An approximate 10-mile equestrian/hiking/cross-country ski trail is located on the north side of the lake, east of the Parcel Access Area. Horse trailer parking is available, although there are no rentals and no horse camping facilities.

Picnicking
Day use areas located around the lake contain tables, fire grills, water, playground equipment and toilet facilities. Most are accessible. Shelters are available at the Mascoutin, Weldon, Lane, West Side and Peninsula access areas. Mascoutin, Weldon and Peninsula have electricity and excellent views of the lake. Mascoutin is within walking distance of the beach. All shelters except the Lane shelter are accessible from the lake and may be reserved for a fee at www.reserveamerica.com.

Concession Stand
Boondocks Grill is located in the Mascoutin area between the beach and boat ramp. The restaurant features outdoor seating on the lake and air-conditioned, indoor seating for 50. The concession carries a variety of camping and picnicking supplies, bait, tackle, ice and firewood and is open from early April until mid-October. It is accessible by vehicle, boat and from the beach. The phone number is (217) 935-0925.

Swimming and Water Skiing
An approximate 10-mile equestrian/hiking/cross-country ski trail is located on the north side of the lake, east of the Parcel Access Area. Horse trailer parking is available, although there are no rentals and no horse camping facilities.

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Hunting
More than 3,000 acres are open to hunting at Clinton Lake. All hunters must obtain a windshield card online at dnr.illinois.gov. For a little practice time, try the archery range, just east of the North Fork boat access area, complete with a shooting tower.

The most common species hunted are rabbits, pheasants, squirrels and deer, although quail, woodcock and dove are also hunted. Most hunting is by archery or shotgun, however, .22 rimfire rifles may be used for squirrel north of the North Fork Boat Access Area.

Deer can be taken in season by bow and arrow, and a limited number of shotgun and muzzleloader permits are available by lottery for specific areas of Clinton Lake. Shotguns and turkey permits are available through the statewide lottery drawings. Waterfowl hunting is permitted from anchored boat blinds and in designated walk-in areas. Disabled hunters can apply with the park office for deer and waterfowl hunting opportunities.

Winter Sports
When the temperature drops, don’t huddle inside. Come to Clinton Lake. Ice fishing, ice skating and snowmobiling are allowed on the frozen lake surface, when the ice is thick enough. The North Fork and the coves on Salt Creek are good for ice fishing and skating. Bank fishing takes place throughout the year in the warmer areas of the lake. Hiking trails double as cross-country ski trails in the winter for those looking for a great workout.

Camping
The wooded area along the lake provides the perfect setting to turn in after a long day of fun. There are 17 Class AA sites, 277 Class A sites, and 9 Class B/S and 5 Class C campsites at Clinton Lake, with most adaptable to tents, trailers or motor homes. Showers and portable water are available from mid-April to November. Each site is equipped with a grill and picnic table. Reservations for campsites and shelters can be made at reserveamerica.com. The main campground is located in the Mascoutin (headquarters) area 8.5 miles east of Clinton on Friends Creek Road (1900 East).

Camp Quest, located 4 miles east of Clinton on Route 54 at Birkbeck, is a secluded, wooded group camp area that can accommodate adult or youth groups up to 75 people. This facility includes a large shelter with electricity, three RV pads with four electrical hookups, toilets, tables, grills and water. Reservations are suggested.

For more information contact Clinton Lake State Recreation Area, 7251 Ranger Rd., DeWitt, IL 61735-9701, (217) 935-8722.