



Fort Massac State Park

Programs and Events 2016

Welcome to Fort Massac State Park.

Experience the scenic splendor of Southern Illinois with plenty of outdoor fun and time-telling events at Fort Massac State Park. Overlooking the mighty Ohio River from the southern tip of Illinois, this majestic location has been preserved and maintained since 1908, when it became Illinois' first state park.

Hiking

The park contains a 1-mile loop trail through the grassy woods with the trailhead near the visitor center. This trail is named the Drouillard Trail after George Drouillard who was recruited by Lewis and Clark in 1803 at Fort Massac. The 2.5 mile Hickory Nut Ridge Trail shouldn't be missed, as it takes hikers along the Ohio River

Bike Trail

The George Rogers Clark Discovery Trail is an 8.7 mile bicycle/pedestrian trail connecting the cities of Metropolis and Brookport through Massac County and Fort Massac State Park. Approximately 4.0 miles of the trail is within the confines of Fort Massac State Park. This trail is an ADA accessible paved trail with two bridges

Boating and Fishing

Boating and fishing are permitted on and along the Ohio River and there is a launch ramp in the park. Anglers will find Bullhead, Carp, Catfish, Crappie, Drum and Largemouth Bass. Handicap accessible.

Hunting

Hunting is permitted for squirrel, woodcock, dove and rabbit in some parts of the park and deer may be hunted with bow and arrow. Contact the park office for specific hunting dates and shooting hours. A windshield card is required.

Disc Golf

An 18-hole disc golf course was installed in 2013 and runs through the park. There is no fee to play.

Fort Massac Naturalists

(Hikes)

- **Spring Bird Migration/Nature Walk** - March 19, 1-3pm

Retired botanist John Schwegman will present “Spring Bird Migration in Southern Illinois” on Saturday, March 19, at 1 p.m. at the Fort Massac State Park Visitors Center, 1308 East 5th Street. There will be a nature hike following the presentation, weather permitting. This event is free and open to the public.

- **Nature Walk on Hickory Nut Ridge Trail** - May 21, 9-11am

Go on a hike with the Fort Massac Naturalists on the Hickory Nut Ridge Trail along the scenic Ohio River. Enjoy the beauty of the hardwoods in the spring and learn about trees, plants and wildlife along the way.

- **A Trip to Heron Pond** - June 18 (contact Fort Massac State Park for meeting/departure times)

Learn about Heron Pond and its critical habitat for Illinois threatened and endangered species and federally endangered species, a heron rookery and the presence of many other plant and animal species limited to the Coastal Plain Division.

Contact Fort Massac State Park at 618-524-4712

Fort Massac Naturalists will depart from the Fort Massac State Park Visitor Center

Programs

Nature Photography - February 13 (1-3pm) Learn valuable tips and techniques that will help produce quality outdoor photographs. To register, please contact Fort Massac State Park at 618-524-4712.

Nature Detectives - April 2 (1-3pm) Come on out for a nature scavenger hunt. Participants will search for items only found in the great outdoors.

Nature Skills School - May 21 (1-4pm) Students will be introduced to the natural world and learn important outdoor skills such as navigation with the use of a compass, making fire, obtaining wild foods and tool making. To register, please contact Fort Massac State Park at 618-524-4712.

Fort Massac Naturalists - Join us on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 1pm as we discuss and participate in outdoor activities that are dedicated to sharing knowledge and the appreciation of our plants and animals.

Massiac Marines - Join the Massiac Marines the second Saturday of every month (10-4pm) at the Fort Massac State Park Visitor Center as they bring history to life.

Southern Illinois Spinners and Weavers - Come to the Fort Massac State Park Visitor Center the first Saturday of every month from 10-3:30pm. There will be spinners, weavers, crocheters, felters and other fiber arts on hand.

Events

Ohio River Sweep - June 18 - Saturday 8:30-12pm

ORSANCO's clean up along the banks of the Ohio River. Registration begins at 8:30am at the parks visitor's center. Volunteers will be given trash bags and gloves to pick up litter. Volunteers will receive a River Sweep t-shirt and a free lunch.

Fort Massac Grand Encampment - October 15 & 16 - Saturday 10-5pm, Sunday 10-4:30pm

The Annual Fort Massac Encampment celebrates the history of Fort Massac from the early French Period until 1814. Military units, Colonists, Settlers and Native Americans portray the history of the fort with crafts, military drills, music, children's games and a mock battle.

Trunk or Treat - October 28 - Friday 5-7pm

If you are looking for a spooktacular good time, come join us for a night of games and prizes, free food and drinks and of course CANDY!

Presentations

Birds of Prey - March 18, 6-7:30pm Please join us as Bev Shofstall from Free Again Wildlife Rehabilitation introduces us to live birds of prey that are native to Southern Illinois.

Reptiles and Snakes - May 28, 2-3:30pm Join Natural Heritage Biologist/Herpetologist Scott Ballard as he gives us an up close and personal look at snakes and reptiles that are indigenous to our area. Discover first hand the fascinating life of these cold blooded creatures.

Mammals - Saturday, June 11, 3-4:00pm Don't miss out on this rare opportunity to meet and learn about these amazing animals.

Creepy Critters - Saturday, August 6, 1-2:00pm Creepy Critters focuses on those less cuddly and icky creatures whose importance is often taken for granted. This program features arachnids, insects and snakes to illustrate that such undesirable critters serve an extremely important purpose to the environment.

Fish of the Ohio River - TBA Want to learn about several different fish species that are found in the Ohio River? Join IDNR Fish Biologist Chris Bickers for a very fun and educational look into the world of our slimy friends.

*All presentations will take place in the Fort Massac State Park Visitor Center

*Presentations are paid for by the Friends of Fort Massac

Movies in the Park

May 13 - *The Good Dinosaur*

May 27 - Pan

June 10 - *Minions*

July 8 - *Max*

July 22 - The Spongebob Movie: Sponge Out of Water

August 5 - Tomorrowland

August 19 - Inside Out

September 2 - *Goosebumps*

September 30 - *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*

December 16 - TBA



All movies are free to the public and concessions will be available for purchase.
Movies will start at dusk. If weather does not seem favorable, the movie will be shown in the visitor center. For more information, contact Fort Massac State Park at 618-524-4712