

Mazonia is managed primarily for sport fish and waterfowl. Its purpose is to provide a quality sport fishery within the surface-mined lakes through habitat enhancement and supplemental stockings which, in

## Area Objectives

The area contains more than 200 water impoundments ranging from ¼ acre to 30 acres. The water area currently contains largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, bluegill, green sunfish, crappie, channel catfish and bullhead. Additional species will be stocked as the site is developed. Good wildlife habitat can be found on the site in the 700 acres of grassland, brushy draws and limited woodland cover.

## Existing Resources

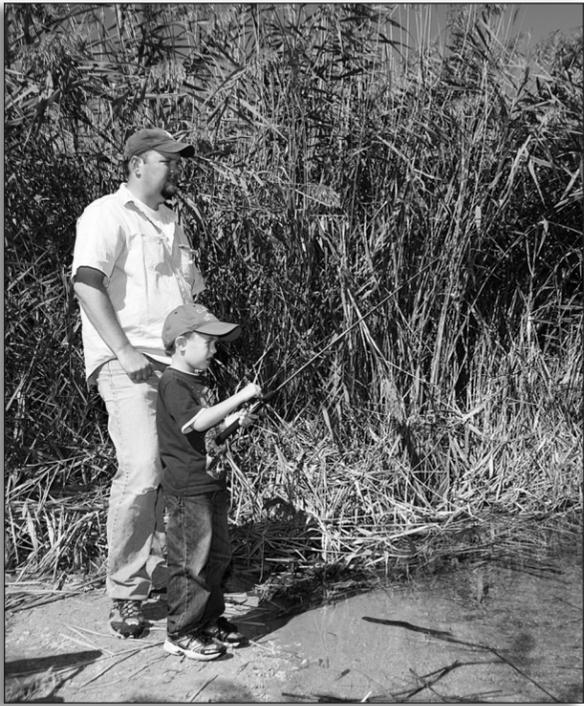
Mazonia was purchased in 1986 from Commonwealth Edison under the Wildlife Habitat Acquisition and Development Program. Peabody Coal Company surface-mined the area from 1951 through 1970, and the name Mazonia comes from the EJE Railroad switching yard across from the site on Route 53.

## History

Mazonia State Fish and Wildlife Area consists of 1,017 acres and is located in Grundy County 3 miles southeast of Braidwood on Illinois Route 53 and Huston Road.

## Mazonia Site Location

Boats with a minimum length of 14 feet are recommended. Motor size is unlimited but a 40 MPH speed limit is strictly enforced. 25 MPH winds. The lake will be closed with the weather conditions. Different colored flags will be raised to depict day.



turn, will provide the public quality bank and boat sport fishing opportunities. The site also provides quality mid-migration and resident waterfowl habitat, including food, water and sanctuary components which, in turn, provide the public a quality waterfowl hunting opportunity.

The area also is managed for other resident or migratory game and non-game fish and wildlife species, particularly those listed as threatened or endangered.

Although Mazonia features sport fishing and waterfowl hunting, a variety of other outdoor recreational opportunities are provided throughout the year. Upland game hunting, furbearer trapping, limited picnicking, nature study/birding, fossil hunting and water dog training is also available.

Because Braidwood Lake is a partially perched lake, it can become very dangerous. Special precautions should be utilized. A wind warning system is in place by a flagpole located at the Cemetery Road Boat Ramp and the Kanakakee Boat Ramp. The flag system displays predicted weather conditions for that

## Boating

Fishing and hunting is permitted on a seasonal basis and are subject to various site regulations. Fishing closes ten days prior to the Central Waterfowl Zone season and reopens in early spring.

## Hunting and Fishing

The lake currently contains channel catfish, largemouth bass, hybrid bass, walleye, sauger, pure and tiger muskie, plus a variety of other species of fish.

## Existing Resources

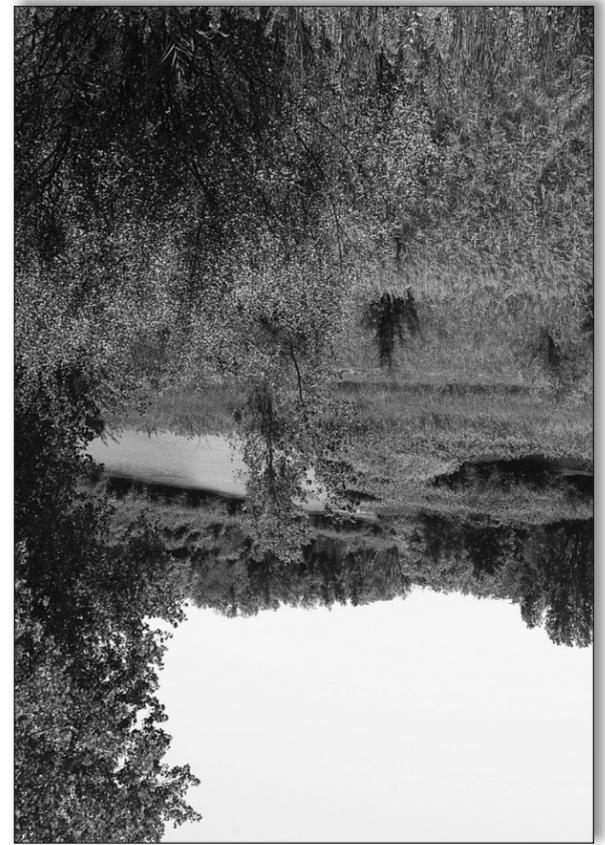
Braidwood Lake currently is used for fishing, waterfowl hunting, fossil hunting by permit and as a waterfowl refuge. Braidwood Lake currently is used for fishing, waterfowl hunting, fossil hunting by permit and as a waterfowl refuge. Braidwood Lake currently is used for fishing, waterfowl hunting, fossil hunting by permit and as a waterfowl refuge.



- 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 tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2Connect.
- Telecommunication Device for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Natural Resources Information (217) 782-9175 for TDD only Relay Number 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.



Braidwood Lake, owned by Commonwealth Edison, is a partially perched, cooling lake. Braidwood Lake was constructed in the late 1970's and impounded in 1980-81 with water pumped from the Kanakakee River. Several surface mined pits were flooded within the lake, so fisheries management actually began in 1978, before the lake existed. The lake was considered a semi-private area used by employees of Commonwealth Edison until the fall of 1981 when the Department of Conservation

## History

Braidwood Lake Fish and Wildlife Area consists of 2,640 acres and is located in Will County south of Braidwood off Illinois Route 53.

## Braidwood Lake Site Locations

State of Illinois  
Department of Natural Resources

# Mazonia/Braidwood

STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

Mazonia/Braidwood

**Facilities**

While minimal facilities are available, future development will include a paved access road to the main lakes, boat launches, ramps, parking lots and toilets.

**Hunting and Fishing**

Fishing and hunting are permitted on a seasonal basis and are subject to site regulations. Fishing closes 10 days prior to the central waterfowl zone season and reopens at the conclusion of the upland game season, or as the ice becomes safe.

**Mazonia South Unit**

The Mazonia South Unit was purchased by DNR from Commonwealth Edison in 1999. This was the



first acquisition under the landmark Open Land Trust, a program that sets aside dollars to be used to purchase acreage for multiple purpose recreation and to protect open space for future generations.

The land making up the south unit was formerly surface mined, resulting in rugged terrain, four large

lakes and 10 smaller water impoundments that contain excellent fish populations. Access to most of the water will be available via boat launches, while some of the smaller lakes will be walk-in only. The area will be used for fishing, wildlife habitat, hunting and other recreational activities.

