

Walnut Grove group area will be available for winter family camping. Alcohol is prohibited in campgrounds. Handicap accessible sites are available in both campgrounds.



■ **Fishing** ■ The Apple River has a variety of fish, including smallmouth bass, sunfish, crappie, carp and suckers. When economically feasible, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources stocks Apple River with keeper-size trout. The river is one of several in the state where the department releases these fish. Trout require clean, clear, cold water and in the spring Apple River meets these requirements. However, the fish experience limited survival through the hot summer months, so the stream is stocked on a put-and-take basis. Hanover Bluff Natural Area offers walk-in fishing in a 15A lake. This lake provides an excellent opportunity for successful harvest of Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Channel Catfish. Please sign in and out and record harvest at the registration area provided at the parking lot.

■ **Hunting** ■ Seven other DNR managed properties within JoDaviess County offer recreational opportunities including hunting. These areas are Apple River Canyon State Park/Thompson-Salem Units, Iris and Jack Witkowsky WA, Tapley Woods NA, Hanover Bluff NA, Wards Grove Nature Preserve, Winston Tunnel Unit and Rall Woods NA. To access locations, maps and fact sheets for these areas, visit the IDNR website at <http://dnr.illinois.gov> or phone the site office at (815) 745-3302.

- **Swimming** ■ Swimming, and rafting are not allowed.
- **Boating** ■ Boating is not permitted on the Apple River.
- **Trails** ■ Five trails – Pine Ridge, Tower Rock, River Route, Sunset and Primrose – wind through the woods, bluffs and along the scenic Apple River. Trails average 1.5 miles in length. Hikers must stay on hiking trails.



### Recreational Trails Program

This trail brochure was made possible due to funding provided by the Federal Highway Administration through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Monies are funded through the Federal Motor Fuel Tax and administered through the National Recreational Trails Fund Act. Trail projects are supported by the federal government, which provides up to 80% reimbursement of cost. State funds provide the balance of the funding for the projects. The trails program encourages trails management practices to serve a wide variety of trail users. The program is administered in Illinois by the Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation.

### Help Our Parks Endeavors (H.O.P.E. FUND)

Please consider making a contribution to the H.O.P.E. fund at any of our State Parks or State Fish and Wildlife Areas. Donation boxes are located near visitor centers, interpretive centers, concession buildings, campground host locations, and check stations. Sites without donation boxes can accept cash donations. Make your check payable to the IDNR-Hope Account. Your donation remains at that site. You can also specify how you would like the funds spent (site improvements, special projects, purchases, etc.). Help us maintain our parks for future generations. Donate today.



Apple River Canyon State Park

Apple River Canyon State Park

8763 E. Canyon Rd., Apple River, IL 61001  
(815) 745-3302

- While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- Actions by nature can result in closed roads and other facilities. We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Clearinghouse, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271 visit our website at [www.dnr.state.il.us](http://www.dnr.state.il.us).
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.
- Hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources' TTY number, (217) 782-9175, or use the Ameritech Relay Number, 1-800-526-0844.

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other nonmerit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; (217) 785-0067; TTY (217) 782-9175.

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State of Illinois  
Pat Quinn, Governor



Department of Natural Resources



# Apple River Canyon

S T A T E P A R K





the crevices as rivers and streams cut their way through the stone. Close-up views of the colorful canyon reveal walls dotted with mosses, lichens and tenacious bushes that have found crevices to hold their roots on the sheer walls.

The glacial sweep that ironed out hills and filled valleys in other parts of the state left this area unscratched. This circumstance accounts for the large number of fossil remains to be found near the surface here. It also was responsible for the easy availability of the lead veins that had much to do with the early development of this section of Illinois.

The park contains such wildlife as deer, squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, eagles, hawks and 47 varieties of birds. At least 14 different ferns and more than 500 different herbaceous plants and 165 varieties of flowers can be seen throughout the park.

## The Park

Apple River Canyon State Park is in the hilly northwest part of Illinois in Jo Daviess County near the Wisconsin border. This scenic canyon area was formed by the action of the winding waters of Apple River. Limestone bluffs, deep ravines, springs, streams and wildlife characterize this area, which was once part of a vast sea bottom that stretched from the Alleghenies to the Rockies.

## History

The town of Millville was established where the park is now, but not a trace of it remains. Named after its two sawmills, Millville became a stop on the Galena-Chicago stage route and flourished until 1854 when the Illinois Central Railroad, building its line from Freeport to Galena, passed four miles north of the town. In 1892 a devastating flood washed out the dam, swept away many buildings and drove out the people of the town forever.

The park was purchased by the State of Illinois in 1932. Today it totals 297 acres.

## The Natural Scene

Flowing for centuries, the Apple River cut through limestone, dolomite and shale, creating canyons and massive cliffs high above the water. Water and erosion widened and deepened



## Facilities

- **Picnicing** ■ Four picnic areas with tables, drinking water and toilets are along the river banks. There are also three shelters; two may be reserved. Cooking may be done on camp or park stoves.
- **Camping** ■ The park offers non-electric camp sites with a sanitary dump station. A group camping area is also available. November 1, Canyon Ridge camping area is closed but

