

As you explore the Horseshoe Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area, you may be reminded of the Deep South. The charm of bald cypress, tupelo gum, swamp cottonwood trees and wild lotus makes the recreational activities at the site even more enjoyable. Located in Alexander County just east of Illinois Route 3 seven miles north of Cairo, the 10,200 acre area includes a 2,400 acre shallow lake. In addition to taking in the beauty of the natural features of the area, visitors enjoy picnicking, camping, boating, fishing and hunting.

The first 49 acres of the park were purchased by the Department of Conservation in 1927 for development as a Canada Goose sanctuary. Additional tracts of land, including Horseshoe Island, continued to be purchased to create the State Fish & Wildlife Area that greets visitors today.

Canada geese began wintering at the site in 1928. The original 1,000 birds increased to a population of

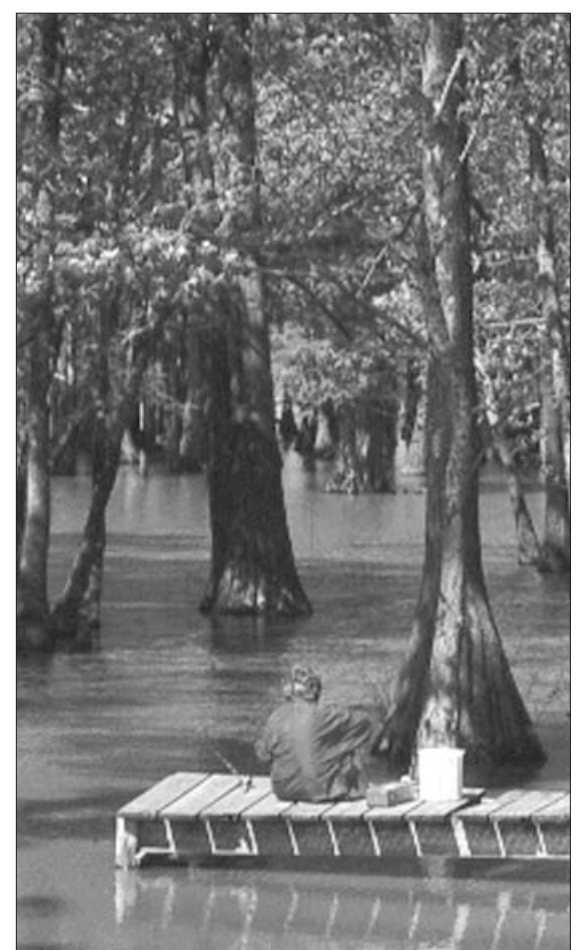
## Horseshoe Lake - Conservation Area



State of Illinois  
Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources



## Horseshoe Lake Conservation Area



HORSESHOE LAKE CONSERVATION AREA



**Illinois**  
Department of  
Natural Resources

Bald cypress, tupelo gum and swamp cottonwood trees surround Horseshoe Lake and create spectacular scenery. Flora and fauna normally found in swampland much further south thrive in this setting. Visitors during fall and winter see large populations of waterfowl and bald eagles. Spring and summer guests will enjoy the vibrant colors of the foliage. Some of the most beautiful blooms are found on red buckeye shrubs in April and wild lotus in June.

## Natural Features

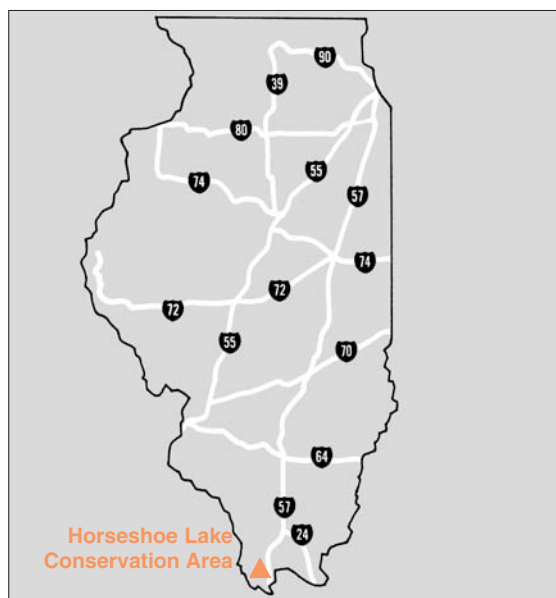
Horseshoe Island, Horseshoe Lake and all areas not designated for public hunting are used to maintain and support the Canada goose population. A variety of food requirements are met by producing green pasture and grain crops in the refuge. Research programs, including banding, provide important information about the geese. Over 50,000 birds have been trapped, banded and released through the years at Horseshoe Lake.

## Refuge Area

With its large stands of beautiful trees around its 20 mile shoreline, Horseshoe Lake is a beautiful body of water. Since 1930, when a concrete, fixed spillway was constructed, the lake has maintained a constant four-foot depth.

## Horseshoe Lake

Canada geese winter at the site, thanks to improved refuge management and harvest controls. more than 40,000 by 1944. Today, up to 150,000



**Horseshoe Lake Conservation Area**  
P.O. Box 85, Miller City, IL, 62962, 618-776-5689

- 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 tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity 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.

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 non-merit 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; 217/785-0067, TTY 217/782-9175

Printed by authority of the State of Illinois • 15M • 6/06

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IISG816  
PRT3400467

Bluegill, sunfish, crappie, largemouth bass and channel catfish are in abundant supply, and anglers who can adapt to shallow-water fishing will have a great time. The most popular fishing technique at the lake, called bucktailing, was developed there as a way to offset the water depth.

## Fishing and Boating



With all the beautiful view and recreational activities at Horseshoe Lake to choose from, you may wish to stay a few days to experience them all. There are 38 Class A camping sites with electricity and showers, 40 Class B/E camping sites with electricity only, and 10 Class C sites available for overnight guests.

## Camping

Complete your visit to the "South" with a picnic at one of the four picnic areas located around the park. Each site includes picnic tables, park stoves and parking. Visitors with children might appreciate the playground located at the picnic area near the spillway. Drinking water is available at hydrants and fountains conveniently located throughout the park.

## Picnicking

A bucktail is a small leadhead jig tied with several short strands of hair. You might think that deer hair is used because of the name, but the lure is actually tied with calf hair. A fly rod with monofilament line is used to bounce and move the lure a foot deep or more, simulation a swimming minnow. No bobber is used; when a fish hits, the angler feels the strike.

Boat launching ramps are conveniently located around the lake, with nine boat docks for rent and private boats (10 horsepower motor limit). Only trolling motors are allowed between Oct. 15th and March 1st.











## Hunting

The public hunting area comprises more than 3000 acres of timber, wetlands and croplands. A portion of this area is managed primarily for goose hunting. A total of 23 blinds can accommodate 40 hunters per day. Additional hunting opportunities exist for deer, squirrels, ducks and doves. Check with area headquarters for specific regulations.

For more information, contact Horseshoe Lake Conservation Area, P.O. Box 85, Miller City, Ill., 62962, (618) 776-5689 or 776-5215.

**Legend**

-  Trail
-  Boat Launch
-  Campground
-  Park Office
-  Picnic Area
-  Sanitary Dump Station
-  Showers
-  Boundaries for Hunting Areas

