The Park

Carlyle Lake shoreline, and most of the campsites are within easy reach of the water. Many campers keep their boats in the coves located along the campground.

A combination of wide open water, low surrounding terrain and strong winds provides the conditions which make Carlyle Lake a great place to launch a boat. Three boat ramps are available to the public free-of-charge. A four-lane boat ramp with a lift is available to the public for a fee. A single-lane boat ramp is open to the public free-of-charge. A boat launch site is located 3 miles north of Carlyle and 2 miles east of Illinois Route 127 in Clinton County.

Sailing

Carlyle Lake is probably offered at Carlyle Lake. Whatever type of recreation you choose, it's a great place to get away from the stresses of your busy world.

Traveling

State of Illinois
Department of Natural Resources

Eldon Hazlet State Park

20100 Hazlet Park Road
Carlyle, IL 62231, (618) 594-3015
www.dnr.state.il.us • dnr.eldonhazlet@illinois.gov

All 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. Please call ahead to the park office before you make your trip.

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, Springfield, IL 62702-1271 or visit our website at http://dnr.state.il.us

For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2Connect.

Telecommunication Device for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Natural Resources Information (217) 792-9173 for TDD only Relay Number 800-526-8844.

Exposure to potentially hazardous conditions may include: hiking along the lake shoreline, boating on Carlyle Lake, fishing, bird watching, and animal viewing. Be aware of changing water levels and be sure to always stay within your capabilities. The Park

Hunting

The Park

Hunting

The Park

Picnicking

Eight picnic areas are available in the park, all of which are located near the lake. Tables and grills are provided at all of the picnic areas, and five of the areas have electricity-equipped shelters that can be reserved at www.ReserveAmerica.com.

South Shore State Park

A satellite site of Eldon Hazlet, South Shore is a 3-mile long park located on Carlyle Lake's southeast side, approximately 3 miles east of Carlyle on Route 50. Hunting opportunities are available within the park. For a site specific Hunt Fact Sheet, visit the IDNR website and go to the public hunting areas section. For more information on South Shore State Park, call Eldon Hazlet State Office at (618) 594-3015.

Swimming

Tent camping offers a rustic, yet comfortable experience. Perfect for a weekend getaway or a camping trip with family and friends.

Youth group camping is available at the Osage Youth Group Area. With easy access to the lake and plenty of hiking trails, this area offers a great place to spend a week or two. The Osage Youth Group Area includes two large picnic shelters, privy toilets and drinking water. The area is very popular with small children. A user fee is required to enter the pool facility. For pool hours and fees, call 618-594-3387.

Swimming Pool

The Illini Campground, located in Eldon Hazlet State Park, has 278 campsites and can accommodate up to 125 hunters per day, Wednesday through Sunday. The park also offers pheasant hunting and archery deer hunting opportunities near the lake. Tables and grills are provided at all of the picnic areas. A user fee is required to enter the pool facility. For pool hours and fees, call 618-594-3387.

Sheltowee Tent City

Sheltowee Tent City is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. With a zero tolerance policy, Sheltowee Tent City is a very popular area with families. A user fee is required to enter the pool facility. For pool hours and fees, call 618-594-3387.

Carlyle Lakefront Cottages

Carlyle Lakefront Cottages, located at the entrance to the park, provides full-service lakeside living with some or all of the following amenities: air conditioning, full kitchen, living room, bedroom with queen bed, a secluded loft with twin beds, water views, bathroom with shower, cable television, and lake access. A community shelter with picnic tables, barbeque grills and a few restrooms are available in the area. Carlyle Lakefront Cottages also offers two large tent sites which can accommodate up to 125 hunters per day, Wednesday through Sunday. The park also offers pheasant hunting and archery deer hunting opportunities near the lake. Tables and grills are provided at all of the picnic areas. A user fee is required to enter the pool facility. For pool hours and fees, call 618-594-3387.

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Natural Features

Wildlife abounds at Eldon Hazlet, in part due to the natural resource management program implemented at the park. Various types of warm season grasses and legumes are planted to provide supplemental cover and food for wildlife. Brush piles and nest structures, such as bluebird boxes have been placed throughout the park. The restoration of natural habitats, such as prairie and wetlands, also benefits local wildlife populations.

Across from the site office is a 3-acre tall grass prairie with more than fifty species of native plants. Numerous species through the park. The restoration of natural habitats, such as wildflowers bloom in the summer, including compass plant, blazing star, purple coneflowers, rattlesnake master, American feverfew and stiff tickseed.

Wildlife abounds at Eldon Hazlet, in part due to the natural habitats, range and habitat necessary to sustain this protected species. Should you come upon a Massasauga, please do not kill it or disturb it, but report it to the park staff, a campground host or call (618) 594-3015. Your cooperation is vital for their survival.

Fisherman

Some species. Should you come upon a Massasauga, please do not kill it or disturb it, but report it to the park staff, a campground host or call (618) 594-3015. Your cooperation is vital for their survival.

Fishing

Certainly one of the most popular activities at Carlyle Lake is fishing. More than 30 species of fish are found in the lake, including local favorites like white bass, channel catfish, crappie, large-mouth bass, bluegill, and carp. Bank fishing is permitted anywhere in the park. The Allen Branch area is used most often and offers an accessible fishing pier. Accessible fish cleaning stations are located at Allen Branch and Apache Boat Ramps.

The Illinois Pond is a 4-acre fishing pond with a walk-out pier. It is located across from the Campground Store on the Illini Trail. The pond is stocked with bass, bluegill and catfish and provides easy fishing opportunities for children.

Guided Trail Hikes

Eldon Hazlet State Park has more than nine miles of hiking trails throughout the park. Guided hikes conducted by the park’s interpretive staff are offered periodically during the summer camping season. For scheduling information, contact the Site Interpreter at the park office or call 618/594-3015.

Trail Descriptions

Cherokee Trail (3.0 miles)

Trail to cemetery is wheelchair accessible. Three miles of winding trails take you through a mature oak-hickory forest, over four footbridges and along the shoreline for great views of the lake. Loop 1 (1.5 miles) has been developed as a free identification trail and connects to the Osage Cemetery. Loop 2 (.75 mile) passes by views of the lake. Loop 3 (.75 mile) passes by Burnside Cemetery, a pre-Civil War cemetery where some of Clinton County’s original settlers are buried.

Kaskaskia Trail (2.5 miles)

This trail is named in honor of the Mississippian Native Americans who inhabited the Kaskaskia River Valley from approximately A.D. 900-1300. The Kaskaskia Trail leads the hiker through a variety of natural habitats and offers excellent wildlife-viewing opportunities. The trailhead is at the park office, although the trail may be accessed from many areas including the Illini Campground, Osage Youth Campground, Pawnee Trail and the Apache Day-Use Area.

Illini Trail (1.5 miles)

Trail is wheelchair accessible. Located across from the campground store, this trail winds through a restored prairie and loops around the Homer Guthrie Fishing Pond. The fishing pond is open to bank fishing.

Pawnee Trail (1.0 mile)

The Pawnee Trail may be accessed from two trailheads. The main trailhead is located at the parking lot area of the Lakefront Cottages; it is also accessible from the Cherokee Trail parking lot. Beginning at the Cottage Trailhead, the trail runs along a high ridge overlooking the lake, past the Burnside Cemetery, to the Cherokee Trail parking lot and through a Successional growth field. From the cemetery to the Cherokee Trail parking lot, Pawnee and Loop 3 of Cherokee share the same trail.

Eagle Trail (0.75 mile)

This trail was developed in May 1996 by a local Boy Scout as part of his requirements to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Located near the north end of the Illini Campground, the Eagle Trail offers an easy hike on level terrain.

Wetland Educational Trail (0.5 mile)

This trail is wheelchair accessible. This trail winds through a permanent pond and mud-soil habitat. It is an excellent place to view waterfowl, shorebirds and wading birds. Interpretive signs along the trail educate hikers on the benefits of wetlands.

Bluestem Trail (0.5 mile)

This trail is wheelchair accessible. A quarter-mile interpretive loop trail winds through a three-acre prairie restoration area directly across from the park office. More than 50 species of native prairie plants are present, including both little and big bluestem grasses, compass plant, rattlesnake master, purple coneflower, wild quinine and blazing star.

Trail Reminders

- Pack it in, pack it out.
- Keep pets on leashes.
- Do not disturb wildlife.
- Bikes and horses are not allowed on the hiking trails.
- Poison ivy is very common along the hiking trails. Learn to identify it and avoid it.

Map Key

- C: Cherokee Trail
- K: Kaskaskia Trail
- I: Illini Trail
- P: Pawnee Trail
- E: Eagle Trail
- W: Wetland Trail
- B: Bluestem Trail

All Hiking Trails are closed Wednesday through Sunday from early-November to early January due to a controlled pleasant hunting program in the park during these dates.

Legend

- Launching Ramp
- Picnic Shelter
- Campground
- Playground
- Campground Store
- Restrooms
- Fishing
- Salboat Harbor
- Fish Cleaning Station
- Sanitary Dumping Station
- Scenic Overlook
- Nature Trail
- Showers
- Parking
- Swimming Pool
- Park Office
- Drinking Water
- Picnic Area
- Viewing Area