



Several limestone quarries in the general area still are in operation today. In 1948, the state purchased the land from local farmers and homesteaders, erected the dam which created the lake and dedicated Argyle Lake State Park to the citizens of Illinois. Today, whether your preference is viewing wildflowers and fresh foliage in the spring, picnicking, fishing and boating in the summer, appreciating the brilliant fall colors or sled-ding and snowmobiling in the winter, Argyle Lake State Park is a great place to visit.

Argyle Hollow Barrens Nature Preserve

The Argyle Hollow Barrens is a 16.9 acre natural area located in Argyle Lake State Park. It has been recognized as a high quality natural area comprised of open grown oaks with an understory of prairie species. Black and white oaks dominate the broken canopy while little bluestem and large colonies of mosses and lichens provide most of the ground cover. Prairie plants commonly found here are blue aster, white prairie clover, rough blazingstar, birdsfoot violet, and leadplant.



History Rich in local history, Argyle Hollow (now occupied by the lake) was once part of the old stage route between Galena and Beardstown. Several times a week the high-wheeled, cumbersome coaches with their double teams of horses rumbled through these beautiful hills and valleys. The region itself long was a source of coal, clay and limestone. In fact, in times past it was common for individuals to open and dig their own "drift mines" to supplement their personal incomes. The remains of some of these can



- 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. Please call ahead to the park office before you make your trip.
- We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, or call (217) 782-6302.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs' Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.

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 sources 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.

Argyle Lake State Park Known as a fisherman's delight, Argyle Lake State Park has a full complement of recreation-al opportunities. Just 7 miles from Macomb, Argyle Lake also offers picnicking, camping, hiking, and boating in a scenic, natural setting. With its 93-acre lake for boating and fishing, 5 miles of rugged foot trails through oak/hicko-ry forest and campgrounds, this heavily wood-ed, 1,732-acre site is the ideal place to enjoy the outdoors.



State of Illinois
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Argyle Lake State Park



Picnicking

How long has it been since you’ve packed a picnic lunch and headed for a park? At Argyle Lake State Park there are several shaded picnic areas placed conveniently throughout the area, with tables, grills and water. There’s also a playground to keep the children busy.

Camping

For longer visits, the park contains 86 Class A campsites, 24 Class B sites, 12 Class C sites, featuring vehicle access and restrooms, and 31 Class D (primitive) sites. Electrical hook-ups, a sanitary dumping station and restrooms with showers are also available.

Concession and Restaurant

For a quick bite to eat, visit the concession stand located near the boat dock. There are boat and canoe rentals and bait is for sale. For more information, contact the park office at (309) 776-3422.

Trails

Five miles of foot trails provide unparalleled scenic enjoyment. There are 12 trails and most are classified as difficult to very difficult, but Blackberry and Pitch Pine trails are rated as moderate. For horseback riding and mountain biking enthusiasts, there is a rugged 11 mile trail. An equestrian campground also is available. Be sure to look for the beaver dams along Shore Trail. There are more than 200 bird species that call Argyle Lake home.

Boating and Fishing

The lake is stocked with bluegill, redear, channel catfish, largemouth bass, saugeye, crappie, tiger muskie and rainbow trout. There is



a no wake speed restriction, and a public boat launch and docks are available for boats and pontoons. Canoe and boat rentals also are available at the Concession Building.

Hunting

Upland game hunting is allowed on a limited basis. All hunters are required to obtain a windshield card permit annually at no cost from the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov prior to hunting for the season.

Winter Sports

Open year-round, Argyle Lake State Park is ideally suited for ice fishing, snowmobiling, sledding and crosscountry skiing.

Visitor Center

The park’s Visitor Center features wildlife displays and educational materials along with park information. In addition, the center is host to year-round interpretive programs. Groups interested in scheduling a program conducted by park staff should contact the park office at least 2 weeks prior to the event.

