

The Area

Spring Lake Fish and Wildlife Area is located in Tazewell County, 25 miles southwest of Peoria on the east side of the Illinois River.

In 1950 the state made the initial land acquisition of 632 acres. The total acreage is now 1,946.

The lake lies almost parallel to the Illinois River for 8.5 miles up the river bottoms along the base of the river's east bluff. Spring Lake was described as a meander by an 1840 survey, and title was given to the state of Illinois.

Overlooked by a large sandstone bluff, Spring Lake is a long, narrow lake created by a meander of the Illinois River. The lake covers an area of 1,285 acres, has a maximum depth of 10 feet and has 18 miles of shoreline.

The lake water level was raised by the construction of a higher dike in the late 1950s. The expanded lake was completely filled by 1960. The new lake is nearly twice the size of the old Spring Lake and has also inundated another lake known as Saiwell Lake.

History

Early residents of the Spring Lake area were mound-building Native Americans. The most noted tribes throughout the river valley at the time the French arrived included the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Cahokia, Tamaroa and Michigamie. Most of the Native American people were driven out of the valley by around 1770, and tribal remnants ceded last claims to the area in 1833. White settlement of the Spring Lake valley began around 1830.

Steamboats penetrated up the Illinois River to Peoria in 1829 and by the mid-1800s a significant commerce developed along the river in commodities such as grain and meat. Spring Lake at that time became a feeder-type waterway joined to the river by a backwater slough.

Establishment of the Spring Lake Drainage and Levee District in 1903 resulted in construction of a large dike around the bottoms containing Spring Lake, and boat access to the river was no longer possible. Therefore, the Drainage District was required to construct a marine rail-

way over the dike to accommodate water traffic. Legend has it the railway was used only once, eventually fell into disrepair and was abandoned. Spring Lake also was used by shallow draft vessels for navigational purposes until about 1915.

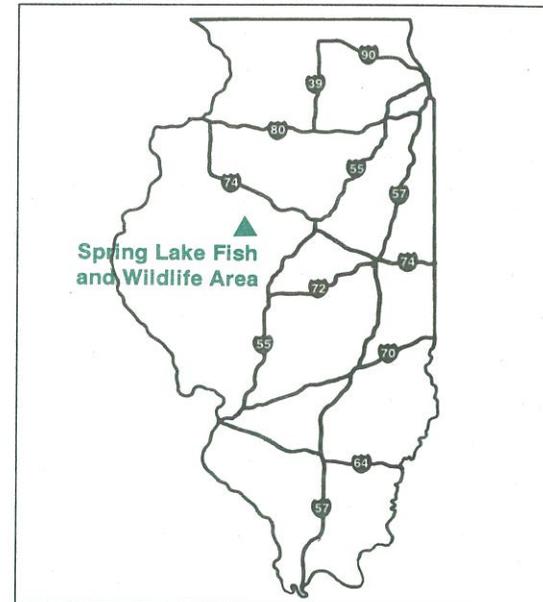
Facilities

There are five day use/picnic areas at Spring Lake. Three of these areas—two in the south park and one in the north park—provide shelters with pedestal grills. All five areas have tables and outdoor stoves. A concessionaire, located near the south boat ramp, provides boat rentals. There is a concessionaire located at the Causeway Day Use Area providing bait, tackle, sandwiches and drinks.

Camping

Pine Campground and Oak Campground, located in the north park, are Class C campgrounds (no showers or electric sites). Seventy sites provide tent and/or trailer camping. A trailer disposal station is available.

A Class D, walk-in campground is located in the south park for tent camping only. Group camping is permitted in this campground.



Spring Lake Fish and Wildlife Area

7982 South Park Rd., Manito, Ill., 61546, 309-968-7135

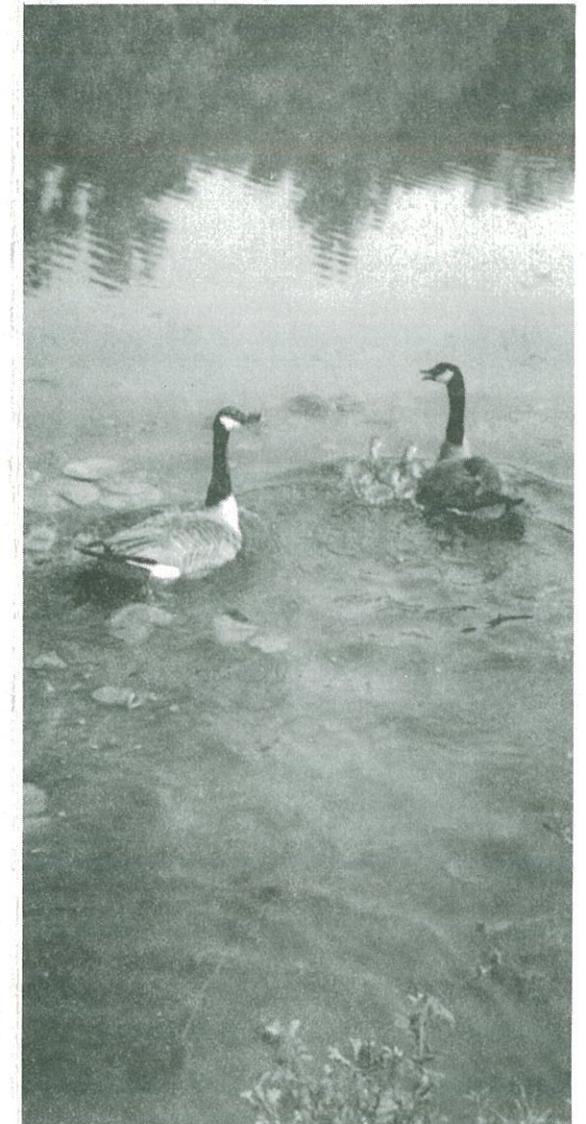
- While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all 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 Natural Resources, Office of the Director, 1000 North First Street, 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 1-800-226-6632 (1-800-2-CONNECT).
- Telecommunications Device for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Natural Resources Information (217) 782-9175 for TDD only Ameritech Relay Number 800-526-0844

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources receives federal financial assistance and therefore must comply with federal anti-discrimination laws. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, 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 Natural Resources, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701-1787, (217) 782-7616, or the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240 Printed by authority of the State of Illinois 50M-4-95

Spring Lake

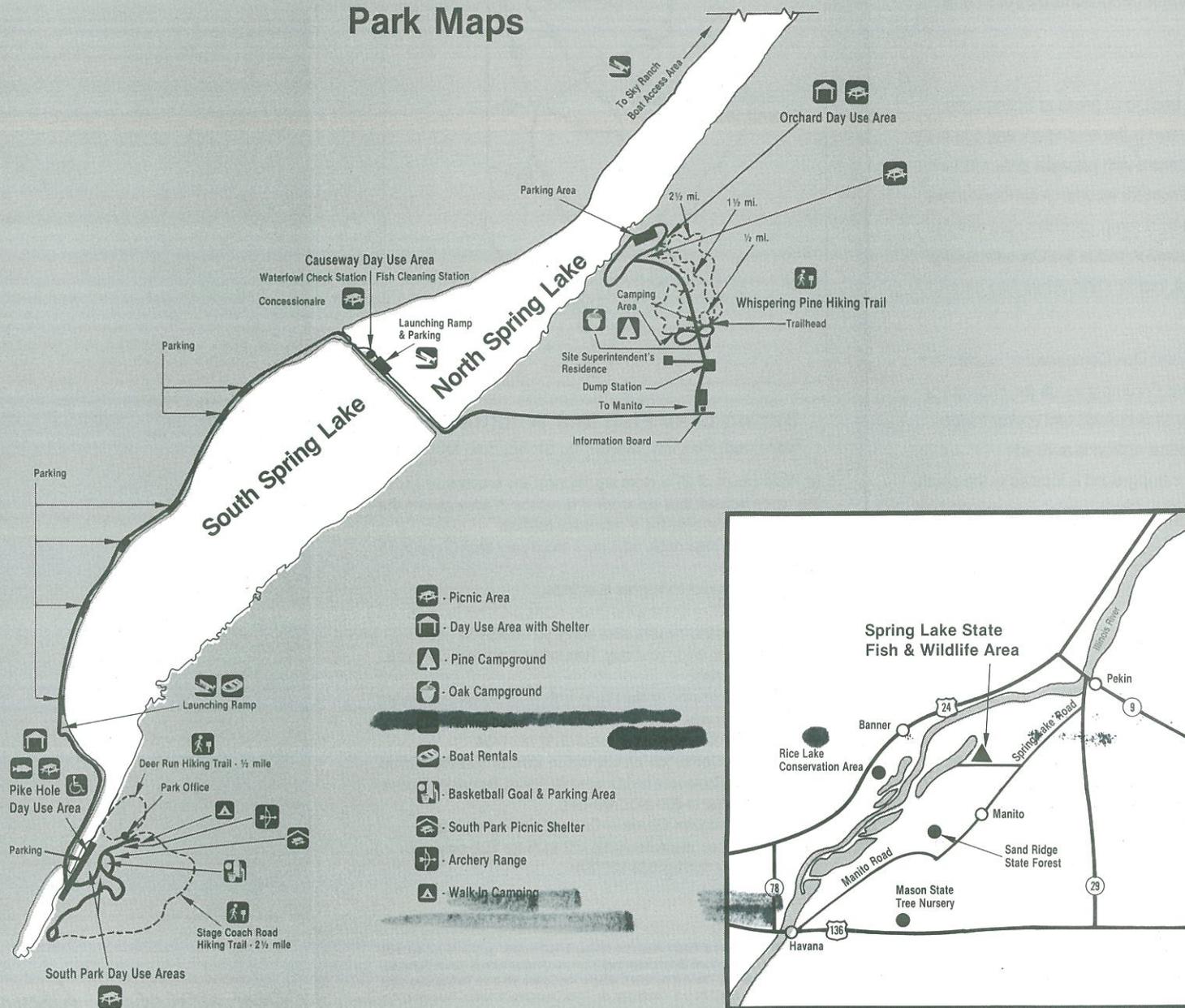
FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



open spaces... family places

Park Maps



Fishing and Boating

The lake is divided into two separate lakes. North lake has largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, muskie, channel catfish, sunfish, bullheads and carp. The south lake has largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, channel catfish, northern pike and sunfish.

There are two gravel and two concrete launching ramps on the north lake. South Lake has one concrete boat launching ramp. Boat motors are limited to 25 horsepower and there are creel and length limits on most species. Ice fishing is permitted, but caution should be used due to underwater springs, which can weaken ice.



Hiking

Hikers can enjoy five trails within the park. The Stage Coach Road hiking trail is 2 1/2 miles long, Deer Run hiking trail is 1/2 mile long, and the Whispering Pine hiking trail is divided into three separate trails of 1/2 mile, 1 1/2 miles, and 2 1/2 miles.

Hunting

Waterfowl, squirrel and deer archery hunting are allowed at Spring Lake. Please check with site personnel concerning site regulations, season dates, limits, and designated hunting areas.