

Facilities

Picnicking: The area provides a day-use area with picnic tables, stoves and a shelter.

Camping: Sites for tents and trailers are provided. Water, pit privies and a sanitary dump station are available. Due to periodic flooding of the Illinois River, it is advisable to call ahead and check on conditions before you visit.

Boating: The site provides boat docks and a public boat ramp. There is no horsepower limit. Large boats are unable to navigate the shallow backwater lakes.

Fishing: The fishing water consists of a broad expanse of the Illinois River known as Upper Peoria Lake and Goose Lake, plus 3,475 feet of manmade fishing channels. The channels provide excellent bullhead and crappie fishing in the late winter and early spring because the area's artesian wells keep the channels free from ice.

Hunting: Squirrel hunting is allowed and designated blind sites are offered for waterfowl hunting. A hunter fact sheet is available by mail or at the site office.

Trails: More than 3 miles of marked trails are available for hiking, cross-country skiing and hunter access from Dec. 15 - Oct. 1. Because the trail area is composed of levees used as a waterfowl management area, trails are closed during fall migration. No bicycles or other vehicles are allowed on the trails.



Woodford State Fish and Wildlife Area
R.R. 1, Lowpoint, IL 61545, 309-822-8861

- 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 Public Services, 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 1-800-2CONNECT.

Telecommunication Device for Deaf and Hearing Impaired
Natural Resources Information (217) 782-9175 for TDD only
Relay Number 800-526-0844

Woodford STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA



Illinois
Department of
Natural Resources

Woodford State Fish and Wildlife Area

Woodford State Fish and Wildlife Area is a picturesque area along the east side of the Illinois River. Among its features are many artesian wells, which make the manmade channels an excellent winter fishing area. The 2,900-acre area, of which 2,462 are water, is a favorite stopping point for waterfowl during migration.

The Natural Scenery

The area comprises bottomland forest and backwater lakes of the Illinois River and features a wide variety of fauna and flora. Cottonwood, silver maple and willow cover much of the low-lying land. Deer, raccoon, muskrat, mink and beaver find this habitat to their liking and sometimes can be observed at dawn and dusk. Tall and stately great blue herons also are found in large numbers on the backwaters, and during winter it is not unusual to see a bald eagle soaring above the frozen lakes or perched atop a snag.

A major waterfowl refuge of 1,400 acres exists on the area. While less attractive to wildlife due to heavy siltation in recent years, backwater lakes still attract large flights of waterfowl during migration. However, only wood ducks and Canada geese commonly nest and raise their young here. Hawks and owls, especially barred owls, are common to the area, as are an assortment of songbirds and woodpeckers.

