



Cedar Lake Trail System



Cedar Lake and Little Cedar Lake are deep, clear lakes perfect for fishing, boating, canoeing, kayaking and primitive camping. Cedar Lake was constructed in 1973 and stocked with fingerlings in 1974. Private lands border the northern portion of Cedar Lake, but the entire southern half of the lake is surrounded by Shawnee National Forest. Hardwood forests, cedar trees and sandstone bluffs line the lake's shores.

Trail Highlights

Three trailheads provide access to the Cedar Lake trail system. For the perfect day-hike, try either Cove Hollow trail or Little Cedar Lake loop trail. Both feature spectacular scenic overlooks, views of the lake, rock shelters and sandstone bluffs. For the long distance hiker or equestrian, the River to River Trail passes through the area from Lirley Trailhead to Alto Pass. If you enjoy winter hiking, this area offers beautiful snow and ice-covered landscapes. Primitive camping is permitted off the trail, at least 150 feet from Cedar Lake or Little Cedar Lake and a maximum of 14 days continuous stay applies.

Wildlife Viewing

White-tailed deer, raccoon, wild turkey and an occasional beaver inhabit this area. If you aren't lucky enough to encounter one of these inhabitants, you will likely see evidence of their presence. The trails offer excellent opportunities for bird watching and other nature viewing during any season.

Other Attractions

Little Grand Canyon, Pomona Natural Bridge, Giant City State Park, Bald Knob Wilderness and Panther Den Wilderness.

Length: Total Trail System = 16 miles

Little Cedar Loop = 4.3 miles

Cove Hollow Trail = 3.3 miles

Trail Surface: Dirt/Natural

Trail Markings: See map on reverse side for trail numbers. Some trail junctions have signs.

Trail Reassurance Markers =  white diamond

River to River Trail =  blue i

Trail Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Parking: Cedar Lake Main Trailhead has vault toilet, a boat launch and trailer parking. Cove Hollow and Lirley Trailheads have small parking lots. Landreth Road trail access is an unimproved parking area.

Directions to Cedar Lake Trailhead:

From Murphysboro: Take Highway 127 south 10 miles to Boat Dock Road. Turn east (left) onto Boat Dock Rd., continue 0.8 mile to the trailhead.

From Jonesboro: Take Highway 146 west 2.5 miles, to Hwy 127, then north 12 miles on Hwy 127 to Boat Dock Road. Turn east (right) onto Boat Dock Rd., continue 0.8 mile to the trailhead.

To Cove Hollow Trailhead: From Hwy 127 turn east onto Dutch Ridge Rd., right onto Cove Hollow Rd., which ends at the trailhead.

To Lirley Trailhead from Carbondale: Take Hwy 51 south 7 miles to Old Hwy 51; west on Old Hwy 51 0.75 mile to McGuire Rd. Take McGuire Rd. 0.25 mile to Rowan Rd. Turn south (left) onto Rowan Rd. for 0.7 mile to the trailhead.

Safety: Extra caution should be used when the trail is near the bluffs and when crossing the causeway to Little Cedar Lake.

No camping within 150 feet of Cedar or Little Cedar Lakes.



Cedar Lake Trail System



Cove Hollow Trailhead

Cove Hollow Rd.

Ridge Rd.

Dutch Rd.

Boat Dock Rd.

Cedar Lake Trailhead

Landreth Rd.

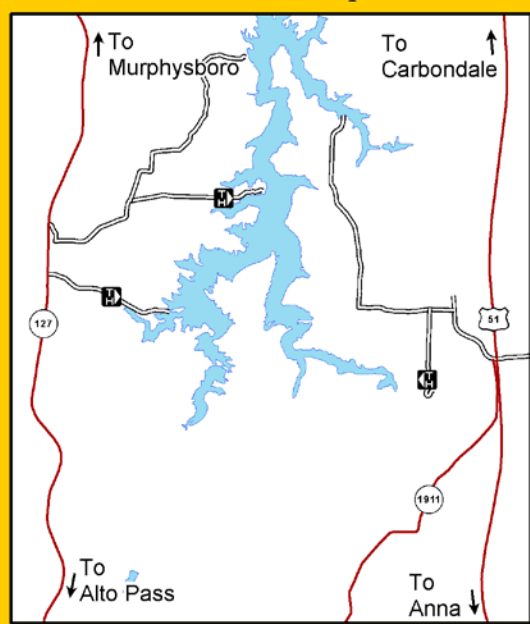
Little Cedar Lake

Lirley Trailhead

Contour interval = 20 feet

Road conditions vary widely, many are not passable by motor vehicle

Locator Map



Legend

jvaughn 2014

- Point of Access
- Parking
- Restroom
- Trailhead
- Boat Ramp
- State Highway
- Road
- Dirt Road
- Hiker/Equestrian Trail
- Cove Hollow Trail
- River to River Trail
- Stream
- National Forest Land
- Non-National Forest Land

