

# PARK INFORMATION 2020

# REND LAKE



Get Out and Enjoy  
Your Lakes and Rivers



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers™**  
St. Louis District  
DP 1130-2-20



@rendlakeusace

Rend Lake Project Office & Visitor Center  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
11981 Rend City Road  
Benton, Illinois 62812

To Our Visitors,

Welcome to Rend Lake, and thank you for visiting us. Rend Lake is one of five lakes and many miles of river that is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District. Surrounding these waters are thousands of acres of public land providing exceptional opportunities for outdoor recreational and educational activities.

All members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers team appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you. To assist you during your visit we have developed a variety of publications. They are available from the Rend Lake Project Office & Visitor Center, campground entrance stations, or a park ranger.

Please become familiar with the rules that apply to your recreational activities. They have been developed to make your visit safe and enjoyable and to preserve natural resources. If you observe anyone performing unsafe acts or otherwise violating regulations, please contact a park ranger.

The St. Louis District hosts millions of visitors annually. Please be extremely careful in and around the water, on trails, and near bluffs or steep areas. One careless moment can result in a lifetime of regret. Remember to wear your life jacket when you are on or near the water.

We hope your visit will be a pleasant experience. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact us at the phone number or address on the back of this publication. We are here to serve you. Come again soon, and tell your friends about this beautiful natural resource.

*Jackie M. Taylor*  
Jackie M. Taylor  
Operations Manager

## EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Rend Lake Project Office & Visitor Center	618-724-2493
Franklin County Sheriff	618-438-4841
Jefferson County Sheriff	618-244-8004
Illinois State Police	618-542-2171
Illinois Conservation Police	618-435-8138

## OFFICE ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

**Rend Lake Project Office & Visitor Center**  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
11981 Rend City Road  
Benton, IL 62812  
Phone: (618) 724-2493

South Sandusky Campground	618-625-3011
North Sandusky Campground	618-625-6115
Gun Creek Campground	618-629-2338
South Marcum Campground	618-435-3549

**Wayne Fitzgerald State Park (IDNR)**  
11094 Ranger Road  
Whittington, IL 62897-9781  
Phone: (618) 629-2320

**Rend Lake Conservancy District (RLCD)**  
11231 Marcum Branch Road  
Benton, IL 62812  
Phone: (618) 439-4321

**Corps Watch Hotline**  
1- (866) 413-7970



Rend Lake's E-Mail Address

[RendInfo-MVS@usace.army.mil](mailto:RendInfo-MVS@usace.army.mil)

Visit our web site

[www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Rend-Lake/](http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Rend-Lake/)

Facebook@ Rend Lake Project Office/Visitor Center

## REND LAKE PROJECT OFFICE/VISITOR CENTER

This beautiful facility features an exhibit hall filled with displays on the history and construction of the lake, lake and river inhabitants, live reptiles, and a working bee hive. Start your visit to Rend Lake by exploring the Visitor Center and picking up some brochures of what Rend Lake and the surrounding area has to offer.

Visitor Center Hours of Operation  
March 28–November 1  
Mon–Fri: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00p.m.  
Sat–Sun: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00p.m.  
November 2–March 27  
Mon–Fri: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00p.m.

## 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>Earth Day Celebration</b>	April 30 & May 1 Rend Lake Project Office & Visitor Center
<b>Geocache Event</b>	May 9
<b>Beach Blast</b>	May 23 South Sandusky Beach
<b>National Public Lands Day</b>	October 26
<b>Environmental Science Series</b>	Saturdays May 9 – Sep 5
<b>Small World Programs</b>	2nd Tuesday each month

Events will be held at Rend Lake Project Office/Visitor Center unless noted otherwise on schedule.

For a complete list of programs, inquire at the Visitor Center or look on the Rend Lake Project Office/Visitor Center facebook page at [www.facebook.com/rendlakeusace](http://www.facebook.com/rendlakeusace).

## OTHER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The Rend Lake ranger staff presents programs on a number of topics related to environmental education, the natural and cultural history of the Rend Lake area, as well as how to safely use lake facilities. Groups may request a program by contacting the Rend Lake Project Office/Visitor Center at (618) 724-2493 at least two weeks in advance of the program date.

## CAMPGROUND SCHEDULES & RATES

**North Sandusky** Mar 27 – Nov 2  
Camping Fees \$16.00/ electric only  
\$26.00/ full hook-up

**Shagbark Group** Mar 27 – Nov 2  
See Group Camping for 2020 Dates & Fees

**South Sandusky** Mar 27 – Nov 2  
Camping Fees \$14.00/ walk-in tent  
\$16.00/ electric only  
\$20.00/ elec & water  
\$26.00/ full hook-up

**South Marcum** Mar 27 – Nov 9  
Camping Fees \$14.00/ walk-in tent  
\$16.00/ electric only  
\$26.00/ full hook-up

**Dale Miller Group Camp**  
See Group Camping for 2020 Dates & Fees

**Gun Creek** Mar 13 – Nov 23  
Camping Fees \$16.00/ electric only  
\$26.00/ full hook-up

America the Beautiful Senior and Access Passes provide half price discounts on individual Corps campsite fees. Pass holders must be registered on site and may be asked to provide proof of ID.

**Wayne Fitzgerald State Park** Jan 1 - Dec 31

Camping Fees \$8.00/ walk-in tent  
\$20.00/ electric only  
\$30.00/ major holidays

**All facilities and services are subject to change. All campgrounds provide drinking water, dumpstation, and restroom/shower facilities. See the Rend Lake Public Recreation Areas chart for more details on area accessibility.**



## PROJECT FACILITIES

**BEACH:** The South Sandusky Beach is located on the lake's southwest side off of Rend City Road. The Beach offers a large sand area, buoyed swim area, shaded picnic sites, foot showers, large change/shower house and two reservable picnic shelters. The beach open dates are May 15 thru September 13. Remember to include safety in all your summer-time fun.

**BLACKBERRY NATURE TRAIL:** This self-guided nature trail is 6/10 mile long, bark chipped and located between the entrance of South Sandusky Day Use Area and campground along the Rend City Road.

**REND LAKE BIKE TRAIL:** Sections of this 20.6 mile multi-use National Recreation Trail meander through forest, field, and wetland to give the user a panoramic view of Rend Lake. Pick up a bike trail map at the Rend Lake Project Office/Visitor Center. Always wear a helmet while riding. All pets must be on a leash. This trail is closed to non-hunters during all firearm deer season. Watch the trail entrances for any closure notices.

**EQUESTRIAN TRAIL:** This nine mile bridle trail encircles the wildlife/field trail area of the Wayne Fitzgerald State Park. This trail is open to all equestrians. Contact the State Park Office at 618-629-2320 to learn more.

**MARINA:** The Rend Lake Marina, located on Rend City Road, has fishing and pontoon boats for rent and for purchase. Boat repair services, slip rentals, winter boat storage, bait, fuel, and personal water craft sales are also available. Call the marina at (618) 724-7651.

**OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:** The lake is home to the 27 hole Rend Lake Golf Course and the 18 hole disc golf course at the North Sandusky Day Use. Trap, skeet, sporting clays, and five stand are available for members year round and to the general public March thru November at the Rend Lake Shooting Complex.

Rules and regulations governing public use of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water resources development projects are published in Title 36, CFR and are posted on bulletin boards or are available from a park ranger. The following, additional regulations are in effect for all Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District Projects as authorized in Title 36, CFR 327.12a.

**General Rules**

1. The operation of drones or other Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS's) is prohibited on all project lands, unless specifically authorized by the Operations Manager.
2. The operation of powerless flight devices including, but not limited to, sail planes, gliders, balloons, parasails, and hang-gliders is permitted except on any part of the dam, roads, bridges, over beaches or other heavy use areas.
3. The use of all kite tubes, defined as a "towable, inflatable device designed to be airborne," are banned from use on Corps managed waters throughout the St. Louis District.
4. All waste water must be collected in a container and disposed of in authorized disposal facilities. In primitive areas where sanitary facilities are not provided, human waste must be buried 100 feet from any body of water and/or campsites.
5. The use of America the Beautiful Senior Pass, America the Beautiful Access Pass, Golden Age, or Golden Access Passports by someone other than the person to whom the pass was issued is prohibited.
6. All motorized vehicles operated on roadways on public land administered by the Corps of Engineers must be licensed and operated by licensed drivers.

**Picnic Area Rules**

7. Picnic areas, designated by the Operations Manager and marked with appropriate signs, close at 10:00 p.m. Other areas, which are not posted, will remain open to public use.

**Beach Rules**

8. Alcohol is prohibited on the sand and water portions of all swimming beaches and other nearby facilities normally associated with beaches which are marked with appropriate signs. These facilities include, but are not limited to, picnic areas, parking lots, picnic shelters, etc.

9. All glass and other dangerous objects including, but not limited to, lawn darts and horseshoes, are prohibited on the sand and water portion of swimming beaches.

10. To avoid unsanitary conditions, all food, pets, and waste materials are prohibited on the sand and water portions of swimming beaches and other posted areas.

11. Beach users must stay within designated swim area.

**Camping Rules**

12. A responsible person must register and pay fees within a reasonable time after a camp is established or when the fee booth opens. Check out time is 4:00 p.m. Reservation sites will be available for occupancy when available, but no later than 5:00 p.m. The maximum number of campers per site is eight.

- 13a. The majority of sites are classified as single capacity sites, in which the total number of camping units is limited to one recreational vehicle or trailer and three additional tents. If no recreational vehicle or trailer is on site, a maximum of four tents is permitted. The maximum number of people permitted to stay overnight on a single capacity site is eight.

- 13b. On the few designated double capacity sites, the total number of camping units is limited to two recreational vehicles or trailers and six tents. If no recreational vehicles or trailers are on site, a maximum of eight tents is permitted. The maximum number of people permitted to stay overnight on a double capacity site is sixteen.

14. Campground roads and facilities are to be used by registered campers and their visitors only. Interfering with or restricting the use of the shoreline by boaters or other lake users is prohibited.

15. All wheeled vehicles, including but not limited to mopeds, mini-bikes, boat trailers, motorcycles, and other vehicles, must be kept on camping pads registered to vehicle users or in designated parking areas. All motor vehicles must be parked lengthwise on the camp pad except at sites with irregularly shaped pads. Parking on the grass, roadside or obstructing traffic is prohibited. Empty boat trailers may be stored on the grass provided that they are moved onto and off the grass by hand.

16. Picnic tables and lantern holders must remain on gravel surfaces at campsites with gravel impact areas.

17. To avoid tree damage, hanging lanterns are to be suspended a minimum of 8" from the side of trees and 24" from overhead limbs. Do not drive axes, nails, or other objects into trees.

**DAY USE FEES**

Day use fees are charged at boat ramps and the beach managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Boat Ramp Launch	\$5.00/ vehicle
Beach Use	\$5.00/ vehicle

Beach admittance is free for those displaying their registered Corps camp tag, America the Beautiful Pass, or Corps Annual Day Use Pass. A Corps Annual Day Use Pass may be purchased for \$40.00 at the Rend Lake Project Office/Visitor Center and at all campground fee booths. Corps annual passes expire one year from the date of purchase and are honored nationwide at Corps of Engineers managed facilities.

**GROUP DAY USE & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

Group Day Use areas and shelters are available both by advance reservation and on a first come, first serve basis and are available for use between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Beach shelters close at 7:30 p.m.

**Spillway Group Area:** Located on the east end of the dam, offers 10 acres of event area and facilities including a large shelter, amphitheater, gazebo, playground, restroom, direct access to bike trail, and ample parking.

Available Year Round  
Reservation \$150.00/ day

**Shelters:** All shelters have electric outlets, picnic tables, and parking. Most shelters have lights for night use. Pick up a Shelter Information sheet at the Rend Lake Visitor Center for more information on all 9 shelters.

Reservation \$25.00/day

**Disc Golf Course:** Located in the North Sandusky Day Use Area. This 18 hole course meanders through fields, woods, and along the lake shore.

For reservation details, visit  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

**RESERVATION PROGRAM**

Reservations for campsites, group areas, and shelters can be made by telephoning the Recreation One Stop (R1S) toll free number 877-444-6777 or TDD 877-833-6777 or on the Internet at [ww.recreation.gov](http://ww.recreation.gov)

Individual Campsite Reservations (including double sites) are accepted a maximum of 6 months in advance and a minimum of two days before planned arrival.

Reservations for Group Camp, Group Day Use and Recreational Facilities are accepted a maximum of 12 months in advance and a minimum of 2 days before planned arrival. A 2-night minimum stay is required for all weekend group camping reservations and a 3-day minimum is required on holiday weekends.

Reservations may be changed or cancelled, subject to additional service fees. All fees will be paid in full at time of reservation. A credit card must be used to pay fees by phone or on-line.

**GROUP CAMPING**

Group camping areas are available by advance reservation only (see Reservation Program Section for details). Check-in 4PM  
Check-out 2PM

**Shagbark Group Camp:** Located in North Sandusky campground, offers 21 wooded campsites with 50 amp electric, a group fire ring, and restroom facilities.

Mar 27 – Nov 2  
Daily: \$100.00/ night

**Dale Miller Group Camp:** Located in South Marcum campground, offers numerous amenities including 5 cabins, 9 trailer sites with 50 amp electric, private beach, an enclosed shelter, a group fire ring, mini-shower with restrooms, a playfield, and a combination tennis/basketball court.

Peak Season: May 18 – September 13  
Mon-Thurs: \$75.00/ night  
Fri-Sun: \$150.00/ night

Non-Peak Season: March 27 – May 17  
September 14 – November 2  
Mon-Thurs: \$75.00/ night  
Fri-Sun: \$100.00/ night

**WAYNE FITZGERRELL STATE PARK**

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Located just off IL Route 154, the park offers 3,300 acres for recreating. The park offers boat ramps, accessible boat docks, picnic sites, shelters, and 248 campsites. The Rend Lake Resort and Conference Center located in the State Park are temporarily closed. For more information call the Wayne Fitzgerald State Park Headquarters at (618)629-2320 or visit the IDNR website at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov).

**SEASONS LODGE**

REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Located just off IL Route 154 just west of Interstate 57. This area offers lodging, cabins, an event room, restaurant, and a 27 hole golf course with driving range, and shooting range. For more information call the lodge toll free at 1-800-999-0977 or visit the website at [www.rendlakegolfresort.com](http://www.rendlakegolfresort.com).

**AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASSES**

America the Beautiful Passes (Senior, Access, Military, 4th Grade, Volunteer, and Annual Passes) can now be obtained/purchased at the Rend Lake Project Office/Visitor Center and Corps managed campgrounds. Additional information is available at: [www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm](http://www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm).

**Quiet Hours: 10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.**

Pet Owners – Please remember all pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet, including on the Rend Lake Bike Trail, and must not interfere with another visitor's recreational experience. All waste must be properly disposed.

Rend Lake Public Recreation Areas	Amphitheater	Beach	Boat Ramp	Boat Rental & Fuel	Camping	Disc Golf Course	Golf Course	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Tables	Playground	Resort & Restaurant	Restrooms	Showers	Tennis Court	Trails	Trap Range	Visitor Center
	South Sandusky		■	■	●	♿	●		♿	■	■		■	♿		♿	
North Sandusky			■		♿	■		♿	■	■		♿	♿		♿		
South Marcum			■		♿			♿	■	■		♿	♿	■	♿		●
Gun Creek			■		♿		●	♿	■	■	●	♿	♿		●		
North Marcum			■					♿	■	■		♿	♿		♿		
Dam West		●	■	●	●			♿	♿	■		■	●		♿		♿
Spillway	♿		●	●	●			♿	■	■		♿	●		♿		●
WFSP* & Resort			■	X	♿		●	■	■	■	X	■	■	X	■	●	
Rend Lake Marina		●	●	■	●			●	●	●		■	●		♿		●
RLCD** Golf Resort			■	X	●		■	●		●	♿	■	●	■	♿	♿	

\*Wayne Fitzgerald State Park  
\*\*Rend Lake Conservancy District  
■ SERVICE / FACILITY AVAILABLE X TEMPORARILY CLOSED  
♿ WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE ● SERVICE / SUPPLY WITHIN 2 MILES OF AREA ENTRANCE