Red Hills State Park

**History**

The park is an important historical crossroad, the westernmost edge of the first land in Illinois ceded by Native Americans to the United States. The border line runs through the park from southwest to northeast, and was set by a treaty made in 1795 at Greenville, Ohio, by General Anthony Wayne and Native Americans, whereby they relinquished all claims to the land northwest of the Ohio River and east of a specified line. The area was called Vincennes Tract. The western boundary running through the park was known by the Old Cahokia Trace, which corresponded to the original survey line. The area was bisected across a tributary of the Em bara (pronounced "Am bara") River, more recently known as the Big Em bara. The Big Em bara forms the border between Illinois and Missouri, with marshes, dry and wet prairie, lush bottomland forest and thriving riverline communities. Warm season prairie restorations can also be enjoyed.

The park is a prime example of what is called a Wabash Border marsh ecosystem, with marshes, dry and wet prairie, lush bottomland forest and thriving riverline communities. Warm season prairie restorations can also be enjoyed.

**Camping**

For longer stays, there are more than 100 Class A campsites with vehicular access that provide electricity, a sanitary dump station, water and access to a modern handicapped-accessible building with showers and flush toilets. Some sites are pull-through with 50 amp service.

Handicapped sites are also available. In addition, there is a primitive tent camping area, rent-a-camp cabin, an accessible building with showers and flush toilets. Some sites are pull-through with 50 amp service.

**Hunting**

Squirrel, dove, woodcock, quail and rabbit are plentiful in season. Archery deer hunting is also permitted. Consult the park staff for specific information about shooting times and opening dates. Hunter must record harvest on online season. Archery deer hunting is also permitted. Consult a primitive tent camping area, rent-a-camp cabin, an accessible building with showers and flush toilets. Some sites are pull-through with 50 amp service.

**Picnicking**

For family outings, what better way to spend a day than to have a picnic. Red Hills has pleasant, shaded picnic areas throughout the park, with tables and grills. There are three picnic shelters for large gatherings, two reservable and one first-come, first-served, and six playgrounds for the kids. All areas are convenient to parking lots.

**For more information on state parks,** write to the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Land Management, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271 or visit our website at http://dnr.state.il.us.

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**Fishing and Boating**
A paved road circles the lake, and bank fishing for largemouth bass, channel catfish, crappie, bluegill and bullhead is very popular.

A boat launch is available however, gas motors are not allowed.

**Trails**
Eight miles of refreshing, scenic trails of moderate difficulty wind through the park, where the vibrant colors of redheaded woodpeckers, bluejays and wild canaries can be seen. For the intermediate hiker, Indian Treaty, Robin, Valley Springs and Tulip trail loops overlap each other on the hilly north side of U.S. Route 50 for about 3 miles.

There is also a 5-mile trail for horseback riding and bicycling when soil conditions permit.

**Winter Sports**
In the winter months, when the ice is thick enough, you can go ice fishing and enjoy ice skating on the lake. There are also sledding opportunities.

**Special Events**
A canoe olympics and campground theme weekends are among the many special events offered throughout the year at Red Hills. Horse shows and trail rides are popular during the summer.

For more information contact Red Hills State Park, 3571 Ranger Lane, Sumner, IL 62466, or call (618) 936-2469.