



## Fishing

The lake is regularly stocked with largemouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, bullhead, crappie, channel catfish, walleye, yellow perch and northern pike. Whether from the 5 miles of shoreline on the lake itself, or off the handicapped-accessible fishing pier, the angling is always good.

## Boating

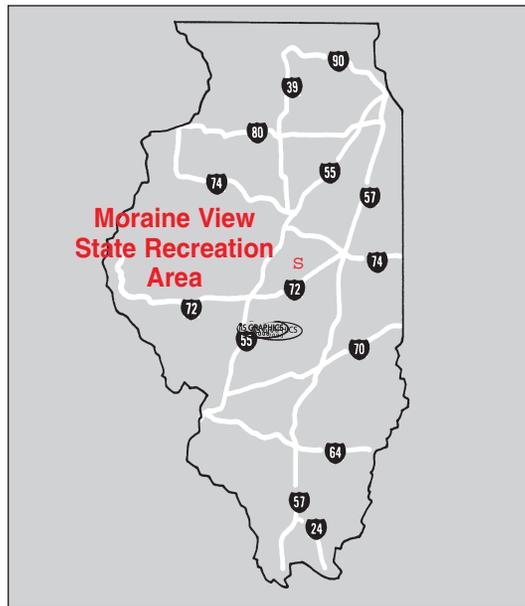
Drifting and bobbing on the glittering expanse of Lake Dawson is one of the site's most popular activities, whether aboard a sailboat or in a motorcraft of 10 horsepower or less. There is a two-lane launching ramp and docking facility, and boat rentals are available at the concession stand.

## Swimming

The Black Locust picnic area includes a public, sandy beach where swimming is permitted from Memorial Day to Labor Day. However, no alcohol or pets are allowed on the beach, and swimmers are to remain in the buoyed area. There are no lifeguards. Enjoy yourself, but please be careful. Check with site for dates and times.

## Hiking

For invigorating exploration, Moraine View contains a variety of opportunities. The half-mile Tanglewood Self-Guiding Nature Trail winds around the lake finger in a wooded area and will take you within sight of a thriving



### Moraine View State Recreation Area

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Leroy, IL 61752, 309-724-8032, Fax 309-724-8039

- 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 Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Public Services, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701-1787, call (217) 782-7454 or visit its 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.
- Deaf and hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources' TTY (teletypewriter) 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 source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702; 217/785-0067, TTY 217/782-9175

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State of Illinois

Illinois Department of Natural Resources



# Moraine View

STATE RECREATION AREA



MORAINÉ VIEW STATE RECREATION AREA



**Illinois**  
Department of  
Natural Resources

## Moraine View State Recreation Area

With fully developed facilities for picnicking, camping, hiking, swimming, fishing, boating, horseback riding and hunting, the 1,687-acre Moraine View State Recreation Area with its 158-acre lake is a beautiful, convenient and accessible locale for relaxation and recreation.

When the glaciers of the last Ice Age moved through central Illinois 15,000 years ago, they pushed massive amounts of rock and earth before them, leaving in their wake long and expansive ridges that ripple across the landscape. These irregular crests are called moraines, and on their gentle swells and in their broad valleys they are now dotted by scattered groves of white oak, red oak, black walnut, maple, hickory, ash and elm.



One of the four largest of these moraines in Illinois—the Bloomington Moraine—stretches across the state from the Illinois River at Peoria east to the Wabash River in Indiana. In the middle of the sprawling feature, Moraine View State Recreation Area—just minutes east of Bloomington/Normal off I-74—provides an ideal opportunity to enjoy both the tranquil natural beauty of Midwestern woodland and refreshing outdoor activity.

## History

When early Europeans first arrived in this area, they found the Kickapoo and Potawatomi Indian tribes peacefully sharing the countryside. Following the War of 1812, the tribes signed a treaty with the Europeans enabling them to continue to live on the land and take game until white settlers moved in. In 1830 there were 630 Kickapoo living here, but in 1832 they were moved to a reservation in Kansas and agricultural settlements were established, including “Old Town Timber” which evolved from a Kickapoo Village, south of Ellsworth.

The scattered groves of timber along the streams provided these early settlers with shelter from the bitter winds of winter, building materials, fuel and shade. The wet, sometimes marshy, prairie lands, though tough and difficult to turn with their primitive implements, were gradually drained or cleared, and small farms sprang up everywhere, taking advantage of the rich and fertile soils left by the glacial retreat.

By the middle of the 20th century, it became apparent that the heavily farmed countryside—situated as it was in an area whose topography and terrain precluded many good lake sites—would require artificial manipulation to provide and maintain a sufficient water supply for its steadily increasing population.

In 1959 the state of Illinois purchased 760 acres in Dawson township, and by 1962 construction had begun on a dam on the North Fork tributary of Salt Creek between U.S. 150 and Illinois Route 9. The resulting lake, called Dawson Lake after the families of early settlers, was opened for fishing in 1963.

Originally known as the McLean County Conservation Area, additional acquisitions have expanded the area to its present 1,687 acres, and in 1975 it was designated as Moraine View State Recreation Area. Development of full recreational facilities has since made this one of the state’s sterling examples of how economic and social necessity also can provide opportunities for conservation and recreation.



## Picnicking

For the day visitor, there is ample parking throughout the area and eight picnic areas in shaded spots, with tables and fireplaces. In addition there are five picnic shelters, three available for reservations and two for first-come, first-served use. There are five playground areas for the kids.

## Camping

For longer stays, there are 137 Class A trailer campsites with water, electricity and a sanitary station. A boat launch and dock is also situated in this area. There are 61 reservation sites.

There are 33 primitive Class D tent campsites, two group camps able to accommodate 275, and 30 Class A equestrian campsites in a separate area, complete with water, electricity and hitching racks.

A concession stand, located near the boat dock and launch, offers dock and boat rental, fishing tackle, bait, refreshments and various supplies. A restaurant, seating 60, serves breakfast and lunch daily. For information, call (309) 724-8295.

