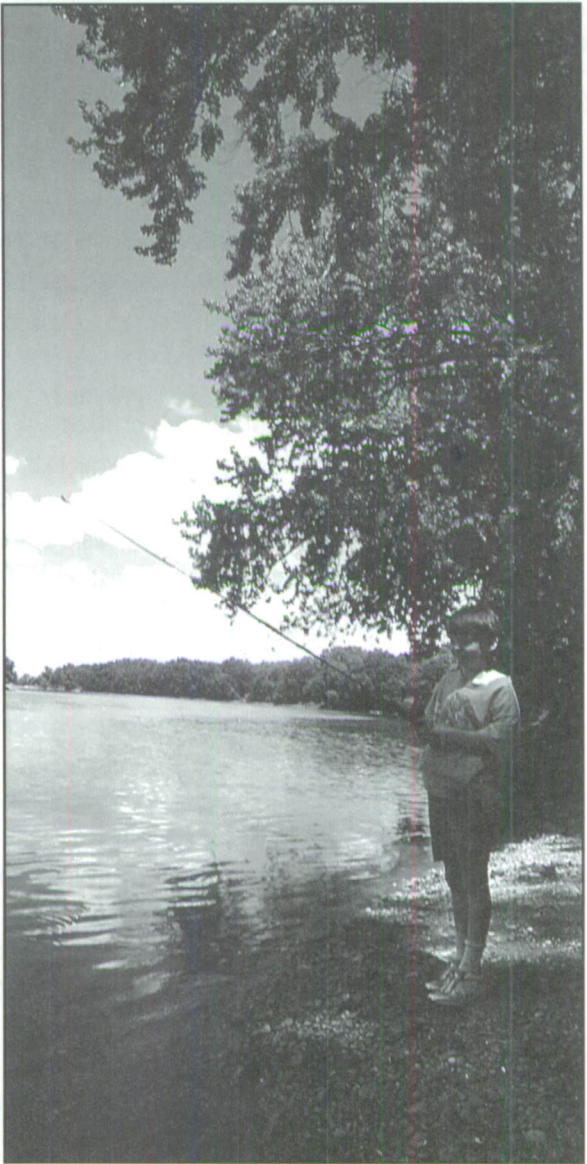


Prophetstown

STATE PARK



Illinois
Department of
Natural Resources

The Park

Prophetstown State Park, on the northeast edge of Prophetstown along the south bank of the Rock River in Whiteside County, is a scenic and historic area offering a variety of recreational facilities. Once the site of an American Indian village, the 53-acre park derives its name from the Native American prophet Wa-bo-kie-shiek.

Prophetstown became a state park in 1947 in legislation sponsored by State Rep. George S. Brydia, who had served 10 terms as mayor of Prophetstown. Gov. William G. Stratton dedicated the park in formal ceremonies there on Sept. 18, 1953.

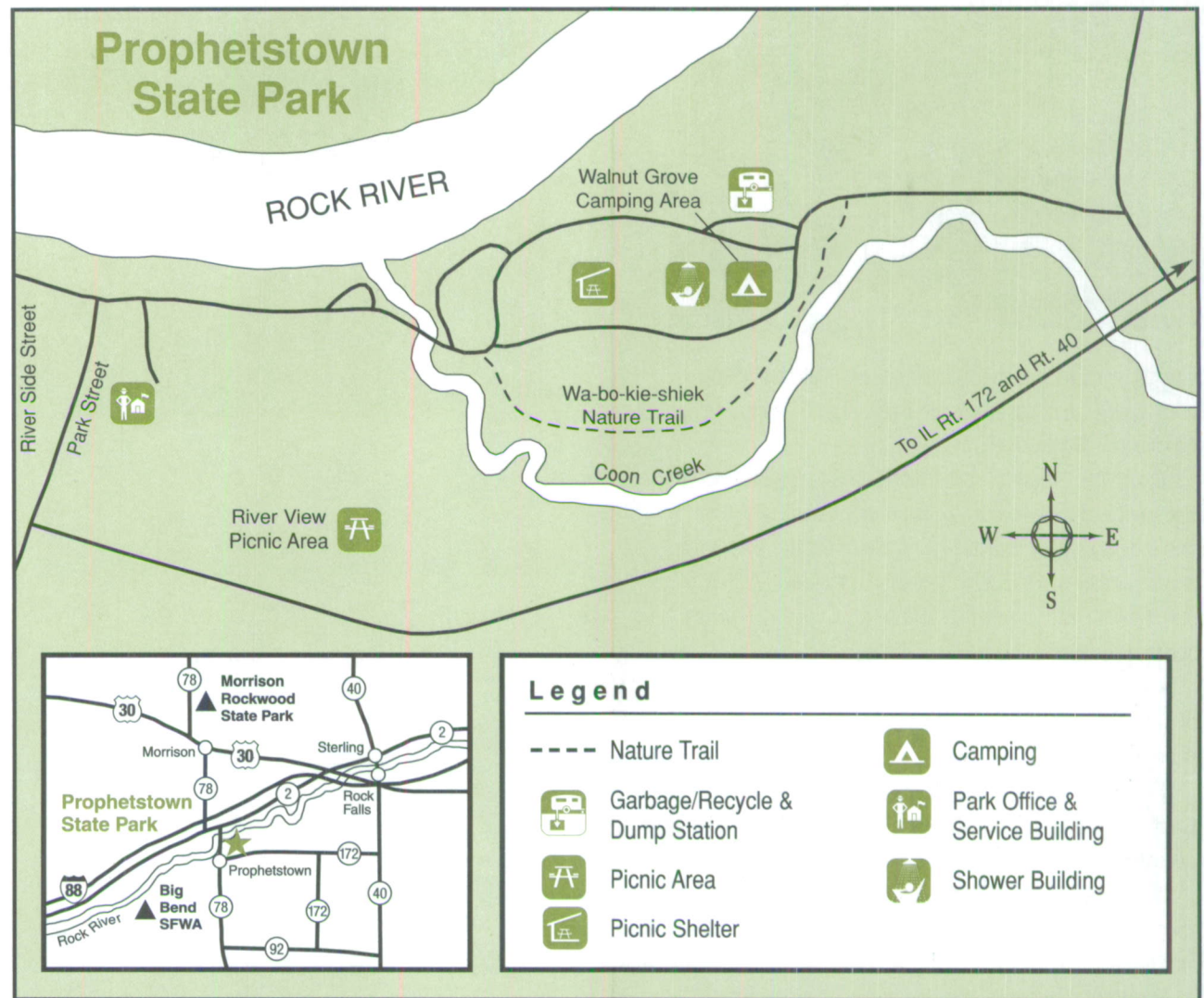
History

Wa-bo-kie-shiek (White Cloud), who was of mixed Winnebago and Sauk descent, served as an advisor to the great Sauk war chief Black Hawk. In 1831, the advancement of white settlement forced Black Hawk and his followers from the Rock Island area into Iowa, with the promise that they would not return.

Under treaty, the land at Rock Island still belonged to the Native Americans until sold by the United States. The frontiersmen, however, were impatient and began to occupy the site of Black Hawk's village. In 1832, Black Hawk denounced the encroachment of the frontiersmen upon the lands of his people and set out from Iowa to retake the ceded land.

For a time in 1832, northwestern Illinois was the scene of many skirmishes between the Native Americans, the Illinois militia and the regular army. Prophetstown, the site of Wa-bo-kie-shiek's village, was destroyed on May 10, 1832, by troops of the state militia commanded by Gen. Samuel Whiteside.

Black Hawk was finally chased into southern Wisconsin, with his retreat culminating in a decisive defeat of the Native Americans a few miles south of Bad Axe on Aug. 2, 1832. A few days later Black Hawk was captured and, after several months captivity during which time he was taken to Washington D.C., he was permitted to return to his people in Iowa. He died there in 1838.



Natural Features

Prophetstown State Park is a predominantly wooded area located along the south bank of the Rock River. The park is relatively flat and lies within the floodplain of the river. Plant life is characteristic of wet areas and includes trees such as maple, cottonwood, oak, walnut and locust. Squirrels, rabbits, ducks, muskrats, raccoons and white-tailed deer are commonly sighted. Coon Creek flows through the park and feeds into the Rock River, creating a natural area for fish.

Facilities

Picnicking: Picnic tables and stoves are provided. No cooking may be done except on camp or park stoves. The area offers a picnic shelter and playground equipment. The shelter may be reserved by calling ahead. Drinking water and privy toilets are located in the area.

Fishing: A concrete boat ramp is available for easy boat launching. There is no horsepower limit on boat motors. Anglers will find largemouth and smallmouth bass,



bluegill, crappie, channel and flathead catfish, bullhead, carp, sauger and walleye in the Rock River. Fishing is also permitted in Coon Creek.

Camping: An open, well-shaded area is available for both tent and trailer camping. There are electrical outlets and a dump station available for trailers. Water hydrants and privy toilets are located throughout the area. A shower building with flush toilets is available for campers. A picnic shelter is available for camping clubs.

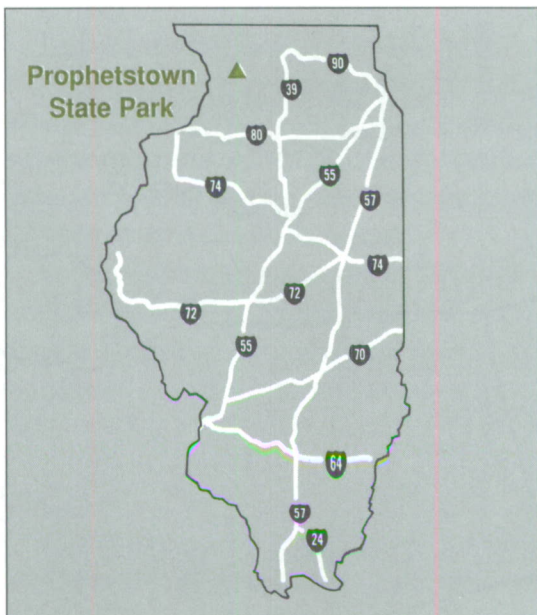
Horseshoe Court: Visitors who enjoy a friendly game of horseshoes will enjoy the six courts available in the picnic area.

Hiking Trail: Wa-bo-kie-shiek Nature Trail winds along Coon Creek for approximately one-third of a mile, offering access for anglers and a scenic walk for hikers.

Swimming: There is no swimming in the park. The Prophetstown Park District operates an indoor pool about four blocks from the park.

Hunting: Hunting is available at the Big Bend State Fish & Wildlife Area, located just four miles from Prophetstown. For more information, call (815) 537-2270.





Prophetstown State Park

Box 181

Prophetstown, IL 61277, (815) 537-2926

- 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, Office of Public Services, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, call (217) 782-6302 or visit our website at <http://dnr.state.il.us>.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs' 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 non-merit 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. This information may be provided in an alternative format if required. Contact the DNR Clearinghouse at (217) 782-7498 for assistance.