

APPLE RIVER CANYON STATE PARK

8763 East Canyon Road
Apple River, IL 61001
Park & Reservations: 815-745-3302



Apple River Canyon State Park is a gem of a park that is little known and little used. Located about 28 miles northwest of Freeport, Illinois, Apple River Canyon is nestled in the rolling territory of Jo Davies County; the part of Illinois that was not flattened by the glaciers of the Ice Age.

The Apple River has a variety of fish including smallmouth bass, sunfish, crappie, carp, and suckers. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources stocks Apple River with keeper-size trout. The river is one of several in the state where the department releases this fish. Trout require clean, clear, cold water and in the spring, Apple River meets these requirements. However, the fish do not live through the hot summer months so the stream is stocked on a put-and-take basis. License and trout stamps may be obtained at the park office.

Campfire Rules: Fires restricted to Fire Pads;
Wood gathering permitted.

Water: Water pumps usually on by mid April. Clean brick latrines.

Seasonal information: Park is open year-round for camping. Reservations required April 15 to October 31. Reservation form on line at <http://dnr.state.il.us/LANDS/Landmgt/PARKS/R1/APPLE>.

Area Attractions: There is no reason to leave Apple River Canyon State Park, but if you must visit the old historic town of Galena Illinois, take a trip to with Grant's Home or other historic attractions around town. There is also a canoe outfitter in Galena called Fever River Outfitters that will guide trips down the Galena River to the Mississippi.

Activities inside the park: Camping, fishing, hiking on five marked trails.

Interesting fact about the area: Nearby Stockton, Illinois (population 1,926) was the home of J.L. Kraft's first cheese factory in 1914. J. L. Kraft was the founder of Kraft Foods and donor of Camp Mach-kin-o-siew to the West Suburban Boy Scout Council now known as our beloved Des Plaines Valley Council.

Must do before you leave: Fish and explore Apple River.

Authored by John Lorenzen

