**The Area**

Henderson County Conservation Area is a popular retreat for camping and fishing. Located 20 miles southwest of Monmouth and five miles east of the Mississippi River, the 87-acre site includes Gladstone Lake, a 27-acre lake with 1.5 miles of shoreline.

**History**

The property was purchased by the state in 1961 from the C.B. & Q. Railroad, which had used the area to dredge sand and gravel for use in railroad maintenance. The lake water was used for filling the train’s steam engines.

**Facilities**

**Camping:** Class C campsites, with tables and grills, completely surround all areas of the lake that have road access. Tent and trailer camping is by permit only for a nominal fee. Group camping is permitted; however, groups of 25 or more need advance permission. Groups must not exceed more than 15 minors, and all pets must be on a leash.
Fishing and boating: The lake contains bluegill, redbear sunfish, largemouth bass, crappie and channel catfish. A boat launch area with one ramp is located on the southeast side of the lake. Motors are not allowed; electric trolling only.

Winter sports: Ice skating and ice fishing are permitted on the lake when the ice is thick enough.

Hiking: By hiking the Lake View Trail, visitors can complete their walk around the lake. The trail provides access to that portion of the lake which does not have roads.

Picnicking: Sands Picnic Area is shaded and has an ample supply of tables, grills and a small shelter house. Hand pumps are available for water.

Playground: A small playground area provides an attraction for young visitors.

Not permitted: Hunting, snowmobiling, swimming and wading. No plants or parts of any tree may be removed or damaged.

Hours: The conservation area closes at 10 p.m.
Please: Help us keep the area clean for the enjoyment of all visitors. Put all litter in the nearest available trash container.

For more information, contact the Ranger, c/o Big River Forest, R.R.1, Box 118, Keithsburg, IL 61442, phone (309) 374-2496.

If the outdoors in Illinois is where you want to be—

For only $10, you can subscribe to OutdoorIllinois magazine, a publication of the Department of Natural Resources. You will receive 12 issues for $10, plus a free, full-color wall calendar in the December issue. Call toll-free in Illinois, 1-800-720-3249. Outside Illinois, call (217) 782-1687. TTY (217) 782-9175. Or send a $10 check or money order to OutdoorIllinois, P.O. Box 19225, Dept. NL, Springfield, IL 62794-9225.
Henderson County Conservation Area
c/o Big River Forest, R.R. 1, Box 118
Keithsburg, IL 61442, (309) 374-2496

- While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park’s facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- Actions by nature can result in closed roads and other facilities.
We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Public Services, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, call (217) 782-6302 or visit our website at http://dnr.state.il.us.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs’ Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.
- Hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources’ TTY number, (217) 782-9175, or use the Ameritech Relay Number, 1-800-526-0844.

Joel Brunsvold
Director

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