

Trails – Sam Parr State Fish & Wildlife Area has more than 2 miles of trails for hikers, birders and other nature enthusiasts. The park also offers 13 miles of equestrian trails, which are open April 1 - August 25.



Camping – The park features 30 Class BE campsites as well as a Class D (no vehicular access) campground. Campsites are located near the lake on the park's west side. Before setting up camp, all campers must obtain a permit from park staff.

Fishing – With its largemouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, bullhead and channel catfish, the lake is popular among anglers. Boats, whose motors are limited to 10 horsepower, can be launched from one of two boat ramps on the north and south side of the lake. Boat dock rentals are available. Fishing access and parking also are offered on the lake's east side via a county road. In addition to anglers, canoeists find the lake a peaceful retreat.

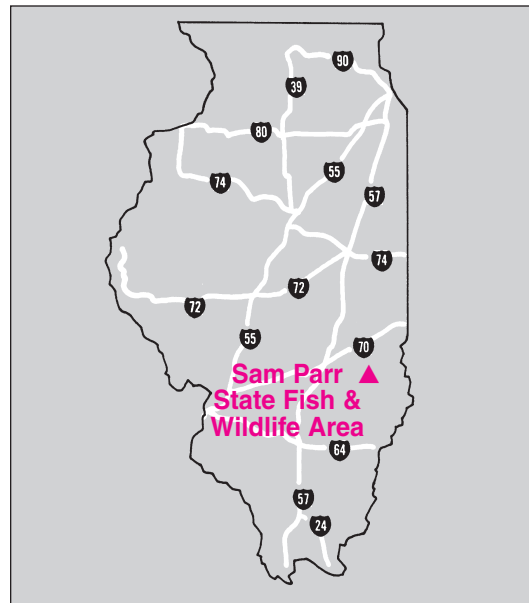
Hunting – Hunters must check with the site office about hunting dates for upland game species. During specified seasons, squirrel, dove, woodcock, quail, rabbit, deer (bow only) and turkey may be hunted. All hunters must check in and out at the site office, which serves as the check station.

Winter Sports – When conditions on the lake allow, ice skating and ice fishing are permitted. Check with the site office.

Exotic Species

Plants and animals not native to Illinois are exotic species. Most of them are harmless to our state; however, some can be very invasive to native plant communities and can overwhelm or wipe out native species. Prevention and control of exotic, invasive species requires tremendous cooperation between managers and all users of parks, natural areas, and privately owned land.

To learn more about exotic and invasive species and how you can help prevent their spread, visit the IDNR Exotic Species Website at: (<http://www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/ExoticSpecies/exoticspintro.htm>).



Sam Parr State Fish & Wildlife Area

13225 E. State Highway 33
Newton, IL 62448, (618) 783-2661

- 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. We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Clearinghouse, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, call (217) 782-6302 or visit our website at www.dnr.state.il.us.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.
- Hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources' TTY number, (217) 782-9175, or use the Ameritech Relay Number, 1-800-526-0844.

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 nonmerit 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 62702-1271; (217) 785-0067; TTY (217) 782-9175.

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Sam Parr

STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA



LAKE BOAT DOCK



Sam Parr State Fish & Wildlife Area—

Totalling 1,180 acres and featuring a 183-acre lake, Sam Parr State Fish & Wildlife Area is located 3 miles northeast of Newton. It is named for a conservationist with Jasper County origins. Sam Parr (1902-1966) was an avid outdoorsman who served the state as a game warden and later as a fisheries administrator. He worked with Jasper County residents in acquiring the parks' original 72 acres in 1960, and in 1972 the park was named in his honor.

History

The Jasper County area has long been appreciated for its natural resources. For centuries native Americans lived and fished along the Embarras River and hunted in nearby woodlands, including the area that is now Sam Parr State Fish & Wildlife Area. French settlers, who arrived in eastern Illinois in the 1770s and lived among the local Piankashaw Indians, also enjoyed the area's natural bounty.

Natural Features

White-tailed deer, rabbits, squirrels, doves and quail are among the park's inhabitants. Abundant hickory, oak maple and redbud trees provide habitat for meadowlarks, blue jays, bluebirds and woodpeckers. The park is home to a 30-foot-tall downy serviceberry, which is recognized on the Illinois Big Tree Champions roster as the largest of its species in the state. Also notable are the abundant wild lilacs and daisies. Impounded by a dam, the lake at Sam Parr State Fish & Wildlife Area is nestled in a rolling timbered area that wood ducks find attractive. Its maximum depth is 28 feet and its shoreline winds for 9 miles.

Facilities—

Picnicking – Four shaded picnic grounds, situated near ample parking, feature picnic tables, shelters and camp stoves. There also are pit toilets in each area.

Legend

- Equestrian Trail
- Lakeside Foot Trail
- Park Office
- Boat Launch
- Fishing Access
- Parking
- Hunter Parking
- Picnic Shelter
- Restrooms
- Tent Camping
- Trailer Camping

