

Carlyle Lake Paddle Map

Everyday is an adventure at Carlyle Lake!



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
St. Louis District



Phone Numbers

911 is the Emergency phone number for police, ambulance & fire in Bond, Clinton, & Fayette Counties

Non-Emergency Phone Numbers

Clinton County Sheriff (618) 594-4555
Bond County Sheriff (618) 664-2151
Fayette County Sheriff (618) 283-2141

Carlyle Lake Project Office

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
801 Lake Road, Carlyle, IL 62231
(618) 594-2484 • carlylelake@usace.army.mil

Carlyle Lake Visitor Center

795 Lake Road, Carlyle, IL 62231
(618) 594-5253

Carlyle Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area Illinois Department of Natural Resources

RR #2, Box 233, Vandalia, IL 62471
(618) 425-3533

Eldon Hazlet State Park

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
20100 Hazlet Park Road, Carlyle, IL 62231
(618) 594-3015

1 Old River Channel

Launch: General Dean Recreation Area
N38.37.507 W089.21.757
Distance: 1.52 miles

The original Kaskaskia River Channel, which was diverted during the construction of Carlyle Lake, provides a sanctuary for species of birds such as bald eagles, great blue herons, belted kingfishers, purple martins, cliff swallows and mallard ducks. Paddle underneath the Old Kaskaskia River Channel Pedestrian Bridge and head east.

2 Green Meadows Cove

Launch: Dam East Boat Ramp
N38.37.507 W089.21.757
Distance: .809 miles

Enjoy a peaceful, serene cove with a view of Dam East South Shore Recreation Area. This cove is small with very little boat traffic, making it the perfect place to practice paddling or to drop a line and fish.

3 Casey Dempsey Cove

Launch: Eldon Hazlet State Park
N38.39.809 W089.19.201
Distance: 2.0 miles

With approximately 25 campsites located on the north end of the Eldon Hazlet State Park Illini Campground, paddlers camping on these sites have the luxury of a short carry down to the water. Paddlers have the option of staying in the Casey Dempsey Cove or paddling one mile over to the Allen Branch Trail.

4 Carlyle Sailing Association

N38.37.636 W089.21.829
Launch: Kayak Launch Area
N38.37.507 W089.21.757
Distance: 0.52 miles

The Carlyle Lake Sailing Association offers rental kayaks for those looking enjoy a day on the lake. This small cove is a great place for beginners to practice. Once comfortable with your skills, head west towards Peppenhorst Branch Trail.

5 Burnside Branch Cove

Launch: Burnside Branch Kayak and Canoe
N38.42.091 W089.18.029
Distance: 3.0 miles

This remote, out of the way, cove offers paddlers a place to park their vehicle and carry their boat only a short distance to launch from the shore. This serene cove is the perfect place to relax and enjoy nature.

6 Bond Branch Trail

Launch: Dam West Recreation Area
N38.37.507 W089.21.757
Distance: 3.53 miles

A small, sandy kayak and canoe launch next to the Dam West Boat Ramp is the perfect place to launch for easy departure. Head east, then take a turn to the north and travel past Dam West Campground into Bond Branch. Paddlers will enjoy this quiet branch with opportunities to view wildlife and aquatic plants.

7 Coles Creek Branch Trail

Launch: Coles Creek Recreation Area
N38.39.292 W089.16.051
Distance: 5 miles

Adventure awaits paddlers on this pristine section of trail that encourages exploration. As you paddle along the shoreline, look for wading birds, dragonflies, and sunning turtles. This cove has many areas for paddlers to pull kayaks up onto the shoreline.

Alternate Launch: Maple Grove Parking Lot
N38.38.705 W089.15.358

8 Peppenhorst Branch Trail

Launch: Eldon Hazlet State Park Allen Branch
Boat Ramp
N38.40.632 W089.16.682
Distance: 6.78 miles

Peppenhorst Branch is a birders paradise. In the heart of this branch stands an Osprey nesting platform (N38.38.618 W089.20.246) where paddlers can experience a sighting of osprey on the nest from April through July. If you paddle for exercise, this branch is the largest cove on Carlyle Lake and is the perfect place to get fit!

9 Allen Branch Trail

Launch: Eldon Hazlet State Park Allen Branch
Boat Ramp
N38.42.091 W089.18.029
Distance: 6.78 miles

This cove is abundant with wildlife, and a great place to kick back and relax. Paddlers in this cove have the opportunity to see white egrets, cormorants, waterfowl, and bald eagles. Don't forget your binoculars and camera!

10 West Branch Trail

Launch: Lakeside Access
N38.34.851 W089.16.968
Launch: Keyesport Boat Ramp
N38.43.99 W089.16.682

Distance From Lakeside Access: 5.75 miles
Distance From Keyesport Boat Ramp: 6.95 miles

This trail offers two areas to launch your kayak or canoe from, depending on the distance and area you would like to paddle. Launching from Lakeside gives you the shortest distance to paddle to access the West Branch Cove. For more of a challenge, you can launch from Keyesport Boat Ramp and paddle to the cove, or paddle along outside the buoy area of the Keyesport beach. Paddlers will travel open water on a segment of the trail.

11 Brewster & Gibbs Creek Trail

Launch: Boulder Recreation Area
N38.41.746 W089.14.073
Distance: 6 miles

Paddlers have the opportunity to travel along the shorelines in search of many wildlife species that inhabit the area. Brewster Creek is home to many species of wildlife such as: wood ducks, wild turkeys, whitetail deer, and herons. In past studies completed by Southern Illinois University of Carbondale, the federally endangered Indiana Bat has been netted and documented in this area.



Paddle Safety Tips

- ◆ Wear a life jacket at all times.
- ◆ Consider taking a paddling safety course and know capsize recovery techniques.
- ◆ Do not use alcohol or drugs while paddling.
- ◆ Paddle in groups when possible.
- ◆ Know the experience and fitness levels of everyone in your group. File a float plan with a friend or relative.
- ◆ Check weather forecasts before departure onto the lake.
- ◆ Stay alert for submerged objects.
- ◆ Dress for the water temperature. For current water temperatures, visit <http://msv-c.mvs.usace.army.mil/trans/gage/gage2.html#>
- ◆ Paddling at night is not recommended. Federal and state regulations require that you must carry a white light that you can display between sunset and sunrise.

What to bring

◆ Life Jacket	◆ Map	◆ GPS Unit
◆ Drinking Water	◆ Cell Phone	◆ First Aid Kit
◆ Food	◆ Sunscreen	◆ Dry Bag
	◆ Whistle	◆ Marine Radio

Select the right trip for your ability

Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced
1 Old River Channel	5 Burnside Branch Cove	8 Peppenhorst Branch Trail
2 Green Meadows Cove	6 Bond Branch Trail	9 Allen Branch Trail
3 Casey Dempsey Cove	7 Coles Creek Branch Trail	10 West Branch Trail
4 Carlyle Sailing Association		11 Brewster and Gibbs Creek Trail