

**Welcome to the Spoon River Region!**  
This map is one of nine bicycle maps for the State of Illinois. It covers a region from the Peoria area west to the Mississippi River at the Iowa border. Counties covered are Fulton, Henderson, Knox, Marshall, McDonough, Mercer, Peoria, Putnam, Stark, Tazewell, Warren, and Woodford as well as portions of adjacent counties. We hope you will find it helpful in planning your bicycle trip in or through central Illinois. And while you are cycling, we invite you to stop and take in may of the scenic and historic wonders of this region. Enjoy your trip in our beautiful state.

**The Terrain**  
This area is defined by rivers: the Illinois to the east, the Mississippi to the west, and the Spoon River through the middle. It is this last river that has been immortalized by local poet Edgar Lee Masters who wrote Spoon River Anthology about life in a fictionalized Lewistown, his boyhood home. The first inhabitants of this region, the Algonquin people, called this river "Amoquansippi" meaning "shell" or "spoon" plus "river". The broad valley hides a number of historic villages, old bridges, and a few surviving grist mills.

On the eastern boundary of Region 4 is the Illinois River Valley and Peoria, Central Illinois' largest city. The Peoria region sits atop many high and scenic bluffs overlooking Illinois' most important river.

**Lakes, Rivers, and Streams**  
Both the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers are major water transportation corridors. Large bays filled with grain from farms all over the Midwest move down these rivers to feed the world. But these rivers and the Spoon offer recreational opportunities as well, such as fishing, boating, sailing, and swimming.

The Spoon River itself offers a much more intimate experience with water and the people living along its banks. The river meanders past scenic Victorian villages with white-steeped churches and old blacksmith businesses.

Other rivers, streams, and lakes have public access points. Notable is Argyle Lake, nestled in a series of low, wooded hills, and found just west of Macomb in a state park named after the lake.

**Plants and Animals**  
Like much of Illinois, this area was covered by a vast prairie, broken by wooded areas near rivers, streams, and more hilly regions. Most of the prairie has been converted to farm land, although a few isolated patches remain. Wooded areas are primarily deciduous hardwoods. Few pines grow native in this region. Watch out for poison ivy; it is rampant in Illinois hardwood forests.

Predominant crops are corn and soybeans planted in vast plots. Other crops include hay, alfalfa, wheat, and fruit groves.

Most wildlife is concentrated along river and streambeds where much of remaining Illinois timber still stands. Besides squirrels and skunks, foxes and coyotes roam the rural areas. Gone are the mountain lions, wolves, and bears which used to inhabit most of the state. The bison (buffalo) used to roam the prairie areas in vast numbers but disappeared early in the 19th century.

Near the rivers are waterfowl such as ducks, geese, herons, and other species on migration routes. The Illinois River valley has become a winter nesting area for the Bald Eagle, our national symbol.

Poisonous snakes are very rare in this part of Illinois. You are more likely to encounter such harmless species as bull and garter snakes, as well as, an endless variety of frogs and toads.

**Conservation and Recreation Areas**  
The State of Illinois manages a number of scenic natural areas where hiking, fishing, camping, and picnicking can be enjoyed in natural settings. Although many sites have trails, please note that bicycles are not allowed on any unpaved trails unless otherwise indicated.

**Historic Sites**  
As in most of the United States, Native Americans were the first to leave their mark on this land. Parts of these pre-history cultures are preserved at the Dixon Mounds State Museum in Fulton County.

In the 17th and 18th centuries the French explored and claimed these lands. The most famous French explorers were Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet in 1673. Small French settlements sprouted along the Mississippi River, the first of which appeared in 1699 as French mission (modern-day Cahokia) and was the first permanent European settlement in Illinois. Further north on the Illinois River, a settlement near present-day Peoria was formed by the French (see the Peoria Area Sites box).

The Spoon River valley is rich in 19th century history and lore. Here is the birthplace of the famous poet Edgar Lee Masters who wrote about this area in his Spoon River Anthology. Much from this past era remains preserved in towns and villages in this sleepy river valley.

**Bicycle Paths, Rides, and Routes**  
One long recreational trail exists in Region 4: the Rock Island State Trail. The 27-mile trail, part of an abandoned railroad line, extends from Peoria's north end north and west to Toulon in central Stark county. A planned extension south will carry this trail into Peoria. The fine limestone site is suitable for bicycles and hikers.

Many shorter bike facilities are found in the Peoria area. In Peoria is the Pimiteoui Trail, a five-mile multiuse trail adjacent to the Illinois River. When completed, this trail will be a 20-mile system connecting to other existing and proposed area trails. Just across the river in East Peoria is the River Trail of Illinois, a 5-mile multiuse trail.

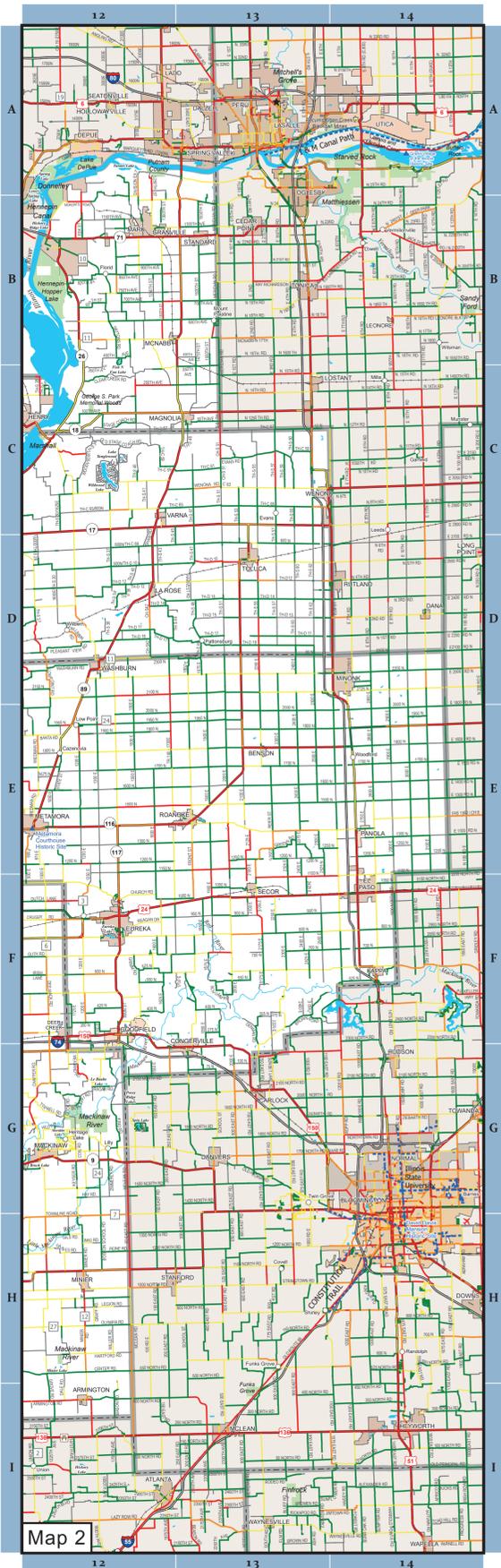
Fulton County is a wonderful place to ride the back roads. The low-volume roads and rolling terrain offer a scenic yet moderately challenging bike ride in one of the most charming rural areas in Illinois.

**For More Information**  
In the upper right-hand corner of this side of the map are a number of addresses and telephone numbers you can contact for more information.

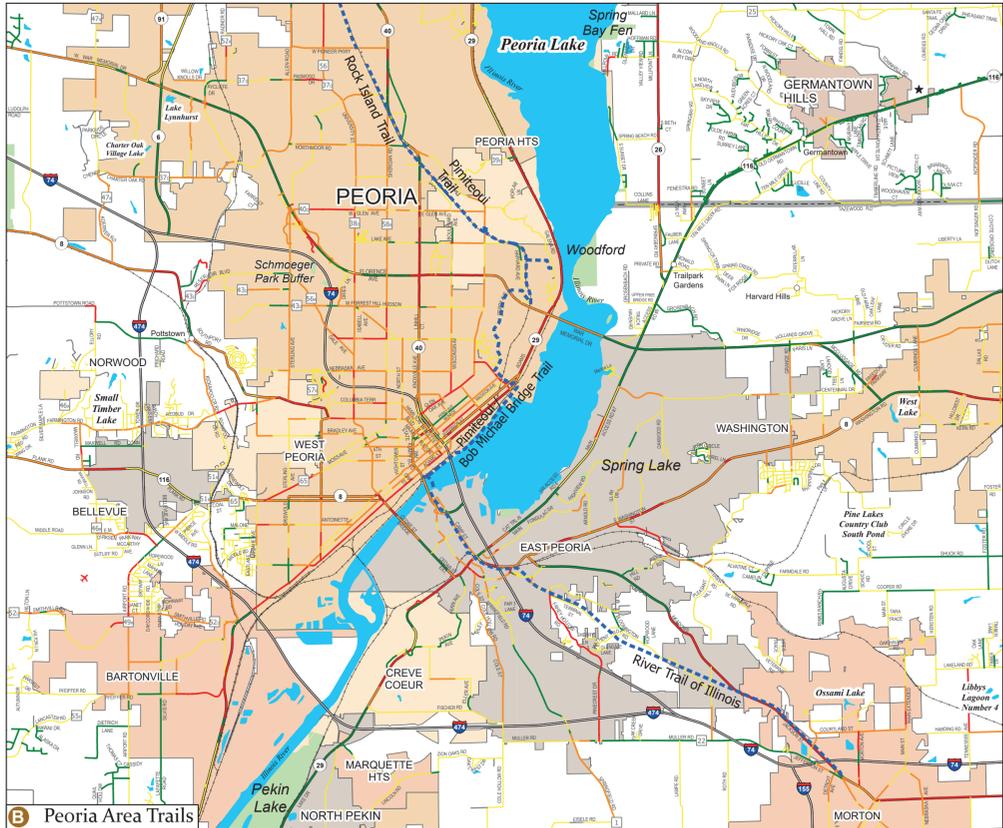
Enjoy your trip!

**LEGEND**

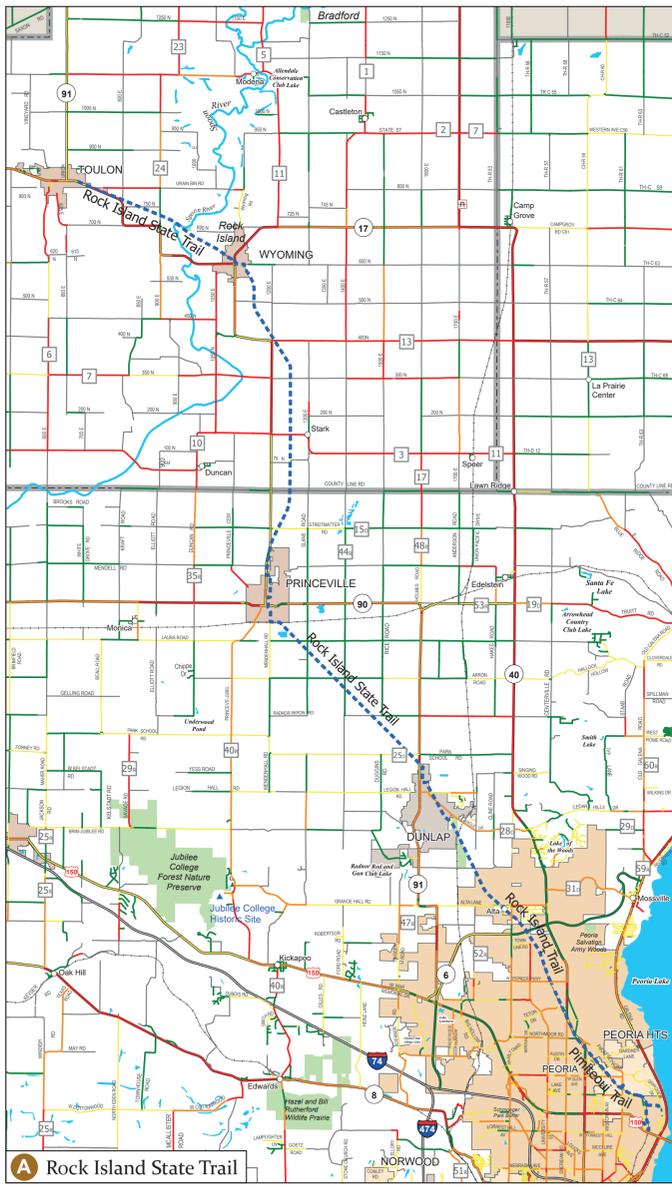

Scale: 0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 Miles / 0 1 2 4 6 8 10 12 Kilometers



Map 2



Peoria Area Trails



Rock Island State Trail



**Helmet's...**

...one piece of equipment you can live with.

**Be Prepared**

Studies have shown that a cyclist not wearing a helmet is between two and three times more likely to suffer a head injury in a crash than one who is wearing a helmet. The League of American Cyclists recommends that cyclists frequently check their helmet for wear and damage and replace the helmets every few years and/or in the event of a crash, in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.

**Buy the Right Helmet**

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends that you only purchase helmets that have been manufactured in accordance with recognized safety standard, ASTM. Look for a sticker indicating this safety standard on the inside of the helmet.

**Please...**

...to prevent injuries, wear a helmet. You can live with it.



**NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER:** Illinois traffic laws (625 ILCS 5/11-1502) apply to persons riding bicycles. Bicyclists shall be subject to all duties applicable to drivers of a motor vehicle.  
This Map is published as an aid to bicyclists by IDOT and is not intended to be a substitute for a person's use of reasonable care. IDOT makes no express or implied warranty as to the safety or condition of the roads indicated to bicyclists for shared bicyclist/motorist vehicle use. The unpredictable change of traffic, road, and weather conditions will require the bicyclist to constantly review all routes for suitability. Thus bicyclists using this map ASSUME ALL RISKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES for their own safety when cycling on the routes indicated on this map.

**Important Addresses and Phone Numbers Emergencies - Dial 911**

**Amtrak**  
1-800-USA-RAIL. [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

**Bike Advocacy Organizations**  
National Center for Bicycling & Walking (NCBW). NCBW is a resident program at Project for Public Spaces, Inc. NCBW was established in 1977, as the Bicycle Federation of America, Inc. NCBW's mission is to create bicycle-friendly and walkable communities. [www.bikeadvoc.org](http://www.bikeadvoc.org)  
email: [info@bikeadvoc.org](mailto:info@bikeadvoc.org)

Active Transportation Alliance, 35 E. Wacker Dr, Suite 1782, Chicago, IL 60601, 312-427-3325. The mission of Active Transportation Alliance is to advocate for walking, bicycling, and public transit to create healthy, sustainable and equitable communities. [www.activetrans.org](http://www.activetrans.org)  
League of America Bicyclists, 1612 K. Street NW, Suite 1102, Washington, DC 20006, 202-822-1333. Mission: To lead the movement to create a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone. As leaders, our commitment is to listen and learn, define standards and share best practices to engage diverse communities and build a powerful, unified voice for change. [www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org)

Ride Illinois, 815 Leicester Rd #314, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007, 630-216-9282. The statewide bike advocacy organization works for bike-friendly roads and trails, for favorable legislation, and to educate cyclists and motorists. [www.rideillinois.org](http://www.rideillinois.org)

**Bus Service**  
Greyhound, 800-231-2222 [www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com)

**Campgrounds, Public**  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)  
One Natural Resource Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, 217-782-6302. [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)  
e-mail: [dnr.parksadmin@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.parksadmin@illinois.gov)

**Department of Natural Resources (State Parks and Recreation Areas) - Office of Land Management**  
IDNR, One Natural Resource Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271 217-782-6752 e-mail: [dnr.parksadmin@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.parksadmin@illinois.gov), [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)

**Hiking Opportunities**  
IDNR, One Natural Resource Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, 217-782-6302 [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)  
e-mail: [dnr.parksadmin@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.parksadmin@illinois.gov)

**Historic Agencies / Organizations**  
Preservation Services, #1 Old State Capital Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701-1507, 217-782-4836 [www.1illinois.gov/dnr/historic](http://www.1illinois.gov/dnr/historic)

**Road Conditions (Winter) / Road Construction (Spring / Summer / Fall)**  
1-800-452-4368 [www.gettingaroundillinois.com](http://www.gettingaroundillinois.com)

**Secretary of State (Bicycle Education / Safety)**  
Illinois Secretary of State, Driver Services Department, Traffic Safety Division, 2701 S. Dirksen Pkwy., Springfield, IL 62723, 217-782-6212 [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com)

**State Agencies**  
IDNR Office of Public Services, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, 217-782-6302 [www.2illinois.gov/dnr](http://www.2illinois.gov/dnr)

Illinois Department of Transportation, 2300 S. Dirksen Pkwy. Springfield, IL 62764, 217-782-7820 <http://idot.illinois.gov>

Illinois Historic Preservation Office, #1 Old State Capital Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701-1507, 217-782-4836 [www.2illinois.gov/dnr/historic](http://www.2illinois.gov/dnr/historic)

Illinois State Police, 801 South Seventh Street, P.O. Box 19461, Springfield, IL 62794-9461 <https://isp.illinois.gov>

Illinois Secretary of State, Driver Services Department, Traffic Safety Division, 2701 S. Dirksen Pkwy. Springfield, IL 62723, 217-782-6212 [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com)

**State Police**  
District 7  
809 Hillcrest Road, East Moline, IL 61244-1161 309-752-4915. Counties Served: Henry, Knox, Mercer, Rock Island District 8  
1265 Lourdes Rd., Metamora, IL 61548-7710, 309-383-2133 Counties Served: Marshall, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, Woodford District 14  
1600N. Lafayette St., Macomb, IL 61455-9194, 309-833-4046 Counties Served: Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, McDonough, Warren District 17  
2971 E. 350th Rd., LaSalle, IL 61301, 815-224-1171 Counties Served: Bureau, LaSalle, Putnam

**Tourism Bureaus**  
Illinois Tourism Bureau, 8002-CONNECT, TTY: 800/406-6418. [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com)

Galesburg Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, 2163 East Main St., Galesburg, IL 61401, 309-343-2485 [www.experiencegalesburg.com](http://www.experiencegalesburg.com)  
e-mail: [info@experiencegalesburg.com](mailto:info@experiencegalesburg.com)

Macomb Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, 210 South Lafayette St., Macomb, IL 61455, 309-833-1315 <http://www.visitforgottontonia.com>  
e-mail: [info@visitforgottontonia.com](mailto:info@visitforgottontonia.com)

Monmouth Chamber of Commerce, 89 Public Square, Monmouth, IL 61462, 309-734-3181 [www.monmouthchamber.com](http://www.monmouthchamber.com)  
e-mail: [info@monmouthchamber.com](mailto:info@monmouthchamber.com)

Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce, 402 Court St., Peoria, IL 61654, 309-346-2106 [www.peoriachamber.com](http://www.peoriachamber.com)

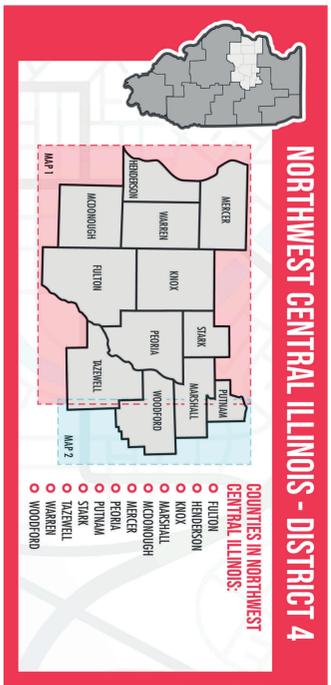
Peoria Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau, 456 Fulton, Suite 300, Peoria, IL 61602, 800-747-0302 [www.discoverpeoria.com](http://www.discoverpeoria.com)  
e-mail: [info@discoverpeoria.com](mailto:info@discoverpeoria.com)

Western Illinois Tourism Development Office, 581 S. Deere Rd., Macomb, IL 61455, 309-837-7460 [www.greatriverroad-illinois.org](http://www.greatriverroad-illinois.org)

**Trails**  
Many trails for hiking and other multi-use trails are located in, or originate, in the Peoria area.

Pimiteoui Trail, <http://ptahike.org/>

Rock Island Trail State Park, 309.695.2228  
26-mile trail originates near Alta. For more information contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.



**Peoria Area Sites and Activities**

Peoria is central Illinois' largest city. Originally the site of an early French settlement, the greater Peoria metro area is situated on scenic bluffs overlooking the Illinois River. With rolling hills and vistas of the valley below, bicyclists will find many opportunities for scenic rides in the Peoria area. For diversions other than bicycling there are a number of options. Listed below are some of the scenic and recreational opportunities in the Peoria area.

**Information**  
General  
Great Rivers Country, 581 S. Deere Rd., Macomb, IL 61455 309-837-7460  
Peoria Area  
Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce, 402 Court St., Peoria, IL 61554 309-346-2106  
Peoria Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau 456 Fulton Suite 300, Peoria, IL 61602 800-747-0302 / 309-676-0303

**Cultural/Museums**  
Peoria Riverfront Museum 222 S.W. Washington Springfield, IL 61602 309-686-7000 [www.peoriariverfrontmuseum.org](http://www.peoriariverfrontmuseum.org)

Wheels O' Time Museum 11923 N. Knoxville Ave., Peoria, IL 61525 309-243-9020 <https://wheelsotime.org/>  
Vintage transportation. 12 pm-5 pm Wed thru Sun May-Oct only. Fee charged.

**Historic**  
There are several historic sites throughout Peoria. Listed below is a sample of them.

Peoria Historical Society 611 S.W. Washington St, Peoria, IL 61602. 309-674-1921 [www.peoriahistoricalsociety.com](http://www.peoriahistoricalsociety.com)  
Hours Tue-Fri 9am to 4:30pm

In the 300 Block of Main Street  
There are eight buildings built between 1862 and the early 1900s. They include African-American Museum & Hall of Fame, Browning Mansion, Carl Sandburg Historical Site, David Davis Mansion, Dickson Mounds Museum. 309-673-4343

Bradley University and Westlake Hall 1501 W. Bradley Ave., Peoria, IL, 309-676-7611  
Historic first structures on the campus of Bradley University.

Fort Clark Site and Liberty Park Peoria, IL, 309-674-1921  
Erected in 1813 by Lt. Colonel Robert Carder Nicholas during War of 1812. Named for William Roger Clark. Destroyed by Indians in 1818. Rebuilt in 1832 during Black Hawk War.

Fort Crevecoeur, Inc. 301 Lawridge Dr., Creve Coeur, IL 60610, 309-699-6714  
Replica of 1680s fort built by the French.

**Recreation and Entertainment Parks**  
Peoria Park District, 1125 W. Lake Ave., Peoria, IL 61614 309-682-1200. [www.peoriaparks.org](http://www.peoriaparks.org)

Listed below are the larger parks that have special features.  
Bradley Park, 1317 Park Road, Peoria, IL 61603, 309-682-6684. Features live open theater, at the Corn Stock Theater.

Dragon and Water Park, 193 Red Bud Memorial Dr. Peoria, IL, 61554, 309-346-4000. [www.pekinparkdistrict.org/dragonand.html](http://www.pekinparkdistrict.org/dragonand.html)  
Pool, waterslides, and a children's water play area with sand.

Forest Park Nature Center, 5809 Forest Park Drive, Peoria Heights, IL 61614, 309-686-3360. Over 500 acres with 7 miles of nature trails, indoor nature history exhibits.

Glen Oak Park, 2218 N. Prospect Road, Peoria, IL 61603, 309-686-6684. Zoo, a lagoon, an amphitheater, and botanical gardens.

Lakeview Park, 1125 West Lake, Peoria, IL 61603, 309-686-1200  
Owen Center and Lakeview Recreation Center

Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce, 402 Court St., Peoria, IL 61654, 309-346-2106 [www.peoriachamber.com](http://www.peoriachamber.com)

Peoria Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau, 456 Fulton, Suite 300, Peoria, IL 61602, 800-747-0302 [www.discoverpeoria.com](http://www.discoverpeoria.com)  
e-mail: [info@discoverpeoria.com](mailto:info@discoverpeoria.com)

Western Illinois Tourism Development Office, 581 S. Deere Rd., Macomb, IL 61455, 309-837-7460 [www.greatriverroad-illinois.org](http://www.greatriverroad-illinois.org)

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