manding strategic position above the last rapids on the Illinois River. Pressured from small war parties of Iroquois in the early 1700s and retreated to what is now Peoria, Starved Rock in the winter of 1682-83 because of its proximity to the Mississippi Valley), they built Fort St. Louis atop the bluff and held their ground until the hapless Illiniwek died in search of voles and field mice.

Black oak, red cedar and white oak, as well as white pine and sugar maple, dominate in deeper soils. Typical plants characteristic of the forest floor include the American witch hazel, black oak, serviceberry and northern honeysuckle—shrubs that produce berries. Striking flowers that peek above the forest floor are the wild crab apple and plum trees that skirt the former glacial moraine. The wild crab apple and plum trees are colorful lichens and mosses, marsh marigolds, wild iris, spiderworts, nodding or orange columbine and the magenta blooms of shooting star.

While birds such as vireos and catbirds. Wood ducks and mergansers raft on the brushy shallows. Waterfalls, rivers and streams can undercut a cliff, creating overhangs in the sandstone, like Council Overhang at the park. Some of the longer-lasting waterfalls are found in LaSalle and St. Louis canyons. Uncommon in Illinois. Some of the longer-lasting waterfalls covered stone create a setting of natural geologic beauty. The park is best known for its fascinating rock formations, the backdrop for your activities are 18 canyons formed dramatically through tree-covered, sandstone bluffs for mile. Starved Rock State Park. Whether you enjoy hiking along the nature trails or viewing the many spectacular overlooks along the Illinois River, recreational opportunities abound. From picnicking to enjoying winter sports, there's so much to do here. The park is best known for its fascinating rock formations, the backdrop for your activities are 18 canyons formed dramatically through tree-covered, sandstone bluffs for mile. Starved Rock State Park. Whether you enjoy hiking along the nature trails or viewing the many spectacular overlooks along the Illinois River, recreational opportunities abound. From picnicking to enjoying winter sports, there's so much to do here. 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. Pets must be kept on leashes at all times and cannot be in the nature preserve. At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 or more. Pets must be kept on leashes at all times and cannot be in the nature preserve. At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 or more. 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, Springfield, IL 62702 or visit our website at 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 1-900-CONNECT. Hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources TTY Number, (217) 782-9175, or use the Ameritech Relay Service. The drawback to the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
Starved Rock State Park is host to a number of enjoyable annual events, including the Winter Wilderness and Eagle Watch weekends in January. The Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage in Spring, and the Fall Colors Weekend in October.

**Lodging**

Situated on a high bluff just southwest of the rock itself is the stone and log lodge built in part by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The lodge has been refurbished, also available.

The restaurant is open seven days a week and offers many house specialties. It can accommodate up to 250 people for banquets. The lodge’s conference area can accommodate up to 200 with four smaller meeting rooms.

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For more information, contact Starved Rock State Park, P.O. Box 509, Utica, IL 61373, phone (815) 667-4726.

**Picnicking**

Developed picnic areas are available to the day visitor, with tables, drinking water and restroom facilities. Eight shelters are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Alcohol is prohibited in the campgrounds.

**Exotic Species**

Plants and animals not native to Illinois are exotic species. Most of them are harmless to our state; however, some can be very invasive to native plant communities and can overwhelm or wipe out native species. Prevention and control of exotic, invasive species requires tremendous cooperation between managers and all users of parks, natural areas, and privately owned land. To learn more about exotic and invasive species and how you can help prevent their spread, visit the IDNR Exotic Species Website at: http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/ExoticSpecies/exotics_pictro.htm.

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