

Ferne Clyffe State Park is a premier sport climbing destination, with 3 distinct areas to climb providing 150 or more routes for every skill set. Camping, water, shelters, playground, and toilets are within a 10 minute walk from some climbing sites.

## Rock Climbing

Today, Ferne Clyffe State Park covers 2,470 acres of the majestic Shawnee Hills. The park is visited by more than 250,000 nature lovers each year.

In 1929, Rebman offered to sell her 140-acre park to the State of Illinois, but it wasn't until 20 years later that efforts by conservation and political groups such as the Greater Egypt Association and the Illinois Redevelopment Board resulted in the state purchasing it.

In 1899, two Cairo brothers purchased a part of the park known today as Hawks' Cave/Rocky Hollow. Using an Old English spelling, they called it Ferne Clyffe because of the ferns that grew in abundance. The area soon became known for its beauty. It eventually sold to Emma Rebman, a local schoolteacher and Johnson County school superintendent, who opened the park to the public on Sundays for a 10-cent admission. Ferne Clyffe was such a popular attraction that local entrepreneurs began providing transportation to the site from the Goreville train depot for an additional dime.

In 1960, the 16-acre Ferne Clyffe Lake has offered visitors additional recreational and scenic opportunities. The lake has a maximum depth of 22 feet, and a hiking trail encompasses the 1-mile shoreline. It is open to bank fishing, but boating and swimming are prohibited. Spectacular views of the lake can be seen from Lakeview Picnic Shelter and Blackjack Oak Trail.

Since 1960, church groups and other groups will enjoy the Group campground. This facility is equipped with drinking water, picnic tables, cooking grills, toilets and parking. Groups of minors must have adequate supervision, and at least one adult must accompany each group of 15 minors

Horseback riders can ride directly to their own Class C Equestrian campground on the trail or drive to it in their vehicles. Up to 25 riders can be accommodated at the site, which includes picnic tables, drinking water, cooking grills, toilets, parking. The campground is well-shaded by an abundance of trees, and you must protect the trees by tying horses to the hitching rails. There are no horses available for rent.

Sites in the Deer Ridge, Turkey Ridge campgrounds do not require advance reservations. Horseback riders and Youth Groups should, however, make advance arrangements through the park office.

## History

George Rogers Clark and his contingent reportedly passed through or near Ferne Clyffe on their trip to Fort Kaskaskia in 1778. One hundred years later, the Cherokee are reported to have used the area as their hunting range while on their Trail of Tears march.

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Located on Illinois Route 37, just 1 mile south of Goreville and 12 miles south of Marion, the 2,470-acre park is easily accessible from both I-57 and I-24. With camping, picnicking, hiking, hunting, fishing and sightseeing to experience, you can't help but enjoy a visit to Ferne Clyffe.

Impressive rock formations can be seen from almost all of the park trails, but two of the best-known sights are Hawks' Cave, a 150-foot-long shelter bluff, and a 100-foot-tall intermittent waterfall, located at the end of Big Rocky Hollow Trail.

It would be nearly impossible to list all of the plant life that thrives in the park, as there are more than 700 species. Flowering dog-wood, redbud, serviceberry, spicebush, sumac, sweetgum, maple, oak, hickory and some of the woodland flowers create an extraordinary color backdrop for recreational activities in the spring and fall. Late April and early May are particularly good times for viewing the springtime color show. Fall foliage is at its best in October.

## Ferne Clyffe State Park

Ferne Clyffe has been known as an outstanding natural scenic spot for nearly 100 years. An abundance of ferns, rare geological features and unusual plant communities create an atmosphere that enhances the many recreational facilities offered at the park. Designated trails wind through picturesque woods, allowing visitors to view fascinating rock formations and inspiring vistas. However, naturally occurring hazardous areas do exist within the park, so visitors are warned to use extreme caution if they leave the safety of a designated trail.



## Picnicking

Ferne Clyffe has been a favorite picnic spot for decades. There are seven picnic areas, all with tables, cooking grills, parking and toilets. Several areas also have shelters, drinking water and playground equipment. Only park grills or personal cookstoves should be used for cooking fires to avoid the possibility of damaging the site.

### Ferne Clyffe Lake



As you walk the trails, you can anticipate seeing squirrels, rabbits, doves, quail, bluebirds and other songbirds, and an occasional wild turkey.

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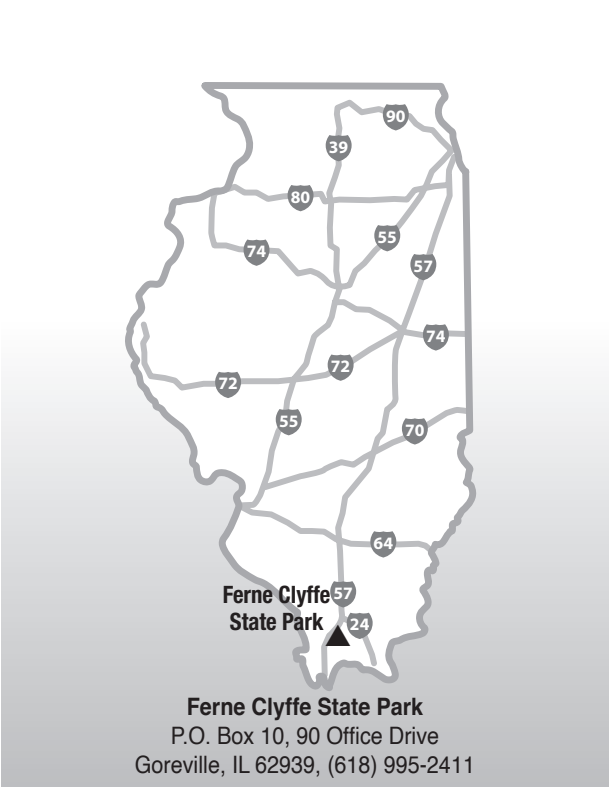
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## Flora and Fauna

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## Natural Features



- While groups of 20 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, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271 call (217) 782-6302 or visit our website at [dnr.illinois.gov](http://dnr.illinois.gov).
- 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.
- To purchase Hunting Licenses, Report a Harvest, Register a Watercraft or Reserve a Campsite, please go to [exploremoreil.com](http://exploremoreil.com).

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) 782-2662; TTY (217) 782-9175.



## Fishing and Hunting

Bank fishermen will be impressed by populations of largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish and redear in the lake.

Hunters will appreciate the 1,750 acres of forested habitat, which has good populations of deer, squirrel and turkey. Quail and rabbit populations are fair. Food patches are planted in open areas each year to enhance the habitat for upland and forest game species. Please check in at the hunter check station, located at the maintenance building, prior to your hunt.



## Round Bluff Nature Preserve

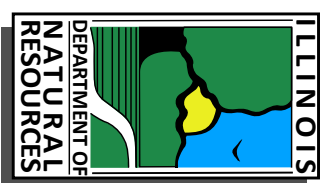
Just south of the Lakeview Picnic Shelter is the 53-acre Round Bluff Nature Preserve. This area is a marvelous mix of unusual geological features and uncommon plant communities. Each season brings its own beauty to the area, but spring and fall are the most colorful seasons. Dutchman's breeches, trillium, spring beauty, trout lily and other woodland wildflowers add vibrant color to the groundcover in the spring. Fall's colder temperatures change the deep greens of the summer tree foliage to a spectacular mix of reds, purples, golds and browns that cover every hillside.

Within the preserve, hiking is restricted to marked trails only. All plants and animals within the preserve are protected by law.





Goreville  
Rd.

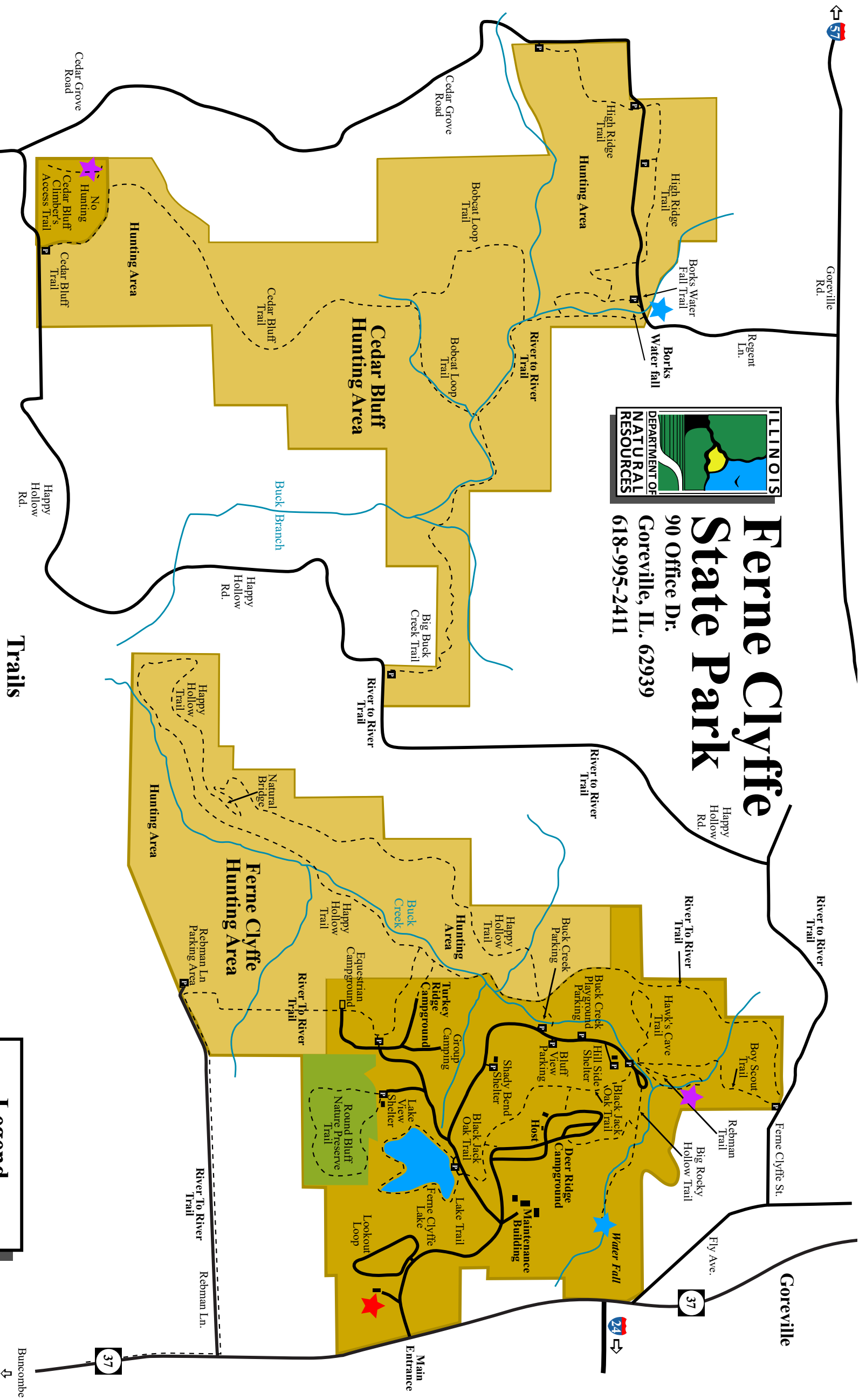
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# Ferne Clyffe State Park

**90 Office Dr.**

**Goreville, IL. 62939**

**618-995-2411**



# Trails

Big Rocky Hollow Trail	.75 miles	Rivier To River Trail	8 miles
Hawk's Cave Trail	.5 miles	Cedar Bluff Trail	2 miles
Boy Scout Trail	.5 miles	Big Buck Creek Trail	2 miles
Rebman Trail	.25 miles	Bobcat Loop Trail	1 mile
Black Jack Oak Trail	1 mile	High Ridge Trail	1.5 miles
Ferne Clyffe Lake Trail	1 mile	Bork's Waterfall Trail	.5 miles
Round Bluff Trail	1 mile		
Happy Hollow Trail	5 miles		

**Established in 1949.**

**2430 acres, 1750 huntable acres, 26 miles of trails, 16 acre Lake.**

## Legend



Park Office



Parking lot



## Water Fall



## Rock Climbing



## Hiking Trail



## Roads



## No Hunting Area



2 Nature Preserve