

East Central Illinois

River Experiences

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

Get outside and enjoy our natural treasures.

Edward R. Madigan State Fish and Wildlife Area

--formerly Railsplitter Park

RIVER: Lake Fork and Salt Creek

Logan County

WHAT TO DO: Biking, canoeing, fishing hiking, picnicking, and wildlife viewing

1366 1010th Ave
Lincoln, IL 62656
217/732-1552

WEBSITE: www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/r4/EDMAD.HTM

Nearby Supplies: Scheells Sports, 3801 South MacArthur Blvd., Springfield, IL 62711, 217/726-6330

Edward R. Madigan State Fish and Wildlife Area lies along Salt Creek just south of the City of Lincoln. Full of duck, quail, and pheasant, the park offers bird watching in a pristine habitat. The park also houses a canoe launch with a popular mid-length trail to Rocky Ford Bridge as well as fishing along the banks of Salt Creek.



Fox Ridge State Park

RIVER: Embarras River

Coles County

WHAT TO DO: Boating, camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, and wildlife viewing

18175 State Park Rd
Charleston, IL 61920
217/345-6416

WEBSITE: dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/r3/fox/fox.htm

Nearby Supplies: Prairie Outfitters Inc., 930 18th Street, Charleston, IL 61920-2939, Phone: 217/348-6770

Fox Ridge State Park offers a wide variety of outdoor recreation on the banks of the Embarras River. The 2,000 acre, family friendly natural area is equipped with a picnic ground, rest rooms, running water, and Class A campsites available by reservation. Two canoe launches allow river recreation enthusiasts the opportunity to paddle 5 miles of the Embarras, or angle for catfish, bluegill, and bass, which is allowed in river and by reservation on Ridge Lake. 9 miles of trail meander through the park, including long stretches along the bluffs beside the banks of the river itself, offering excellent wildlife viewing and scenic overlooks.

Kennekuk County Park

RIVER: Middle Fork River

Vermilion County

WHAT TO DO: Hiking, fishing, boating, canoeing, biking, picnicking, hayrides, mushroom hunting, and wildlife viewing

22296-A Henning Rd
Danville, IL 61834
217/442-1691

WEBSITE: <http://www.vccd.org/gikennekuk.html>

Nearby Supplies: Wild Country Outfitters, 2012 N Prospect Rd, Champaign, IL 61822, 217/351-4754

Fishing on the Middle Fork River on a series of lakes and ponds, or canoeing along the Middle Fork National Scenic River, Kennekuk houses some of the finest riverine opportunities in East Central Illinois. Just north of Danville, the area is part of a complex of parks in the area protecting wildlife along the Middle Fork which includes Middle Fork State Wildlife Area and Kickapoo State Park. The myriad of recreation opportunities and 17.5 miles of accessible trails and facilities make Kennekuk a prime spot for outdoor and riverine recreation.



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



Kickapoo State Park and Recreation Area

RIVER: Middle Fork River

Vermillion County

WHAT TO DO: Boating, camping, canoeing, cross-country skiing, fishing, hiking and running, horseback riding, tubing, mountain biking, scuba diving, wildlife viewing, and winter sports

10906 Kickapoo Park Rd
Oakwood, IL 61858
217/442-4915

WEBSITE: www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/r3/kickapoo.htm

Nearby Supplies: Kickapoo Landing (canoe/kayak/tube rental, fishing and hiking supplies, live music and restaurant), located within Kickapoo State Park, 217/446-8399

Resting on an area reclaimed from a former strip mine, Kickapoo State Park and Recreation Area has been nursed back to ecological health under the watchful eye of the State of Illinois and concerned citizens from the surrounding region. Nearby Kickapoo Landing offers canoe and kayak rentals, as fishing and hiking supply, and a restaurant along the banks of the Vermillion's Middle Fork, a State and National Scenic River. Thunder Wolf Trail Rides rents horses for use on Kickapoo's equestrian trails. Also unique to Kickapoo is scuba diving, allowed in the park's lakes and ponds, as well as snowmobiling and cross-country skiing in winter. The site also houses nearly 200 campsites, some with electrical hookup, some more rustic. Kickapoo is home to 12 miles of mountain bike trails of varying difficulty.

Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve and Middle Fork River Forest Preserve

Champaign County

RIVERS: Sangamon River, Lake of the Woods, Vermillion River Middle Fork

Lake of the Woods
109 S Lake of the Woods Rd
Mahomet, IL 61853
217/586-3360

WHAT TO DO: Biking, boating, educational programs, fishing, golfing, hiking, cultural and natural museum, pedal boats, picnicking, cross-country skiing, sledding, and wildlife viewing

Middle Fork
3485 County Rd 2700 E Penfield, IL 61862
217/595-5692

WEBSITE: www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/LakeoftheWoods.html,
www.ccfpd.org/Preserves/MiddleFork.html

Nearby Supplies: Champaign Surplus, 303 S. Neil St., Champaign, IL 61820-4913, 217/356-4703

A pair of natural havens, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve plays host to a 65-site campground and waterfowl management area, while Lake of the Woods offers access to a botanical garden, cultural and natural museum, golf course, and summer youth programs. Combined with a number of aquatic recreation opportunities including angling and boating in the lake and rivers, the two CCFPD managed areas offer comprehensive, family-friendly experiences just a few miles apart. Pedal boats and kayaks are available for rental on-site at the Lake of the Woods, while the avid canoeist or kayaker can float along the area's calm corridor of the Sangamon River. Though the waterfowl management area of Middle Fork is closed March-June, the parks both offer extensive trails during fair-weather, as well as running and still water for fishing and boating (contact sites for details.) Open in fall and winter as well, cross-country skiing and sledding are possible at either park for year-round outdoor opportunities.

Mill Creek Park

RIVERS: Mill Creek, Mill Creek Lake

Clark County

WHAT TO DO: Biking, boating, camping, hiking, horseback riding, off-roading, picnicking, and wildlife viewing

20482 N. Park Entrance Rd
Marshall, IL 62441
217/889-3901

WEBSITE: www.clarkcountyparkdistrict.com/MillCreek/

Nearby Supplies: Wal-Mart in Marshall, 108 Kyden Dr., Marshall, IL 62441, 217/826-8061

Mill Creek Park is an accommodating county park located close to Marshall, IL, near the eastern border of Illinois. Spreading over 2,600 acres, the park offers a wide variety of activities featuring 8 miles of trails accessible by foot or bike, 6-8 miles of equestrian trails, and 15 miles for ATVs. Lake fishing is popular at the park and camping of all sorts can be had at over 100 Class A campgrounds with adjacent recreation areas. Primitive camping and cabin rentals are also available. A boat launch is located on site, and pontoon and kayak rentals are available through the park. Keep an eye out for a resident pair of eagles nesting in the park, as well as a diverse array of migrating waterfowl that utilize Mill Creek Park on their annual migrations.

Shelbyville State Fish and Wildlife Area

RIVERS: Kaskaskia River, West Okaw River, Lake Shelbyville

Moultrie County

WHAT TO DO: Boating, fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing

562 State Hwy 121
Bethany, IL 61914
217/665-3112

WEBSITE: dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/r3/shelby.htm

Nearby Supplies/Lodging: Kaskaskia River Camp (canoe rentals), Phone: 217/774-4721

Separated into two distinct areas along the Kaskaskia and West Okaw Rivers, Shelbyville State Fish and Wildlife Area is a conservation area situated toward the northern reaches of Central Illinois' Lake Shelbyville region. The park is especially notable as an oasis of nature amid east-central Illinois' "corn prairie." It is home to diverse riparian and upland habitats, encompassing everything from hardwood forest to restored prairie. Visitors can immerse themselves in these areas on miles of nature trails, enjoy the water in canoes or larger boat, and yet still remain close to modern conveniences and amenities offered in the many towns and resorts that surround the Lake. 5 miles of the Kaskaskia are open to canoes when the water sits at safe levels, and a fishing license is required to fish on the lake or river.

Eagle Creek State Recreation Area/Wolf Creek State Park

Shelby County

RIVERS: Access to Eagle Creek, Wolf Creek, Kaskaskia River, Lake Shelbyville

R.R. 1 Box 198-B
Findlay, IL 62534
217/756-8260

WHAT TO DO: Archery, boating, camping, canoeing, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, swimming, snowmobiling, and wildlife viewing

WEBSITE: dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/R3/EAGLECRK.HTM

Nearby Supplies: D & M Family Fashions & Sport Center, 1303 South Hamilton St., Sullivan, IL 61951, 217/728-8060

Straddling the banks of the northern inlet to Lake Shelbyville, Eagle Creek and Wolf Creek comprise thousands of acres of forest and bottomland habitat indigenous to Illinois. Besides excellent wildlife viewing, the site plays host to numerous streams feeding Lake Shelbyville brimming with a range of fish including crappie, bass, walleye, and catfish. Equine and walking trails wind through carefully managed day-use areas, and a large public boat launch enables easy access to the lake and creeks. Visitors can stay at Class A, B/S, C, or D campsites.