

Argyle Lake State Park

Interpretive Program Schedule: June - December 2025

Lake Exploration Pontoon Programs

MOST Fridays - 10:00-11:00 a.m.

(Begins 6/6/25 thru 11/7/25)

No Program: 6/20, 6/27 or 10/10

Come enjoy beautiful Lake Argyle while taking a relaxing morning pontoon boat ride on the lake as we watch for wildlife. Life jackets, binoculars and field guides will be available, or you're welcome to bring your own. Pre-registration is required, and space is limited to 6 participants. Please email Bridget.Hinchee@illinois.gov or call (309)776-3422 for more information or to register.

2025 IDNR Free Fishing Days

June 13 - June 16, 2025

The Illinois Department of Natural resources allows people of any age to fish without a fishing license or stamp one four-day weekend in June every year. The dates for Illinois' 2025 *Free Fishing Days* are Friday, June 13th - Monday, June 16th, 2025.

Youth Fishing Derby

Saturday, June 14th - 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

The Youth Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday, June 14th at the concession parking area near the lake. Kids can bring their own poles or fishing poles will also be available for children to borrow. All children must be chaperoned by an adult. Prizes & certificates will be awarded at 11:30.

2025 Kayaking at Lake Argyle

Saturday, June 7th - 10am & 1pm

Saturday, July 12th - 10am & 1pm

Saturday, August 2nd - 10am & 1pm

Saturday, September 6th - 10am & 1pm

Saturday, October 4th - 10am & 1pm

Join us for a morning or afternoon of paddling and enjoying nature on beautiful Lake Argyle. Kayaks paddles, and life jackets are being provided by the Friends of Argyle. Ten adult kayaks and 2 youth kayaks (for ages 5+) are available, so space is limited to the first 12 people to register for each tour. Two times are being offered each day and each outing will be about 2 hours. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the parking area near the dam/spillway for this program. Please register by calling (309)776-3422 or email Bridget.Hinchee@illinois.gov.

Stargazing at the Park

Friday, June 13, 2025 - 8:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Friday, August 15, 2025 - 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Friday, October 24, 2025 - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Join us for three evenings of stargazing with retired WIU astronomy instructor Tom Van Heuklon and hobby astronomist Larry Knicl. Depending on the date, we will have the opportunity to observe planets and the Moon and Mars (June), Mars, Pluto and the Moon (August), Saturn, Pluto and Neptune and possibly remnants of the Orionids meteor shower (October); and many deep sky objects including star clusters, nebulae, other galaxies; and the varying seasonal constellations. These programs will be held at the parking lot near the park's Sunset shelter (1st left turn upon entering the park). For your comfort, bring a chair or blanket, insect repellent, and a flashlight. To make viewing safer, observing will be done using a telescope connected to a video screen, rather than a telescope eyepiece. In the event of inclement weather or poor visibility, these programs may be canceled, so call before heading out if the sky isn't clear. For more information, please call (309)776-3422 or email Bridget.Hinchee@illinois.gov.

'Arts in Nature' Painting Classes:

Instructor, Jennifer Cordell

Saturday, June 14, 2025 - 10-12:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 26, 2025 - 10-12:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 20, 2025 - 10-12:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 6, 2025 - 10-12:00 p.m.

The Friends of Argyle Lake State Park will be hosting 'Arts in Nature' painting classes at Argyle Lake State Park at the park's visitor center shelter. December class will be held at the maintenance building. West Prairie high school Art instructor, Jennifer Cordell will share her passion for painting while instructing participants in creating a nature painting. The program fee is \$20, as all materials and supplies will be provided. Locally handcrafted Amish frames will be available for \$15 if you'd like to frame your one-of-a-kind masterpiece afterwards. Please email Bridget.Hinchee@illinois.gov or call the park office at (309)776-3422, registration is limited to the first 20 people. All ages welcome with parental help.

Reptiles and Amphibians of Illinois

Saturday, July 12, 2025 - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Come join the park natural resources coordinator and learn about the many reptiles and amphibians found at the park and across Illinois. A few live specimens, which may include a nonvenomous snake, a box turtle, frog(s), and a lizard will be available for viewing (and optional handling). Children will receive handouts to learn more about these interesting creatures and experience many hands-on activities! Meet at the park's visitor center shelter for this program.

Owls of Illinois

Saturday, August 2, 2025 - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Join us for a hootin' good time learning about the owls that inhabit Argyle Lake State Park. Participants will learn about the owl's many unique hunting adaptations and its diet by dissecting an owl pellet. We will use a recording of various owl calls to encourage the owls to call back to us. Meet at the park's Prairieview shelter (2nd right) for this program. For more information, please call (309)776-3422 or email Bridget.Hinchee@illinois.gov.

Fall Colors Nature Hike

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025 - 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

As the breezes become a little brisk and the days begin to shorten, nature begins the process of preparing for the cold winter months ahead. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy nature and the magnificent colors of autumn throughout the park. We will meet at the visitor center at 10:00 a.m. and hike 1-2 miles on moderate terrain. For more information, please call (309)776-3422 or email Bridget.Hinchee@illinois.gov.

Illinois Bats: Facts and Myths

Friday, October 17, 2025 - 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Join us at Argyle Lake as we learn about our only true flying mammal....BATS!!! Local educator and outdoor enthusiast, Mary McMahon will dispel many myths about bats during this informative and entertaining presentation about these mysterious mammals. Participants will have the opportunity to listen to nearby bats feeding on flying insects using an echolocation detection device. Many informative handouts will be available. Meet at the park's visitor center shelter for this program. For more information, please call (309)776-3422 or email Bridget.Hinchee@illinois.gov.

Atkinson McCord Cemetery Tour

Saturday, October 25, 2025 - 10 a.m. - Noon

Join park staff for a historical walking tour of the Atkinson/McCord cemetery located on the park's property. Participants should be able to walk $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on moderate terrain to access the cemetery. Meet at the park visitor center or at the trap range area. For more information, please call (309)776-3422 or email Bridget.Hinchee@illinois.gov.

Woodland Wonders Nature Hike

Saturday, November 8, 2025 - 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Explore the wonders of nature and discuss how wildlife and plants prepare for the cold winter months to come on this morning hike on one of Argyle's most popular trails. Hike will begin at 10 a.m. at the visitor center and conclude by noon. For more information, please call (309)776-3422 or email Bridget.Hinchee@illinois.gov.

Winter Woodland Wonders Nature Hike

Saturday, December 6, 2025 - 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Join the site naturalist as we explore the trails of the park in search of the many wonders of winter just waiting to be discovered. Hike topics may include how animals survive in winter, identifying tracks and other wildlife signs, winter tree ID and the mysteries of snow and snowflakes. Hike will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the park visitor center. For more information, please call (309)776-3422 or email Bridget.Hinchee@illinois.gov.

General Program Information:

- Meet at the park visitor center for all hikes and programs unless otherwise indicated in above program descriptions.
- All programs are free and open to the general public unless otherwise noted in the program description. Participation in any program involving the use of FOA equipment (skis, kayaks, paddleboards, etc.) will require participants to become a member of the Friends of Argyle organization. Annual membership fees are \$10 per individual, \$15 for a single parent family and \$20 for a two parent family.
- Please contact park staff with any special needs or concerns prior to the program date, so requested arrangements /accommodations can be made.
- For more specific program information or to register for a program, please call the park visitor center at (309)776-3422 or email Bridget.Hinchee@illinois.gov.