

Connect US

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall-Winter 2008

Your only FREE Guide to the
Federal Lands of Southern Illinois

The Shawnee National Forest LaRue/Pine Hills Research Natural Area
Photo Provided by The Shawnee National Forest

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Crab Orchard



The U.S. Forest Service
The Shawnee National Forest



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Rend Lake



A Shawnee Community College Publication
Designed by Kylie Stalides

Our Vision

Conserving the Nature of America



Mike Lockhart Photo, Provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On August 9, 2007, the bald eagle was removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species. After nearly disappearing from most of the U.S. decades ago, the bald eagle is now flourishing across the nation and no longer needs the protection of the Endangered Species Act.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's mission is to, while working with others, conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. They are the only agency of the U.S. Government with that primary mission.

The Service helps protect a healthy environment for people, fish, and wildlife, and it helps Americans conserve and enjoy the outdoors and our living treasures. The Service's major responsibilities are for migratory birds, endangered species, certain marine mammals, and freshwater and anadromous fish.

Today, the Service employs approximately 7,500 people at

facilities across the country, including a headquarters office in Washington, D.C., seven regional offices, and nearly 700 field units. Among these are national wildlife refuges, national fish hatcheries and management assistance offices, and law enforcement and ecological services field stations.

In order to meet our mission, we enforce federal wildlife laws, protect endangered species, manage migratory birds, restore nationally significant fisheries, conserve and restore wildlife habitat, such as wetlands, help foreign governments with their international conservation efforts, and through our Federal Aid program, distribute hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to State fish and wildlife agencies.

Caring for the Land, and Serving the People

Established in 1905, the Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Forest Service manages public lands in national forests and grasslands.

National forests are managed under the multiple-use/sustained yield concept. "Multiple use" means the management of all the various renewable resources of the national forests so that they are utilized in the combination that best meets the needs of the American people.

The Shawnee National Forest's vision of courageous conservation has five goals: protect ecosystems across boundaries, connect citizens to the land, walk the talk for sustainability, revolutionize effectiveness and efficiency, and be an employer of choice.



Photo Provided by U.S. Forest Service

Jon Teutrine, District Fire Management Officer for the Hidden Springs Ranger District of the Shawnee National Forest, shows preschoolers how to help Smokey Bear put out forest fires.

Rend Lake Is Voted One of the Seven Wonders of Illinois



Photo Provided by Rend Lake

Rend Lake is Southern Illinois' playground year round.

Rend Lake was formed in the early 1960s to address the problem of frequent droughts and the lack of a reliable supply of drinking water in the area.

The "Rend Lake Association" originally lobbied to make Rend Lake a reality. Years later they changed their name to the one it still goes by: the "Rend Lake Conservancy District." This group continues to operate the Rend Lake water plant as well as operate the Seasons Resort and Condominiums and the Rend Lake Golf Course.

Construction of the lake was complete in 1971, and water levels reached "normal" or 405' ngvd on March 12, 1973. The construction was completed ahead of schedule—from beginning to end, the project took only five years.

Rend Lake acquired its name from a retired Civil War Colonel named William Partrick Rend, who operated a booming coal mine. The mine was approximately a half mile south of the present location of Rend Lake.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the Federal agency responsible for the actual construction of the lake. The Corps continues to manage the operation of public lands at Rend Lake.

Two additional agencies, the Rend Lake Conservancy District and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, lease land from the Corps of Engineers to provide additional services to the public.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Crab Orchard Implements Comprehensive Conservation

BY MARCUS ETHERTON
Shawnee Community College

Dan Frisk, Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Manager, is a native of the Midwest and a 27-year veteran for the Federal service. Frisk has worked the past 10 years for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Refuge Manager at several National Wildlife Refuges in North Carolina, Ohio, and Illinois.

Congress established Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge in 1947 for wildlife conservation, agriculture, recreation, and industry-activities, which are still present on the Refuge.

Crab Orchard NWR is currently working to implement its long-standing plan for comprehensive conservation, or CCP. The goals and objectives in the plan are gradually being accomplished within Crab Orchard NWR's boundaries in several stages.

The plan, which was finished in January of 2007, has become the primary focus for implementing the changes to come. A major point of change is the consolidation and improvement of the Refuge's infrastructure. A lot of work will improve our recreational facilities.

Frisk says, "It's important to let the public know that the funding for some of these improvements are coming from the \$15 entrance fee."

A lot of feedback and public opinion were put into the comprehensive conservation plan, Frisk says, and several meetings were held with input from the public on

what needs the most work.

"The four purposes of the Refuge make Crab Orchard a significant place in the lives of many people in Southern Illinois," says Frisk.

"It was important for us to hear from anyone who cares about the future direction of the Refuge," Frisk says. "We need to involve the public as much as possible as we decide on future management actions that benefit wildlife and provide for quality experiences for visitors."

By consolidating the infrastructure, the management of the Refuge will be able to focus its efforts on improving the quality of the recreational facilities that the public will utilize.

There are still several challenges to maintaining Crab Orchard NWR, however. This year's flooding was no walk in the park.

Frisk says, "Mother Nature really hit us hard with all the rain and subsequent flooding this year. Crab Orchard Lake was six feet above normal. That was a record. It had never been that high before."

Frisk continues, "Because of all of the recreational activities that occur in and around the lake, our marinas, our boat ramps, and our campgrounds, we're probably the most affected by that flooding."

The worst of the flooding happened right before April, which is when Crab Orchard NWR opens for the boating and recreational season. The majority of the damage has been repaired, but some minor repairs are still underway.

Frisk says, "This could not

have been accomplished if not for the hard work of all the Refuge staff. I'd like to personally thank them all for job well done."

Another part of the CCP that is underway is the reforestation of the Crab Orchard NWR woodlands.

With Crab Orchard being nearly 44,000 acres, there is a lot of ground to cover.

With more active forest management, more prescribed burning, and cooperation with the Shawnee National Forest, progression is going smoothly. "We need to have a long-term vision because the work we do takes many years to restore the forest. We are making improvements for future generations to enjoy."

Frisk also highlights on outside help: "We have a lot of volunteers who help in a variety of program areas. One of the most active groups," he says, "is a group called the Friends of Crab Orchard. They work in



Dan Frisk, Crab Orchard Manager, holds an immature eagle.

Photo Provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

educating adults and youth alike on the many benefits of wild places like Crab Orchard NWR."

He adds, "They run our book store in the visitor's center, and the proceeds from sales go to help environmental education programs." Frisk concludes, "I welcome all Southern Illinoisans to get involved in being a part of the future of Your National Wildlife Refuge."

Frisk can be reached at (618)997-3344.

Crab Orchard: A National Wildlife Refuge for a Wide Diversity of Flora and Fauna



All Photos Provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge's 44,000 acres of land and water contain a wide diversity of flora and fauna.

Major habitat types on the Refuge include hardwood forest, agricultural land, grazing units, brushland, wetlands, and lakes.

The Refuge provides significant resting areas for migratory birds utilizing the Mississippi Flyway. Wintering numbers of Canada Geese can peak at 200,000. A total of 700

plant species, 245 bird species, 33 mammal species, 63 fish species, and 44 reptile and amphibian species have been documented on the Refuge.

The western 24,000 acres of the Refuge provide a wide range of recreational opportunities and also included a 4,050-acre wilderness area. The eastern portion, 20,000 acres, is a wildlife sanctuary, and public use is limited.

Annual visitation is approximately 1,000,000 visitors. Industrial

activities on the Refuge range from manufacturing and storage facilities to administrative offices.

Many buildings now housing industries were used in the manufacturing of explosives during World War II, and they are still used for military ordinance production today.

The concrete igloos built for munition storage are now leased to private industry for storage of many types of products.

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge is located five miles west of Marion, Illinois, and five miles south of Herrin, Illinois, on State Route 148.

From I-57 in Marion, go west on Illinois Route 13 about three miles to Illinois Route 148. Turn left (south), and go two and one-half miles. The Refuge Visitor Information Center is located on the left.

The History of Crab Orchard's Geese

Any day from December to February, it is possible to drive through Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge and see as many geese as your eyes can behold.

Crab Orchard is located in the middle of the Mississippi Flyway, the Canada to Gulf-of-Mexico turnpike for the sky borne.

It is an ideal place where visitors can see the Canada geese tend to their daily chores of winter living and hear the majestic chorus of honking, a sound that will linger long in your ears.

You never need to get out of your car to watch these great creatures forage in the cornfields along the roads. Bring a pair of binoculars so you can observe the geese closely, and bring a telephoto lens on your camera to capture and record his stately mien.

When the Mississippi Flyway was closed to goose hunting in 1946, due to a depleted goose population, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service went into action.

In 1947, Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge was established in Southern Illinois. In October of that year, 44 wild Canada geese, with the pinions of both wings clipped, were placed in a five-acre holding pen along the shore of Crab Orchard Lake, one of the three lakes found on the Refuge.

The combination of protection from hunters, food availability, and these decoy birds was the start of a wintering flock that grew from 2,000 that first year to a peak of 200,000 in 2001.



Today, the wintering flock of geese could reach as many as 60,000, giving visitors a chance to see geese by the thousands on display at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge.

It adds charm and interest to become acquainted with the geese and witness their adaptability to the Refuge environment. Because they are wild birds that have always grazed for their fare, their menu consists primarily of succulent grasses, sedges, and both emergent and submergent aquatic plants.

When watching these "Big Honkers" waddling between the corn rows, chattering, and eating, it is hard to realize that these creatures were not born to a diet of corn.

The goose's habit of journeying from home with the changing seasons made him perfectly agreeable to "potluck" meals. So when the first decoy birds were set out, ears of corn were scattered along the lake shore. Geese were soon eating the yellow grain as if they had been raised on it.

As the geese grew more confident

of their safety at the Refuge, they ventured out into the cornfields and began nibbling on the waste grain left by the mechanical pickers.

A sharecropping permit system was then employed by the with most of the farming completed by local farmers. Farmers leave one-fourth of all grain crops unharvested in their fields as the goose's share. The crops are the goose's banquet table of which they take full advantage.

The first corn grown for feeding geese at Crab Orchard was the standard hybrid variety with the ear occurring from three to five feet up the stalk.

Since the Canada goose can stretch upward only 42 inches, he could not quite reach the top ears. There was a popular but unverified story that when the ears were higher than the geese could reach, they would play

piggyback to get that corn.

The taller corn posed a problem requiring extra labor to knock the stalks down so that the ears were available to the geese.

Refuge management decided that possibly a different hybrid of corn would be the answer. A different type was accordingly planted.

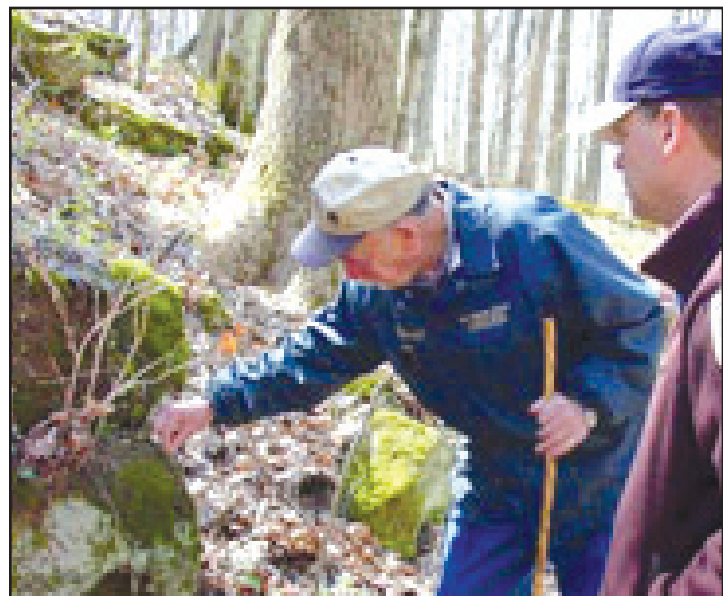
The hungry geese, so pleased with their new capabilities, would fairly glut themselves with no thought of their needs during much of the cold winter months.

It did not take management long to go back to using the standard varieties, thus protecting the geese from their own overindulgence.

Today, the wintering flock of geese could reach as many as 60,000 giving visitors a chance to see geese by the thousands on display at Crab Orchard National Wildlife.

Photo Provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Gain Valuable, Rewarding Experiences: Volunteer at the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge



Volunteers play a vital role in helping the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fulfill its mission of conserving, protecting, and enhancing America's fish and wildlife and their habitats.

K. Ramos Photo Provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Various opportunities exist at the Refuge for volunteers to gain valuable and rewarding experiences.

Volunteers assist Refuge personnel in achieving management goals by working in a wide variety of volunteer jobs.

Refuge volunteers work and are called upon to contribute

their services in many areas on the Refuge, and even sometimes at locations off the Refuge. They are first requested to spend part of their time at the Visitor Center learning simple Refuge procedures and becoming familiar with the activities offered on the Refuge.

Volunteers donate their services on the weekends, but there is a need for their skills during the week as well. Working hours are generally in the morning and/or afternoon, but some evening time is required for meetings, orientation, and training sessions.

Volunteers realize various benefits from working at the Refuge. Being involved with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency dedicated to the principle of conservation, is both satisfying and rewarding. Others find their duties fulfilling and challenging, as old talents are

employed and new skills are acquired. To most, however, the motive is enjoyment, as volunteer work can be just plain fun.

Our volunteer program is open to everyone. Those under 18 years of age, however, do need written permission from a parent or guardian.

Please call or stop by the Crab Orchard NWR Visitor Center, and complete a volunteer application. Once your application is reviewed, you will be interviewed at the Refuge Visitor Center. If selected, you will be required to attend the volunteer training and orientation program, periodic training seminars, and donate a minimum of eight hours of your time each month.

For further information, write or call Neil Vincent, Volunteer Program Coordinator at (618) 997-3344.

Crab Orchard: National Wildlife Refuge

1 Harmony Trail
Trail Head Pigeon Creek Road, .25 miles west of State Route 148.
Description This trail is marked by an A-frame structure near its entrance and will take you through a variety of habitats from pine plantations to wetlands to hardwood forests. On the trail there is a photo blind overlooking a wetland area. Excellent opportunities for photography of wildlife including birds, reptiles, and amphibians exist.
Length An easy 1 mile loop.

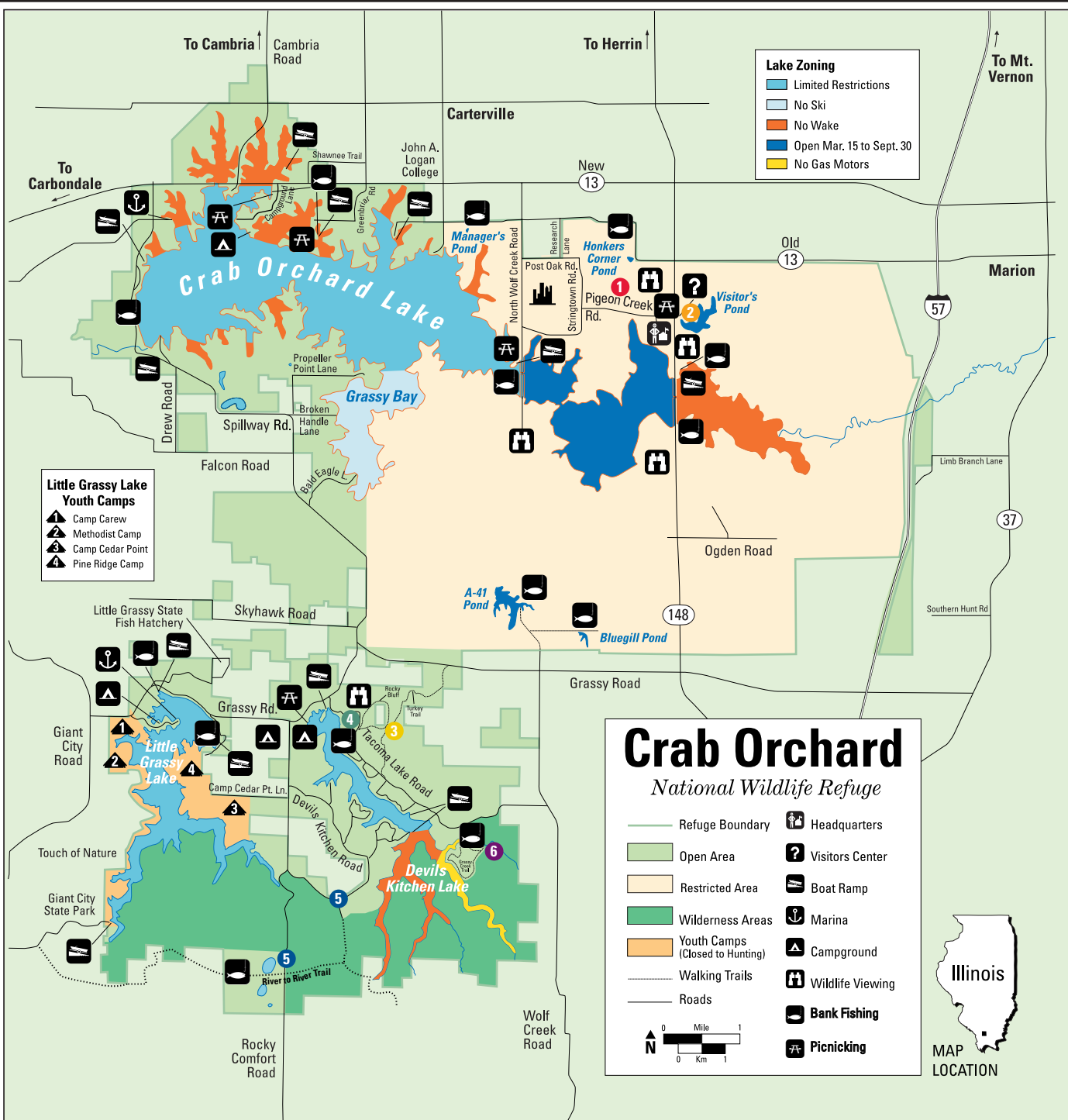
2 Woodland Trail
Trail Head Visitor center on State Route 148, east side of parking lot.
Description This is an easy partially paved trail that is used periodically for educational programs. This trail includes two fishing piers on the Visitor's Pond that is open seasonally for fishing from March 15 to September 30. When not being utilized for fishing, these piers provide an excellent opportunity for waterfowl viewing. This walk also offers a pleasant atmosphere for morning bird walks.
Length An easy .9 mile loop.

3 Wild Turkey Trail
Trail Head The north entrance is located on Grassy Road, .6 miles west of South Wolf Creek Road. The south entrance is on Tacoma Lake Road, 1.5 miles south of Grassy Road.
Description This young forest trail will take you through a variety of habitats from pine plantations to hardwood forests and is generally mowed during the summer months. The trail is located along several ridgetops which makes it excellent for wildlife viewing.
Length A moderate 1.7 mile walk one way.

4 Rocky Bluff Trail
Trail Head Tacoma Lake Road, .5 miles south of Grassy Road.
Description The trail winds through a wide variety of habitats and some of the most spectacular scenery on the refuge. There are intermittent waterfalls, sandstone cliffs, and some steep, rocky sections of trail may make hiking difficult at times, but very worthwhile. This beautiful trail is very popular with hikers and is host to our annual Spring Wildflower Walk held on Saturdays in April. This trail is graced with over 60 varieties of wildflowers such as bluebells, Dutchman's breeches and celandine poppy.
Length A moderately difficult 1.8 mile loop.

5 River to River Trail
Trail Head On Rocky Comfort Road 3.4 miles south of Grassy Road and also at Pleasant Hill Spur Trail on Devils Kitchen Road.
Description The beautiful River to River trail spans over 160 miles of Southern Illinois with a five mile section through the refuge. This is the only trail located on the refuge that is open seasonally to horseback riding. Sections of the River to River Trail located on the refuge run through the scenic wilderness area.
Length A moderately difficult walk. Three miles of the trail runs through the refuge.

6 Grassy Creek Trail
Trail Head .5 miles south of Tacoma Lake Road at the Grassy Creek bridge.
Description This trail was once an old road with a wide paved surface that is perfect for the novice hiker wanting to do some wildlife viewing. It is in a hardwood forest and provides scenic views of the beautiful Devils Kitchen Lake. The eastern part of the trail is bordered by Crab Orchard National Wilderness Area.
Length A moderately difficult 1.4 mile loop.



We hope you enjoy the nature trails of Crab Orchard NWR. There are six trails that offer visitors numerous opportunities to experience the year round beauty of the refuge. Every season offers something special in the outdoors and you need no special equipment - just a good pair of shoes and the desire to be outside. If you walk quietly and use your senses to observe, you will increase your chances of seeing some of the more secretive wildlife. The following trails are open to foot travel only. Remember to tread lightly and respect other trail users.



FEE SCHEDULE

Entrance Fees

Vehicle (1 day)	\$2 per vehicle (covers all passengers)
Vehicle (7 days)	\$5 per vehicle (covers all passengers)
Vehicle (annual pass)	\$15 first vehicle (covers all passengers) (July-June)
Federal Duck Stamp (annual pass).....	\$15 first vehicle (covers all passengers) (July-June)
Interagency Senior Pass	\$10 U.S. residents (62 or older, lifetime)
Interagency Annual Pass	\$80 valid for one year from month purchased
Interagency Access Pass	Free—medically determined to be permanently disabled, lifetime

For a family purchasing an annual entrance pass (excluding the Golden Age and Access Passports), additional annual passes for immediate family members at the same address will be \$5.

Lake Use Fees

All vessels/boats using the Refuge will be assessed a lake use fee charge. This includes vessels that are in dry storage and/or maintained in slips at the marinas.

Vessel (1 day)	\$2 per vessel	
Vessel (7 days)	\$5 per vessel	
Vessel (annual pass)	\$10 first vessel (July-June)	\$5 each additional vessel

Holders of Interagency Senior and Access Passes are authorized a 50 percent discount of the full value price for Lake Use Fees. Additional annual vessel passes are already discounted, therefore all additional passes are \$5.

In order for the pass to be valid, it must be affixed directly to the vessel on the port (left) bow next to, but not overlapping the state registration.

Special Recreation Permit Fees
 These fees exist for specialized uses such as group activities, recreational events and rental fees.

Fish-off Permit	\$35 per organization (permit allows the organization to host one fish-off at each of the three lakes per season)
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U.S. Forest Service

Experience the “Incredible”

BY JESSICA WETTIG
Shawnee Community College

Meet Allen Nicholas, Forest Supervisor of the 280,000 acre Shawnee National Forest.

In his 25 years with the Forest Service, Allen has worked on forests in Kentucky, Mississippi, and South Carolina, serving in a variety of professional and technical positions.

In his six-year stint as Forest Supervisor, he has been the highest ranking officer, responsible for all management of the Forest.

“Working for the Shawnee National Forest has its challenges, but the overall experience is simply incredible,” says Nicholas.

The Forest, located in Southern Illinois between the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, is the only national forest in the state.

In reflecting on the aspects of the job that keeps him interested, he lists both the mixture of people with whom he is involved and the actual management of the natural resources.

He takes great pride in the employees of the Forest, who he believes to be a tremendously talented group of individuals.

“I am impressed by the dedication of the Shawnee’s employees. These people take their responsibility of caring for the Forest very seriously,” says Nicholas.

“Watching their successes is what really makes this job a success for me,” he adds.

The Forest staff also works with a large number of partners and volunteers, both organizations and individuals, who help with projects on the Forest—everything from developing habitat for open land species to prescribed fire to trail management to garbage cleanup. Some are national organizations, and

some are local.

“Without the contributions of these organizations and individuals, we would not be able to get nearly as much done as we do,” Nicholas says.

Budget cuts and the resultant reductions in staff have impacted the Shawnee Forest, as it has other agencies and businesses. This makes the work done by partners and volunteers critical to the management of the Forest.

Resource management on the Forest is also important to Allen: “We have made great strides in many of the resource issues on the Forest.”

For example, there have been improvements in the designated trail system on the Forest, adding an additional 155 miles on the Hidden Springs Ranger District.

Also, there is growth in the prescribed fire program, increasing from 300 acres to approximately 5,000 acres over the past few years.

Another example of these “great strides” is the continued development of the Middle Mississippi River Partnership, where 22 governmental agencies and private organizations work together in managing the Mississippi River floodplain.

Furthermore, there is a significant increase in our environmental education outreach to children through programs such as “Fish Tales” and “I, too, Am America.”

Being a part of the communities the Forest serves is also very important to Allen.

Recently, the Forest was able to obtain two fire trucks that were identified as excess property on a forest out west.

By working in partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, they were able to bring the trucks to Southern Illinois and donate them to two

local volunteer fire departments.

“It really felt good to be a part of supporting those communities,” says Nicholas.

However, the job is not without its frustrations. There are some chronic issues that are not easily resolved. “People feel very strongly about certain issues,” says Nicholas. “It is not always easy to get to a point that everybody agrees on what should or should not be done.”

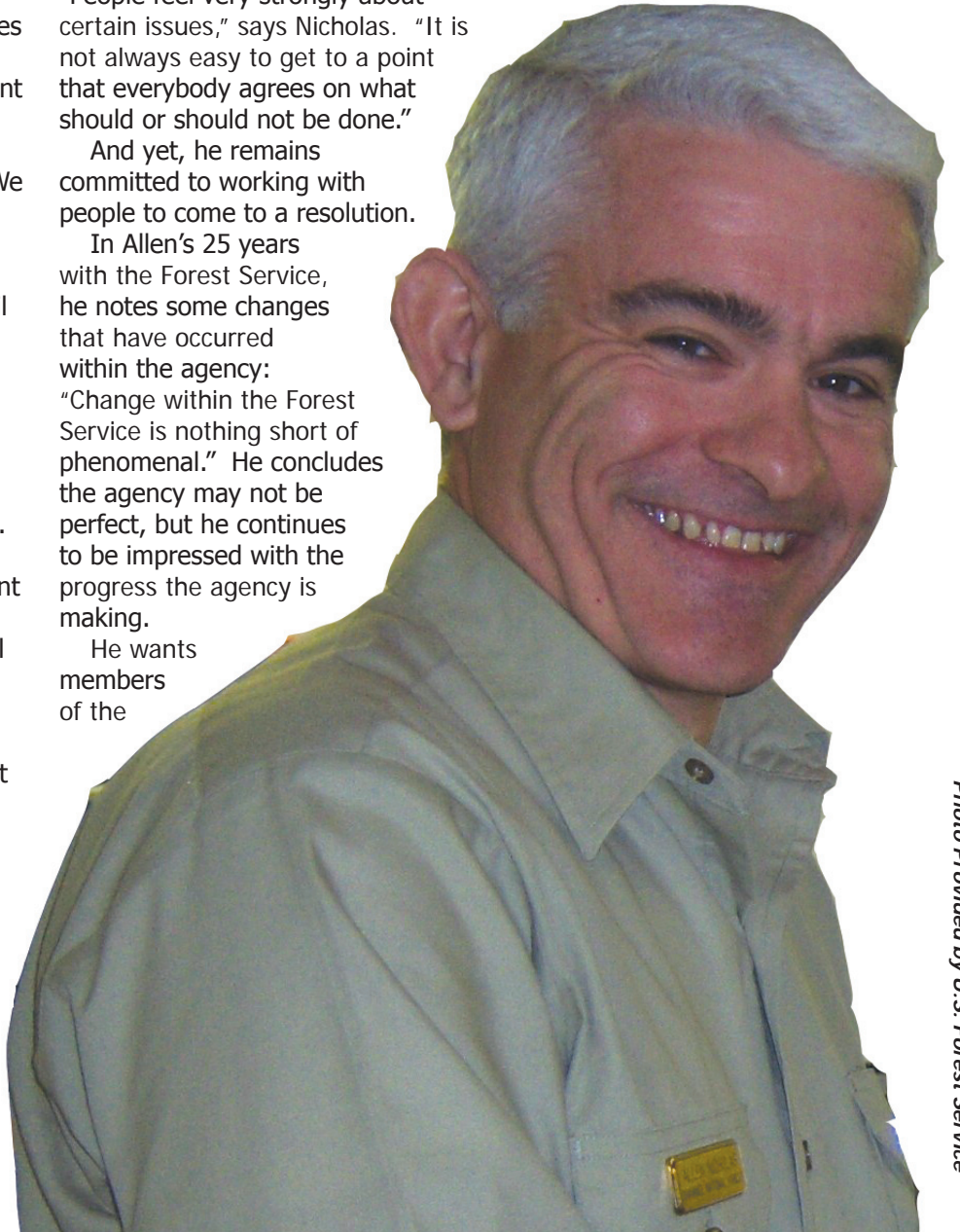
And yet, he remains committed to working with people to come to a resolution.

In Allen’s 25 years with the Forest Service, he notes some changes that have occurred within the agency: “Change within the Forest Service is nothing short of phenomenal.” He concludes the agency may not be perfect, but he continues to be impressed with the progress the agency is making.

He wants members of the

public to know he welcomes the opportunity to visit with folks and talk about issues and concerns they may have.

Allen can be reached at (618) 253-7114.



Hurston Allen Nicholas is the current Forest Supervisor at Shawnee National Forest in Harrisburg, IL.

Photo Provided by U.S. Forest Service

The Commitment to Show Visitors Nature at Its Best

For the past three years, the Shawnee National Forest has been working toward creating an improved recreation experience for horseback riders and hikers.

On the Hidden Springs Ranger District, the Trails Designation Project has concentrated on the four watersheds that include Lusk Creek, Bay Creek, and Garden of the Gods Wildernesses.

The focus on the Hidden Springs Ranger District has been to improve trails in the Lusk Creek, Upper Bay Creek, Eagle Creek, and Big Grand Pierre Creek watersheds to an all weather standard that will provide a more satisfying experience for horseback riders and hikers.

Along with the weather trail standards, improved trail designs, increased number of directional signs, and numbering of the trails, the trail system is more user friendly.

These improvements allow greater access to camping, fishing, wildlife and wildflower viewing, horseback riding, hiking, and photography.

Lusk Creek, Bay Creek, and Garden of the Gods Wildernesses have weather restrictions disallowing equestrian use from Dec. 1 through March 31 each year.

In addition, Lusk Creek has a one-inch rainfall restriction during the months of April, May, and September through November. Should one inch of rain fall within a 24-hour period, trail use is not allowed for at least a day. Call (618) 658-1312 for updated information on rainy weather restrictions in the Lusk Creek Wilderness.

The Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District, located at the west side of the Forest, has realigned the River to River Trail in the Bald Knob and Clear Springs Wildernesses. The work on

the River to River Trail enhances the overall experience for the horseback rider or hiker who is looking for a cross-country ride or back-packing adventure that can last from one to several days, as they journey from the Mississippi River to the Ohio River.

An AmeriCorps volunteer crew constructed trail tread on a section of the River to River Trail in Williamson County, Illinois.

Numerous volunteer groups assist in the trail maintenance, construction and reconstruction on the west side of the Forest.

Volunteer groups who have completed projects, such as the realignment work on the hiker/horseback riding Cove Hollow Trail, include AmeriCorps, the Shawnee Mountain Bike Association, the Shawnee Sierra Club, the Order of the Arrow Boy Scouts and Southern Illinois University Saluki Volunteer

Corps.

For information on becoming a volunteer for trail projects, contact Kelly Pearson at (618) 687-1731.

Forest efforts in developing a designated trail system and improving trails to withstand damage due to location or weather conditions have resulted in fewer muddy or eroded areas along trails and trailheads for a more enjoyable visit to the Forest.

The overall result is an improved recreation experience for horseback riders and hikers. The Interim Trails Map, updated annually, and the increased number of directional signs, help hikers and horseback riders better navigate the trail system.

The Forest is committed to providing visitors with the opportunity to view the most scenic vistas, to experience nature at its best and to relax and enjoy all that the Shawnee National Forest has to offer.

The Shawnee National Forest: Lands that Are in High Demand



Located in Southern Illinois, the Shawnee National Forest's natural beauty is ideal for all types of outdoor recreation.

Nestled between the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, the Forest has amazing landscape features, such as rolling hills, forests, open lands, lakes, creeks, scenic bluffs, and rock formations.

In contrast to the level or gently rolling farm lands typical of most of Illinois, the Shawnee National Forest lies in the rough, unglaciated Illinois Ozarks and Shawnee Hills.

The geology is spectacular and divergent, with numerous stone bluffs, providing scenic vistas into lowland areas.

Topography ranges from the flood plains of the Mississippi and Ohio

Rivers, at about 305 feet above sea level, to 1,064 feet at Williams Hill in Pope County.

The Shawnee National Forest is within the Eastern Region (Region 9) of the Forest Service, which comprises 16 national forests in 20 states and contains over 43 percent of the nation's population.

The forests within Region 9 are some of the most geographically, ecologically, and socially diverse in the country.

Unlike western forests that were carved from virgin territory, eastern forests, such as the Shawnee National Forest, were salvaged from overdeveloped land that had eroded into wastelands from excessive farming, logging, and mining.

Once called "the lands nobody

wanted," the Shawnee National Forest has become the lands everyone wants, in high demand for a full spectrum of uses in the most heavily populated quadrant of the country. Seven wildernesses make up 10 percent of the Forest.

Travel must be on foot or horseback in these special areas since motorized and mechanized travel is not allowed there.

Several of the wildernesses have picturesque streams. All offer more solitude and less evidence of human influence than other parts of the Forest.

Call or visit the nearest Forest Service office for route suggestions, topographical maps, and up-to-date information. See contact information on page 12.

Recreational Activities at Shawnee National Forest

Camping and Picnicking

Enjoy America's great outdoors at one of our recreational sites.

Rock Climbing

Rock Climbing and rappelling on the Shawnee National Forest is permitted at Jackson Falls on the Vienna Ranger District.

However, there are several other designated rock climbing and rappelling areas throughout Southern Illinois that are not part of the National Forest.

When rock climbing or rappelling, please avoid disturbing plants on the rock faces, and be courteous to other visitors.

Campfires

Small, open fires are permitted, except during extremely high fire danger and within Natural Areas. No special permits are required.

Please use extreme caution with campfires, and make sure they are dead out before vacating the campsite. Use only dead and down material for firewood. Cutting or defacing live trees or shrubs is prohibited.

ATV and Off-Road-Vehicles

Presently there are no legal ATV/ORV riding opportunities in the Shawnee National Forest.

The Forest Service has restrictions prohibiting motorized vehicles from traveling off roads.

This means there is no legal use on trails or cross-country.

Those individuals using ATV/ORVs on system trails could be subjected to a fine.

Primitive Camping

Primitive camping is allowed anywhere in the Shawnee National Forest, with the exception of developed recreation areas, Natural Areas, developed campgrounds, on lake shores, near streams, or on trails. Primitive camping is free and is

allowed any time of year. Do not trespass on private land; do not cut down live trees, shrubs, or other vegetation; clean up all personal garbage; and make sure all fires are completely out.

Campers may camp up to 14 consecutive days, but no permanent structures may be built.

It is not necessary to check in with a Shawnee National Forest office unless you wish to do so in case of an emergency.

Hiking and Backpacking

There are many miles of diverse hiking and backpacking trails in the Shawnee National Forest including the 160-mile River to River Trail.

Take extra precautions during hunting seasons by wearing bright orange clothing.

It is a good idea to carry a compass and map.

Forest streams do not meet the safety standards for drinking water.

We recommend taking your water with you or purifying stream water before drinking it.

National Forest ownership is scattered with privately-owned lands interspersed.

Respect the rights of these owners by staying on public lands.

Campgrounds

There are 17 designated areas within the Shawnee National Forest. These developed campgrounds are usually open from April 1 through Dec. 15.

There is a maximum of eight campers to a site and a maximum of 14 days continuous use.

Bicycles

Presently, there are no legal mountain bike riding opportunities in the Shawnee Forest.

The Forest Service has restrictions prohibiting mountain bikes from traveling off forest roads and in Natural Areas.

This means mountain bikes are allowed only on roads.

Generally, roads within the Shawnee National Forest consist of either dirt or gravel.

The area state highways are narrow and heavily used by trucks; therefore, take extra caution when riding along these routes.

Fishing

There is a variety of fishing opportunities ranging from the Ohio River to small fishing ponds.

All rules and regulations set by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources should be followed at the Shawnee National Forest.

Anglers must have their license in possession at all times while fishing.

For more information on any of the lakes or ponds, contact the appropriate District Ranger's Office.

Horseback Riding

The Shawnee National Forest has over 277,000 acres open to equestrians.

Horses are allowed anywhere on the Shawnee National Forest, with the exception of developed recreation areas, designated hiker-only trails, and Natural Areas.

Equestrians are encouraged to stay



Shawnee Forest has a lot of opportunity for people who enjoy outdoor activities.

Sharon Felker Photo, Provided by Shawnee Community College

on the designated trails to minimize the impact to natural resources.

Hunting

State hunting laws are enforced on the Shawnee National Forest and require a license, which can be obtained by county from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Hunting activities are prohibited in or within 150 yards of any building, campsite, developed recreation site, or occupied area.

Shooting across roads and bodies of water is also prohibited.

All firearms and bows with arrows should be cased and unloaded while in the recreation area or other public areas.

Construction of or use of permanent deer stands is not permitted on National Forest land.

The Shawnee National Forest Recreational Site Index

Hidden Springs Ranger District East Side of the Shawnee National Forest (618) 658-2111 (Vienna)	Campsites	Picnic Units	Electric Campsites	Boat Launch	Fishing	Drinking Water	Restrooms	Dumping Stations	Hiking	Showers	*Fees	Open for Use
Bell Smith Springs Recreation Area												
Redbud Campground	21					•	◆		•		\$10*	3/15 - 12/15
Bell Smith Springs Trail System									•			All year
Camp Cadiz Campground	11					•	•		•		\$5*	4/01 - 12/15
Hickory Ridge Boat Launch at Lake of Egypt				•	•							All year
Dutchman Lake Recreation Area				•	•				•			All year
Garden of the Gods Recreation Area												
Observation Trail						◆	◆		◆			All year 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Pharaoh Campground	12					•	•		•		\$5*	All year
Picnic Area		8					•					All year
High Knob Lookout Picnic Area		2							•			All year 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Illinois Iron Furnace Historic Site		10			•		◆					All year 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Lake Glendale Recreation Area												
Oak Point Campground	57		31		•	•	◆	•	•	◆	Sgl \$12/ Sgl Elec \$18* Dbl \$24/ Dbl Elec \$36*	All year
Pine Point Picnic Area Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend		20			◆		◆		•			Memorial Day through Labor Day
Swim Area Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend					•	•	◆			◆	\$3.50 Adult* \$2.50 Under 6*	Memorial Day through Labor Day 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mon. - Sat. Noon - 6 p.m. Sunday
Cardinal Bay Boat Launch				•	•							All year
Duck Bay Group Camping		9			•	•	•		•		Call 618-949-3807 for group information	4/1 - 12/15 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Goose Bay Picnic Area		23			•	•	◆		•			All year 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Millstone Bluff Archaeological Area							◆		•			3/15 - 12/15
Pounds Hollow Recreation Area												
Pine Ridge Campground	35					•	•		•		\$5*	4/1 - 12/15
Swim Area (No Lifeguard on Duty)		6◆			◆	◆	◆		•			4/1 - 12/15 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Rim Rock National Recreation Trail		4					◆		◆			All year 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Tower Rock Recreation Area				•	•				•			4/1 - 12/15 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District West Side of the Shawnee National Forest (618) 833-8576 (Jonesboro) (618) 687-1731 (Murphysboro)												
Buttermilk Hill Day Use Area (boat-in)		10			•		◆		•			All year restroom closed in winter
Johnson Creek Recreation Area												
Picnic Swim Area Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend		10		◆	◆	◆	◆		•			5/01 - 9/09 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Group Camping Temporarily Walk-in Only	20					•	•	•	•		\$9 - \$12*	3/15 - 12/15
Lincoln Memorial Park		6				◆	◆		◆			All year 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Little Grand Canyon		3					◆		•			All year 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
McGee Hill Picnic Area		1					•					All year 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Oakwood Bottoms Interpretive Site		1			◆				◆			All year 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Pine Hills Campground	13				•		◆				\$5*	3/15 - 12/ 15
Pomona Natural Bridge		1										All year 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Winters Pond Picnic Area		1			•							All year

* Fees are subject to change.

• Available at site.

◆ Accessible for people with disabilities.

Maps and brochures are available at all of our office locations or can be requested by phone at 1-800-MyWoods (699-6637) or by email at mailroom_r9_shawnee@fs.fed.us.

The Forest Visitor Map (\$10) and USGS quad (topographic) maps (\$6 each) are not available by phone, but can be obtained at any of our office locations, or download an order form of the website at www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

James Lynch's Main Goal is to Create a Safe and Enjoyable Atmosphere at Rend Lake

BY MATTHEW GRIFFIN
Shawnee Community College

James Lynch, Operations Manager at Rend Lake, wants families to enjoy the beautiful atmosphere at Rend Lake.

Lynch says, "People visiting the lake will have a safe campground to enjoy with their families."

Lynch grew up in Northern Illinois in a small farming community outside Chicago and "loved the outdoors." This upbringing "pulled" him in the direction of caring for nature.

He started his career at the Corps of Engineers way back in the summer of 1983. At that time, he was working as a Park Aid at Rend Lake, while getting his bachelor's degree in forestry at Southern Illinois University. Lynch felt the challenge and wanted to pursue it.

Lynch has held many titles and jobs in the years since then. He has worked at three of the St. Louis District's Corps of Engineers lakes: Wappapello, Rend, and Mark Twain.

Lynch has held the titles of Park Aid, Park Ranger, Lead Ranger, Assistant Manager, Natural Resource Specialist, and Chief of Technical Operations in the St. Louis District Office. His most recent position is the Operations Manager at Rend Lake.

As Chief of Technical Operations, Lynch was responsible for overseeing the operation of the five lakes in

the district. He learned a great deal while working at the national level in Washington, D.C.

Lynch and his wife, Penny, are glad to be back in the area. They are excited about raising their children, Elizabeth and Michael, in a way similar to their own upbringing. They enjoy many of the benefits he earns from his job: "Family activities and traveling" are high on their list of favorites, says Lynch.

Lynch has his plans set for continuing the work started by his predecessor, Phillip Jenkins, through improving and increasing the partnerships with the many neighbors of Rend Lake. Lynch wants to meet with the community leaders to discuss the area's redevelopment. Lynch says, "We have to make choices that will help us carry out our mission as stewards of lands and waters at the lake."

The recreation part of the lake includes fishing, boating, horseback-riding, 500 plus camping sites, hiking, biking, and so on.

Rend Lake's 19 mile Bicycle Trail was just designated as a National Recreation Trail.

Lynch and his team are working on some great projects for the future.

Lynch says, "The ranger staff and [I] are here to help them have a good visit to the lake."



Photo Provided by Rend Lake

James Lynch, current Operations Manager at Rend Lake, wants families to enjoy Rend Lake safely.

Where to Watch Wildlife at Rend Lake

You don't have to play in the water to have fun at Rend Lake.

There is plenty to do around the lake without ever getting your feet wet.

Rend Lake offers many forms of recreation that are centered on enjoyment of the 20,000 plus acres of land that make up the project.

Bicycling is one of the most popular forms of transportation in the world, and for a good reason.

Unlike the family car, a bicycle allows all of us to take in nature on a slower and more personal level.

At Rend Lake, we have miles of pathways ready to assist you in your travel adventures.

Offering a unique vacation opportunity for individuals and

families alike, the Bike Trail at Rend Lake provides guests with over 19 miles of scenic trails surrounding one of Illinois' largest man-made lakes.

Each and every mile is packed with memories waiting to happen. You can also hike at the following areas to view wildlife.

Atchison Creek

Atchison Creek provides habitat for forest interior bird species, aquatic mammals, furbearers, as well as broad mudflats for wading birds, and shorebirds. Shorebird watching near the mouth of the creek is rewarding

Best times: Aug. - Oct.

Blackberry Nature Trail

A leisurely three-fourths mile wood

chipped trail is a fine example of an oak-hickory woodland. It's a good place to see foxes and gray squirrels, Eastern chipmunks and

wildflowers, such as the jack-in-the-pulpit and the white trillium.

Best Time: Year Round

Casey Fork Horse Trail

The horse trail that runs from Silo to East Casey Fork passes through an extensive bottomland forest and is easy to walk. A noteworthy feature on this trail is a large great blue heron rookery.

Best Time: Early Spring

Green Heron Pond Trail

Available to campers in the South Marcum Recreation Area, this short half-mile woodchipped trail goes through a loblolly pine forest. Be on the lookout for nesting green-backed herons and Southern flying squirrels at night.

Best Time: April - Oct.

Green Tree Reservoir

Located at the newly created Gun Creek Wetland Complex, this flooded woodland can be explored by walking on the raised levee. Look for wood ducks, parula warblers, and gray tree frogs.

Best time: Spring

Ryder's Bottom

For the SERIOUS wildlife watcher! No amenities, just hundreds of acres

of mature old growth hardwood and scarlet tanagers, yellow-billed cuckoos, Kentucky warblers, and maybe an Eastern bobcat or two.

Best Time: Spring and Early Summer

Ward Branch

If you like the challenge of identifying shorebirds, this is the place for you. The buff-breasted sandpiper is a sure bet in fall. Also, you'll find short-billed dowitchers, least sandpipers, lesser yellowlegs, and marbled godwits.

Best Time: Spring and Fall, Shorebirds Migration, Aug. - Oct.

Wayne Fitzgerald State Park

Wayne Fitzgerald State Park offers a one mile hiking trail near the south picnic area.

Best Time: Spring and Fall

So grab your bicycle and helmet or your hiking boots, and come out to experience all that Rend Lake has to offer.

We're sure you'll agree, there's an adventure at every turn.

We've made it easy for you to enjoy the trail to its fullest. You can pick up a variety of brochures at the Project Office.

Rend Lake

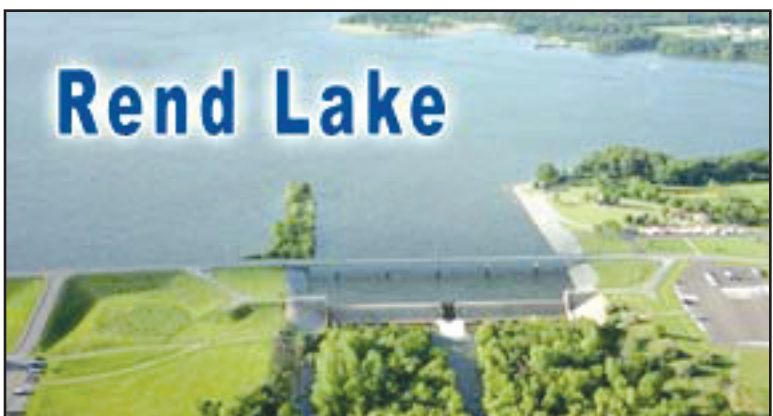


Photo Provided by Rend Lake

Future plans include even more miles of wildlife fun.

Rend Lake: Hunting and Fishing Opportunities

The Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers use a variety of management techniques to encourage and enhance wildlife populations.

Wetland restorations, plantings, and management provide food and habitat for a vast array of wildlife, including waterfowl, shorebirds, mammals, and fish.

With 18,000 acres of water and over 20,000 acres of land, Rend Lake, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers managed project, provides ample opportunity for the sportsman.

Fields and woods are abundant with deer, rabbit, quail, dove, and squirrel.

This success can be partially attributed to the Big Muddy and Casey Fork sub-impoundment dams. These dams allow for the fall and winter flooding of hundreds of acres of waterfowl habitat.

Although somewhat dwarfed by the outstanding waterfowl hunting, Rend Lake provides ample opportunity for the upland game hunter.

Whether you favor the joy of working well-trained dogs on fast breaking quail or enjoy the thrill of outsmarting a wily buck, you have the chance to pursue your sport at Rend Lake.

Foxes and gray squirrels can be hunted in the forest tracts that border the lake. Rabbit hunters should find populations of cottontails in fields and shrub areas.

Dove hunting is usually available in several different areas.

Rend Lake is also known as one of the best crappie fishing "hot spots" in the state.

Many brushy sections of the lake's 160 plus miles of shoreline provide excellent crappie habitat.

In addition, hundreds of Christmas trees are placed in the lake each year to enhance fish habitat.

Although not on par with the crappie fishing, Rend Lake has good bluegill action. Catches of 6" to 8" bluegill weighing one-fourth pound can be expected.

Excellent angling for the largemouth bass also exists. Largemouth bass fishing is generally best from early April to mid-June and again from early September to mid-October when the water temperature ranges between 55 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

Catfishing enthusiasts will find excellent fishing for channel "cats" and flatheads. They can be caught in a variety of ways including pole and line, jugs, and trot lines.

All Federal and State managed lands at Rend Lake are available for hunting except established recreation areas and the waterfowl refuge.

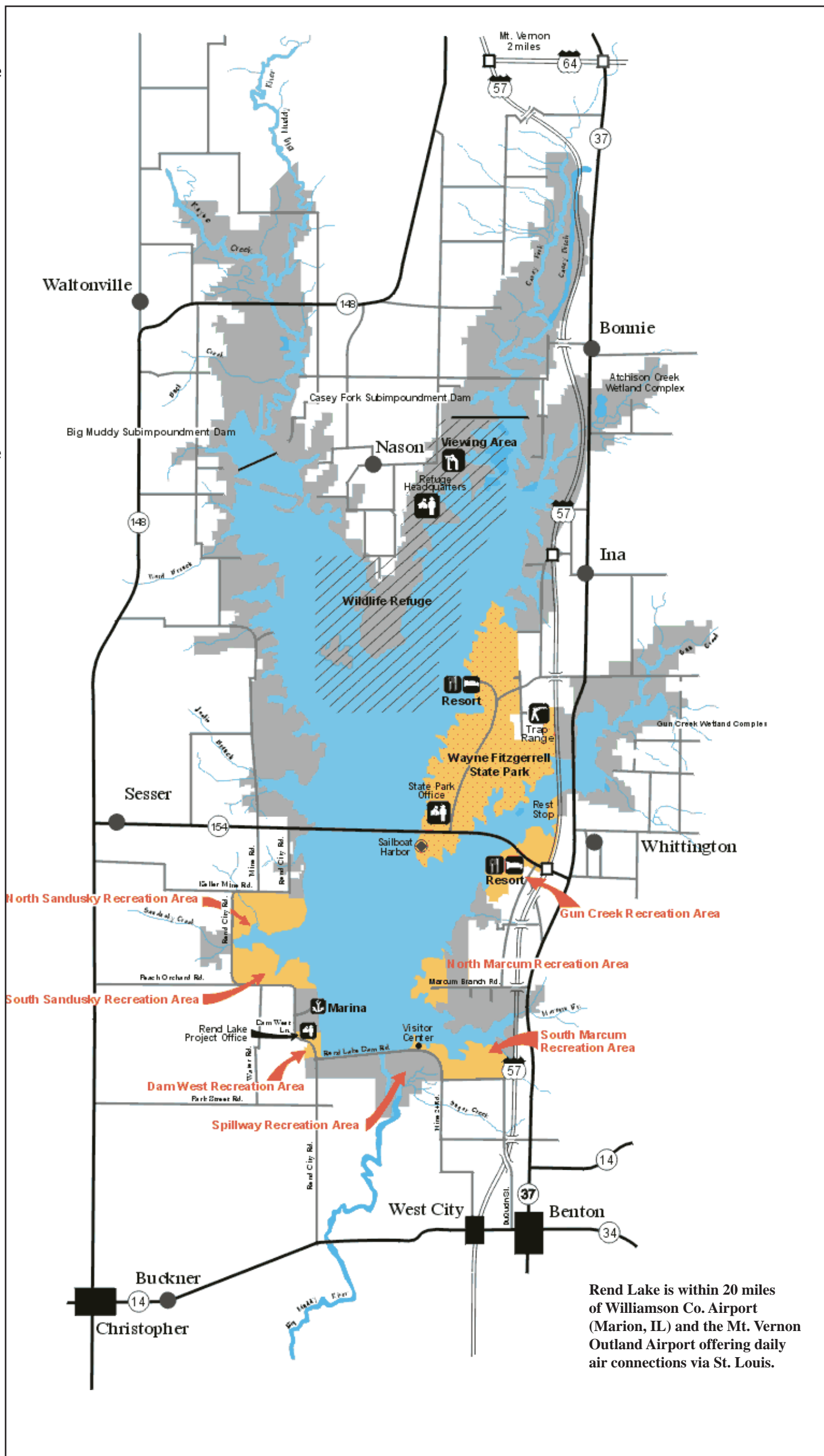
Waterfowlers will find registration boxes at access points during the waterfowl season.

It is State law that goose and duck hunters sign in before hunting and record their harvest prior to leaving.

All non-hunting areas are appropriately signed.

All state game laws apply at Rend Lake as well as certain Federal laws. Hunters should obtain copies of these rules and regulations as well as the current Administrative Orders when planning their hunting trip.

Non-toxic steel shot is required for



Rend Lake is within 20 miles of Williamson Co. Airport (Marion, IL) and the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport offering daily air connections via St. Louis.

pheasant hunting at Wayne Fitzgerald State Park and for all waterfowl and dove hunting at Rend Lake.

Timely information on hunting and fishing opportunities is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year through

the Rend Lake Recreation Information Network.

Weather forecasts and lake conditions are updated regularly. Information on seasonal fishing prospects and goose information,

including harvest and census information, is also available.

The Rend Lake Recreation Information Network can be accessed by tuning your car's AM radio to 530 kHz.

Rend Lake Recreational Site Index

The Rend Lake Visitor Center, located at the east end of the Main Dam Road, is a great place to begin your visit to Rend Lake and learn about the exciting recreational opportunities available in the area.

A variety of exhibits invite you to learn more about the Rend Lake area. A 115-gallon aquarium showcase Rend Lake fish species, while a terrarium features Illinois river fish. A wetland and wildlife demonstration garden and a prairie are outdoor features of the Visitor Center.

RECREATION AREAS	Amphitheater	Arts & Crafts Marketplace	Beach	Boat Ramp	Boat Rental	Camping-Trailers	Camping-Tent (walk in)	Drinking-Group	Dump Station	Electric Hook-up	Fuel - Full Hookup	Fuel - Auto	Golf Course	Picnic Shelters	Picnic Tables	Playground	Resort Complex	Restaurant	Rest Room	Shower House	Telephone / Pay	Tennis Courts	Trail / Bicycle	Trail / Hiking	Trap Range	Visitor Center
SOUTH SANDUSKY	■	■	●	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
NORTH SANDUSKY				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
SOUTH MARCUM	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
GUN CREEK	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
NORTH MARCUM																										
DAM WEST																										
SPILLWAY	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
WAYNE FITZGERRELL STATE RECREATION AREA		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
REND LAKE MARINA			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

■ SERVICE / FACILITY AVAILABLE ♿ WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE ● SERVICE / SUPPLY WITHIN 2 MILES OF AREA ENTRANCE

Rend Lake Wants You to Have a Memorable, Safe Experience

Rend Lake is one of the five lakes and many miles of riverway offering exceptional opportunities for water and recreational activities managed by the St. Louis District.

Surrounding these waters are thousands of acres of public land, managed for your enjoyment of natural resources.

Please become familiar with the rules that apply to your recreational activities. They have been developed to make your visit safe and enjoyable and to preserve natural resources. If you observe anyone performing unsafe acts or otherwise violating regulations, please contact a park ranger.

These general regulations are put in place for your safety:

1. The operation of powerless flight devices including, but not limited to, sail planes, gliders, balloons, body kites, and hang gliders are permitted. Powerless flight devices shall not be operated on any part of the dam, roads, bridges, or over beaches or other heavy use areas;
2. The use of all kite tubes, defined as a "towable inflatable device designed to be airborne," are banned from use on Corps managed waters throughout the St. Louis District;
3. All waste water must be collected in a container and disposed of in authorized disposal facilities. In primitive areas where sanitary facilities are not provided, human waste must be buried 100 feet from any body of water and/or campsite;
4. The use of an America the Beautiful Senior Pass, America the Beautiful Access Pass, and Golden Age, or Golden Access Passports by someone other than the person to whom it is issued is prohibited; and
5. All motorized vehicles operated on roadways on public land administered by the Corps of

Engineers must be licensed and operated by licensed drivers.

Rules and regulations for beaches and picnic areas also apply:

1. Picnic areas, designated by the operations manager and marked with appropriate signs, close at 10 p.m. Other areas, that are not posted, will remain open to public use;
2. Alcohol is prohibited at all swimming beaches. This includes the facilities associated with beaches such as picnic areas, parking lots, picnic shelters, sand and water areas, and so on. These areas are marked with appropriate signs;
3. All glass and other dangerous objects, including but not limited to, lawn darts and horseshoes, are prohibited on the sand and water portion of swimming beaches; and
4. To avoid unsanitary conditions, all food, pets, and waste materials are prohibited on the sand and water portion of swimming beaches and other posted areas.

In terms of camping, the following rules and regulations apply:

1. A responsible person must register and pay fees within a reasonable time after a camp is established or when the fee booth opens. Check out time is 4 p.m. Reservation sites will be available for occupancy at 5 p.m. or earlier if the site is unoccupied;
 2. At Rend Lake, the majority of sites are classified as single capacity sites. The only exceptions are designation family double sites, which are double capacity sites. The maximum number of campers per site is eight.
- The total number of camping units for single capacity sites is limited to one recreational vehicle or trailer and three additional tents. If no recreational vehicle or trailer is on site, a maximum of four tents will be permitted.

The total number of camping units for double capacity sites is limited to two recreational vehicles or trailers and six tents. If no recreational vehicles or trailers are on the site, a maximum of eight tents will be permitted;

3. Campground roads and facilities are to be used by registered campers and their visitors only. Interfering with, or restricting the use of the shoreline by boaters or other lake users is prohibited;

4. All wheeled vehicles, including but not limited to mopeds, mini bikes, boat trailers, motorcycles, and other vehicles, must be kept on camping pads registered to vehicle users or in designated parking areas. All motor vehicles must be parked lengthwise on the camp pad except at sites with irregularly shaped pads. Empty boat trailers may be stored on the grass provided that they are moved onto and off of the grass by hand;

5. Picnic tables and lantern holders must remain on gravel surfaces at campsites with gravel impact areas; and

6. To avoid tree damage, hanging lanterns are to be suspended a minimum of 8" from the side of trees and 24" from overhead limbs. Do not drive axes, nails, or other objects into trees.

Rules and regulations governing public use of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water resources development projects are published in Title 36, CFR and are posted on bulletin boards or are available from a park ranger.

These regulations are in effect for all Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District projects as authorized in Title 36, CFR 327.12a.

The St. Louis District hosts

millions of visitors annually. Please be extremely careful in and around the water, on trails, and near bluffs, or steep areas.

One careless moment can result in a lifetime of regret. Remember to wear your life jacket when you are on or near the water.

All members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers team appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you.

To assist you during your visit, we have developed a variety of publications. They are available from the Rend Lake Project Office, campground entrance booths, a park ranger, or the Rend Lake Visitor Center.

We hope your visit will be a pleasant experience. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact us: (618) 724-2493.

We are here to serve you. Come visit us soon, and tell your friends about this beautiful natural resource.

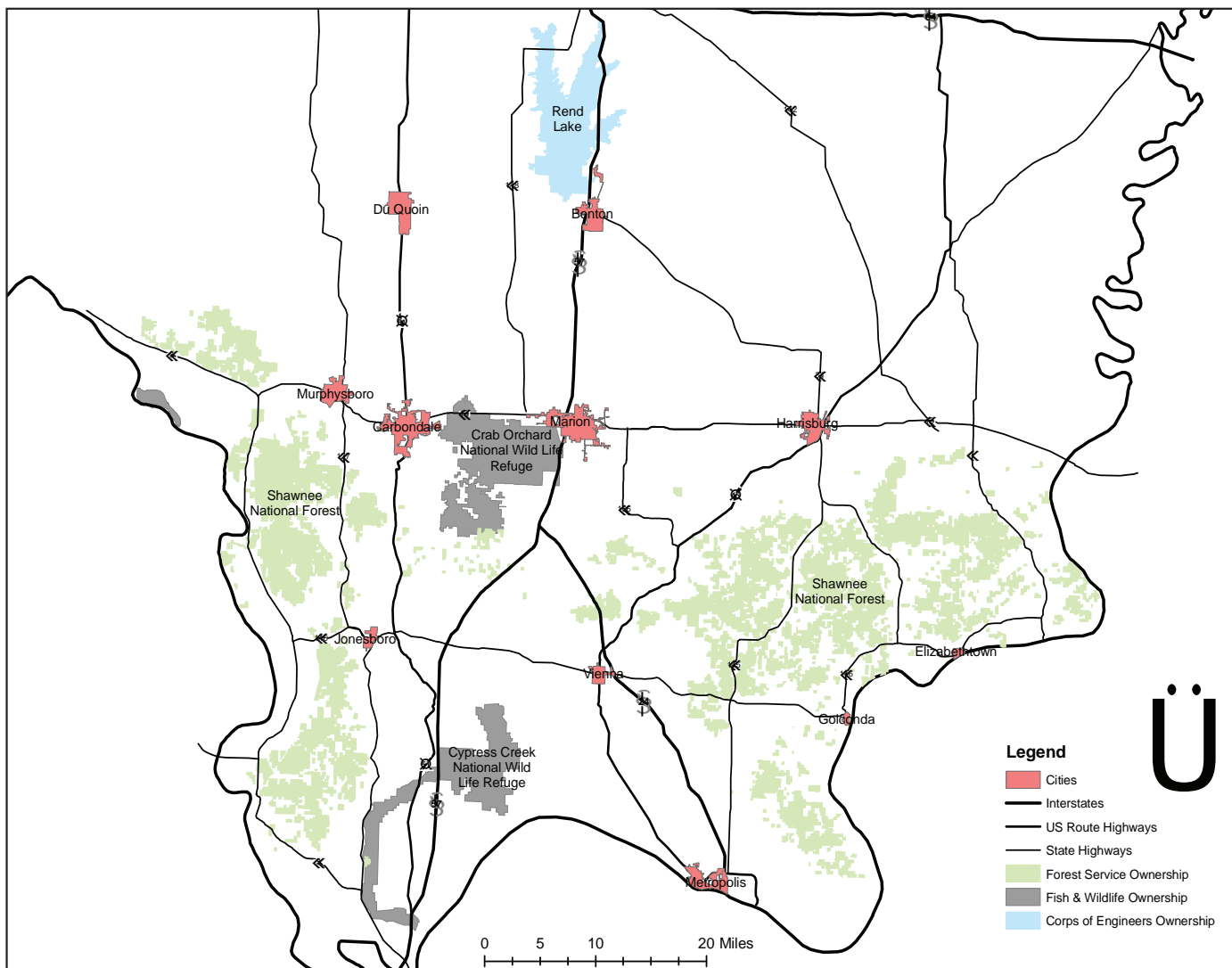


Photo Provided by Rend Lake

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Rend Lake would like to remind visitors to "Wear It" every time you are around the water. A life jacket can save your life, but not if you don't wear it.

A Common Ground

The Federal Land Ownership Map



Our Contact Information

Shawnee National Forest Contacts

Supervisor's Office
50 Highway 145 South
Harrisburg, IL 62946
(618) 253-7114

Hidden Springs Ranger District
District Ranger's Office
602 North First Street
Route 45 North
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2111

Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District
District Ranger's Office
521 North Main Street
Jonesboro, IL 62952
(618) 833-8576

Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District
Murphysboro Work Center (closed Mondays)
2221 Walnut Street
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-1731

Email: mailroom_r9_shawnee@fs.fed.us

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

For information on hunting, fishing and wildlife resources contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

IDNR - Region V (local office)
11731 State Highway 37
Benton, IL 62812
(618) 435-8138

IDNR Springfield Office
Web Site: www.dnr.state.il.us
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1272

Special Hunting Permits (217) 782-7305
License Office (217) 782-2965
Wildlife Resources (217) 782-6384
Law enforcement (217) 782-6431

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Rend Lake Contacts

Rend Lake Project Office
12220 Rend City Rd.
Benton, IL 62812
(618) 724-2493

E-mail: RendInfo@usace.army.mil
Fax: (618) 724-4089

Crab Orchard Contacts

Crab Orchard NWR
8588 Route 148
Marion, IL 62959
618/997-3344

This is a biannual publication dedicated to the recreational opportunities and land management activities on federal lands in Southern Illinois, produced and designed by Shawnee Community College.

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