

Southern Illinois

River Experiences

Illinois has over 120,000 miles of rivers and streams.

Get outside and enjoy our natural treasures.

Shawnee National Forest

RIVERS: Big Muddy River, Cache Lake and River, Johnson Creek, Lusk Creek, Mississippi River, and Ohio River

Counties: Pope, Jackson, Union, Hardin, Alexander, Saline, Gallatin, Johnson, and Massac

WHAT TO DO: Boating, camping, equestrian trails, fishing, hiking, swimming, rappelling, and wildlife viewing

50 Highway 145 South 1005
Harrisburg, Illinois 62946

618/253-7114

WEBSITE: www.fs.fed.us/

Nearby Outfitters and Supplies:

- High Knob Campground--Equine Outfitters
- Shawnee Adventure Guides--Guides and Tours, Camping, Hiking, Paddling, and Rappelling gear
- Shawnee Trails Wilderness Outfitters--Camping, Paddling, and Rappelling gear
- Dick's Sporting Goods (Carbondale)--Basic Outdoor Equipment

Bay Creek Wilderness is a wilderness area located in Pope County. It contains a lake fed by its eponymous waterway, and over 2800 acres of wilderness and hardwood forest.

Big Muddy River Boat Launch provides boat access to the Big Muddy. Located in Union County, the boat launch allows boaters to make their way down to the Mississippi or up into the Shawnee National Forest. It is located at the end of Lakewood Bottoms Road in southern Union County.

Burden Falls Wilderness lies next to Bay Creek Wilderness and boasts scenic hiking and a beautiful waterfall at its southern tip.

Cache Lake is a small control pond that offers angling in SNF adjacent to the Cache River. It is also home to extensive wildlife viewing opportunities.

Clear Springs Wilderness stands adjacent to Larue Pine Hills and offers great scenic views and rugged hiking.

Garden of the Gods Wilderness sports unique rock formations and beautiful, varied ecology. Lying adjacent to Eagle Creek Management Area (soon to be Eagle Creek Wilderness) the Garden of the Gods is one of the largest and most scenic wildernesses areas in the park.

Larue Pine Hills offers nature viewing and hiking along the Mississippi River, and represents a pristine, intact wilderness in southwestern Illinois. Contained within the SNF, Larue Pine Hills is a Research Natural Area, meaning collection of any kind is strictly prohibited, but backpacking is allowed.

Lusk Creek Wilderness snakes a long way through the eastern reaches of the SNF, and hosts a variety of species in a variety of ecosystems. As a consequence, it is also one of the best wildlife viewing spots in the state. Its topography is varied as well: the area possesses beautiful cliff walls and a number of hiking opportunities. Besides wildlife viewing, the area offers hiking, some small caves, and canoeing.

Panther Den Wilderness is an area near the Devil's Kitchen Lake. It houses a number of ancillary streams and winding trails for some of the western SNF's best hiking and most scenic views.

Beall Woods State Park

Wabash County

RIVER: Wabash River

9285 Beall Woods Ave
Mount Carmel, Illinois 62863
618/298-2442

WHAT TO DO: Camping, hiking, and wildlife viewing

WEBSITE: www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/r5/beall.htm

Nearby Supplies: Rural King Supply, 2419 W. 9th Street P.O. Box 280, Mt. Carmel, IL, 62863

Located just outside of Mount Carmel in southwestern Illinois, Beall Woods State Park offers a rare opportunity to experience a virgin old-growth forest east of the Mississippi. Situated on the banks of the Wabash River, Beall Woods contains 5 hiking trails, 16 Class C campsites, picnicking, and wildlife viewing, along with a visitor's center, and ample lodging in the surrounding area. The site's 329 acres house a delicate indigenous ecosystem with native flora and fauna, and a unique glimpse into southern Illinois' ecological history; one of very few that has not been altered or destroyed.



prairieriversnetwork

Illinois' advocate for clean water and healthy rivers.

We work to reduce water pollution, preserve flowing streams and natural areas along rivers, and promote river stewardship.

1902 Fox Drive, Suite G,
Champaign, IL 61820,

Prairie Rivers is a non-profit organization that relies on the generosity of our members to fund our work.

We invite you to join our network and learn more at: prairierivers.org

217/344-2371

