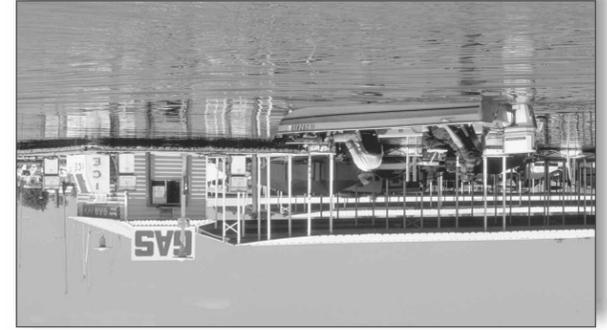


## History



Prior to the arrival of settlers, the land on which the park rests primarily was upland prairie and bottomland deciduous forest. Historians believe the area likely was the site of small villages and hunting camps of tribes of the Illini confederacy, with the Kickapoo residing in the area until the 1820s. The first permanent settlers came to the area in the 1830s. Many were from Kentucky and Tennessee and came to farm the land. Most of the area had been used as pasture or crop land at the time construction of the lake began in the 1970s.

The park land is owned by AmerGen/Exelon, which operates a nuclear power plant in the area. The state of Illinois has operated the park since 1978 through a long-term lease with the utility company. The partnership demonstrates that state government and private businesses can work together to provide outstanding recreation.

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is the place to search for morels. In the fall, it is ablaze with a rainbow of color.

Don't tell anyone, because the locals like to keep it quiet, but Clinton Lake is one of the best lakes in the state for catfish. Most are taken from the banks or in the upper arms of the lake. For good eating, it is hard to beat a walleye. The bridges at Clinton Lake are excellent places to catch walleye, and boaters can hit the old creek channels or submerged flats. For some great springtime action the spillway area yields large numbers of walleye and striper, as well as crappie and catfish.

## Clinton Lake State Recreation Area

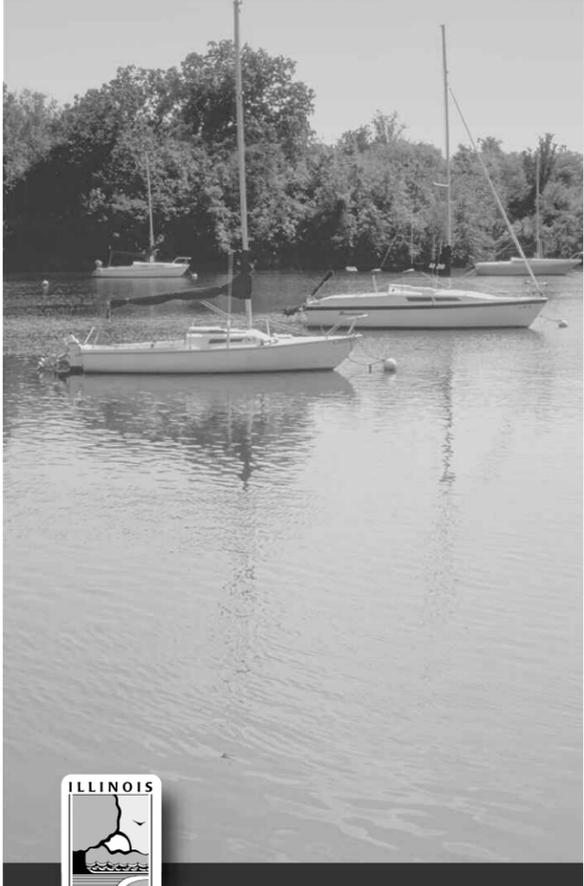


**State of Illinois**  
Department of Natural Resources



# Clinton Lake

STATE RECREATION AREA





## Boating

The upper arms of the lake are no wake areas. Portions of the lake are restricted to electric trolling motors only, however, there are no horsepower limitations in the main basin. Sailing is also popular. When the wind gets up, the lake can be very rough. Small watercraft are urged to remain in the North Fork area of Salt Creek on rough days. There are six public boat ramps and one canoe launch.

The area in front of the power plant from the Illinois Route 54 bridge to a line of buoys approximately one mile south is permanently closed to all boat traffic. The only access to the area of the lake north of Route 54 is from the North Fork Boat Access or the North Fork Canoe Access Area. This portion of the lake is all posted as a no wake area.

The biggest draw to the site is the 4,900 acre-lake and outstanding fishing opportunities. Accessible fishing piers are present at the Mascoutin, Valley Mill and Spillway access areas. Special size and creel limits are in effect for some species.

Crappie are the bread and butter fish at Clinton Lake. Hook them with white, yellow or chartreuse jigs and minnows, which seem to work the best. Hybrid and pure striped bass fishing are also popular, with numerous 10-plus pound fish taken every year.

## Fishing

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**Clinton Lake State Recreation Area**  
7251 Ranger Road  
Dewitt, IL 61735, (217) 935-8722

- 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 Land Management, One Natural Resources Way, Office of Land Management, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, or visit our website at [www.dnr.state.il.us](http://www.dnr.state.il.us).
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's 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.

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding sources civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785-0067; TTY 217/782-9175.



## Hiking

Water skiing is permitted from the buoy line south of the Route 54 bridge to the Route 48 bridge.

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## Swimming and Water Skiing



A beautiful, 1,000-foot white sand beach awaits swimmers and sunbathers looking to catch some rays or frolic in the warm lake water. Open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, the beach area includes a changing facility with showers and restrooms as well as picnic tables and cooking grills. There are no lifeguards and all persons under the age of 17 must be accompanied by an adult. All persons must remain inside the buoyed areas and swim with caution. No alcohol is allowed in the beach area and no pets, glass or sharp objects are allowed on the beach. The concession building is accessible from the southwest end of the beach. There is a beach fee of \$2/person.

## 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](http://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.



It just getting out and about is your interest, try the park's hiking trails. The 5.0 mile Houseboat Cove Trail is rated moderately in difficulty and is north of the beach, following the shoreline and returning through the woods. The 11-mile, one-way North Fork Trail is more challenging, running through the steeply wooded banks of the lake and providing unparalleled views of the lake and opportunities to view wildlife. Beautiful wildflowers can be seen along both trails and a 40-acre restored prairie is present along the North Fork Trail.

Natural Resources.

and is not owned or managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

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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](http://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. Shotgun 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

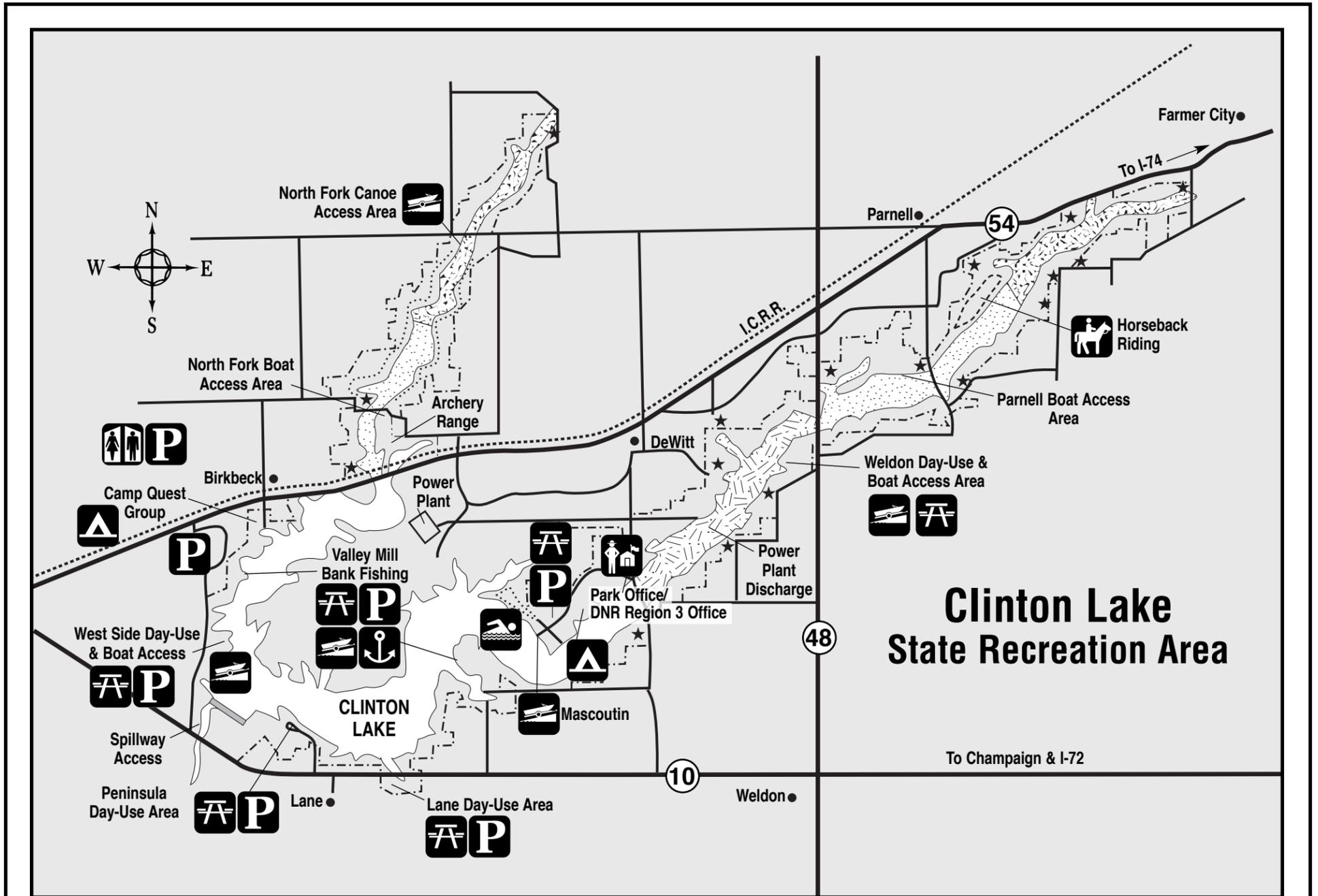
The wooded area along the lake provides the perfect setting to turn in after a long day of fun. There are 17 Class AA sites, 277



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 potable 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](http://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.



# Clinton Lake State Recreation Area

### Legend

- |                                     |                         |              |   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---|
| Park Office/<br>DNR Region 3 Office | Campground              | No Wake Area | Swimming  |
| Park Boundary                       | Electric Motors<br>Only | Parking      | Horseback Riding  |
| Hiking Trail                        | Hunter-Access           | Picnic Area  | Restricted Area<br><i>No Fishing, Boating,<br/>or Hunting<br/>Oct. 10—March 31.</i> |
| Horseback Trail                     | Marina<br>Parking Area  | Restroom     |   |
| Boat Ramp                           |                         |              |   |

