



of The Lakes

vol. 10 no. 3

July/Aug. 2025

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IT'S COMIN' UP

JULY/AUG. EVENTS

Upcoming events

Fox Lake Friday Night

Friday, July 11, at Lakefront Park and Beach, 10 Riverview Ave., Fox Lake.

This event will feature a farmer's market (4-7 p.m.), free live music (7-9 p.m.), and a variety of food and beverage options from local businesses and food trucks.

The theme will be "Fun with Fishing" with Chain O'Lakes Fishing Club and music will be by Johnny Russler and The Beach Bum Band.

Events are also slated July 18 and 25, and Aug. 1, 8, 15 and 29. For details, visit foxlake.org.

Concerts in the Plaza

Outdoor concerts at the Independence Grove Forest Preserve, 16400 W. Buckley Rd., Libertyville.

Performances are held Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Concerts are open to all ages and take place at the preserve's outdoor amphitheater, Millennia Plaza, overlooking a 129-acre lake.

Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs. Pop-up canopies and umbrellas are not permitted in the plaza or on the lawn. Arrive early to secure a spot. \$10 per vehicle.

Remaining events this summer: July 15 – American English, Beatles tribute; July 22 – Peach Jam, Allman Brothers Band tribute (blues rock); July 29 – Soul Sacrifice, Santana tribute (Latin rock); Aug. 5 – Mississippi Heat (blues).

The Wall That Heals

Thursday, July 17 – Sunday, July 20 (open 24 hours a day until 2 p.m. on July 20) at the Tim Osmond Sports Complex, 38 Depot St., Antioch.

Since its unveiling on Veterans Day 1996, The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., has visited nearly 800 communities across the United States, bringing the memorial's healing legacy to millions.

This traveling exhibit, including a mobile Education Center, enables veterans and their families to experience the memorial's comfort and peace within their own communities, fostering the healing process for many who have struggled to confront their memories. This event is free and open to all.

Kayak/Canoe

Kids 16 years old to adult – kayak or canoe with a naturalist at Moraine Hills State Park, 1510 S. River Rd., McHenry, Saturdays, July

19 or Aug. 16, at 9:45 a.m. or 12:45 p.m., or Tuesday, Aug. 5 at 12:45 p.m. Participants must bring their own watercraft and be proficient in its use as well as a life jacket that must be worn at all times.

Registration is required at least 24 hours in advance by sending an email to dnr.volobog@illinois.gov. Include name, phone number, email and ages of minors.

Artwauk in Waukegan

Saturdays, July 19 and Aug. 16, 5-9 p.m., Waukegan Arts Council, 39 Jack Benny Dr., Waukegan.

ArtWauk is the monthly celebration of all arts in downtown Waukegan and the Belvidere Mall - and in the warmer months, Waukegan Harbor! Each month is a unique experience as the art exhibits, musicians and featured performances vary from one month to the next. Come to ArtWauk, grab dinner, and enjoy the tactical application of the arts.

Free movie and more

Saturday, July 26 at 8:17 p.m., Country Lane Park, 3353 Country Ln. Waukegan.

The Waukegan Park District will feature a free screening of Mufasa: The Lion King as part of its summer movie series. Prior to the movie, attendees can enjoy free arts and crafts activities hosted by the district's Arts Park Program.

Children and families will have the opportunity to create artwork such as drawings, paintings, mosaics, sculptures, and more.

All movies in the series are family friendly and open to the public. Popcorn will be provided while supplies last.

Guests are encouraged to bring blankets, chairs, snacks, and picnic items. In the event of inclement weather, the movie will be rescheduled for a later date.

On Aug. 16, the series will wrap up with Inside Out 2.

Venetian Night

Saturday, Aug. 23, 1-10 p.m. Lakefront Park and Beach, 71 Nippersink Blvd., Fox Lake.

This event will be an end of the summer party showcasing Lakefront Park and Fox Lake's access to the Chain O' Lakes.

It will include a boat show, wine & beer tasting (\$45), historic walk, kids' area, vendors, food trucks beer tent and live music. The day will culminate with a drone light show that will be visible to people from the Lakefront Park and boats anchored in Nippersink Lake.

THE SPIRIT

IS A PUBLICATION OF



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The Spirit of The Lakes is a complimentary publication, distributed throughout the Chain O' Lakes and Kenosha County area. Keeping up with the same great tradition as the Spirit of Geneva Lakes.

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THE SPIRIT

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On the cover: Kids take off in what used to be called River Run at Fiesta Days. The now Lakefront 5K and Kids Run is set for Saturday, July 12 at 8 a.m.

COURTESY K-ADAMS FOTO Spirit of the Lakes



IT'S TIME FOR **Fiesta Days**

McHenry Chamber, sponsors host two long weekends of fun

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Each summer, residents as well as visitors of the McHenry area look forward to the activities of Fiesta Days – a celebration that takes place in July over a period of an extended week. It includes two weekends, one at each end of the celebration, resulting in several days of Fiesta Days fun, with a variety of activities to be sure all who attend are entertained.

This annual celebration is over 75 years old as it began on June 26, 1948, as the Marine Carnival and was sponsored by local businessmen.

According to an article in the McHenry Plaindealer, the McHenry Men's Business Association, "wanted to promote the city of McHenry." It was seen as a resort town with its biggest draw being the Fox River along with the many activities enjoyed on the water in the area during the summer.

The second year the event changed its name to Marine Day, a name it carried for 10 years. The kickoff to Marine Day was



from top: The Fiesta Days sign welcomes visitors to Petersen Park; Enjoy some time at the craft fair in Veteran's Park and for those with kids, there will be free arts and crafts stations.

COURTESY K-ADAMS FOTO *Spirit of the Lakes*

always a colorful parade led by a vehicle carrying city officials. The first year, according to the McHenry Public Library blog, brought in 15,000 visitors to enjoy the day of boats racing on the Fox River and the parade.

The first Marine Day events were mostly that, a parade followed by a variety of activities on the water. These included, according to early advertising, rowboat races, canoe tilting, fancy and comedy diving, shell racing and surfboard riding and waterskiing.

The day ended with what was billed as “the greatest inboard boat race.” This was not surprising as there were several boat builders who made their home in McHenry. They would cordon off a section of the river for these events, stopping through traffic.

Over the next few years, the event would continue to evolve. In 1949, they were attracting racers from Chicago, Milwaukee and Madison. The races were run and judged by the National Power Boat Association and the event was supported each year by many of the community’s local business, particularly The McHenry Men’s Business Association.

“The Men’s Business Association, in 1952 while my father, Albert Blake, was president, voted to become the Chamber of Commerce,” Patricia Schafer, who grew up in McHenry, shared.

Since that time, the chamber has been the principal sponsor and organizer of the event.

The parade, the waterfront activities and the choosing of the Marine Day Queen remained the focus of the celebration in its early days.

“My father-in-law, Frank Low, was part of the early group who started this event,” shared Sue Low Meyer, former Mayor of McHenry. “For many years my late husband Tom Low, served on the Fiesta Days Board of Directors and ran the parade.”

Still growing

After 10 years as Marine Days, the focus of the event changed and activities on the waterfront were no longer the primary events of the festival.

Today, the McHenry Chamber of Commerce continues to plan and support what began as Marine Days and has progressed to Fiesta Days. Each year the happenings incorporated into the event grow with many of the city’s businesses offering support.

This year, Fiesta Days will be held July 10 through July 20 and will take place throughout the City of McHenry.

The first events this year will be at Petersen Park along the shore of McCullom Lake while later in the festival, events will be held in downtown McHenry



from top: Ducks are dumped into Boone Creek for the start of the duck race from the Green Street bridge; Bagpipers participate in a past Fiesta Days parade.

COURTESY K-ADAMS FOTO *Spirit of the Lakes*

at Veteran’s Memorial Park and include local businesses including restaurants and bars.

Fiesta Days will kick-off at Petersen Park on Thursday, July 10 from 6 to 10 p.m. with an adults-only affair. Cask & Barrel Night is a high end happening for those who enjoy quality whiskey and craft beer. There will be 40 different whiskey samples available to choose from and a variety of craft beers. Appetizers and music will be included as part of the ticket price.

A non-alcoholic option – known as the designated driver’s ticket – can also be purchased where only non-alcoholic beverages can be consumed by those going that route. However, everyone must be 21

years of age or older.

Tickets are \$65 and for non-alcoholic tickets are \$25. A maximum of 350 tickets will be sold and tickets must be purchased in advance.

Bring the family

The family friendly activities begin the next day, on Friday, July 11, when the carnival opens in Petersen Park.

Carnival hours are Friday, July 11, 5-11 p.m. (wristband special, 5-9 p.m.); Saturday, July 12, 2-11 p.m. (wristband special 2-5 p.m.); Sunday, July 13, noon-9 p.m. (wristbands, 1-5 p.m.) Tickets are \$1 each and a ride takes between 3 and 5 tickets. Wristbands, which offer unlimited



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rides during specified hours, are \$30.

Note that from 1-2 p.m. on Saturday, July 12 there will be a Special Friends Carnival – a free offering for kids and adults with special needs who would otherwise not be able to enjoy the carnival when it's open to the public. A registration form is available online at mchenryfiestadays.com (under Music Fest Weekend and then carnival) which can be brought to the park at 12:30 p.m. that day.

Friday is also the start of Music Fest Weekend, which will feature many cover

bands performing a variety of genres to appeal to all music lovers. Tickets must be purchased to attend the music venues on Friday and Saturday, July 11-12. A variety of food vendors will also be available.

The former River Run is now the Lakefront 5K and Kids Run. The event will be on Saturday, July 12 with check in beginning at 7 a.m. and the race at 8 a.m.

Be at the park early on Sunday for there is a full schedule of things going on. The 41st Annual Car Show will begin at 8 a.m. and continue until 2:30 p.m. It will feature

everything from muscle cars and hot rods to vintage domestic cars of all kinds.

Sunday is free admission day, but there may be charges for individual activities. Families and their children can enjoy a variety of games. Children's activities (from noon to 4 p.m.) include inflatables, face painting, games and prizes. And who doesn't love a dunk tank, especially when sending (or trying to send) someone else into the tank.

There will also be RC racing (for a cost) as well as a variety of free family-friendly yard games such as cornhole, giant Jenga, giant Connect Four and more.

There will be a Big Wheels Race at 3 p.m., Sunday, July 13. Children ages 3-5 ride their all-plastic big wheels to compete for trophies. The cost to race is \$5 and can be paid when registering that day.

For many years, McHenry hosted a fireworks celebration in honor of Independence Day although it rarely fell on the 4th. Usually, it was on the 3rd or the 5th, but close enough. It was held right at Petersen Park Beach over McCullom Lake.

Several years ago, the fireworks show was moved to coincide with Fiesta Days. This year, on Sunday evening, July 13, the initial weekend of Fiesta Days events at Peterson Park will end with a spectacular fireworks display over McCullom Lake.



from top left: The parade features a variety of entries; Kids can compete in a Big Wheels Race; Carnival rides are a favorite for most children and adults and Fiesta Days has a variety of ones to choose from.

COURTESY K-ADAMS FOTO Spirit of the Lakes

Wraps up downtown

A few days later, Fiesta Days will resume but this time in downtown McHenry and Veteran's Memorial Park.

Bring your lawn chair to Veteran's Memorial Park, 3400 Pearl St., for a concert on Thursday, July 17. Listen to local musicians including the McHenry City Band. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. The event will run from 5 to 9 p.m. that evening.

The Parade Marshal for this year will be introduced at 7 p.m. that evening. The Marshal is chosen each year from those nominated by community members. To be considered the nominees must have a history of community service and volunteerism and be well known in the area.

"I felt underqualified that I was the Parade Marshal and



realized that there were way too many that should have been in the Grand Marshal's seat before me," shared Pat Wirtz, a formal marshal.

Despite his protest, Wirtz was an ideal choice as he has lived in McHenry his entire life, taught his entire career at McHenry High School, has served on the Landmark Commission, is active in the McHenry Area Historic Society, and for many years oversaw and organized the Day at Peterson Farm event among a variety of other volunteer activities.

For those interested in Arts and Crafts, Saturday (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) is your day. Veteran's Memorial Park and the Miller Point Riverwalk area will feature a variety of the Midwest area's

Bring back memories of times gone by as you meander through the car show.

COURTESY K-ADAMS FOTO *Spirit of the Lakes*

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NEW PRICE

N7729 Laura Lane, Elkhorn - Luxurious lakefront estate on Lauderdale Lakes' exclusive "Gold Coast" with 142' of pristine sand frontage and 1.28 acres of gated, wooded privacy, all on a private road for additional exclusivity. The 4BD, 4.5BA main home is designed for elevated lake living, with panoramic views, lakeside dining, a vaulted screened porch, and a lake-side primary suite with private deck. Entertain with ease in the walkout lower level featuring a family room, wet bar, brick fireplace & patio with fire pit. A rare wet boathouse includes a stunning 2BD/1BA guest cottage above with vaulted ceilings, full kitchen, living room, and screened porch. Premium amenities include a 36x30 heated/cooled garage with 4 vaulted rooms including workout room & dog run, plus an additional heated 3.5-car detached garage **\$2,999,700**



NEW PRICE

W5712 North Dr, Elkhorn - Exquisitely remodeled in 2020, this stunning 3-bed, 2-bath ranch offers 92 feet of Middle Lake frontage with breathtaking, expansive views. The main level features soaring vaulted ceilings, a wall of sliding glass doors opening to a spacious wraparound deck, and a chef's kitchen with elegant Quartz countertops, designer backsplash, KitchenAid SS appliances, and a striking waterfall island with bar seating. A luxurious bedroom and spa-like bath with heated floors and a glass shower complete the main floor. The walk-out lower level boasts a chic beverage center, 2 additional bedrooms, a modern bath with glass shower, and laundry. Two 9x12 sheds, including one lakeside, lead to the pier and manicured yard. **\$1,049,700**



LAKEFRONT CONDO

W5135 Sterlingworth Ct, Elkhorn - Located in a prime spot at Sterlingworth Condominiums in the atrium, this 2-bedroom, 2-bath unit is just steps from the beach with its own boat slip. Enjoy stunning lake views through a wall of sliding glass doors leading to a spacious deck. The eat-in kitchen features a breakfast bar and dinette, while the living room offers a cozy gas fireplace. The master suite boasts an updated bath with a walk-in multi-head tile shower and double vanity. Wood flooring throughout. Direct access to the indoor pool, tennis and pickleball courts, and the finest sand beach on the lake. Just a short walk to Lauderdale Golf Course & minutes to Kettle Moraine trailhead. Turn-key for effortless lakefront living/laundry. Two 9x12 sheds, including one lakeside, lead to the pier and manicured yard. **\$697,700**



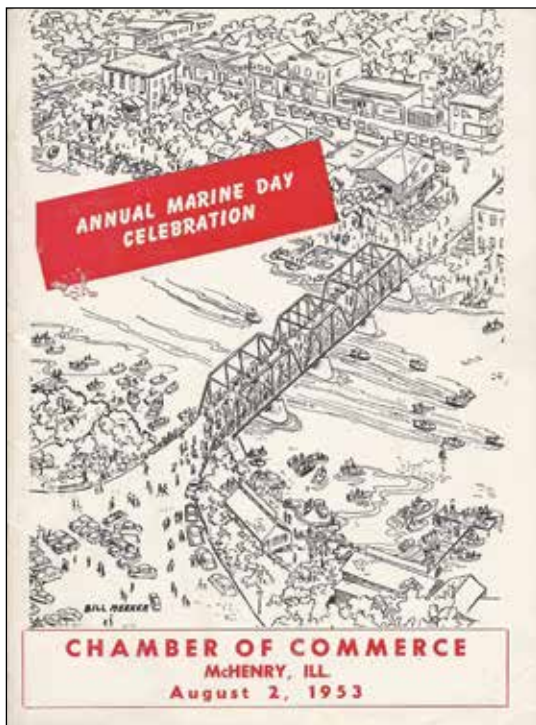
AS SEEN ON TML 4

W5357 Lauderdale Dr, Elkhorn - The Iconic Lauderdale Lakes home, "The Boathouse" on Deakin Isle is situated on 192' of premier shoreline. Rebuilt in 2015 to its original 1915 Jazz Age glory, this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home is bursting with historical details and architectural styles. Ballroom features 1,200 sq ft with original hard rock maple floors, unique hanging Meiji era Japanese lanterns, with the original Opium Den prepped for a future hidden wine cellar. All 3 Lauderdale Lakes are visible from numerous vantage points throughout the four levels. Kitchen features custom marble countertops, farm sink, Wolf & Sub-Zero appliances. Master BR ensuite with luxury freestanding tub, full steam room, and private deck with fireplace. A finished swim basin provides access to the marquee wet boathouse w/underwater lighting. **\$4,499,700**



BLUE SPRING LAKE

W1260 South Shore, Palmyra - Your lakefront search stops here! Move-in ready two-story with walk-out lower level and 65' of frontage on Blue Spring Lake. Low-voltage lighting runs to the floating pier and boat ShoreStations which stay in year-round. Lakeside kitchen with large breakfast bar and dining area offer extended lake views and access to multi-level decking which leads to lake access. Lakeside level lawn and shed. Cozy living room with wood-burning fireplace. In-floor heating system upgraded in 2021 with backup furnace and new A/C system installed in 2025. Main floor laundry room and Master Suite with lakeside sitting room. Upstairs offers four bedrooms and a full bath. Lower-level rec room with sliding glass door for lake access. Blue Spring Lake is an all-sports lake with crystal clear water. **\$789,700**



clockwise from above: A program was created for Marine Day years ago, such as the cover of this issue from 1953, which featured an illustration on the cover of the bridge where people gathered to watch the boat races; In addition to a parade through the city there also used to be a parade of boats on the river; Each year Marine Day, which has grown into Fiesta Days, began with a parade; The queen and her court aboard their float in a parade years ago.

COURTESY PAT WIRTZ *Spirit of the Lakes*



finest hand crafters displaying and selling their works. Artists and crafters on site will have florals, pottery, photography, woodwork, handmade jewelry and more.

Maker's Zone Craft Stations will be setup near the playground area in the park and offer free arts and crafts from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

While there are no longer the boat races of the past, there are still a few activities that encompass the Fox River including the DamYak Challenge. This is a 4.8-mile kayak run raises awareness and funds for Kids in McHenry County. See the website for more information and to sign up.

The McHenry Kiwanis Club will again be hosting a Duck Derby on Saturday, July 19 at 11 a.m. Each duck in this unique fundraiser supports the efforts of McHenry Kiwanis in serving youth in the area. Adopt a duck and watch it float down Boone Creek at the Garden Street Bridge along the Riverwalk.

This year there will be only 1,500 ducks and if all are sold, anticipated awards will be: 1st place, \$500; 2nd place, \$400; 3rd place, \$300; 4th place,



\$200; 5th place, \$100. Additional gift certificate awards will also be presented to more winners. The cost to adopt a duck is \$5 with cash on site that day, or \$5.25 if registering online or with a card at the event.

Fiesta Days will come to a close with the annual parade through downtown McHenry beginning at 1:30 p.m., Sunday,

July 20. Note that a special "candy bag" will be given to young parade watching guests to collect their goodies from parade participants.

For more information about Fiesta Days, visit mchenryfiestadays.com or contact the McHenry Chamber of Commerce 1307 N. Green St., McHenry, by calling 815-385-4300.

'Heart of a water wonderland'



Chain O'Lakes State Park features a variety of offerings

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

On a beautiful summer day, there is nothing better for many people than to spend the time outdoors, enjoying the fresh open air. Spending it with family members, especially the young people in our lives can make it even more special.

Those seeking a place to spend time outside doing a variety of activities should consider a trip to Chain O'Lakes State Park, which is located in the heart of Illinois' largest concentration of natural lakes. With nearly 6,500 acres of water and 488 miles of shoreline, it's appropriately referred to as "the heart of a water wonderland" by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources representatives.

There are nearly endless opportunities for people and families, enough to surely curb the somewhat common boredom that can come with summer, particularly for children.

While the area did not become a state park until 1945, the history of it goes back far earlier, when the Algonquin tribes made their home here. The predominant tribes were the Miami, Mascouten and Potawatomi.

They were all semi-nomadic tribes who grew corn and hunted and fished for their food. The land in the Chain O'Lakes area was perfect for their lifestyle as it featured fertile soil to grow their corn and other plants, many lakes to fish and the variety of animals that inhabited the open land, which allowed them to hunt.

In 1673, Joliet and Marquette – early explorers of the area – made their way through as they traveled the Fox River. The area they travelled included what is now known as Chain O'Lakes State Park.

In the 1930s, a Civilian Conservation Corps camp became the Chain O'Lakes Conservation Area, which was incorporated into the state park in 1957.

The park is known not only for its open lands, picnic areas and trails but also for its lengthy shoreline. It borders three natural lakes in the Chain – Grass, Marie and Nippersink – and the Fox River, which connects the other lakes that make up the chain (Bluff, Fox, Pistakee, Channel, Petite, Catherine and Redhead. In addition, the park has a private lake, Turner Lake, which covers 44 acres and is in the camping section of the park.

Despite having so much water frontage,

the one activity not available at the park is swimming as there are no beaches.

Spend a day, or several

"We bring our boat up here frequently in the summer," shared members of the Johnson family, from Kane County. "It's a short ride and there is no charge to launch the boat. We can spend a day on the water and be home in time to put the kids to bed at a reasonable hour."

The main entrance to the park is located on Wilmot Road, just south of Route 173. As one enters the park they might be amazed at the open prairie land. Much of it is wetlands that continues to be restored.

Further into the park, the look changes from open grasslands to more heavily wooded areas. A variety of trails for walking, hiking and biking can be seen in various areas of the park.

For many years there was a horse concession on site where visitors could pay to join a trail ride through the park on the designated horse trail but for now, at least, that's not an option.

"For the past two years we have not had a vendor for horse rentals," shared Theresa Hahl, Office Administrator at Chain

In addition to the boat launch at the park, there are several piers.

PHOTO COURTESY ILLINOIS DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES *Spirit of the Lakes*



O'Lakes State Park. "We hope to obtain another but need to upgrade the facility first."

Meanwhile, one can still bring their own horse to the park and ride the horse trail. There is ample parking for horse trailers in the equestrian parking area.

Many areas to picnic

One of the favorite activities for many to enjoy at the park is gathering for a picnic. There are several designated picnic areas: Oak Point, Deer Path, Hickory Grove, Pike Marsh, Oak Grove, Catfish Grove and Maple Grove. Each of these picnic groves includes tables, grills, water fountains and toilets.

Those with children may wish to choose Oak Grove or Oak Point areas for a picnic

as there is playground equipment, which the children will enjoy before and after eating.

Picnic areas are open to the public, while Oak Point, Oak Grove and Deer Path have pavilions that may be reserved. Check with the park office to be sure the pavilions are not reserved before settling into one for the day.

After a bite to eat in a picnic area, it might be time to hike and work off that meal or build up an appetite for the next one.

There are hiking as well as biking trails that range in length or they may be combined to make a 6-mile trail through the park, accessible from any of the picnic areas as well as from the park office/concession stand area.



from top: Bring your trailer or tent and enjoy camping in the park; In various areas, these turtle crossing signs are seen where the turtles make their way across to their nests; Gathering around a picnic table, a family enjoys a day at the park, followed by some games along the shore.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of the Lakes*



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Take advantage of the bodies of water

The Chain O'Lakes State Park is great for those who wish to be on or near the water. As stated before, the park borders some of the chain so is an ideal place to launch a boat and get out for a day.

While there is no charge to launch each boat must have paid a user fee to the Fox Waterway Agency to use the Chain O' Lakes waterways. The stickers can be purchased at the Fox Waterway office in Fox Lake or at the concession stand in the park.

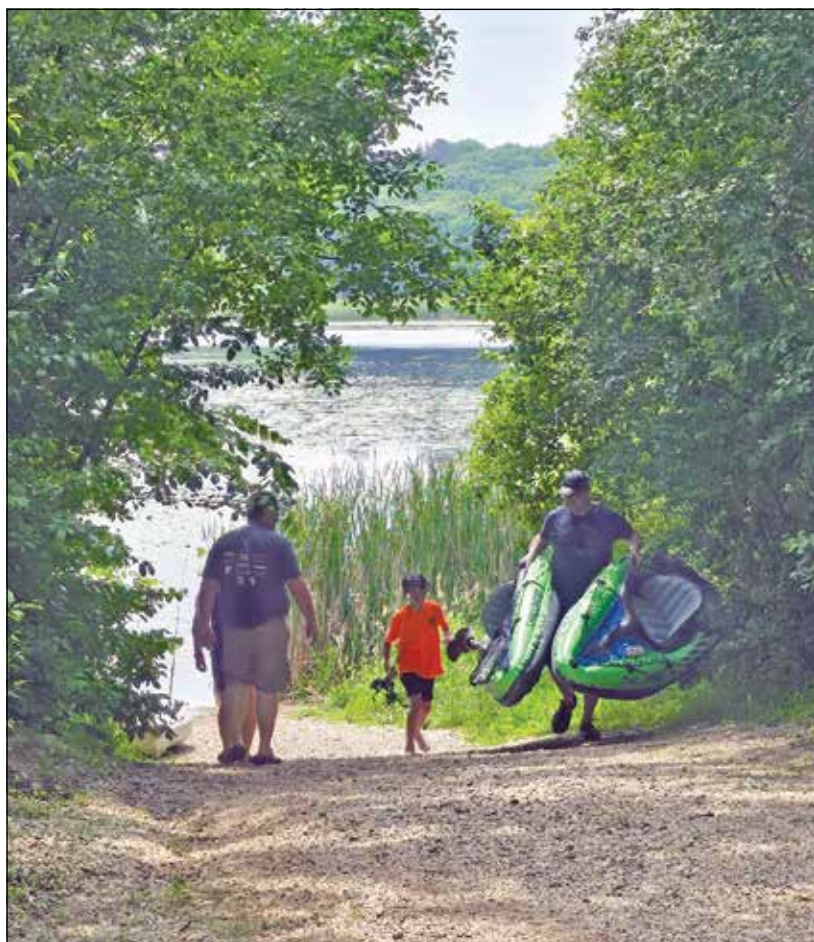
"While we used to have paddle boats for rent, this year they are on hold as the piers are being remodeled," Susan McClaughry, from the Camp Post Office explained. "Later this year the boat launch is also due to be upgraded but a definite date has not been determined."

Along the shore it's common to see people with fishing poles in hand trying to catch one of the many fish found in the lake. There are catch as well as size limits that are enforced in an effort to maintain the supply of fish in the lake. Because of the shoreline's marshy nature, most of the fishing in the area is best done by boat or from the fishing piers located near the boat launch area.

Officials do encourage catch-and-release to ensure fish are reaching maturity. Muskies are one of the fish that live a long life and are often caught and released several times throughout their lifetime. There are signs posted telling those who fish how to release the fish safely so that they can continue to live and grow.

Camping and more activities to explore

Many visitors come to the park to camp, enjoying a night or more in nature in a tent or camper. The park contains a Class A campground



clockwise from top: The main entrance to Chain O'Lakes State Park is on Wilmot Road south of Route 173; Many visitors fish off one of the piers at the park – most of it is catch-and-release to allow the fish to grow to full size; People spending time at the park make their way to Turner Lake, a 44-acre private lake on site.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of the Lakes*



Walking the trails through the park is a great way to enjoy time outdoors, get some exercise and spend time with family or friends.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of the Lakes*

with 150 sites available. These sites include electricity, disposal stations, flush toilets and shower facilities nearby.

The park also contains 87 sites that are Class B which have water, vault toilets and access to showers.

“Another upgrade this year is that all the electric service is being upgraded to 50-amp service,” Hahl said.

There are several ADA accessible campsites at the park, four in the Honey Suckle area and two in Fox Den.

In addition, there are five sites that can accommodate youth groups, with room for a total of 150 children. The youth group sites are only available through advanced reservation with park office staff and there must be adult supervision. Contact them for reservations and for additional information about youth groups.

Campsites may be reserved by contacting the park office. Up to 25% of the available sites are reserved ahead of time while walk-ins are accepted daily for the remainder of the spaces. Visitors can only camp in the park 14 nights in any 30-day period. At the time of registration, on the day of camping, visitors must have their shelter with them and get it set up immediately after registering.

Alcohol is not allowed on any site in the campground at the park.

Visitors can enjoy kayaking and fishing from boats but note that only small trolling motors are allowed on Turner Lake.

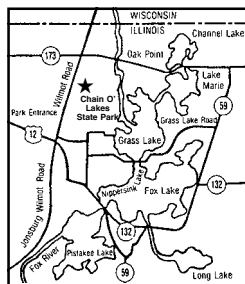
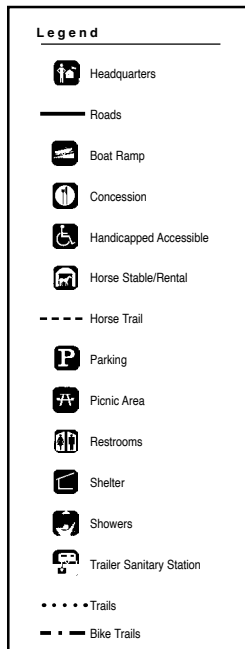
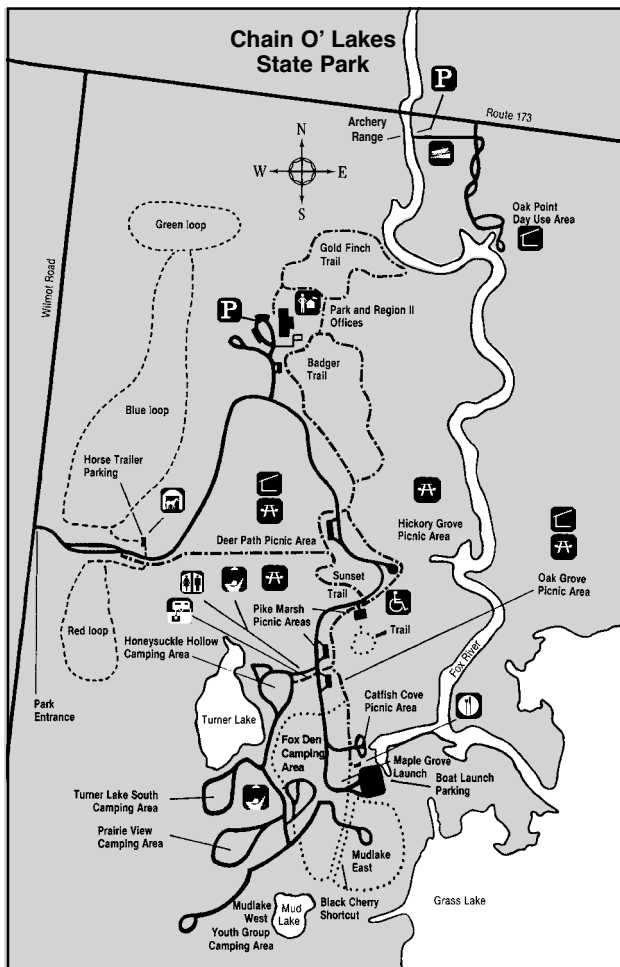
For those interested in archery, there is a practice range located on Route 173 west of the Fox River. It's open from May 1 until the beginning of hunting season, from 8:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. daily.

Pets are allowed in the park but must be always kept on a leash of 10 feet in length or less and be under control of the owner.

There are also a variety of winter activities that take place in the park including ice skating, snow shoeing and cross country skiing, when the weather cooperates. A sledding hill is located near the park office and ice fishing is welcome on the Chain O'Lakes and on Turner Lake when the ice is sufficiently frozen. While snowmobiling is not permitted in the park, access to the frozen lake water is provided with parking available at the boat launch.

The park is open in the summer from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., daily. It's closed the last weekend in October through hunting season; hunting at the park is by registration only. In the winter, park hours are 8 a.m. to sunset.

Chain O' Lakes State Park is at 8916 Wilmot Road, Spring Grove, Illinois. For more information, call 847-587-5512 or visit the website, dnr.illinois.gov.



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