

Snowmobiling is a popular wintertime sport among many Illinoisans. There are nearly 2,500 miles of snowmobile trails in Illinois. Some trails are located on state-and county-owned lands, while the greatest portion of trails are made available by local clubs on privately owned land. Locations for most of these trails are shown in this brochure. Many of these trails are groomed for your riding enjoyment.

Be prepared to enjoy some exciting snowmobiling adventures in Illinois the next time a good snowfall hits. Public snowmobiling areas are within convenient driving distance of nearly everyone in the northern half of the state. To ensure your enjoyment of these specialized facilities and to help keep them open and available for continued public use, snowmobilers must conduct themselves in an ethical manner and obey all regulations. Always remember to respect the rights of other winter trail users, protect the environment and follow the Snowmobiling Code of Ethics.

### ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES SNOWMOBILING SITES

Specific weather conditions and a minimum of 4 inches of snow cover must exist before any trail can be opened for snowmobiling. Several facilities offer other winter activities such as cross-county skiing, ice fishing, ice skating and sledding. An advance call to the site is recommended. All snowmobilers are required to register their presence at the park office or other designated registration point prior to snowmobiling.

Argyle Lake State Park: Designated trails and unplowed roads totalling 8 miles are available for snowmobiling from sunrise to 10 p.m. Parking facilities, toilets and picnic shelters are available at the site. The trails wind through scenic oak-hickory timber and pine trees that cover rolling terrain and steep hillsides. The park is located 2 miles north of Colchester in McDonough County. For information, contact the Park Office, 640 Argyle Park Road, Colchester, IL 62326; phone (309) 776-3422.

**Big River State Forest:** Approximately 46 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, utilizing existing fire lanes, wind through scenic pine forest lands. Trails are open from sunrise to 10 p.m. Parking areas and toilets are available at the trail head. Forest headquarters is located 6 miles north of Oquawka in Henderson County. For information, contact the Forest Headquarters, R.R. 1, Box 118, Keithsburg, IL 61442; phone (309) 374-2496.

Franklin Creek State Natural Area:

Snowmobiling is allowed on 4 miles of designated trails through scenic hardwood forest and meadow areas after the hunting season closes. The park is located 8 miles east of Dixon, just north of Route 38. For information, contact the Park Office, 1782 Twist Road, Franklin Grove, IL 61031; phone (815) 456-2878.

**Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park: The** Canal towpath running from Lock 29 in Colona to Lock 2 near Bureau Junction, and along the feeder canal from Sheffield to Rock Falls, comprises 75 miles of signed, scenic snowmobile trails. Parking, toilets and a warming house are located at the parkway visitor center just east of Sheffield. Other access points and parking are located at Lock 24 near Geneseo, Lock 23 near Atkinson, Lock 11 near Tiskilwa, Route 92 Bridge 56 near Tampico, Route 40 Bridge 45 south of Rock Falls and Bridge 15 near Sheffield. Numerous historical aqueducts and working canal locks can be viewed along the tree- and shrub-lined canal. For a map on the canal Parkway, contact the Parkway Office, 16006 - 875 E. Street, Sheffield, IL 61361; phone (815) 454-2328.

Illinois & Michigan Canal State Trail: Snowmobilers may use 61 miles of groomed trails following the canal towpath which is open 24 hours a day after a 4" accumulated packed base. Access points with parking, toilets and picnicking facilities are located at Buffalo Rock, Gebhard Woods and Channahon state parks. Access may also be achieved in the communities of LaSalle, Utica, Ottawa and Marseilles. Historic stone aqueducts, canal locks and panoramic views of the Illinois River are located along the canal. For a map of the canal and more information, contact the State Trail Office, P.O. Box 272, Morris, IL 60450; phone (815) 942-0796.

**Iroquois County State Wildlife Area:** Snowmobilers are permitted to use 13 miles of signed trails that follow the perimeter of the area. The site contains numerous sand ridges dominated by black oak forest. The lower-lying areas range from dry prairie to marsh land. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The area is located 5 miles northeast of Beaverville in Iroquois County. For information, contact the Area Office, 2803 East 3300 North Road, Beaverville, IL 60912; phone (815) 435-2218.

**Johnson-Sauk Trail State Recreational Area:** Snowmobilers may use four miles of designated trails and unplowed park roads from sunrise to sunset after the hunting season closes. The scenic, looped trail system winds through stands of oakhickory timber, pines and gently rolling meadows. Parking and toilets are available at the site, which is located 5 miles north of Kewanee in Henry County. Snowmobiler should park at the Round Bard parking lot to access Trailhead. For information, contact the Park Office, 28616 Sauk Trail Rd., Kewanee, IL 61443; phone (309) 853-5589.

Jubilee College State Park: A 14-mile trail is available for snowmobiling from 8 a.m. to sunset. The trail winds through scenic woods and meadows over rolling terrain. Parking, toilets and a picnic shelter are available at the trailhead. The park is located in Peoria County near Kickapoo, about 15 miles northwest of Peoria. For more information, contact the Park Office, 13921 West Route 150. Brimfield, IL 61517; phone (309) 446-3758.

Kankakee River State Park: Snowmobile trails pass through 15 miles of this large forested park which borders the Kankakee River, offering the snowmobiler some beautiful winter scenery. Snowmobiling is allowed from sunrise to sunset. Parking is available. The park is located in Kankakee and Will counties, 6 miles northwest of Kankakee. For more information, contact the Park Office, 5314 W. Rt. 102, Bourbonnais, IL 60914; phone (815) 933-1383.

Middle Fork State Fish and Wildlife Area: Seventeen miles of trails are open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. for snowmobiling through rolling terrain and scenic woodlands. Parking, toilets and a warming shelter are available. The area is located approximately 12 miles northwest of Danville. For more information, contact Kickapoo State Park, 10906 Kickapoo Park Road, Oakwood, IL 61858; phone (217) 442-4915.

Moraine View State Park: Snowmobiling is permitted on 8 miles of designated trails which can be used from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The looped trail system is situated in oak-hickory timber stands and gently rolling meadows. Parking and toilets are available at the trailhead. The park is located 7 miles north of LeRoy in McLean County. For information, contact the Park Office, R.R. 2, Box 110, LeRoy, IL 61752; phone (309) 724-8032.

Ramsey Lake State Park: Snowmobiling is permitted from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on 13 miles of equestrian trails and unplowed park roads. The trail crosses the scenic 1,900-acre park, featuring rolling terrain and steep hillsides covered by dense timber and a 47-acre lake. The park is located about 1 mile northwest of Ramsey in Fayette County. For information, contact the Park Office, P.O. Box 97, Ramsey, IL 62080; phone (618) 423-2215.

Sand Ridge State Forest: Some 26 miles of snowmobile trails, utilizing existing fire lanes, are available 24 hours a day. The scenic trails are situated in mature stands of native "sand oak" timber and vast pine plantations. Parking and toilet facilities are available. The forest is located 5 miles west of Manito in Mason County. For information, contact the Forest Headquarters, 25779 E. Co. Rd. 2300 N., Forest City, IL 61532; phone (309) 597-2212.

**Shabbona Lake State Park:** Snowmobiling is permitted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on 7 miles of designated trails between Jan. 1 and winter's end. All snowmobilers must check in at the park office both before and after going out on the trails. Parking, toilets and picnic facilities are available at the site. The park, located just south of Shabbona in DeKalb County, is characterized by rolling terrain with meadows and some upland and bottomland timber. For information, contact the Park Office, 4201 Shabbona Grove Road, Shabbona, IL 60550; phone (815) 824-2106.

Sangchris Lake State Park: Snowmobilers may use 11 miles of designated trails from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The looped trail winds through reforested fields over relatively flat terrain. Parking and toilets are available at the trail-head. The park is located about 15 miles southeast of Springfield, near Rochester in Sangamon and Christian counties. For information, contact the Park Office, 9898 Cascade Road, Rochester, IL 62563; phone (217) 498-9208

Silver Springs State Park: Approximately 4 miles of designated trails are available for snowmobiling from 7 a.m. to sunset. The trails run through mature timber on relatively flat terrain that typifies the park. Parking, toilets and picnic shelters are available. The park is located 5 miles west of Yorkville in Kendall County. For information, contact the Park Office, 13608 Fox Road, Yorkville, IL 60560; phone (630) 553-6297.

Weinberg-King State Park: Snowmobilers may use 22 miles of snowmobile trails on designated equestrian trails from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The park, located about 3 miles east of Augusta in Schuyler County, contains scenic woods and old pasture land with rolling terrain and steep hillsides. Parking and toilets are available near the trails. For information, contact the Park Office, P.O. Box 203, Augusta, IL 62311; phone (217) 392-2345.

Wolf Creek State Park: Snowmobiling is allowed on the park's winding 16.5-mile equestrian trail from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. The trail offers rolling terrain, dense woods and open meadows. Parking, toilets and picnic facilities are available at the site. The park is located 8 miles northwest of Windsor in Shelby County, on the eastern shore of Lake Shelbyville. For information, contact the Park Office, R.R. 1, Box 99, Windsor, IL 61957; phone (217) 459-2831.

# **ILLINOIS SNOWMOBILE CLUBS AND THE IASC**

Local snowmobile clubs are the strength and backbone of the sport, not only in Illinois but all across the snowbelt. All of the trails in Illinois operated on private lands are the direct result of local club efforts that involve obtaining landowner permission, trail marking and grooming. Through the unified voice and efforts of the many individuals working within their respective clubs, the sport of snowmobiling continues to flourish. Snowmobiling is a very social sport, offering more fun and personal enjoyment when done with the right group rather than alone. So join a club and get involved.

ounded in 1972, the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs (IASC) is a not-for-profit corporation whose membership is made up of local snowmobile clubs throughout Illinois. The primary purpose of the IASC is the promotion of the safety education program, general promotion of the sport of snowmobiling, assistance in organizing new snowmobile clubs, the establishment of a snowmobile information resources center, establishment of more interconnected snowmobile trails, and any other programs that are of common interest to snowmobilers and snowmobile clubs on a statewide basis.

If you would like to receive more information regarding the IASC or about locating a snowmobile club in your area, please contact the IASC office at the following address:

**Illinois Association of** Snowmobile Clubs, Inc.

P.O. Box 265 Marseilles, IL 61341-0265 Phone: (815) 795-2021 Fax: (815) 795-6507 e-mail: iasc@uti.com

ILLINOIS **SNOWMOBILE CLUBS** website: www.ilsnowmobile.com

#### THE SNOWMOBILING CODE OF ETHICS

- 1. I will be a good sports enthusiast. I recognize that people judge all snowmobile owners by my actions. I will use my influence with other snowmobile owners to promote fair conduct.
- 2. I will not litter trails or camping areas. I will not pollute streams or lakes.
- 3. I will not damage living trees, shrubs or other natural features. I will go out only when there is sufficient snow so that I will not damage the land.
- 4. I will respect other people's property and
- **5.** I will lend a helping hand when I see some one in distress.

- **6.** I will make myself and my snowmobile available to assist search and rescue parties.
- 7. I will not interfere with or harass hikers, skiers, snowshoers, ice anglers or other winter sports enthusiasts. I will respect their rights to enjoy our recreation facilities.
- 8. I will know and obey all federal, state and local rules regulating the operation of snowmobiles in areas where I ride. I will inform public officials when using public land.
- 9. I will not chase or harass wildlife. I will avoid areas posted for the protection of wildlife.
- **10.** I will stay on marked trails, roads or areas open to snowmobiles. I will not snowmobile where prohibited.

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, 524 S. 2nd, Springfield, IL 62701-1787; (217) 785-0067; TTY (217) 782-9175.

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## THINK SAFETY! BE PREPARED!

Snowmobile safety education is a positive move toward a safe and enjoyable snowmobile future. Enroll in a Snowmobile Safety Course now. For information on class locations call (800) 832-2599. TTY for the hearing impaired, (217) 782-9175. Website: dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/safety

The Illinois Snowmobile Registration & Safety Act Digest is available by contacting the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (217) 782-7498. This brochure outlines the information for licensing and other important snowmobile facts.

To register your snowmobile, you must submit a snowmobile application, required documents and the appropriate fee to DNR-Snowmobile, P.O. Box 19226, Springfield, IL 62794-9226. Applications are available from Natural Resources Regional Offices, Conservation Officers and snowmobile dealers. If you have questions regarding registration, call 1-800-382-1696, TTY for the hearing impaired (217) 782-9175. You can also visit the DNR Website at http://dnr.state.il.us. To renew a previously registered snowmobile by phone, call toll free 1-800-TO-RE-LICENSE (1-800-867-3542).