

FACILITIES

- **Picnicking** ■ Five shelters are provided for group picnicking while small areas with convenient parking for the family outing are scattered around the lake. Playground equipment is located near the group picnicking area.
- **Fishing and Boating** ■ The Lake contains channel catfish, bass, crappie and bluegill. Boat fishing is allowed except during waterfowl season. A 50 horsepower limit exists for all watercraft. Three boat ramps are available for public use. A state fishing license is required.
- **Camping** ■ The Park accommodates 48 tent or trailers. A sanitary dump station, pit toilets, and water hydrants are conveniently located. All campers must secure a permit from the park.
- **Hunting** ■ To accommodate the waterfowl hunter numerous public blinds are located on the lake. Hunting is allowed only from these public blinds during waterfowl season. Dove hunting is allowed during the month of September on the peninsula. Check with the Park Office for further hunting regulations.
- **Hiking** ■ Four miles of hiking trails wander through the natural area on the island.



- 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, Clearinghouse, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271 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 nonmerit 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.

Horseshoe Lake is situated on a low flood plain which follows the Mississippi River down to the Kentucky border. Before the present system of levees was constructed, heavy spring floods would cause the river to overflow its banks. It would sometimes change directions and cut a new channel through these bottomlands. During this process an old river section was cut off from the flowing channel forming a natural oxbow lake. Horseshoe Lake was formed in this manner.

American Indian Past

Perhaps the most impressive American Indian history occurred during the period 800-1600 A.D. During this time the "Mighty Metropolis" known as Cahokia Mounds was built. Nearby the 30,000 to 40,000 mound builders farmed extensively but still re-

Horseshoe Lake has been inhabited by various American Indian groups throughout time. The earliest evidence of their activity at this site dates 8000 B.C. during the Archaic Period. Artifacts have also been found which fall into the Woodland Period 1000 B.C.-1000 A.D. During this period American Indians lived by hunting and gathering wild foods. Horseshoe Lake served as an excellent food source where they fished, hunter waterfowl, and gathered wild vegetables.

History of the Lake

Horseshoe Lake State Park is located near Highway 111 in Madison County which lies in the southwestern part of Illinois. Only minutes away from a large surrounding urban area, the park offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities.

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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://www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/ExoticSpecies/exoticspintro.htm>.

State of Illinois
Pat Quinn, Governor

Department of Natural Resources

Horseshoe Lake
STATE PARK

ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES

lied on Horseshoe Lake's rich food source. Today there still remains an earthen platform mound inside the park boundaries.

Walkers Island Birdwalk

Welcome to Walkers Island bird-walk. This is a self-guided four mile trail. There are watch areas at each habitat local. If you use this trail often and seasonally it is possible to see all the birds on your list.



Everything is protected and is not to be removed from the park. Help keep the trail clean and stay on the trail or any of the natural areas. The farm ground is harvested and is not to be traveled. Our state parks are multi-use areas for all to enjoy. Thus certain areas are used for hunting and other outdoor recreations. Let's all work together to keep what we have.

You are now ready to being the Birdwalk.

Travel north along this shoreline; the houses along this portion of the trail are for Bluebirds and Wood Duck. The Bluebird is endangered in Illinois and with the support from the local Audubon Society the houses were built. The Wood Duck houses were built through hunter revenue. During the fall and winter, large numbers of diving ducks use this open water. They feed on fingernail clams and other aquatic materials. These diving ducks, gulls and loons prefer deeper water. Depending on the crop planted, you may see Swallows, Marsh Hawks and Martins. As you come to watch area (1) please be considerate of other people on the trail.

Area 1 Bird Check List

BLUEBIRD	MOURNING DOVE
WOOD DUCK	BOBWHITE QUAIL
EASTERN MEADOWLARK	

As you leave area (1) you are heading southeast toward a Historic site in the center of the island. As you pass it and head toward the Hardwood Pond area, look for Bobwhite and Mourning dove. This area is best used by birds at midday as the shade provided by trees and water is easy access. This area is used extensively by Woodpeckers and Nuthatches due to the dead and dying trees which serve as prime habitat for larvae which is the major food source for these birds.

Area 2 Bird Check List

WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH	BROWN CREEPER
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	FLICKER
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER	

This locality would seem a repeat of area (1) except for the fact that the borders are different. Here you have old fields against a Hardwood Pond. Area (2) on the other hand, has changing farm land. Although there will be an overlapping of birds, most birds don't like to leave their territory unattended. For this reason you should see different species.

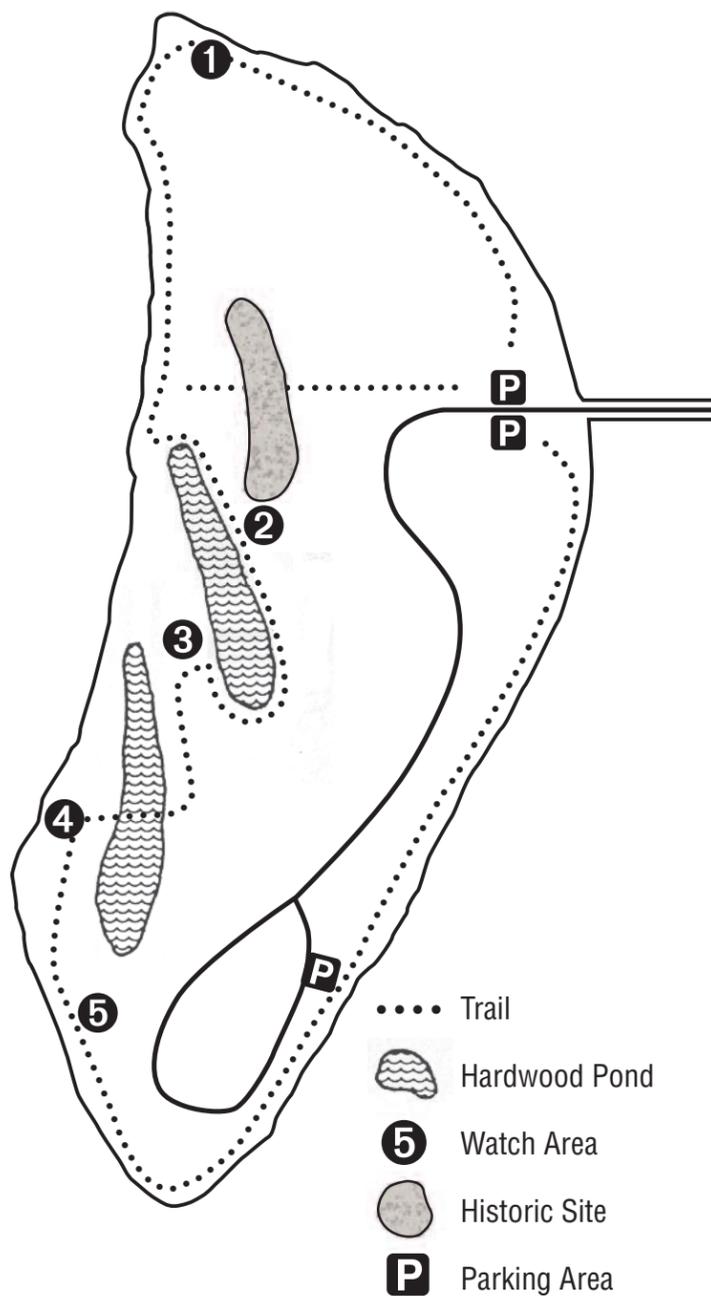
Area 3 Bird Check List

CHIPPING SPARROW	CATBIRD
EUROPEAN TREE SPARROW	MOCKINGBIRD
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	

Once you leave area (3) and head south to area (4), it will take a good deal of care to see birds as they dart in and out of the

Horseshoe Lake Island

Hiking and Bird Trail



grasses, small trees, and Miliflora Rose. This type of habitat benefits sparrows and finches, whose food consists for the most part of seeds. Travel slowly along this area and give the birds a chance to come out into the open. A large number of Illinois birds will be seen here although they are generally small to medium in size. To a younger group which has little patience, this area should be passed quickly.

Area 4 Bird Check List

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	INDIGO BUNTING
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	

As you leave area (4) you will pass the campground and head north along a shallow area of lake to parking lot. Please be courteous of campers along this area. The birds seen along this route should include puddle ducks, crows, Coots and Red-winged Blackbirds. This area is very shallow and marshy. Aquatic vegetation is predominant; Cattails, Arrowhead and

Bird Check List

Novice

- Ring-Billed Gull
- Canada Goose
- Mallard Duck
- Common Goldeneye
- Bufflehead
- Wood Duck
- Blue-Winged Teal
- Great Blue Heron
- Great Egret
- American Coot
- Killdeer
- American Woodcock
- Red-Tailed Hawk
- American Keatrel
- Northern Harrier
- Great Horned Owl
- Flicker
- Red-Headed Woodpecker
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Purple Martin
- Barn Swallow
- Carolina Chickadee
- American Robin
- Mockingbird
- House Wren
- Blue Jay
- Cardinal
- House Sparrow
- European Tree Sparrow

Experienced

- Pied-Billed Grebe
- Common Loon
- Herring Gull
- Blue and Snow Goose
- Canvasback
- Lesser & Greater Scaup
- Barrow's Goldeneye
- Hooded Merganser
- Gladwall
- Ruddy Duck
- American Wigeon
- Black-Crowned Night Heron
- Common Snipe
- Cooper's Hawk
- Sedge Wren
- Long-Billed Marsh Wren
- Barred Owl
- Red-Bellied Woodpecker
- Eastern Kingbird
- Wood Pewee
- Bank Swallow
- Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher
- Wood Thrush
- Veery
- Loggershead Shrike
- Warbling Vireo
- Yellow Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat

Smartweed. Shore birds are also seen quite frequently in this area. As you approach the picnic shelter, keep an eye out for the European Tree Sparrow. The St. Louis area is the only place in North American to find this species and Walker's Island is one of the best spots to find it in St. Louis.

Area 5 Bird Check List

GREEN HERON	COMMON SNIPE
AMERICAN COOT	KILLDEER
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	

The main intent of this project is to provide a hike which will accommodate all people young and old, novice and experienced. We feel the more people that understand the area around, the better we understand each other. We can better become a part of nature, rather than apart from nature.

For Your Information

This area is for all to enjoy so please help keep it clean. All vehicles must remain on existing roadways and parking lots. No plants, flowers, shrubs or trees may be removed or damaged. Fires are permitted only in camp stoves located in the picnic areas. All pets must be on a leash which is no longer than 10 feet.

Recreational Trails Program

This trail brochure was made possible due to funding provided by the Federal Highway Administration through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Monies are funded through the Federal Motor Fuel Tax and administered through the National Recreational Trails Fund Act. Trail projects are supported by the federal government, which provides up to 80% reimbursement of cost. State funds provide the balance of the funding for the projects. The trails program encourages trails management practices to serve a wide variety of trail users. The program is administered in Illinois by the Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation.