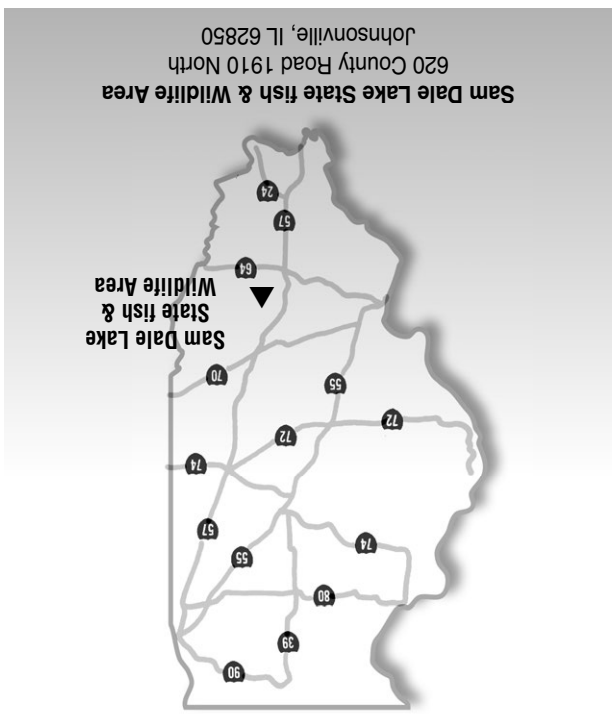
Sam Dale Lake Fish and Wildlife Area

Gently rolling terrain, lush woods and a beautiful lake make the Sam Dale Lake Fish and Wildlife Area the perfect spot for a family outing. Located northwest of Johnsonville in Wayne County, the area has something for everyone, fishing, hunting, picnicking, and camping. Visitors may see quail, rabbit, dove, squirrel, deer, muskrat, fox, raccoon, owls, turkey, hawk, woodcock, or beaver as they roam the timber or brushy fields of the park. Its main attraction is Sam Dale Lake, a beautiful 194-acre lake with 8 ½ miles of shoreline to hike around, or just sit beside and enjoy In addition, several smaller ponds are home to fish and wildlife.

History

The initial 40-acre piece of land was purchased in 1959. Since then, additional land has been added totaling 1,302 acres in the conservation area. The site was named for Sam O. Dale, an eight-term state representative who also served as a teacher, principal and superintendent of schools in Hamilton County.



Sam Dale Lake State fish & Wildlife Area
620 County Road 1910 North
Johnsonville, IL 62850

- 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. Please call ahead to the park office before you make your trip.
- We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember; take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks, write to Department of Natural Resources, Clearinghouse, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, or visit our website at 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 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 Resource 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.

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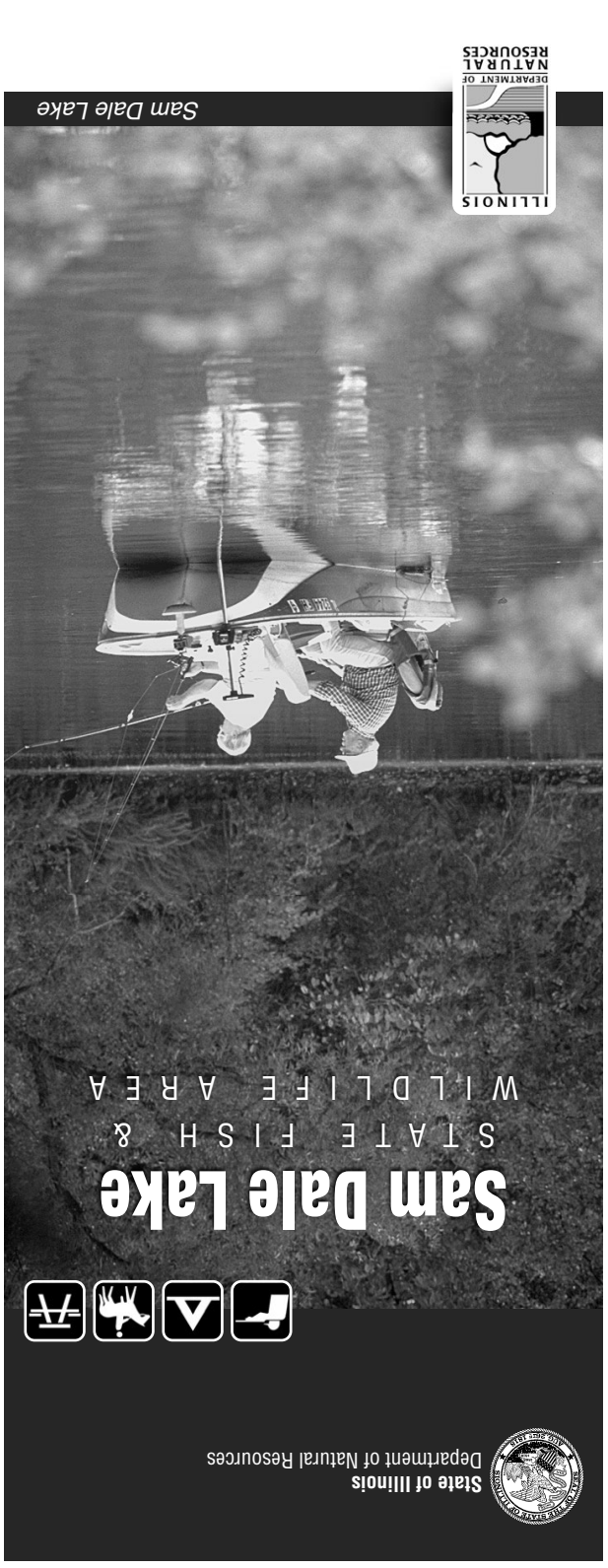


Sam Dale Lake

motor limit is 10 hp. A concession stand sells fishing bait near the boat dock area.

Camping

Two Class BE campgrounds provide the overnight visitor with necessary amenities in a shady, secluded section of the park. These campsites have electricity and a sanitary dump station. One has a playground close by for small children. There are also tent and group camping areas, including 2 handicapped-accessible pads in both campgrounds. To reserve a campsite log onto Reserve America.com.

Trails

Hikers will delight at the sights and sounds along the 4.5 miles of trials. Equestrians will find 8.5 miles of trails for their enjoyment.

Hunting

Hunters will be delighted with rolling open fields interspersed by evergreen plantings and fence rows which are perfect game hunting habitat. Hunting is restricted to the 930 acres posted for hunting. For your convenience, windshield cards can be obtained online for deer archery, turkey fall archery, squirrel, dove, rabbit, furbearers, and quail. The permit must be displayed in the windshield while hunting or trapping. All hunting is to be with shotgun or bow and arrow only. For additional hunting information see the Hunter Fact Sheet located on the IDNR web site www.dnr.state.il.us.

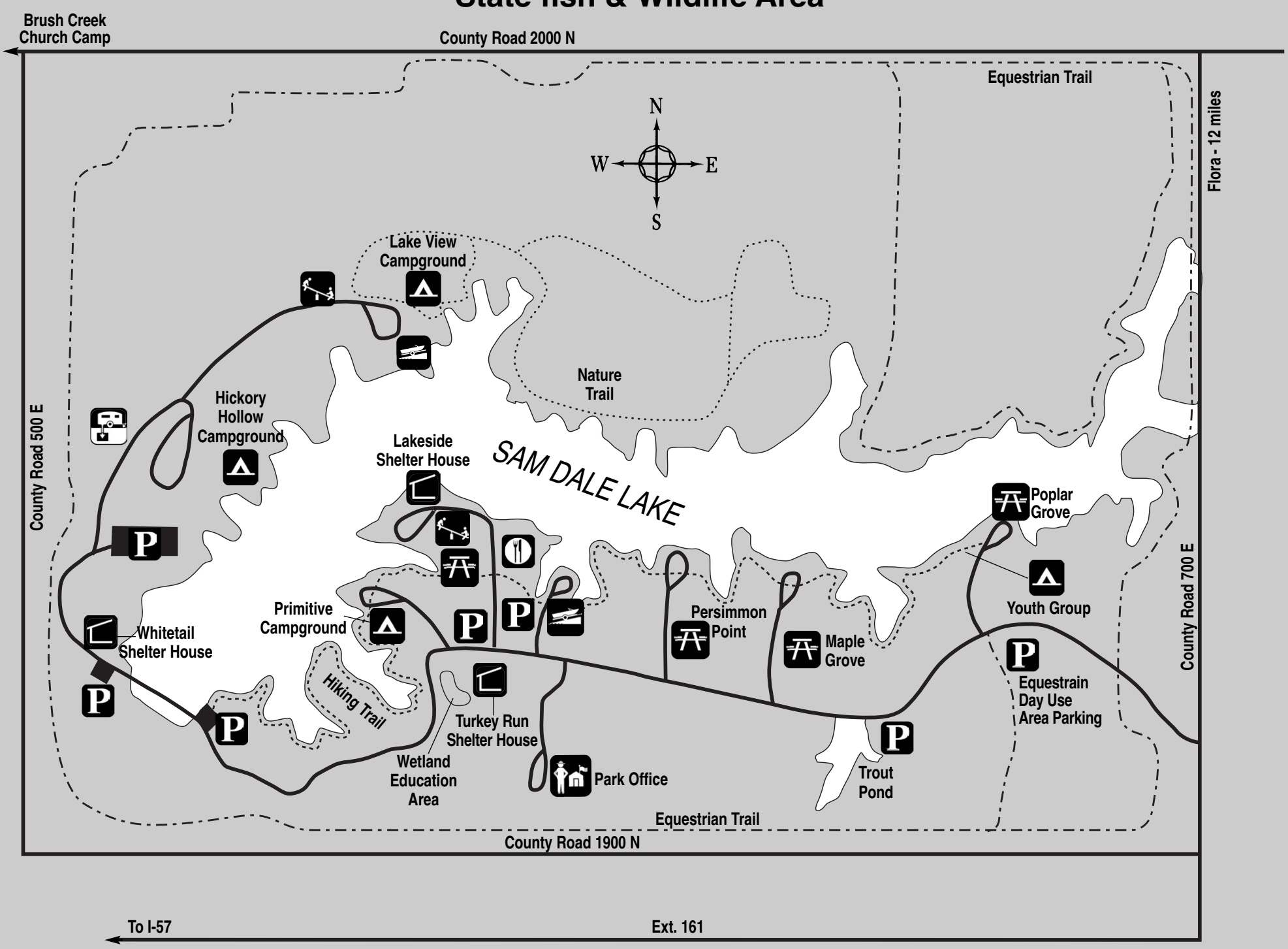
Fishing

The long, narrow lake has many curves and fingers, making it an ideal setting for the avid fisherman. Species available include largemouth bass, bluegill, redear, crappie and channel catfish. There are two launching ramps, boat docks, and rental boats available. The

Picnicking

The tall, shady trees and plentiful flowers and greenery beckon many nature-lovers to the picnic areas at Sam Dale Lake. Three shelter houses are available on site. For reservations visit www.reserveamerica.com. Several picnic areas are available with tables, drinking fountains, and outdoor stoves. Playground equipment is nearby. A concession stand offers sandwiches and cold drinks. For more details about this site, contact Sam Dale Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area, 620 County Road 1910 North, Johnsonville, IL 62850. (618) 835-2292

Sam Dale Lake
State fish & Wildlife Area



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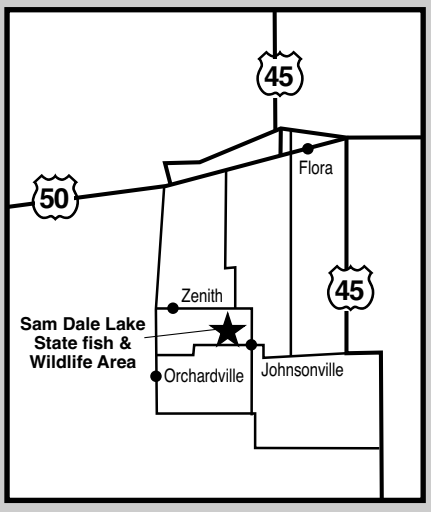
- Park Office
- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Shelter
- Playground
- Concessions
- Boat Launch
- Parking
- Sanitary Dump Station
- Nature Trail-3.2 miles
- Hiking Trail-4.5 miles
- Equestrian Trail-8.5 miles