

Chicagoland

River Experiences

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

Get outside and enjoy our natural treasures.

Chain O'Lakes State Park

RIVER: Fox River

Lake and McHenry Counties

WHAT TO DO: Hiking, camping, fishing, boating, and horseback riding

8916 Wilmot Rd
Spring Grove, IL 60081
847/587-5512

WEBSITE: dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/PARKS/R2/CHAINO.HTM

Coursing along the Fox River, Chain O' Lakes park is home to some of Illinois' best aquatic recreation opportunities. Characterized by its 7 chief lakes, the park offers a fun and variable current for canoeists and kayakers, with broader bodies for enthusiasts as well and on site boat rentals. Boats may launch for no charge, and the lakes are under no horsepower restrictions. With almost 250 campsites (151 Class A, 87 Class B/S) and three Rent-A-Cabins, Chain O' Lakes offers plenty of lodging on top of excellent fishing for a variety of species. Unique to the park is American Lotus, blooming on Grass Lake it is a summer visitor favorite. The 8.5 miles of foot trails and 8 miles of equestrian trails, along with horse rentals available on site for trail rides and hay tours, make the park a wonderful way to enjoy the outdoors.



Cook County Forest Preserves

RIVERS: Access to Chicago and Des Plaines Rivers

Cook County

WHAT TO DO: Boating, fishing, picnicking, and hiking

536 North Harlem Ave
RiverForest, IL 60305
800/870-3666

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com/

Boasting an extensive network of parks around Cook County, CCFP offers several bastions of nature in the densely populated, urban Cook County. With six nature centers, a multitude of lakes, trails, and more, the CCFP offers a vast amount of recreation activities throughout Cook County.

Des Plaines Fish and Wildlife Area (Wilmington)

RIVER: Access to Kankakee River

Will County

WHAT TO DO: Hiking, camping, picnicking, fishing, boating, horseback riding, dog training, and hand trapping

24621 N. River Rd
Wilmington, IL 60481
815/423-5326

WEBSITE: dnr.state.il.us/lands/Landmgt/PARKS/I&M/EAST/DESPLAIN/PARK.htm

Des Plaines Fish and Wildlife Area offers something for everyone! The natural prairie land, Kankakee River boat-access, fully-equipped picnic areas, and fishing on both the Milliken Lake and Kankakee River are wonderful ways to enjoy the warmer months outdoors. There is also a 12 mile equestrian trail open mid-April through October and dog training happening throughout the year. The sportsmen may also enjoy the park's hand-trap ranges, an archery range, and hunting- by- permit only.

Kankakee River State Park

Kankakee and Will Counties

RIVER: Access to Kankakee River

WHAT TO DO: Biking, camping, canoeing, cross-country skiing, fishing, horseback riding, picnicking, and snowmobiling

5314 West Rt. 102
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
815/933-1383



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.

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

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

217/344-2371



WEBSITE: dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/r2/kankakee.htm

NEARBY SUPPLIES: Seasonal concessionaire, contact park directly for availability. State Park Stables offer horse rentals, tours and rides--815/802-2050

Excellent canoeing, great fishing, beautiful scenery, and extensive class A, B, and C campgrounds comprise the beautiful Kankakee River State Park. Running over a 4,000 acre stretch of the Kankakee River, the park is a gem of natural wonder and outdoor recreation. Canoeists enjoy the fast-paced river, while boaters and anglers are offered extensive opportunities to catch a diverse array of species. Horse and snowmobile trails are open seasonally, as is a concessionaire and bicycle trail. The site also offers a year-round interpretive program, available by appointment.

Moraine Hills State Park

RIVER: Fox River

McHenry County

WHAT TO DO: Biking, boating, fishing, hiking, and cross-country skiing

1510 S. River Rd
McHenry, IL 60051
815/385-1624

WEBSITE: dnr.state.il.us/lands/Landmgt/PARKS/R2/Morhills.htm

Located in the northeastern corner of Illinois, Moraine Hills State Park is just 3 miles south of McHenry. Biking, hiking, and skiing are popular activities on the more than 10 miles of trails within the park. Nearly half of the park's 2,200 acres are wetlands or lakes making it a haven for wildlife and plant diversity. Highlights of the spectacular park include 48-acre Lake Defiance, one of the few undeveloped glacial lakes in Illinois, and Pike Marsh which is home to many of the park's rarest plants. Fishing and boating are allowed on both the Fox River and Lake Defiance. Shotgun deer hunting is available by permit only on 1,400 acres northeast of River Road.

Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area

RIVER: Fox River

Kendall County

WHAT TO DO: Hiking, boating, fishing, camping, and hunting

13608 Fox Rd
Yorkville, IL 60560
630/553-6297

WEBSITE: dnr.state.il.us/lands/Landmgt/PARKS/R2/SILVERSP.HTM

The glistening waters within Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area give it its name and draw visitors during even the coldest months of the year. The area is home to a number of manmade lakes as well as a portion of the Fox Lake, which offers fisherman a range of catch. Canoeing, picnicking, and hiking on the scenic 4-mile trail, and horseback riding are popular summertime activities. Winter sports, hunting, and Youth Group camping are also available during their respective seasons.

William W. Powers State Recreation Area

RIVER: Wolf Lake

Cook County

WHAT TO DO: Hunting, fishing, boating, and picnicking

12949 Avenue O
Chicago, IL 60633
773/646-3270

WEBSITE: dnr.state.il.us/lands/Landmgt/PARKS/R2/Wmpow.htm

In 1947, 160-acres of land were acquired by the state and became known as the Wolf Lake State Recreation Area. That has now been increased to an area of 580 acres, of which 419 acres are water. Picnic tables and stoves are available as well as four shelters which can be reserved at Reserveamerica.com. Largemouth bass, northern pike,

bluegill and more can be fished, and when the ice is thick enough ice fishing is also allowed. Motors of any size are allowed on the lake and waterfowl hunting can be done from authorized blinds.

Volo Bog State Natural Area

RIVER: No access

Lake County

WHAT TO DO: Cross country skiing, hiking, hunting, and picnicking

28478 W. Brandenburg
Rd Ingleside, IL 60041
815/344-1294

WEBSITE: dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/PARKS/R2/VOLOBOG.HTM

One of two available trails, the Volo Bog Interpretive Trail is a half-mile loop through the center of the bog. Designed only for hikers, the trail displays to visitors each stage of bog succession and detailed trail brochures available for each season. The Tamarack View Trail is a slightly longer, 2.75-miles, for hiking and cross-country skiing. The trail moves around the park and allows visitors a chance to see the bog from overhead as well as the diversity surrounding the central location.

Other Areas to Explore

- Bliss Woods Forest Preserve – Blackberry Creek, Fox River (Sugar Grove)
- Campton Forest Preserve – Mill Creek, Fox River (Campton)
- Deer Grove Forest Preserve – Buffalo Creek, Des Plaines River (Palatine)
- Hannaford Woods Forest Preserve – Blackberry Creek, Fox River (Nottingham Woods)
- Leroy Oakes Forest Preserve – Otter Creek, Fox River (St. Charles)
- Lone Grove Forest Preserve – East Branch Big Rock Creek, Fox River (Kaneville)
- Ned Brown Forest Preserve – Salt Creek, Des Plaines River (Elk Grove Village)
- Nelson Lake Marsh Forest Preserve – Lake Run, Fox River (Batavia)
- Spring Creek Valley Forest Preserve – Fox River (Carpentersville)

Canoe and Kayak Rentals

C & M Canoe Rental (Ottawa)
815/434-6690

Chicagoland Canoe Base (Chicago)
www.chicagolandcanoebase.com
773/777-1489

Freeman Sports (Fox River - Yorkville)
630/553-0515

Northwest Passage (sea kayaking - Wilmette)
nwpsag.com 800/732-7328

Schmidt's Canoeing Service (Fox and Kishwaukee Rivers, and Nippersink Creek - Elgin) www.canoetrips.net 847/697-1678