



Kinkaid Lake Trail System



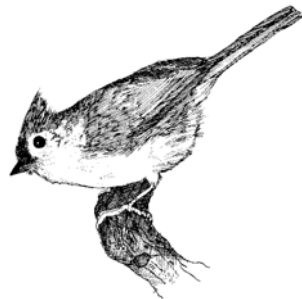
Kinkaid Lake is one of the few large lakes in this region that offers a variety of recreational activities. The upper portion of the lake is surrounded by Shawnee National Forest land and contains the Kinkaid Lake trail system. Popular activities for this area include primitive camping, fishing, hunting, canoeing/kayaking, horseback riding, biking and hiking. The trail system can be accessed in several places and is a great way to reach many scenic and remote areas of the lake.

Trail Highlights

This trail system offers opportunities for both long, linear trails and shorter loop trails. Kinkaid Lake Trail is ideal for a longer hike or horseback ride. As it winds along the shore of the lake from Johnson Creek Recreation Area to Crisenberry Dam, this trail goes into remote fingers of the lake. However, you may still encounter other users such as anglers, hunters and boaters. Both Johnson Creek Recreation Area and Hidden Cove Trailhead offer excellent starting points for short day-trips. Bicycling is permitted on the Waterfall Trail and on forest roads, but not on system trails or cross-country. Primitive camping is permitted 150 ft. off the trail and at least 150 ft. from the lakeshore with a maximum of 14-days continuous use. The north end of the trail system offers many amenities ranging from spacious campsites with easy access to the trails, a beach and swimming area. The trailhead off Johnson Creek Recreation entrance road is large enough to accommodate equestrian trailers.

Surrounding Area

Johnson Creek Recreation Area, Lake Murphysboro State Park, Big Muddy River, Oakwood Bottoms Greentree Reservoir and Fountain Bluff.



Emergencies

The nearest hospital is St. Joseph's in Murphysboro. The nearest public phone is located in Ava.

Length: Total – 31.4 miles

Kinkaid Lake Trail – 14.8 miles (~1 1/2 days)

Waterfall Trail – 3.1 miles (3 to 4 hours)

Travel Time: See above.

Surface Type: Dirt and gravel

Difficulty Level: Moderate to Difficult

Recommended Season: Spring, summer & fall

Facilities: Johnson Creek Recreation Area trailhead will accommodate equestrian trailers; Buttermilk Hill Picnic Area (hike-in or boat access only) has a vault toilet but no drinking water. Other trailheads offer small parking lots.

Access: Kinkaid Lake Trailheads are accessed from either Hwy 151 on the west side or Hwy 3 on the south side.

From Murphysboro: For Buttermilk Hill trailhead take Hwy 149 west 7 miles to Hwy 3, then north 2.75 miles on Hwy 3 to Buttermilk Hill Rd. Turn north on Buttermilk Hill Rd. then east on Taylor Rd.

For Hidden Cove trailhead take Hwy 149 west 7 miles to Hwy 3, then north 4.5 miles on Hwy 3 to Hwy 151. Go north 1.2 miles on Hwy 151 to Gum Ridge Rd., turn right onto Gum Ridge Rd., go 2 miles and turn right again and proceed to trailhead.

Safety: Summertime brings the usual pests, such as mosquitoes, biting flies, wasps and ticks. Carry plenty of water or be prepared to treat or filter water taken from streams. Be aware of hunters during hunting season. Poison ivy is present along the trail.

Trail Markings: Horse/hiker trails -  White diamond

Trail Ethics: Please pack out your garbage and stay on the designated trail. Be courteous to fellow trail users. Hikers should yield to equestrians and cyclists. Minimize campfire impacts and use. Leave what you find behind for others to enjoy.

For More Information

Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District

521 North Main

Jonesboro, IL 62952

(618) 833-8576

(618) 687-1731

www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee

