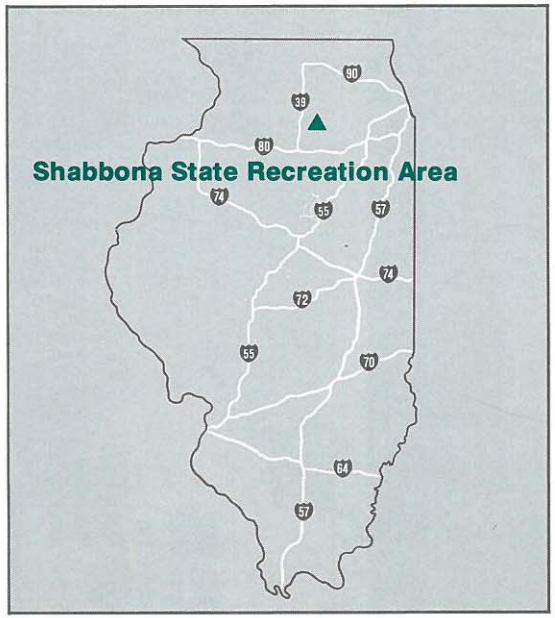
History

Originally home to tribes of Native Americans, the park derives its name from Chief Shabbona. Pioneer settlement of the area began in the 1830s. From Shabbona Grove, in the southeast corner of the park, homesteaders spread over the region and began farming the rich soil.

In 1965, it was decided to develop a lake and recreation area on the site, and land acquisition was begun in 1969. By 1978, 1,550 acres had been obtained.

In 1973, the lake area was cleared of trees, the shoreline was modified and earthen fishing piers and fish congregators were erected. By 1975, a 3,000-foot-long earthen dam with a concrete spillway was completed and the lake was formed. Day use facilities were constructed in 1976 and continue to serve the public today. Current plans call for the development of a swimming beach, concession facility and visitor center, as well as campground expansion, including a youth group camping area. These should be completed in 1992.



Shabbona State Recreation Area
Route 1, Box 120, Shabbona, Ill., 60550, 815-824-2106

- 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 the Illinois Department of Conservation, Office of Public Information, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, Ill., 62701-1787, or call (217) 782-7454.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-ABE-0121.

Illinois Department of Conservation

In Cooperation with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs Office of Tourism

The Illinois Department of Conservation receives federal financial assistance and therefore must comply with federal anti-discrimination laws. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois Department of Conservation does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, national origin, age or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Department of Conservation, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, Ill., 62701-1787, (217) 782-7617 or the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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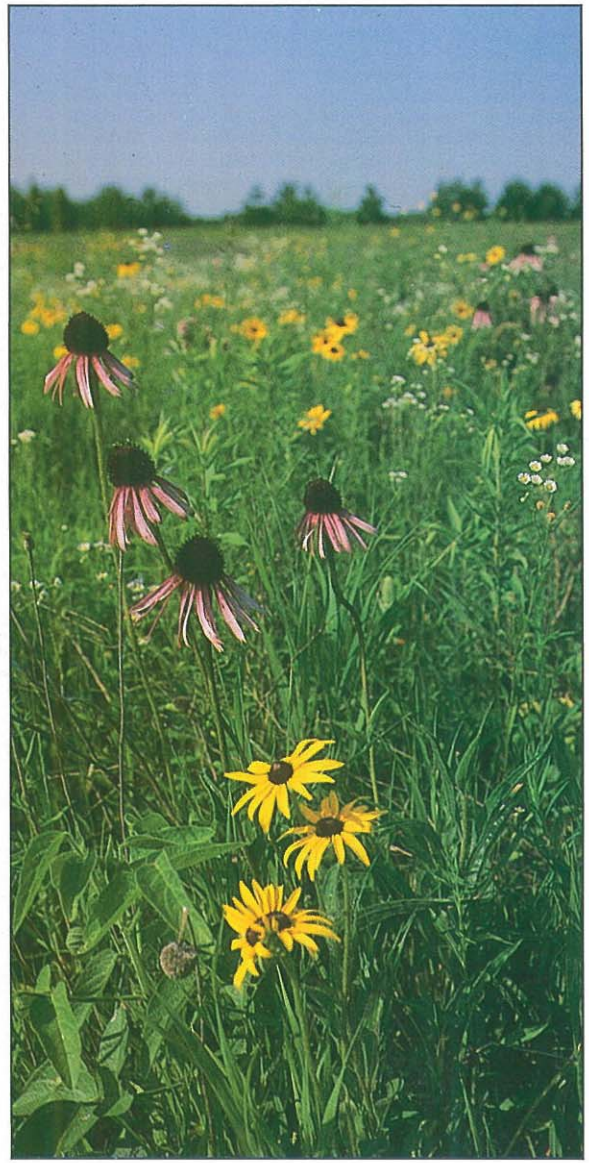
Shabbona Lake
STATE RECREATION AREA

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



open spaces.. family places

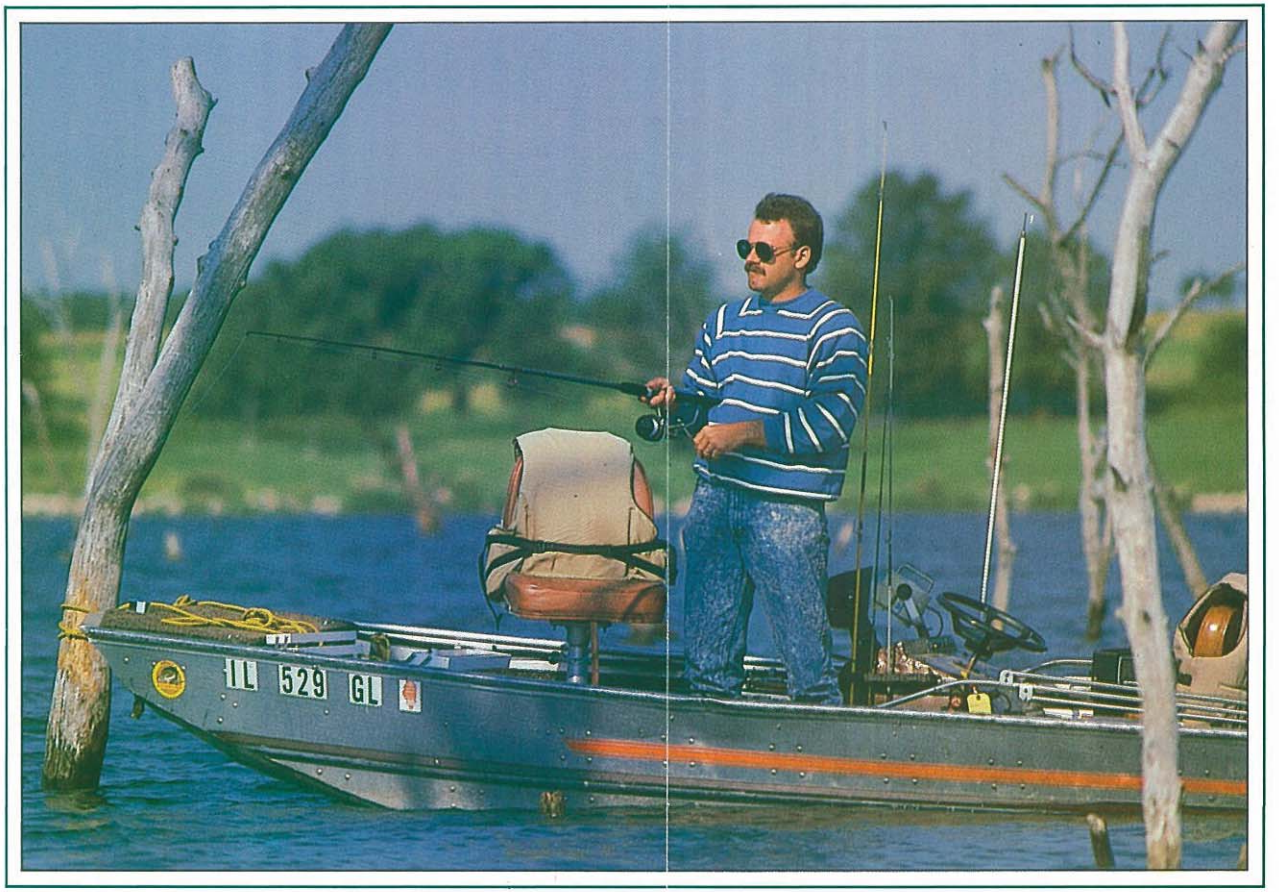
Shabbona Lake State Recreation Area

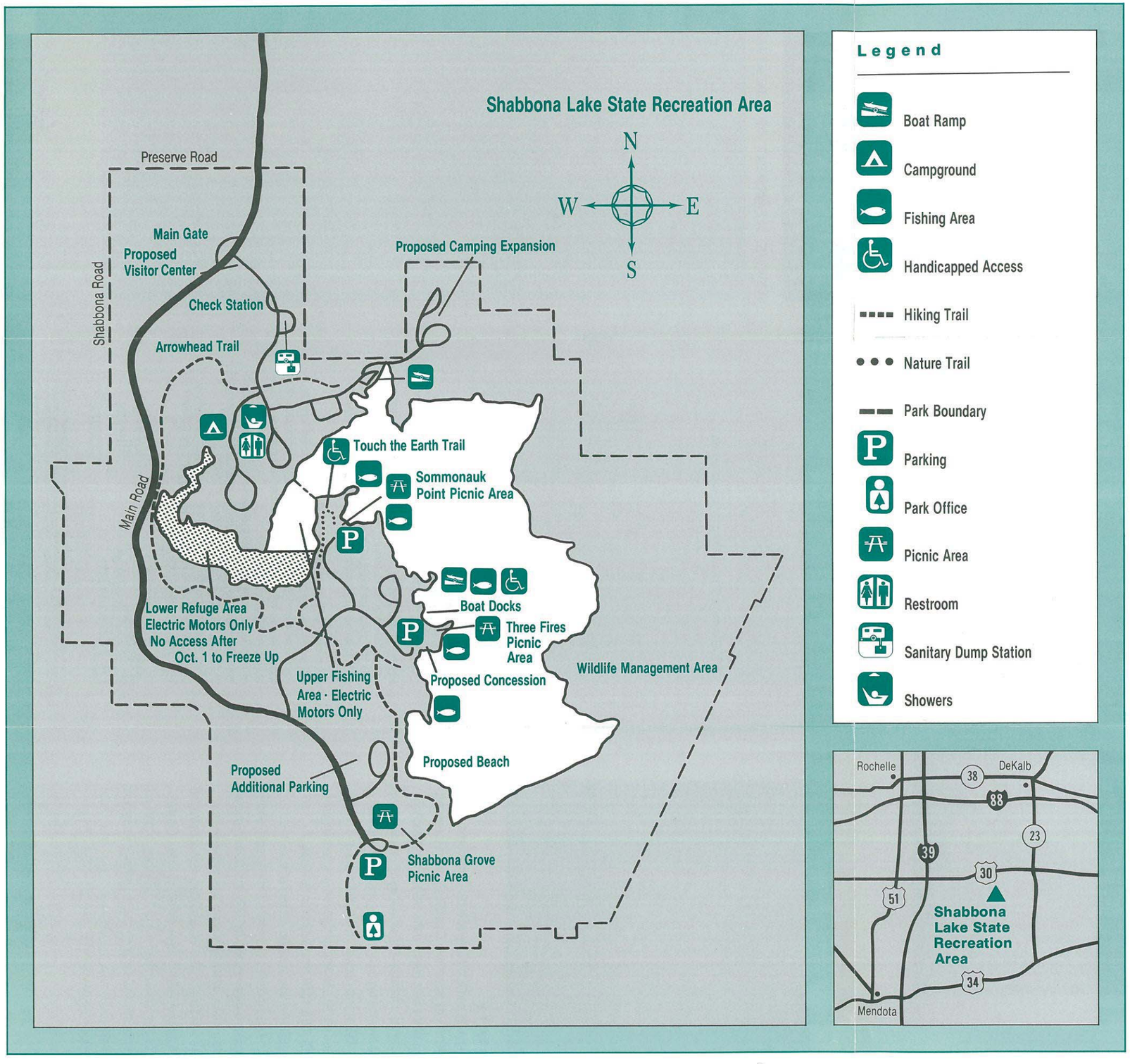
Just mintues west of Chicago, off U.S. 30, urban sprawl gives way to rolling prairie. Nestled in the middle of this characteristically deep, well-drained upland terrain, Shabbona Lake State Recreation Area provides a convenient, natural haven from the hustle and bustle of daily life.

A unique mix of grass-covered meadows, upland mesic woods, bottomland woods, and a native, undisturbed fen, or marsh, make this an ideal location for natural relaxation and outdoor activity. You can see sedges, cattail, marsh marigolds, horsetail, skunk cabbage, turtlehead, iris, blue joint grass and bulrushes.

With facilities for picnicking, camping, hiking, fishing, hunting and winter sports, Shabbona Lake is a convenient and comfortable retreat where you can refresh and reinvigorate yourself in a rare, unspoiled environment.

In addition, Shabbona Lake contains a 15-acre seasonal nesting area for migratory waterfowl such as Canvasback, redhead, and pintail ducks and Canada geese. A cassette tape and brochure guide you through the "Touch the Earth" interpretive nature trail, which is accessible to the disabled visitor.





Legend

- Boat Ramp
- Campground
- Fishing Area
- Handicapped Access
- Hiking Trail
- Nature Trail
- Park Boundary
- Parking
- Park Office
- Picnic Area
- Restroom
- Sanitary Dump Station
- Showers

Picnicking

Visitors can picnic at any of three major day use areas situated along the western shore of the lake. Parking, water and rest rooms are available, as well as horseshoe pits, and a regulation-size baseball diamond. Shelters may be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact the park office to make reservations.

Camping

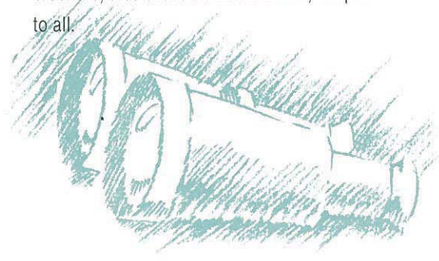
The campground has 50 Class A sites with electricity, a sanitary dump station, and a shower building with flush toilets. In addition, there are 100 Class B sites (showers and vehicle access only), and all camping facilities are accessible to the disabled. Campgrounds may be closed during the spring thaw due to road conditions, and shower facilities may close during the winter. To check on the campground status or for further camping information, contact the park office.

Concessions

Facilities are available for snack food, bait sales, boat rentals and motor rentals on a seasonal basis. For more information, call (815) 824-2607.

Hiking

Four-and-a-half miles of scenic hiking and cross-country skiing trails weave through the wooded areas of the park and a trail brochure is available at the office. Additionally, the specially developed "Touch the Earth" trail, where visitors are guided along by a cassette tape and a special brochure, also available at the office, is open to all.



Fishing and Boating

Whether fishing from a boat or shore, both are popular and productive at Shabbona Lake, which is stocked with large and smallmouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, rock bass, black and white crappie, black and brown bullhead, channel catfish, walleye, muskie and tiger muskie. For fish catch and size limits, contact the park office.

Lake access is available from a double-lane launching ramp. Boat motors are limited to a 10-horsepower maximum. However, an 18-acre upper fishing area is a no-wake zone where only the use of electric trolling motors or rowing is permitted. For further details, including information on special sailing regulations, contact the park office.

Hunting

Archery deer hunting and firearm dove hunting are available on 480 acres. Please contact the park office for further details.

Winter Sports

In addition to the cross-country skiing available on the nature trails, the lake is ringed by a 7-mile snowmobiling trail open Jan. 1, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. when conditions permit. Snowmobilers must register with the park office. Ice fishing and ice skating are allowed when the ice is thick enough, and the rolling terrain is ideal for sledding and tobogganing.

Special Feature

Shabbona Lake is a pilot site for disabled visitor accessibility and the facilities — parking, picnic shelters, water fountains, rest rooms and telephones, even a specially designed fishing pier — are totally accessible.

For more information contact Shabbona Lake State Recreation Area, park office, Route 1, Box 120, Shabbona, Ill., 60550, (815) 824-2106.

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