

When the French claimed the region they built Fort St. Louis atop Starved Rock in the winter of 1682-83. Pressured from small war parties of Iroquois in the French and Indian Wars, the French abandoned the fort by the early 1700's and retreated to what is now Peoria, where they established Fort Pimitoui. Fort St. Louis became a haven for traders and trap-pers, but by 1720 all remains of the fort had disappeared. Starved Rock derives its name from a Native American legend. Pontiac, chief of the Ottawa tribe upriver from here, was slain by an Illinois brave while attending a tribal council in southern Illinois. According to the legend, during one of the battles that subsequently occurred to

This area has been home to humans from as early as 8,000 B.C. The most recent and probably the most numerous group of Native Americans to live here was the Illinois from the 1500's to the 1700's. As many as 8,000 Illinois lived at or adjacent to the present day Starved Rock. In 1673, French explorers Louis Joliet and Father Jacques Marquette passed through here on their way up the Illinois River from the Mississippi. Marquette returned two years later to found the Mission of the Immaculate Conception - Illinois' first Christian mission - at the Illinois Indian village.

catbirds. Evidence of beavers and muskrats can be seen as you walk along the River Trail. Black oak, red cedar, and white oak, as well as white pine and white cedar, grow on drier, sandy bluff tops. Yellowbellied sapsuckers drill parallel rows of small holes on cedar trees and return to feed on sap and small insects. Serviceberry and honeysuckle shrubs that prefer a well-drained soil attract scarlet tanagers and cedar waxwings. Farther away from the bluffs, red oaks and shagbark hickories predominate in deeper soils. Typical plants characteristic of the forest floor include the American witch hazel, black huckleberry, wood and bracken ferns. Nuthatches and chickadees feed on nuts, seeds, and in-

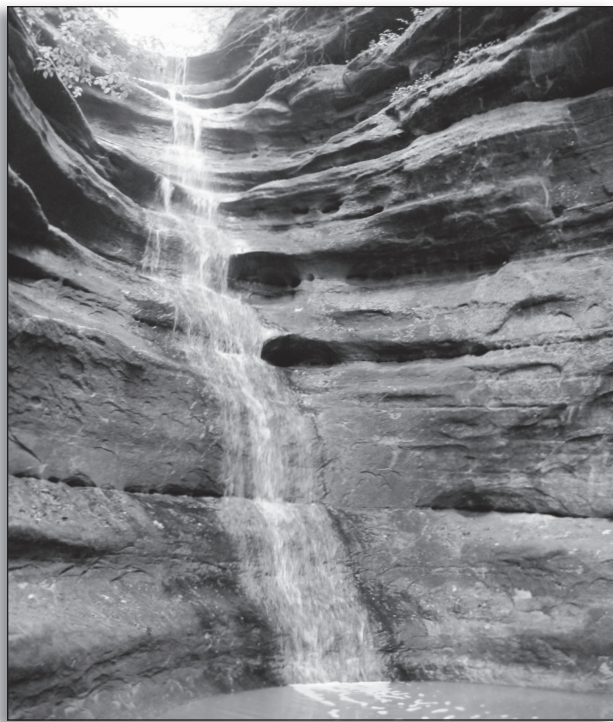
sects found in the bark of the trees. Racoons and flying squirrels spend many hours searching for and gathering berries and nuts. At the forest edge, bright blue indigo buntings fill through the wild crab apple and plum trees that skirt the former glacial till prairie, while cottontail rabbits scamper through the bluestem grasses. In the sandy prairie soil, prickly pear cactus grows alongside lead plant, compass plant, and rattlesnake master. White-tailed deer come to munch on sumac, and red-tailed hawks soar overhead in search of voles and field mice.

Throughout spring and summer, wildflowers are as plentiful and varied as they are beautiful. Included in the floral array are colorful lichens and mosses, marsh margolds, wild irises, trillium, and dutchman's breeches, plus purple-flowered spiderworts, columbine, and the magenta blooms of shooting stars.

The poison ivy plant is found in all areas of the park. Its greenish-white berries provide an important food source for birds.

History

Starved Rock State Park



French Canyon

avenge his killing, a band of Illinois, under attack by a band of Potawatomi (allies of the Ottawa), sought refuge atop a 125 foot sandstone butte (Starved Rock). The Ottawa and Potawatomi surrounded the bluff and held their ground until the hapless Illinois died of starvation - giving rise to the name "Starved Rock."

The Illinois State Parks Commission was initially headquartered in Starved Rock State Park after the park was purchased in 1911 and totals 2,816 acres. Today the park maintains 3,205 acres including adjacent nature preserves.

Hiking

Exploring the majestic bluffs and canyons is the park's primary attraction, and there are 13 miles of well-marked trails to help you enjoy them.

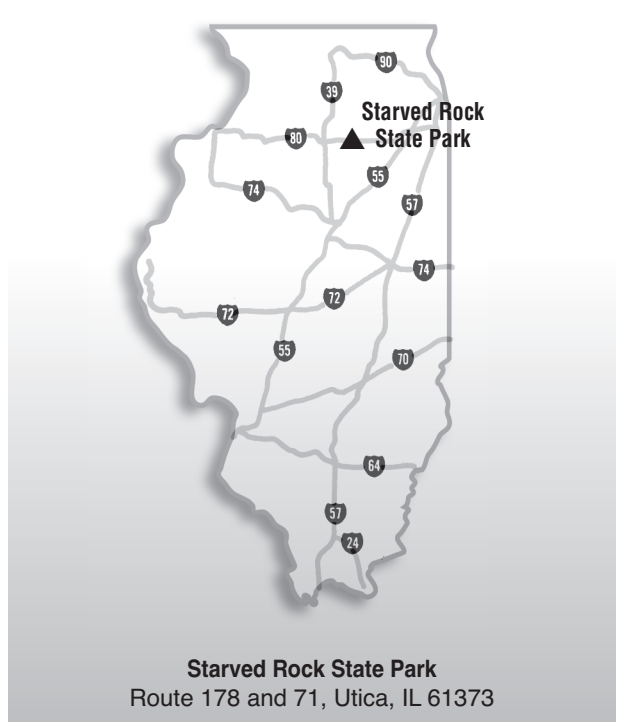
Trails are open all year round. Trail maps and brown trail signs with directional arrows are located at every intersection along the park's trail system. There are posts and metal discs along the trails that correspond to the color coded maps marking the trails: Red for River Trail, Green for Interior Canyon or Connecting Trail, and Brown for Bluff Trail. Finally, yellow dots on trees or posts indicate you are

Starved Rock State Park

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- Group Permits must be submitted for groups of 25 or more attending the park. Please email DNR.StarvedRock@illinois.gov to acquire a permit.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors (15 and under).
- Pets must be kept on a leash at all times and cannot be in the nature preserves.
- Actions in nature can result in closed roads and other facilities. We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember take only memories, leave only footprints.
- Please practice Leave No Trace by carrying out all trash you take in on the trails. Do not leave litter behind.
- For more information on state parks in Illinois, hunting, conservation, boating, and more please visit www.dnr.illinois.gov

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 Resource Way, Springfield, IL. 62702-1271; 217/785-0067; TTY 217/782-9175.





Waterfalls are found in LaSalle and St. Louis canyons. beauty uncommon in Illinois. Some of the longer-lasting moss covered stone create a setting of natural geologic found at the heads of all 18 canyons, and vertical walls of curring and rains are frequent, sparkling waterfalls are During early spring, when the end of winter thaw is occurring and rains are frequent, sparkling waterfalls are other sedimentary rocks.

shallow inland sea more than 425 million years ago and later brought to the surface. While the areas along the river and its tributaries still are predominantly forested, much of the area is a flat, gently rolling plain. The upland prairies were created during an intensive warming period several thousand years after the melting of the glaciers. The Illinois River Valley in the Starved Rock area is a major contrast to the flatland. The valley was formed by a series of floods as glacial meltwater broke through moraines, sending torrents of water surging across the land and deeply eroding the sandstone and vegetation supports an abundant wildlife and bird population, including groundhogs, red and gray foxes, turkeys, vireos, pileated woodpeckers, thrushes, wood ducks, and

Starved Rock State Park




State of Illinois
Department of Natural Resources







Starved Rock

S T A T E P A R K



Starved Rock



Starved Rock State Park Trail Map

TO PROTECT THE VISITOR & THE PARK, IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- Hike after Dark
- Rappell or Scramble on Rock
- Hike OFF Marked Trails
- Swim or Wade
- Bicycle on Hiking Trails
- Pick or Remove Anything including Wildflowers
- Allow Pets Off Leash
- Camp Except at Campground
- Possess Alcohol
- Possess Intoxicating Compounds

It is a State Offense to pick, remove or destroy animals or plants, including wildflowers, in any State Park.

Have a safe visit and enjoy the park, but be aware that violating park rules will result in eviction and/or arrest.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
CALL 911

- ### Legend
- / - Bluff Trail
 - / - River Trail
 - / - Interior Canyon or Connecting Trail
 - Roads & Parking
 - Major Stairways
 - Overlooks
 - Parking
 - Park Office
 - Dump Station
 - First Aid
 - Picnic Area
 - Restrooms
 - Visitor Center
 - Food Service
 - Playgrounds
 - Campground
 - Wheelchair Access
 - Lodging
 - Showers

Trail Markings

Trails are marked with colored posts or dots

- - Brown - Bluff Trail
- - Red - River Trail
- - Green - Interior Canyon or Connecting Trail
- - Yellow Dots - Going away from Lodge or Visitor Center
- - White Dots - Returning to Lodge or Visitor Center

Length of Trails

All distances are measured one way from the Visitors Center

- St. Louis Canyon 1.5 mi.
- Starved Rock 0.3 mi.
- French Canyon 0.4 mi.
- Lover's Leap 0.7 mi.
- Eagle Cliff 0.8 mi.
- Beehive Overlook 0.9 mi.
- Wildcat Canyon 1.0 mi.
- Sandstone Point 1.3 mi.
- Tonty Canyon 1.9 mi.
- LaSalle Canyon 2.0 mi.
- Parkman's Plain 2.5 mi.
- Hennepin Canyon 3.1 mi.
- Ottawa Canyon 3.9 mi.
- Council Overhang 4.0 mi.
- Kaskaskia Canyon 4.0 mi.
- Illinois Canyon 4.7 mi.

Total Distance of Hiking Trails: 13.3 miles

1/2 mile



moving further away from the lodge or visitor center, and white dots mean you are returning.

Due to the park's fragile ecosystem, camping is prohibited in unauthorized areas as well as hammocks and ground fires. Please remember rock climbing, rappelling, swimming in waterfalls or the Illinois River, hiking off trail, and carving or painting on the sandstone features are all illegal activities at the park. Biking is not allowed on the hiking trails. For your own safety, you must be off of the trails by sunset if not dark. Alcohol is prohibited on all trails at all times.

Picnicking

Developed picnic areas are available to the day visitor, with tables, drinking water, and restroom facilities. Six shelters are available on a first come, first served basis. Alcohol is prohibited January 1st through May 31st in the picnic area.

Fishing and Boating

Boats may be launched from the west end of the park. Catfish, bullhead, white bass, sauger, walleye, carp, bluegill, and crappie may be caught in the Illinois River with a valid Illinois fishing license. Boats are not allowed within 600 feet of the dam, as strong currents and powerful underflows can be dangerous. Under no circumstances should you attempt to wade or swim in the river, canyons, or from any park shoreline.

Boat rides and Kayak rental are offered at the park from May-October. Boat rides on the Eagle 1 can be reserved through the Starved Rock Lodge at www.starvedrocklodge.com. Kayak rental can be reserved through Kayak Starved Rock at KAYAKSTARVEDROCK.com. You may bring your own kayaks and canoes and launch from Lone Point shelter at the park along route 71.

Leave No Trace

Please practice **Leave No Trace** when visiting the park by cleaning up all food, fishing items, and trash you have used. Please pack out what you pack in to help keep our park clean for other visitors and wildlife. Please take all recyclables home to recycle.

Camping

The campground is located outside of the park off of route 71. There are no trails that connect the campground to the park. Campers are asked to drive in to the park to access the trails.

The campground has 133, Class A premium campsites with electricity, showers, flush toilets, separate youth group camping area, and a children's playground with a shelter. Each campsite comes complete with a grill, fire pit, and picnic table. Seven campsites are available for people with disabilities. The campground is open all year round. One loop closes during the winter. Reservations are made online at ReserveAmerica.com. Alcohol is prohibited in the campground at all times. To view the campground brochure and map please visit www.dnr.illinois.gov/Parks/Pages/StarvedRock.

Lodging

Situated on a high bluff above the Visitor Center and Illinois River across from Starved Rock itself is the stone and log lodge, built in part by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. The lodge has since been refurbished, but still reflects the peaceful atmosphere of yesteryear. The hotel features an indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, and saunas.

The lodge offers 72 luxury hotel rooms and 22 comfortable cabin rooms. The original Great Room is centered around a massive fireplace.

The restaurant is open seven days a week and offers many house specialties. The Veranda is a bar and grill behind the lodge dining area that offers a more relaxed and less formal setting for a bite to eat.

For lodge reservations, call 1-800-868-ROCK (7625) or visit www.starvedrocklodge.com.

Visitor Center

Built in 2002 the Starved Rock Visitor Center offers museum quality displays and exhibits for those who wish to learn more about the park's French and Native American history, geological history, and the flora and fauna found in the park. Movies such as "In the Shadow of the Rock" a brief 15 minute film on the history and scenery of the park are available by request at the front desk of the center.

Trail suggestions and help reading the trail maps and navigating the areas of the park can be attained at the front desk. Free guided hikes are offered mid-June through the end of November at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday and Sundays.

Visitors can obtain a Calendar of Events and Programs of Starved Rock State Park as well as information on the areas of Ottawa, LaSalle, Peru, Utica, and Oglesby.