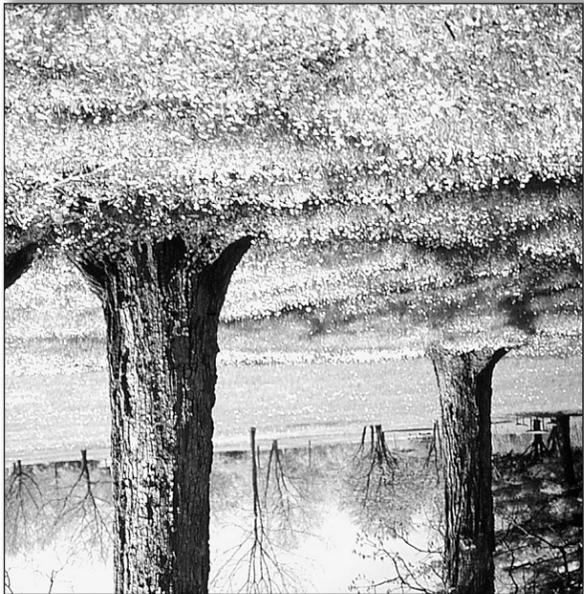


fore financiers ran out of money. Just inside the park's main entrance is the Smith Cemetery, with graves of several family members, most of whom died of yellow fever at the turn of the century. A major industry in the area in the 1890s was the Custer Bowers Amusement Park, which frequently drew crowds from Chicago. The park was gone by the 1920s, but by then the river had become a popular spot for summer cottages. The area became more accessible

mark where a railway bridge was to have been built by Chipewa Campground, hand-cut limestone pillars shortly after the Wabash Railroad came through. At the Bridge Road. The company failed in the early 1880s, along the site of the present-day Warner's Waterway from the Illinois & Michigan Canal to Warner's Landing, along the site of the present-day Warner's Waterway from the Illinois & Michigan Canal to Warner's later known as the Kankakee Navigation Company—was chartered in 1847 to provide water power and a navigable waterway from the Illinois & Michigan Canal to Warner's. The Kankakee & Iroquois Navigation Company—settlers first began farming along the Kankakee River. In 1840, nine years after William Baker and other commemorates the log cabin village of Rockville. It was a marker on the west bank of Rock Creek Bridge he is called "the father of Kankakee."

nais Township area. Because of his settlement efforts,



to vacationers in 1928 when concrete roads were built along both sides of the river. In 1938 Chicago resident Ethel Sturges Dummer donated 35 acres of land for a state park. Commonwealth Edison turned over another 1,715 acres to the state in 1956. With the company's additional grants in 1989, the park now totals roughly 4,000 acres.

Wildlife

From badgers and beavers to turtles and wild turkeys, Kankakee River State Park is teeming with wildlife. Some of the birds you can see are red-winged blackbirds, herons and bluebirds. Fox, coyote and deer roam the park's bluffs and timbered areas, while frogs and non-poisonous snakes keep close to the riverbanks.

Hunting & Fishing

The park's abundant wildlife makes it a popular spot for hunters. Only bow hunting is allowed for deer; bow and firearm hunting for turkey. Firearm hunting is permitted for duck, pheasant, dove, rabbit, squirrel, fox, coyote and raccoon. Before taking any game, contact the site superintendent for opening dates, shooting times and areas open to hunting. The park also offers hunting for



nature trail at Rock Creek. Noel Le Vasseur and other fur traders, including Hubbard, Chabare and Bourbonnais, traded with the Potawatomi along the Kankakee and Iroquois rivers in the 1820s. When the Potawatomi left the area in 1838, Le Vasseur persuaded a number of his fellow French-Canadian to emigrate from Quebec to the Bourbon-

Miami were sufficiently numerous that the Kankakee River was called the River of the Miami. Kickapoo and Mascouten also were in the region from 1679 until the 1760s. Potawatomi Indians hunted along the Kankakee River in the 1760s, and by the 1770s, the Potawatomi, Ottawa and Chipewa nations—"The Three Fires"—dominated the area. The most extensive village was "Rock Village" or "Little Rock Village" inside the present-day park near the mouth of Rock Creek. In 1830 it was the site of the last great Indian Council. Following the Black Hawk War in 1832, the Potawatomi ceded all their land along the Kankakee and Illinois rivers to the United States. Most Potawatomi left the area by the end of the decade, except for Chief Shaw-waw-nas-see, whose grave is commemorated by a boulder along the



- 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 Land Management, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271 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.

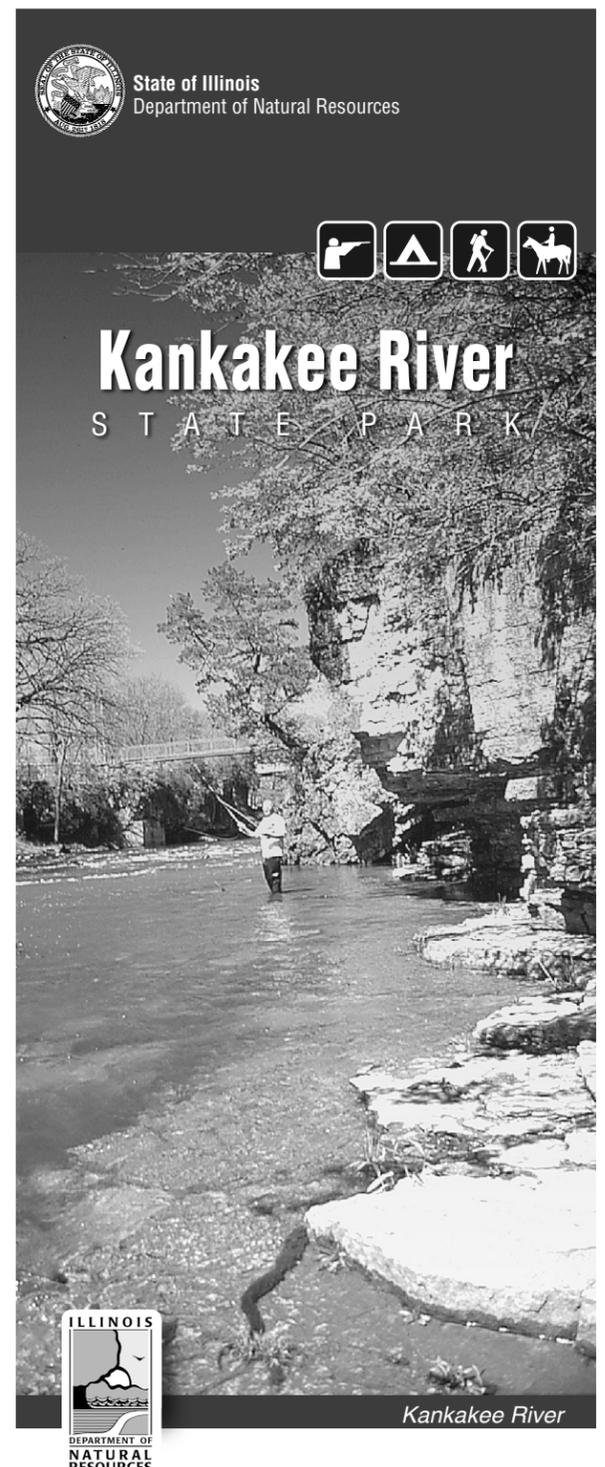
Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. 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 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.

The Park's Past

On land treasured for centuries-first by Native Americans, later by traders and farmers, and as early as the 1890s by recreation seekers - Kankakee River State Park offers you its proud heritage in an unspoiled setting. Anglers, canoeists, hunters, campers, hikers, bicyclers and other outdoor enthusiasts find the park's recreational opportunities unsurpassed. The naturally channelled Kankakee River, listed on the federal Clean Streams Register, is the focus of the park's popularity. Enveloping both sides of the Kankakee River for 11 miles, in an area six miles northwest of Kankakee, the park consists of approximately 4,000 acres. Illinois Routes 102 on the north and 113 on the south frame the park, with Interstates 55 and 57 both providing convenient access.

Kankakee River State Park



handicapped visitors. For more information, call the site superintendent or visit our website.

The Kankakee is a clean river, great for landing smallmouth bass, channel catfish, walleye and northern pike. Rock Creek is also a good fishing spot. The park has two boat ramps for launching craft with motors of 10 horsepower or less- there's a launch at the Warner Bridge day use and a launch at Area 9 parking lot on the south side of the river. However, please realize boating can be hazardous because the river is shallow and rocky.



Canoeing

Kankakee River State Park provides first class canoeing opportunities with many limestone outcrops that make it a scenic trip in any season. Canoeists have no problem navigating the river's shallow water and rocks. Call the park office for further canoe information.

Camping

Pleasant sites at reasonable prices make Kankakee River State Park a great place to pitch camp. Potawatomi Campground has two rent-a-cabins as well as 110 Class A sites located in a wooded setting. More than 150 sites are offered at Chippewa Campground, which has Class B electric and C facilities. The Horseback Campground off Illinois Route 113 is open April 1 through October 31. Davis Creek Campground is available by reservation for chaperoned youth and church groups. All areas require camping permits, available at the campground or from park personnel in state vehicles.

Picnicking

For a light lunch or a large get-together, check out the park's picnic areas. Tables are placed in pleasant settings throughout the park, and you'll also find playgrounds in several locations. Shelters are available on a

first-come, first-served basis. There are three shelters that may be reserved through www.reserveamerica.com. Groups of 25 or more must obtain a permit, which is free, at least two weeks before planning to visit the park.

Trails

The park's trail system stretches for miles along both sides of the river. Hiking, biking and cross-country ski trails are on the river's north side, while horse and snowmobile trails can be found on the south. A 3-mile route along Rock Creek lets hikers take in the beauty of limestone canyons and a frothy waterfall. A bicycle trail begins at Davis Creek Area and travels 10.5 miles to Area A parking lot, at one point crossing a suspension bridge. Cross-country skiers have 15 miles of trails in the form of a linear trail along the river and a loop in the west end of the park.

A 12-mile equestrian trail is located in the wildlife management area along Route 113 and is open April 1 through October 31. When there's snow cover of four inches or more, the park is open from sunrise to sunset for snowmobiling on the trail only. Directional signs for the trails are posted and maps are available at the park office.

Riding Stables

Rent a horse at the park's riding stables on Deselm Road, 0.75 mile north of Route 102. Guided horse rides, pony rides and cookouts all can be arranged at the stables. Stop by or call (815) 802-2050.

Park Restrictions

Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the park at all times.



Because the Kankakee River is unpredictable with its fast current, drop offs and rocky bottom, no swimming is allowed in the park in any area, including Rock Creek.

All motorized vehicles are prohibited on all of the Kankakee River State Park Trails.

Exotic Species

Plants and animals not native to Illinois are exotic species. Most of them are harmless to our state; however, some can be very invasive to native plant communities and can overwhelm or wipe out native species. Prevention and control of exotic, invasive species requires tremendous cooperation between managers and all users of parks, natural areas and privately owned land. To learn more about exotic and invasive species and how you can help prevent their spread, visit the IDNR Exotic Species Website at: http://dnr.state.il.us/education/exoticspecies/exotic_spintro.htm.

