



Cedar Lake Trail System



Cedar Lake and Little Cedar Lake are beautiful, deep, clear lakes perfect for fishing, boating, canoeing, swimming and primitive camping. Construction of Cedar Lake was completed in 1973 and stocked with fingerlings in 1974. Private lands border the northern portion of Cedar Lake, but the entire southern half of the lake is surrounded by Shawnee National Forest land. This is the area where hardwood forests, cedar trees and sandstone bluffs line the lake's shores.

Trail Highlights

Four trailheads provide access to the Cedar Lake trail system. For the perfect day-hike try either Wolf Den Hollow loop trail or Little Cedar Lake loop trail. Both feature spectacular scenic overlooks, views of the lake, rock shelters and rock walls. For the long distance hiker or equestrian, the River to River Trail passes through the area from Lirley trailhead to Alto Pass. If you enjoy winter hiking, this area offers beautiful snow and ice covered landscapes. Primitive camping is permitted off the trail, at least 150 feet from the lakeshore and a maximum of 14 days continuous use applies.

Wildlife Viewing

Inhabitants of the area include white-tailed deer, raccoon, wild turkey and an occasional beaver. If you aren't lucky enough to encounter one of these inhabitants, you will likely see evidence of their presence. The trails offer excellent opportunities for bird watching.

Surrounding Area

Little Grand Canyon, Pomona Natural Bridge, Giant City State Park, Bald Knob Wilderness and Panther Den Wilderness.

Emergencies

The nearest hospital is Memorial Hospital in Carbondale. Public phones can be found in Alto Pass, Giant City State Park or Carbondale.

Length: Total= 14.0 miles
Little Cedar Loop – 4.0 miles (~2 hours)
Cove & Wolf Den Hollows – 4.4 miles (~2.5 hours)
River to River Trail Segment- 6.6 miles (~6 hours)

Travel Time: See above.

Surface Type: Dirt

Difficulty Level: Moderate - Difficult



Recommended Season: Year-round

Facilities: Pomona Boat Launch parking area offers accessible restroom, boat launch and trailer parking. Cove Hollow trailhead and River to River trailhead have small parking lots. Landreth Rd. access has unimproved parking (small vehicles only).

Access: From Carbondale: Take Highway 51 south 7 miles to Old Hwy 51; then west .75 miles to McGuire Rd. Take McGuire Rd. .25 miles to Rowan Rd. Turn south onto Rowan Rd. for 1 mile to River to River trailhead (Lirley trailhead).

From Murphysboro: Take Highway 127 south 10 miles. For Cove Hollow trailhead turn east onto Dutch Ridge Rd., then right onto Cove Hollow Rd. To reach Pomona Boat Launch parking lot, turn east onto Boat Dock Rd. (you pass the trailhead enroute to the boat launch). To access Little Cedar Lake trail, use Pomona Boat Dock Rd. trailhead or access it via Landreth Rd. by turning northeast onto Landreth Rd.

Safety: Extra caution should be used when the trail is near the bluffs and when crossing the causeway to Little Cedar Lake. Beware of poison ivy and poisonous snakes in the area.

Trail Markings: River to River Trail -  Blue 'i'
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.

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

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Cedar Lake Trail System

Cove Hollow Trailhead

Cove Hollow Rd. 369JG

Wolf Den Hollow Trail
4.4 miles

1.8 Miles

.7 Mile

Little Cedar Lake

3.2 Mile Loop

6.6 Miles

Lirley Trailhead

Murphysboro
4.2 miles










Cedar Lake
Trail System

Carbondale
2.0 miles

Jonesboro
10.5 miles

Anna
8.4 miles

Legend

-  Trailhead
-  Parking
-  Restrooms
-  Boat ramps
-  System Trails (Horse, Hiker)
-  Cove Hollow Trail
-  River To River Trail
-  Roads
-  National Forest Land

Contour interval = 20 feet

0 0.5 1 Miles

