



Wildlife

The areas around Carlyle Lake are home to an abundance of wildlife, including the Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake, an Illinois endangered species. The shy, retreating nature and small size of this snake, averaging only 24 inches, make it hard to find.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, has initiated a study to understand the habits, range and habitat necessary to sustain this protected species. Should you come upon a Massasauga, please do not kill it or disturb it, but report it to the park staff, a campground host or call (618) 594-3015. Your cooperation is vital for their survival.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271

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State of Illinois
Illinois Department of Natural Resources



Eldon Hazlet State Park Hiking Trail Guide



Illinois Department of
Natural Resources
Eldon Hazlet State Park

Trail Descriptions

Cherokee Trail [3.0 miles]

Trail to cemetery is wheelchair accessible.



Three miles of winding trails take you through a mature oak-hickory forest, over four foot-bridges and along the shoreline for great views of the lake. Loop 1 (1.5 miles) has been developed as a tree identification trail and connects to the Osage Youth Campground. Loop 2 (.75 mile) passes by views of the lake. Loop 3 (.75 mile) passes by Burnside Cemetery, a pre-Civil War cemetery where some of Clinton County's original settlers are buried.

Kaskaskian Trail [2.5 miles]

This trail is named in honor of the Mississippian Native Americans who inhabited the Kaskaskia River Valley from approximately A.D. 900-1300. The Kaskaskian Trail leads the hiker through a variety of natural habitats and offers excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. The trailhead is at the park office, although the trail may be accessed from many areas including the Illini Campground, Osage Youth Campground, Pawnee Trail and the Apache Day Use Area.

Illini Trail [1.5 miles]

Trail is wheelchair accessible.



Located across from the campground store, this trail winds through a restored prairie and loops around the Homer Guthrie Fishing Pond. The fishing pond is open to bank fishing.

All Hiking Trails Are Closed

*on Wednesday through Sunday
from early November to early
January due to the*

Controlled Pheasant Hunting Program



Pawnee Trail [1.0 mile]

The Pawnee Trail may be accessed from two trailheads. The main trailhead is located at the parking lot area of the Lakefront Cottages; it is also accessible from the Cherokee Trail parking lot.

Beginning at the Cottage Trailhead, the trail runs along a high ridge overlooking the lake, past the Burnside Cemetery, to the Cherokee Trail parking lot and through a successional growth field. From the cemetery to the Cherokee Trail parking lot, Pawnee and Loop 3 of Cherokee share the same trail.

Eagle Trail [0.75 mile]

This trail was developed in May 1996 by a local Boy Scout as part of his requirements to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Located near the north end of the Illini Campground, the Eagle Trail offers an easy hike on level terrain.

Wetland Educational Trail [0.5 mile]

Trail is wheelchair accessible.



This trail winds through a permanent pond and moist-soil habitat. It is an excellent place to view waterfowl, shorebirds and wading birds.

Interpretive signs along the trail educate hikers on the benefits of wetlands.

Bluestem Trail [0.5 mile]

Trail is wheelchair accessible.



A quarter-mile interpretive loop trail winds through a three-acre prairie restoration area directly across from the park office. More than 50 species of native prairie plants are present, including both little and big bluestem grasses, compass plant, rattlesnake master, purple coneflower, wild quinine and blazing star.

Guided Trail Hikes

Eldon Hazlet State Park has more than nine miles of hiking trails throughout the park. Guided hikes conducted by the park's interpreter are offered periodically during the summer camping season. For scheduling information, contact John Bunnell at the park office or call 618/594-3015.

Trail Reminders

- Pack it in, pack it out.
- Keep pets on leashes.
- Do not disturb wildlife.
- Bikes and horses are not allowed on the hiking trails.
- Poison ivy is very common along the hiking trails.

Learn to identify it and avoid it.

Leaves of three - let it be!

