.

All of the trails are routed through excellent wildlife habitat. None of them are open to horseback riding or snowmobiling. Please pack out all trash so others may enjoy their pristine beauty.

**Camping**

Named by Family Circle magazine to be one of the “Top Twenty Campgrounds in America,” Weldon Springs’ campground offers a quiet and friendly atmosphere for a relaxing camping experience. The Class A campground has 75 camping sites with electricity, water service, vehicular access, a sanitary dumping station for camping trailers, a shower building, cooking grills, picnic tables, pit toilets and playground equipment. Areas for tent, backpack, large-group and youth camping also are available. Primitive backpack camping sites are located along Salt Creek. Call ahead for conditions, as the backpack sites could flood during the spring.

**Picnicking**

In addition to eight large picnic areas, six of which have shelters, the picnic enthusiast will find small groups of tables at a number of locations throughout the park. Cooking grills or fire rings, water hydrants, toilet facilities and parking spaces are available at each picnic ground. Most of the large picnic areas also have electrical service and playground equipment. All six shelters are available on a reservation basis through www.reserveamerica.com. Sand volleyball courts are located at White Oaks Picnic Area, Lookout Point, and Meadowview.

**Fishing**

A 29-acre, spring-fed lake, which ranges in depth from 5 to 28 feet, features 2 miles of shoreline dotted with bank fishing platforms and a boat launching ramp. The fish population boasts sizeable largemouth bass, catfish, bullhead, crappie, bluegill and sunfish. There are size and catch limits for some species, and only electric boat motors may be used.

**Amphitheaters**

The park has two outdoor amphitheaters, Lone Oak and Red Pine, which can be used for plays, weddings, movies and other programs. Both are positioned on wooded hillsides. Lone Oak, the more remote of the two structures, will accommodate groups of up to 60 people. Red Pine is accessible to physically disabled visitors. Both amphitheaters can be reserved.