

# SHABBONA LAKE STATE PARK

4201 Shabbona Grove Road (mapquest 100 Preserve Rd)  
Shabbona, IL 60550  
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Originally home to tribes of Native Americans, the park derives its name from Chief Shabbona. Pioneer settlement of the area began in the 1830's. From Shabbona Grove, in the southeast corner of the park, homesteaders spread over the region and began farming the rich soil.

In 1965, it was decided to develop a lake and recreation area on the site, and land acquisition was begun in 1969. By 1978, 1,550 acres had been obtained. In 1973, the lake area was cleared of trees, the shoreline was modified and earthen fishing piers and fish congregators were erected. By 1975, a 3,000-foot-long earthen dam with a concrete spillway was completed and the lake was formed.

**Campfire Rules:** Each site has a picnic table and a campfire ring. Creating new fire rings and fires outside designated fire rings is prohibited.

**Water Availability:** Shower facilities close during the winter. Water is still available.

**Site Availability:** The camp is open year-round, and 150 Class A sites are available for camping. The park also has 2 cabins with 2 rooms, accommodating a maximum of 6 people, costing \$55. The cabins do not have running water, but do have electric baseboard heat so they can be used year-round.

**Seasonal Information:** The park offers cross-country skiing on the nature trails in the winter. When the ice is thick enough, ice skating and ice fishing are also permitted. The rolling hills also provide a great environment for sledding and tobogganing.

**Activities inside the park:** 8 miles of hiking are available at the park, and a trail brochure and special cassette tape are available at the camp office. The specially designed cassette tape will guide you along the "Touch the Earth" trail. The park offers scenic woodland and plenty of prairieland. Fishing is available via pier or boat, and the man-made lake is stocked with smallmouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, rock bass, black and white crappie, black and brown bullhead, channel catfish, walleye, muskie, and perch. A 10 horsepower limit is enacted on all motors for the lake, and swimming is prohibited at the park.



**Interesting fact about the park:** The park was named after Chief Shabbona, whose name literally means "built strong like bear" in the language of the Ottawa tribe. He was the grandnephew of Pontiac, who was considered one of the greatest chiefs of the Ottawa. He later joined the Pottawatomie tribe, and became chief.

**Must do before you leave:** Hike the "Touch the Earth" trail. It's educational, and provides for a fun, interactive activity for the scouts.

*Authored by Dana Rick*