

Horseback Riding

NORTHWEST - REGION 1

1. Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Park
2. Rock Cut State Park
3. Lowden-Miller State Forest
4. Franklin Creek State Natural Area
5. Morrison-Rockwood State Park
6. Green River State Wildlife Area
7. Putnam County Conservation Area
8. Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park
9. Matthiessen State Park
10. Big River State Forest
11. Jubilee College State Park
12. Argyle Lake State Park

NORTHEAST - REGION 2

13. Chain O'Lakes State Park
14. Silver Springs State Park
15. DesPlaines Conservation Area
16. Kankakee River State Park

EAST-CENTRAL - REGION 3

17. Moraine View State Park
18. Middle Fork, State Fish & Wildlife Area
19. Kickapoo State Park
20. Wolf Creek State Park
21. Fox Ridge State Park

WEST-CENTRAL - REGION 4

22. Sand Ridge State Forest
23. Weinberg-King State Park
24. Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish & Wildlife Area
25. Siloam Springs State Park
26. Sangchris Lake State Park
27. Pere Marquette State Park
28. Horseshoe Lake State Park
29. Kaskaskia River State Fish & Wildlife Area
30. Randolph State Fish & Wildlife Area
31. Turkey Bluffs State Fish & Wildlife Area

SOUTH - REGION 5

32. Ramsey Lake State Park
33. Crawford County State Fish & Wildlife Area
34. Sam Parr State Fish & Wildlife Area
35. Newton Lake State Fish Wildlife Area
36. Red Hills State Park
37. Stephen A. Forbes State Park
38. Sam Dale Conservation Area
39. Rend Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area
40. Wayne Fitzgerald State Park
41. Hamilton County Conservation Area
42. Pyramid State Park
43. Saline County Conservation Area
44. Giant City State Park
45. Trail of Tears State Forest
46. Ferne Clyffe State Park

DNR INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE

Additional publications are available from the DNR Clearinghouse, including Illinois State Parks Magazine, Illinois Hunting Digest, Illinois Fishing Regulations, state park informational brochures, recreational guides, and educational materials available to students and teachers.

To obtain these publications and materials, contact:
 Illinois Department of Natural Resources
 Information Clearinghouse
 One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271
 217-782-7498, TTY 217-782-9175, FAX: 217-782-4091
dnr.state.il.us

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Subscribe to **OutdoorIllinois** magazine. A publication of the Department of Natural Resources, it's the perfect source of information for the outdoor enthusiast who loves to fish, hunt, camp, boat, hike, ski, bike, birdwatch, or simply enjoys being outdoors. From colorful stories about state park sites to season dates and other informative features on a variety of activities, **OutdoorIllinois** has it all!

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ILLINOIS Conservation Foundation
 The role of the Illinois Conservation Foundation and its partners is to preserve and enhance our precious natural resources by supporting and fostering ecological, educational and recreational programs for the benefit of all people now and for generations to come.

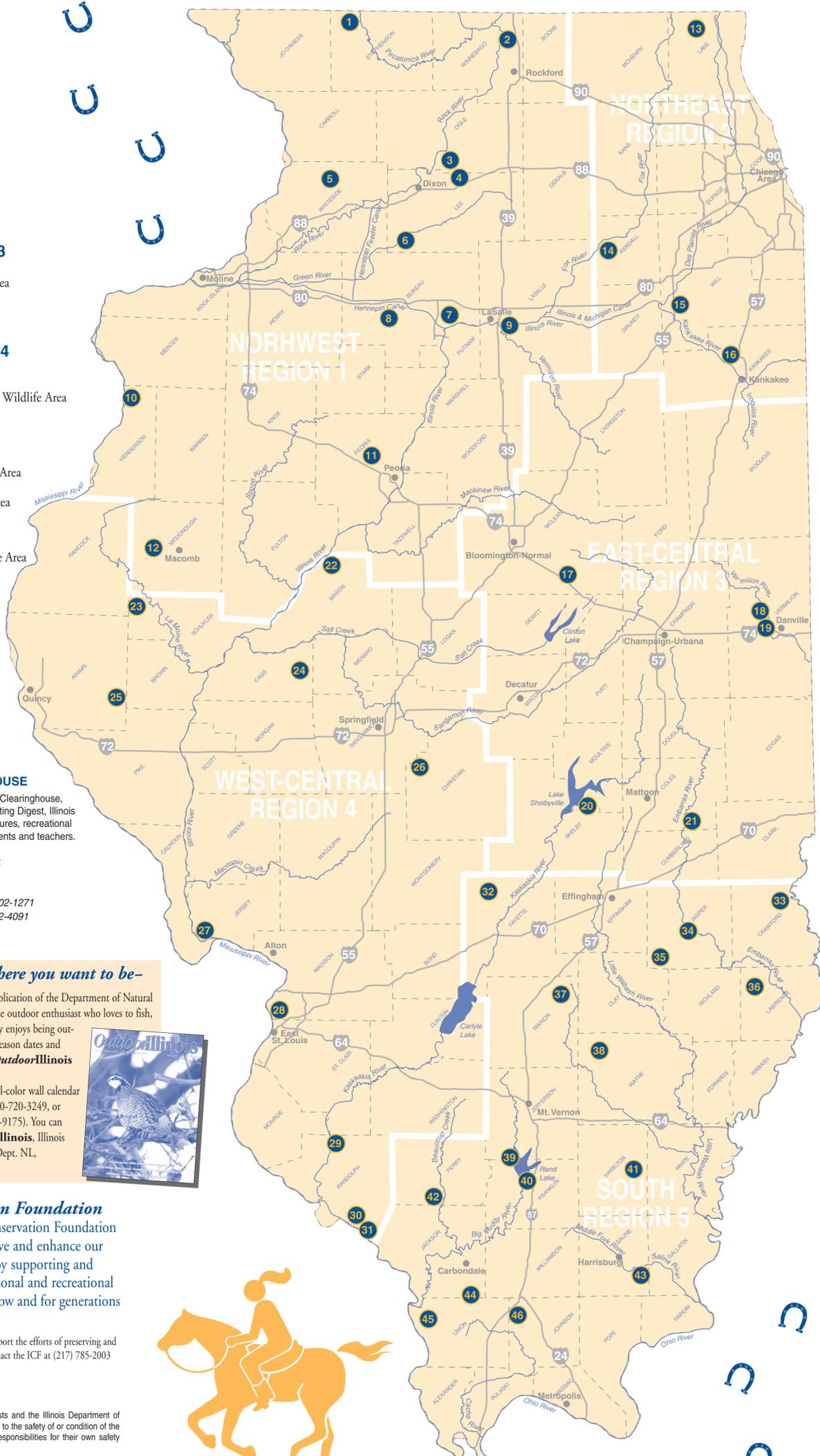
For information about the ICF and how you can help support the efforts of preserving and restoring the natural and cultural resources of Illinois, contact the ICF at (217) 785-2003 or visit their website at www.ilcf.org.

Notice

This guide is published as an aid to outdoor recreationalists and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources makes no express or implied warranty as to the safety of or condition of the trails listed herein. Recreationalists assume all risks and responsibilities for their own safety when using a trail listed in this guide.

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When horse trails are utilized, these rules must be observed.

While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use state park 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.



Horseback riding will be permitted only in state parks, fish and wildlife areas, conservation areas and state forests designated for equestrian use by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.



All horseback riders must stay on designated trails and cannot make new trails, short cuts or trail modifications. They should not detour around muddy areas or other obstacles as this detracts from the aesthetics of the trail and often worsens the original problem.



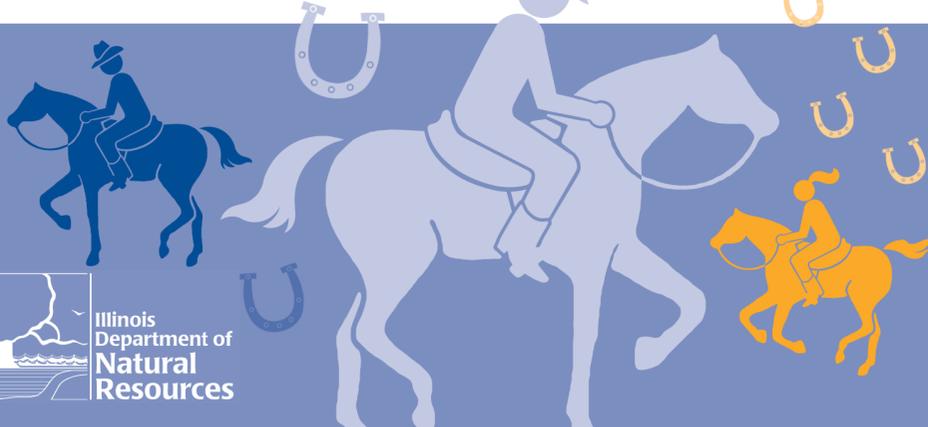
Horseback riders, if camping, shall use designated equestrian camp areas and are asked to keep camp areas and trail head facilities clean by depositing manure in designated composting facilities. Litter should be placed in the containers provided.



Do not tie horses directly to trees.



State areas open to hunting are generally closed for equestrian use during hunting seasons. Hunting season dates vary greatly for state sites and also may change each year. Trails also may be closed during spring thaw and during extended wet periods to help preserve the trail. Riders are asked to call ahead, especially in the spring and fall.



State of Illinois
 Illinois Department of Natural Resources



Horseback Riding

Illinois Horseback Riding Guide

Illinois Horseback Riding Trails

PARK	ADDRESS	MILES	TERRAIN	HORSE CAMP	HORSE RENTAL	DATES & TIMES CLOSED	OTHER INFORMATION
NORTHWEST—REGION 1							
1	Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Park 8542 North Lake Road, Lena 61048 (815) 369-4282	8	S, F, P, T	Yes/10 units, Class C; water - dependent on horseback trail conditions, call first.	No	Closed when extremely wet and from Nov. 15-April 15.	Riders must stay on designated equestrian trails.
2	Rock Cut State Park 7318 Harlem Road, Loves Park 61111 (815) 885-3612	14	S, F, T	Yes/40 units, Class C; water.	No	Dec. 1 - April 1, and during deer hunting season in November for disabled hunters.	
3	Lowden-Miller State Forest c/o Castle Rock State Park 1365 W. Castle Road, Oregon 61061 (815) 732-7329	6	T, L	No	No	Nov. 15 - May 15.	Trail used for cross-country skiing and hiking.
4	Franklin Creek State Natural Area 1872 Twist Road, Franklin Grove 61031 (815) 456-2878	6	G, T, P	Yes/20 units, Class C; has water and toilets.	No	Check with park officials during archery deer season.	Park has an arena for horse shows. Groups wanting to use camp are advised to call in advance.
5	Morrison-Rockwood State Park 18750 Lake Road, Morrison 61270 (815) 772-4708	14	G, F, T	Yes/20 units, Class B/S; water.	No	Oct. 16 - May 14.	Riders must stay on designated trails.
6	Green River State Wildlife Area 375 Game Road, Harmon 61042 (815) 379-2324	10	L, S, F, T	Yes/not divided into units; Class C; water	No	Nov. 1 - April 14	Horseback riders permitted to use trails April 15 - Oct 31.
7	Putnam County Conservation Area P.O. Box 52, DePue 61322 (815) 447-2353	3	R, T	Yes/10 units, Class D; no water.	No	Bottomlands sometimes flood, but trails on river bluffs are usually open, weather permitting.	Horses can drink from river or creek. Trails used for cross-country skiing in winter.
8	Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park 16006-875 East St., Sheffield 61361 (815) 454-2328	73	L, F, F, T	Yes/10 units, Class C; no water; no showers.	No	The entire canal is closed from Nov. 1 - April 30	Camp is located near Wyanet at Lock 21. The trails are multi-use, so riders will encounter hikers, bikers and anglers. Horses are allowed on grass tow path only.
9	Matthiessen State Park P. O. Box 509, Utica 61373 (815) 667-4868	9	G, F, A, T	Yes/25 units, Class C; water.	Yes	Closed when extremely wet. Check with park office during dove season, Sept. 1 - 30.	Riders must stay on designated trails. Cross-country skiing.
10	Big River State Forest R.R. 1, Box 118, Keithsburg 61442 (309) 374-2496	46	L, G, T, P	Yes/35 units, Class C; water, stable.	No	Closed during firearm deer and dove seasons; until noon during spring turkey season, and high fire danger.	Riders must stay off hiking trails and scenic gravel roads. Must stay on marked trails and fire lanes.
11	Jubilee College State Park 13921 West Route 150, Brimfield 61517 (309) 446-3758	40	L, G, R, T, P	Yes/60 units, Class B/S; water.	No	Nov. 1 - April 15 and when extremely wet.	Riders must stay on designated trails. Trails are multi-use; riders will encounter hikers and mountain bikers.
12	Argyle Lake State Park 640 Argyle Park Road, Colchester 62326 (309) 776-3422	7	R, T	Yes/25 units, Class C; water.	No	Closed only when extremely wet and Nov. 1 - March 15.	Very rough terrain; not for inexperienced riders. This trail is shared with mountain bikes. Riders must stay on designated trails.
NORTHEAST—REGION 2							
13	Chain O'Lakes State Park 8916 Wilmot Road, Spring Grove 60081 (847) 587-5512	7	G, T, F	No	Yes	Nov. 1 - April 30.	Water is available at horse rental area. Stable phone: (815) 675-6532.
14	Silver Springs State Fish & Wildlife Area 13608 Fox Road, Yorkville 60560 (630) 553-6297	7	L, P, F	No	No	Sept. 1-30 and when upland game season is in effect.	Hand pump available at park office, about halfway along trail route.
15	DesPlaines Conservation Area 24621 North River Road, Wilmington 60481 (815) 423-5326	12	L	No	No	Oct. 1 - April 15.	Riders must stay on designated equestrian trails.
16	Kankakee River State Park 5314 W. Rt. 102, P.O. Box 37, Bourbonnais 60914 (815) 933-1383	15	L, F, P, T	Yes/11 units, Class C; water; grass pasture.	Yes	Sept. 1 - April 15.	Trail follows river edge and is scenic. In winter, trail is used for snowmobiling. Stable phone: (815) 939-0309.
EAST-CENTRAL—REGION 3							
17	Moraine View State Park R.R. 2, Box 110, LeRoy 61752 (309) 724-8032	13	G, P, T	Yes/30 units, Class A, B/E; water.	Yes	Nov. 1 - March 15.	The equestrian camp can be full on major holidays. Horses are available at the stables for group trail rides. Stable phone: (309) 724-8043.
18	Middle Fork, State Fish & Wildlife Area 10906 Kickapoo Park Road, Oakwood 61858 (217) 442-4915	35	L, R, T, F	Yes/50 Units, Class C; water; sanitary dump.	No	During firearm deer season.	Portions of trails are used for snowmobiling, other parts for cross-country skiing, in winter. Riders must stay on designated trails.
19	Kickapoo State Park 10906 Kickapoo Park Road, Oakwood 61858 (217) 442-4915	3	L, G, F, P, T	No	Yes	May 1 - Nov. 1, weather permitting.	Kickapoo trails available for horse rental use only. Please call for times and scheduling.
20	Wolf Creek State Park R.R. 1, Box 99, Windsor 61957 (217) 459-2831	16	S, G, T, F	Yes/23 units, Class A, Class B/E, Class C; water (showers available).	Yes	Closed when there's four or more inches of snow so trail can be used for snowmobiles. Also closed when extremely wet and during firearm deer season.	
21	Fox Ridge State Park 18175 State Park Rd., Box 234, Charleston 61920 (217) 345-6416	5	L, F, P, T	No	No	Oct. 15 - April 15.	Freeze-thaw conditions may warrant closing trails in the spring.
WEST-CENTRAL—REGION 4							
22	Sand Ridge State Forest 25779 E. Co. Rd. 2300 N, P.O. Box 111, Forest City 61532 (309) 597-2212	40	G, L, T	Yes/50 units, Class C; water.	No	During firearm deer season.	Trails don't get muddy, so spring and fall are good times to go horseback riding.
23	Weinberg-King State Park P.O. Box 203, Augusta 62311 (217) 392-2345	24	G, F, P, T	Yes/30 units, Class C; water.	No	Closed only when extremely wet.	Horseback riding is allowed year-round, including during dove season. Snowmobilers use same trails in winter.
24	Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish & Wildlife Area 10149 County Hwy. 11, Chandlerville 62627 (217) 452-7741	26	L, G, R, P, A, T	Yes/52 units, Class AA; water.	No	Nov. 1 - April 1.	Formerly called Site M.
25	Siloam Springs State Park R.R. 1, Box 204, Clayton 62324 (217) 894-6205	23	L, R, T, P	Yes/32 units, Class B/S; 8 units, Class A; water.	No	Nov. 1 - April 15. Also closed when ground is excessively wet.	Horse clubs should call in advance to see if camp has enough room. Horses are not allowed to cross Benville Road.
26	Sangchris Lake State Park 9898 Cascade Road, Rochester 62563 (217) 498-9208	20	L, G, T	Yes/5 units, Class D; water nearby.	No	Call site office for information.	Horses can drink at creek crossings.
27	Pere Marquette State Park P.O. Box 158, Grafton 62037 (618) 786-3323	18	R, G, T, A	No	Yes	Closed till 1:00 p.m. during spring turkey season. Call about further information.	Horse rental is for group guided rides only. Gate to trail is locked year-round, so before ride, stop by park office to have it unlocked. Stable phone: (618) 786-2156.
28	Horseshoe Lake State Park (Madison County) 3321 Hwy. 111, Granite City 62040 (618) 931-0270	5	L, A	No	No	Open when conditions permit.	Trail is multi-use; riders should check in at site office.
29	Kaskaskia River State Fish & Wildlife Area 10981 Conservation Rd., Baldwin 62217 (618) 785-2555	9	L, T, A	No	No	Nov. 1 - Jan. 15 and when extremely wet.	Trails are dirt access roads with entry from Dry Lake. Horses can drink from creeks and ponds.
30	Randolph State Fish & Wildlife Area 4301 S. Lakeside Rd., Chester 62233 (618) 826-2706	12	G, T, F, P, A	Yes/ Class C, water.	No	Nov. 1 - April 1.	Trails cross a couple of creeks where horses can drink.
31	Turkey Bluffs State Fish & Wildlife Area 4301 S. Lakeside Dr., Chester 62233 (618) 826-2706	7	G, T, F, P	No	No	Nov. 1 - April 1.	Water available for horses at creek crossings.
SOUTH—REGION 5							
32	Ramsey Lake State Park P.O. Box 97, Ramsey 62080 (618) 423-2215	13	L, G, T, F	Yes/8 units, Class C.	No	Nov. 1 - Jan. 15, and closed when extremely wet.	
33	Crawford County State Fish & Wildlife Area 12609 E. 1700th Ave., Hutsonville 62433 (618) 563-4405	10	L, S, P, T	No	No	Nov. 1 - March 31.	Parking area is nice. Horses can drink from creeks and wildlife pond.
34	Sam Parr State Fish & Wildlife Area 13225 East State Hwy. 33, Newton 62448 (618) 783-2661	13	G, R, F, P, T	No	No	Closed Aug. 25 - April 30. Reopen May 1 or as weather permits.	Horses can drink at several creek crossings.
35	Newton Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area 3490 E. 500th Ave., Newton 62448 (618) 783-3478	22	G, T	No	No	Closed in November or December, depending on ground conditions until spring thaw.	Hikers and cross-country skiers use the same multi-use trail system. Trailhead located at picnic area.
36	Red Hills State Park 1100 N & 400 E R.R. 2, Box 252A, Sumner 62466 (618) 936-2469	5	L, T, F, W, P, G	Yes/11 units plus tent sites, Class C; water.	No	Closed when extremely wet and during upland game season as per statewide regulations.	Park has oldest chartered horse arena in state. Available for use. Access off Illinois Rte. 250. Variety of landscapes.
37	Stephen A. Forbes State Park 6924 Omega Road, Kinmundy 62854 (618) 547-3381	15	L, S, R, T, F	Yes/21 units, Class B/E; water and electricity.	No	Closed Nov. 1 - April 15 or when extremely wet.	Equestrian camp and trailhead is located 2 miles east of Omega on a county road.
38	Sam Dale Conservation Area R.R. 1, Box 101, Johnsonville 62850 (618) 835-2292	8	L, S, T, F	No	No	Nov. 1 - April 15.	Additional loop on the northeast corner that leads to the lake. Accessible ramp to mount horse available.
39	Rend Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area 10885 E. Jefferson Road, Bonnie 62816 (618) 279-3110	8	L, S, T	No	No	Closed during 2-week waterfowl season in the fall.	Trail crosses several creeks from which horses can drink.
40	Wayne Fitzgerrall State Park 11094 Ranger Road, Whittington 62897 (618) 629-2320	9	L, F, A, P, T, W	No	Yes	Closed Nov. 1 - April 14 or when extremely wet. Horse rental April 15 - Sept. 15.	The equestrian trail is laid out for field trials from mid-September to mid-April. Although trail isn't closed, it's recommended to check with field trial personnel before riding.
41	Hamilton County Conservation Area R.R. 4, Box 242, McLeansboro 62859 (618) 773-4340	5	S, T, P	No	No	During firearm deer season; when weather warrants. Nov. 1 - April 30.	Water available at trailhead. Stable is available, but not for overnight use.
42	Pyramid State Park 1562 Pyramid Park Road, Pinckneyville 62274 (618) 357-2574	8	G, P, T, A	Yes/10 units, Class C; no water.	No	Oct. 15 - April 15	Although equestrian camp doesn't have water, there are several water holes in the surrounding area. Rustic toilets also are nearby.
43	Saline County Conservation Area 85 Glen O. Jones Road, Equality 62934 (618) 276-4405	4	R, G, T, W	Yes/5 units, Class C; no water at camp, but a hydrant is 250 yards away.	No	Nov. 1 - March 15.	A 1-mile section connects with a forest service trail, which hooks into the River-to-River Trail. A 3-mile section goes back to the Saline River.
44	Giant City State Park 336 Church Road, Makanda 62958 (618) 457-4836	12	R, T	Yes/25 units, Class A; water.	Yes	Nov. 1 - May 1.	Terrain can be rough but route is scenic. Stable phone: (618) 529-4110.
45	Trail of Tears State Forest 3240 State Forest Rd., Jonesboro 62952 (618) 833-4910	17	R, L, T	No	No	Closed shotgun deer season - May 1. Also closed when extremely wet.	Horses can drink at creeks and at wildlife water holes.
46	Ferne Clyffe State Park R.R. 37, Box 10, Goreville 62939 (618) 995-2411	15	G, R, T	Yes/25 units, Class C; water (showers available).	No	Nov. 1 - April 30.	Use tether poles to tie up horses at camp, not trees. Recommend camp availability check in advance. Includes section of River-to-River Trail.

Horse & Equipment Rental

Some of the state parks and lodges have riding stables adjacent to them that have horses and equipment available for use within that facility. It's recommended you call ahead to verify horse availability and rental rates.

- 9 Starved Rock Stables
R. R. #1, Rte. 71 • Oglesby, IL 61348
(815) 667-3026
Public riding facility adjacent to Matthiessen State Park and Starved Rock State Park
- 13 Chain O'Lakes State Park Riding Stable
Carolyn Adams
8916 Wilmot Road
Spring Grove, IL 60081
(815) 675-6532
- 16 Kankakee River State Park Riding Stable
6500 N. 5000 West Road
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 939-0309

- 17 Moraine View State Park Riding Stable
Outlaw Outfitters
P.O. Box 130 • LeRoy, IL 61752
(309) 724-8043
- 18 Kickapoo Guided Trail Riders, Inc.
941 CR, 2600 E. • Homer, IL 61849
(217) 000-0000 (?)
- 20 Wolf Creek Stables
R. R. #1, Box 199 • Windsor, IL 61957
(W) 217/459-2538
(H) 217/229-4518

- 27 Pere Marquette State Park Riding Stable
Kent Jackson
R. R. #1, Box 209
Grafton, IL 62037
(618) 786-2156
- 40 Wayne Fitzgerrall Rancho Bandera
11094 Ranger Road
Whittington, IL 62897
(618) 629-2260
- 46 Giant City Stables
Michael & Carole Hadden
722 Giant City Road • Makanda, IL 62958
(618) 529-4110



Key to Horseback Trails

TERRAIN AND VEGETATION

- L - Level
- S - Slightly rolling
- G - Gently rolling, hilly
- R - Rugged, rough
- F - Field edges, open fields
- P - Prairies, grasslands
- A - Agricultural areas
- W - Wildlife food plots
- T - Timbered

CAMPING FACILITIES AND FEES

- Class A** - showers, electricity and vehicular access - \$10 plus \$5 utility fee/night.
- Class AA** - showers, electricity and sewer hookup - \$15 plus \$5 utility fee/night.
- Class B/E** - electricity and vehicular access - \$8 plus \$5 utility fee/night.
- Class B/S** - showers and vehicular access - \$10/night.
- Class C** - vehicular access - \$8/night or walk-in with shower access.
- Class D** - tent camping or primitive sites (walk-in or backpack) with no vehicular access - \$6/night.