

REND LAKE PROJECT
OFFICE/VISITOR CENTER

January 1 – March 27
November 2 – December 31
Mon–Fri: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
March 28 – November 1
Mon–Fri: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sat-Sun: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

This beautiful facility features an exhibit hall filled with displays on the history of the lake, live animals, and a working beehive. Start your visit to Rend Lake by exploring the Visitor Center and picking up brochures. The Visitor Center also offers the courtyard pollinator garden, a pond, and trail.

For a complete list of programs, inquire at the Visitor Center or visit the Rend Lake Project Office/Visitor Center Facebook page.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Environmental Science Series: Free, family friendly, environmentally themed programs presented at the Visitor Center every Saturday from Memorial Day - Labor Day. Programs may feature live animals, science experiments, or hands on activities. Programs are offered at 10:00 AM, NOON, & 2:00 PM unless noted otherwise.

Jr. Ranger Program: New to the educational line up, the Jr. Ranger Program is a weekly series on Fridays at 10:00 AM from May 29 to August 7. Each week participants will learn about nature and earn a Jr. Ranger badge. Free and open to all ages.

Small World Programs: Monthly programs for children 5 years and younger, every 3rd Tuesday at 10:00 AM. Small World Programs feature a different theme each month and include a story, craft, and activity. Pre-registration is required for large groups.

Rend Lake Great Outdoors Celebration: The Great Celebration is held the first Thursday/Friday of May annually. The event invites 3rd and 6th grade students from across Southern Illinois for a day dedicated to environmental education. Pre-registration is required.

Rend Lake Beach Blast: Beach Blast is an annual water safety celebration held at South Sandusky Beach. The event features games, music, prizes, and more. Free, family friendly, and fun for all ages!

Beach Blast.....June 27
Trick or Treat the Visitor Center.....Oct 27
Holiday Celebration.....Dec 15

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Rend Lake Project Office/ Visitor Center	618-724-2493
Franklin County Sheriff	618-438-4841
Jefferson County Sheriff	618-244-8004
Illinois State Police	618-542-2171
Illinois Conservation Police	618-435-8138

OFFICE ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Rend Lake Project Office/Visitor Center
U.S.Army Corps of Engineers
11981 Rend City Road
Benton, IL 62812
Phone: 618-724-2493

South Sandusky Campground 618-625-3011
North Sandusky Campground 618-625-6115
Gun Creek Campground 618-629-2338
South Marcum Campground 618-435-3549

Wayne Fitzgerald State Park (IDNR)
11094 Ranger Road
Whittington, IL 62897-9781
Phone: 618-629-2320

Rend Lake Conservancy District (RLCD)
11231 Marcum Branch Road
Benton, IL 62812
Phone: 618-439-4321

Corps Watch Hotline
1-866-413-7970

US Army Corps of Engineers
Rend Lake Project Office /Visitor Center



rendinfo-MVS@usace.army.mil



www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/
Recreation/Rend-Lake



Rend Lake Project Office/Visitor Center



PARK INFORMATION
2026



Get Out and Enjoy
Your Lakes and Rivers



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
St. Louis District
DP 1130-2-26



@rendlakeusace

Welcome!

To Our Visitors,

Welcome to Rend Lake and thank you for visiting us. Rend Lake is one of five lakes and many miles of river that is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District. Surrounding these waters are thousands of acres of public land providing exceptional opportunities for outdoor recreational and educational activities.

All members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers team appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you. To assist you during your visit, we have developed a variety of publications. They are available from the Rend Lake Project Office & Visitor Center, campground entrance stations, or a park ranger.

Please become familiar with the rules that apply to your recreational activities. They have been developed to make your visit safe and enjoyable and to preserve natural resources. If you observe anyone performing unsafe acts or otherwise violating regulations, please contact a park ranger.

The St. Louis District hosts millions of visitors annually. Please be extremely careful in and around the water and in other recreation areas. Remember to wear your life jacket when you are on or near the water.

We hope your visit will be a pleasant experience. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact us at the phone number or address on the back of this publication. We are here to serve you. Come again soon, and tell your friends about this beautiful natural resource.

James L. Ford
Operations Manager

CAMPGROUND SCHEDULES & RATES

North Sandusky Mar 27 - Nov 2
Electric only.....\$18.00
Full hook-up.....\$26.00

Shagbark Group Mar 27 - Nov 2
See Group Camping for 2026 Dates & Fees

South Sandusky Mar 27 - Nov 2
Walk-in tent.....\$16.00
Electric only.....\$18.00
Electric & water.....\$22.00
Full hook-up.....\$26.00

South Marcum Mar 27 - Nov 9
Walk-in tent.....\$16.00
Electric only.....\$18.00
Electric & water.....\$22.00
Full hook-up.....\$26.00

Dale Miller Group Camp Mar 27 - Nov 2
See Group Camping for 2026 Dates & Fees

Gun Creek Mar 13 - Nov 23
Electric only.....\$18.00
Full hook-up.....\$26.00

America the Beautiful Senior and Access Passes provide half price discounts on individual Corps campsite fees. Pass holders must be registered on site and will be asked to provide proof of ID.

Wayne Fitzgerald State Park TBD
Walk-in tent.....\$8.00
Electric only.....\$20.00
Electric only (Major holidays).....\$30.00

Illinois residents 62 or older with proof of ID may receive a discounted camping fee of \$15/night, Monday - Thursday at Wayne Fitzgerald State Park.

All facilities and services are subject to change. All campgrounds provide drinking water, dumpstation, and restroom/shower facilities. See the Rend Lake Public Recreation Areas chart for more details on area accessibility.



GROUP CAMPING

Group camping areas are available by advanced reservation only (see Reservation Program section for details.)
Check-in.....4PM
Checkout.....2PM

Shagbark Group Camp: Located in North Sandusky, offers 21 wooded campsites with 50 amp electric, a group fire ring and restrooms.
Peak Season May 11 - Sept 6
Sun - Wed.....\$175.00
Thurs - Sat.....\$200.00
Non-peak Season Mar 27 - May 10
Sep 7 - Nov 2
Sun - Wed.....\$150.00
Thurs - Sat.....\$175.00

Dale Miller Group Camp: Located in South Marcum, offers 5 cabins, 9 trailer sites with 50 amp electric, private beach, an enclosed shelter, a group fire ring, mini-shower with restrooms, a play field, and a combination tennis/basketball court.
Peak Season May 11 - Sept 6
Sun - Wed.....\$175.00
Thurs - Sat.....\$250.00
Non-peak Season Mar 27 - May 10
Sep 7 - Nov 2
Sun - Wed.....\$150.00
Thurs - Sat.....\$200.00

RESERVATION PROGRAM

Reservations for campsites, group areas, and shelters can be made by calling the Recreation One Stop (R1S) toll free number 877-444-6777 or TDD 877-833-6777, on the R1SApp, or online at www.recreation.gov

Individual campsites (including double sites) are 100% reservable. Reservations are accepted a maximum of 6 months in advance and a minimum of zero days prior to the planned day of arrival.

Reservations for Group Camp, Group Day Use and Recreational Facilities are accepted a maximum of 12 months in advance and a minimum of 2 days before planned arrival. A two night minimum stay is required for all weekend group camping reservations and a three day minimum is required on holiday weekends.

Reservations may be changed or cancelled, subject to additional service fees. All fees will be paid in full at time of reservation. A credit or debit card must be used to pay all fees. Cash or check are no longer accepted as a method of payment.

Visitor Regulations

Rules and regulations governing public use of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water resources development projects are published, entitled Title 36, CFR and are posted on bulletin boards or are available from a park ranger. The following additional regulations are in effect for all Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District Projects as authorized in Title 36, CFR 327.12a.

General Rules

1. The operation of drones or other Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS's) is prohibited on all project lands, unless specifically authorized by the Operations Manager.
2. The operation of powerless flight devices including, but not limited to, sail planes, gliders, balloons, parasails, and hang-gliders is permitted except on any part of the dam, roads, bridges, over beaches or other heavy use areas.
3. The use of all kite tubes, defined as a “towable, inflatable device designed to be airborne,” are banned from use on Corps managed waters throughout the St. Louis District.
4. All waste water must be collected in a container and disposed of in authorized disposal facilities. In primitive areas where sanitary facilities are not provided, human waste must be buried 100 feet from any body of water and/ or campsites.
5. The use of America the Beautiful Senior Pass, America the Beautiful Access Pass, Golden Age, or Golden Access Passports by someone other than the person to whom the pass was issued is prohibited.

6. All motorized vehicles operated on roadways on public land administered by the Corps of Engineers must be licensed and operated by licensed drivers.

Picnic Area Rules

7. Picnic areas, designated by the Operations Manager and marked with appropriate signs, close at 10:00 p.m. Other areas, which are not posted, will remain open to public use.

Beach Rules

8. Alcohol is prohibited on the sand and water portions of all swimming beaches and other nearby facilities normally associated with beaches which are marked with appropriate signs. These facilities include, but are not limited to, picnic areas, parking lots, picnic shelters, etc.
9. All glass and other dangerous objects including, but not limited to, lawn darts and horseshoes, are prohibited on the sand and water portion of swimming beaches.
10. All food and waste materials are prohibited on the sand and water portions of swimming beaches and other posted locations.

Beach Rules Cont.

11. An established dog friendly beach is available at the North Marcum Day Use Area. Dogs that are restrained in accordance with Title 36, CFR 327.11a are allowed at North Marcum Beach except within the marked no-pets area. Pets are not permitted at South Sandusky Beach.
12. Beach users must stay within the designated swim area.
- Camping Rules

13. A responsible person must register and pay fees within a reasonable time after a camp is established or when the fee booth opens. Checkout time is 4:00 p.m. Reservation sites will be available for occupancy when available, but no later than 5:00 p.m. The maximum number of campers per site is eight.

14a. The majority of sites are classified as single capacity sites, in which the total number of camping units is limited to one recreational vehicle or trailer and three additional tents. If no recreational vehicle or trailer is on site, a maximum of four tents is permitted. The maximum number of people permitted to stay overnight on a single capacity site is eight.

14b. On the few designated double capacity sites, the total number of camping units is limited to two recreational vehicles or trailers and six tents. If no recreational vehicles or trailers are on site, a maximum of eight tents is permitted. The maximum number of people permitted to stay overnight on a double capacity site is sixteen.

15. Campground roads and facilities are to be used by registered campers and their visitors only. Interfering with or restricting the use of the shoreline by boaters or other lake users is prohibited.

16. All wheeled vehicles, including but not limited to mopeds, mini-bikes, boat trailers, motorcycles, and other vehicles, must be kept on camping pads registered to vehicle users or in designated parking areas. All motor vehicles must be parked lengthwise on the camp pad except at sites with irregularly shaped pads. Parking on the grass, roadside or obstructing traffic is prohibited. Empty boat trailers may be stored on the grass provided that they are moved onto and off the grass by hand.

17. Picnic tables and lantern holders must remain on gravel surfaces at campsites with gravel impact areas.

18. To avoid tree damage, hanging lanterns are to be suspended a minimum of 8” from the side of trees and 24” from overhead limbs. Do not drive axes, nails, or other objects into trees.

DAY USE FEES

A \$5.00/vehicle day use fee is charged at developed boat ramps and beaches managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Beach and boat ramp use is free for those displaying the registered Corps camp tag, America the Beautiful Pass, or Corps Annual Day Use Pass.

A Corps Annual Day Use Pass may be purchased for \$40.00 at the Rend Lake Project Office/Visitor Center, campground fee booths, and automated fee machines located at USACE boat ramps. Corps annual passes expire one year from the month of purchase and are honored nationwide at Corps of Engineers managed facilities.

GROUP DAY USE & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Group Day Use areas and shelters are available both by advance reservation and on a first come, first serve basis and are available for use between the hours of 8:00 AM. and 10:00 PM. Beach shelters close at sunset.

Spillway Group Area: Located on the east end of the dam, offers 10 acres of event area and facilities including a large shelter, amphitheater, gazebo, playground, restroom, direct access to bike trail, and ample parking.

Available Year Round
Reservation \$150.00/day

Shelters: All shelters have electric outlets, picnic tables, and parking. Most shelters have lights for night use. Pick up a Shelter Information sheet at the Rend Lake Visitor Center for more information on all 9 shelters.

Reservation \$30.00/day

Disc Golf Course: Located in the North Sandusky Day Use Area. This 18 hole course meanders through fields, woods, and along the lake shore.

For reservation details, visit www.recreation.gov

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASSES

America the Beautiful Passes (Senior, Access, Military, 4th Grade, Volunteer and Annual Passes) can now be obtained/purchased at the Rend Lake Project Office/Visitor Center and Corps managed campgrounds. Only credit/debit cards accepted for payment. Additional information is available at www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm

PROJECT FEATURES

BEACHES: Rend Lake has two beaches – the South Sandusky Beach, located on the west side of the lake and the North Marcum Beach, on the east side. Both beaches offer large sand areas, buoyed swim area, boat mooring, picnic tables and charcoal grills, foot showers, and change or shower houses. Both areas have reservable picnic shelters. The North Marcum Beach is dog friendly. Alcohol is prohibited. Both will close September 14.

BLACKBERRY NATURE TRAIL: The Blackberry Nature Trail system offers 2 miles of self-guided hiking with 3 different loops - Blackberry Loop (0.6 mile, easy), Pine Loop (0.4 mile, easy), and Gobbler Loop (1 mile, moderate). Please keep all pets on a leash.

REND LAKE BIKE TRAIL: Sections of this 20.6 mile multi-use National Recreation Trail meander through forest, field, and wetland. Pick up a bike trail map at the Rend Lake Visitor Center. Always wear a helmet while riding. All pets must be on a leash. This trail is closed to non-hunters during all firearm deer seasons. Watch the trail entrances for any closure notices.

MARINA: The Rend Lake Marina, located on Rend City Road, has fishing and pontoon boats for rent and for purchase. Boat repair, slip rentals, winter boat storage, bait, and fuel are also available. Call the marina at 618-724-7651.

NORTH MARCUM ARCHERY COMPLEX: The Archery Complex offers a range with bag targets from 10 to 50 yards, an elevated shooting platform, and a 3D archery target trail. Broad-head arrows are not allowed. The complex may be reserved for competitions. The Archery Complex will be open from March 13 to November 16 and is free to use.

REND LAKE DOG PARK: Newly opened to the public, the Rend Lake Dog Park is located near the Blackberry Nature Trail system. The facility features a spacious, fenced-in area where dogs can play off-leash, featuring a lawn, pond, and natural play elements. Restrooms and a large parking lot are available. The park will be open May 1 to November 16. 8:00 AM to sunset.

CATFISH COVE: Located on the southern edge of the Visitor Center parking area, Catfish Cove Pond and Trail includes over five acres of pollinator plantings, a nature trail, and a fishing pond. The pond has a 1200-foot-long accessible concrete path and four accessible fishing piers. The area also includes a half-mile nature trail through the pollinator prairie and the adjacent woods.

WAYNE FITZGERRELL STATE PARK
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Located just off Illinois Route 154, the park offers 3,300 acres of recreating. The park has boat ramps, accessible boat docks, shelters, and 248 campsites. The Rend Lake Resort and Conference Center located in the State Park are temporarily closed for remodeling. For more information, call Wayne Fitzgerald State Park at 618-629-2320 or visit the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov.

REND LAKE GOLF COMPLEX
REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Located just off IL Route 154, just west of Interstate 57. This area offers lodging, cabins, an event room, restaurant, and a 27 hole golf course with driving range and shooting range. For more information call the lodge toll free at 1-800-999-0977 or visit the website at www.rendlakegolfresort.com.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are important team members at Rend Lake. Volunteers maintain facilities, educate visitors, assist with special events, and more. In exchange for their contributions, volunteers may earn free camping in the Volunteer Village. For more information contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 618-724-2493. Position descriptions can be found on the Rend Lake website.

QUIET HOURS, 10:00 PM – 6:00 AM

Pet Owners – Please remember, all pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet, including on the Rend Lake Bike Trail, and must not interfere with another visitor's recreational experience. All waste must be disposed of properly.

LOANER LIFE JACKETS AVAILABLE FOR FREE
AT EVERY BOAT RAMP AND BEACH!

Rend Lake Public Recreation Areas	Amphitheater	Beach	Boat Ramp	Boat Rental & Fuel	Camping	Disc Golf Course	Golf Course	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Tables	Playground	Resort & Restaurant	Restrooms	Showers	Tennis Court	Trails	Trap Range	Visitor Center
South Sandusky		■	■	●	♿	●		♿	■	■		♿	♿		♿		●
North Sandusky			■		♿	■		♿	■	■		♿	♿		♿		
South Marcum			■		♿			♿	■	■		♿	♿	■	♿		●
Gun Creek			■		♿		●	♿	■	■	●	♿	♿		●		
North Marcum		■	■					♿	■	■		♿	♿		♿		
Dam West		●	■	●	●			♿	♿	■		♿	●		♿		♿
Spillway	♿		●	●	●			♿	■	■		♿	●		♿		●
WFSP* & Resort			■	X	♿		●	■	■	■	X	■	■	X	■	●	
Rend Lake Marina		●	●	■	●			●	●	●		■	●		♿		●
RLCD** Golf Resort			■	X	●		■	●		●	♿	■	●	■	♿	♿	

*Wayne Fitzgerald State Park
**Rend Lake Conservancy District

■ SERVICE / FACILITY AVAILABLE X TEMPORARILY CLOSED
♿ WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE ● SERVICE / SUPPLY WITHIN 2 MILES OF AREA ENTRANCE