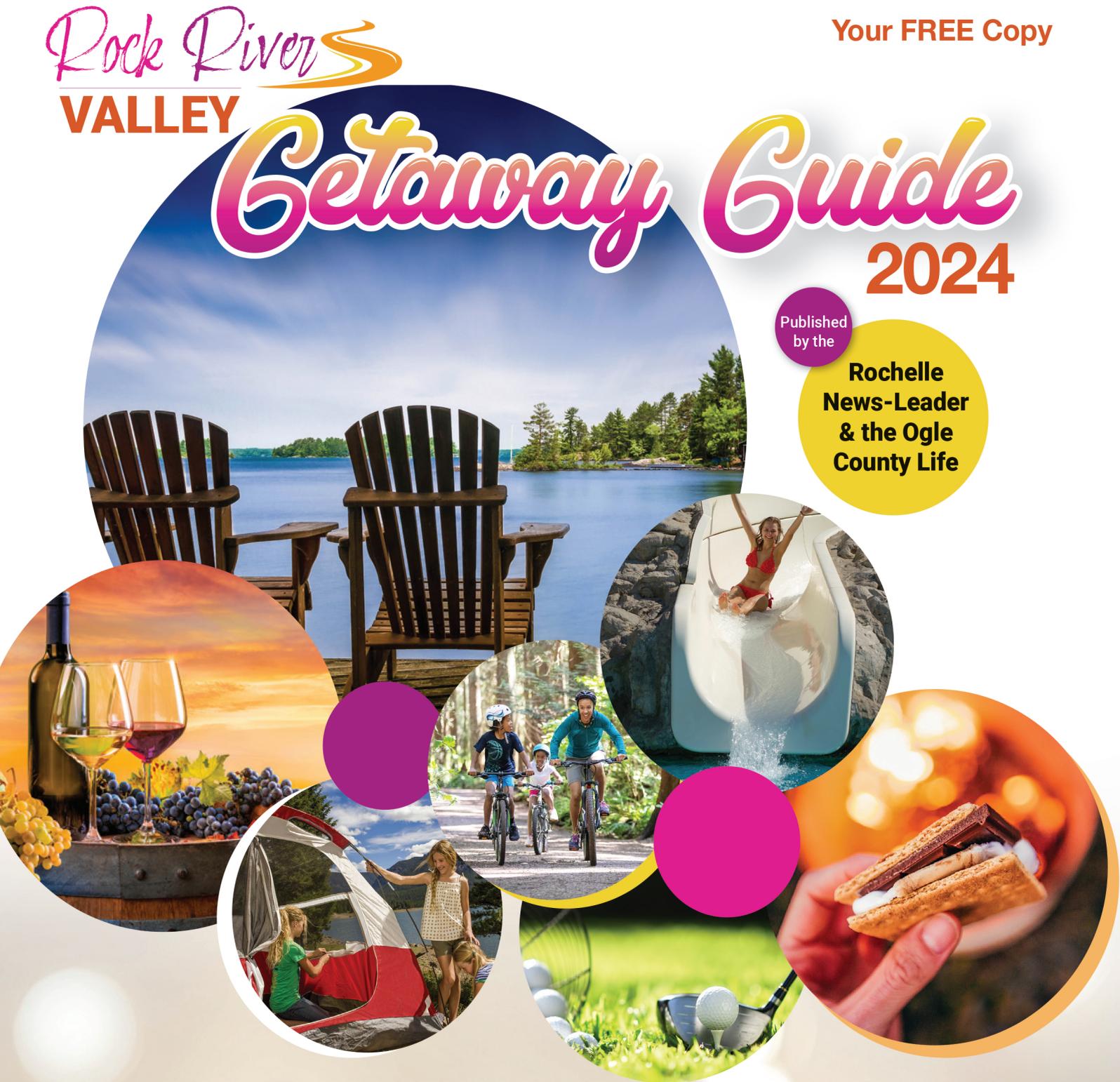


# Getaway Guide 2024

Published  
by the

**Rochelle  
News-Leader  
& the Ogle  
County Life**

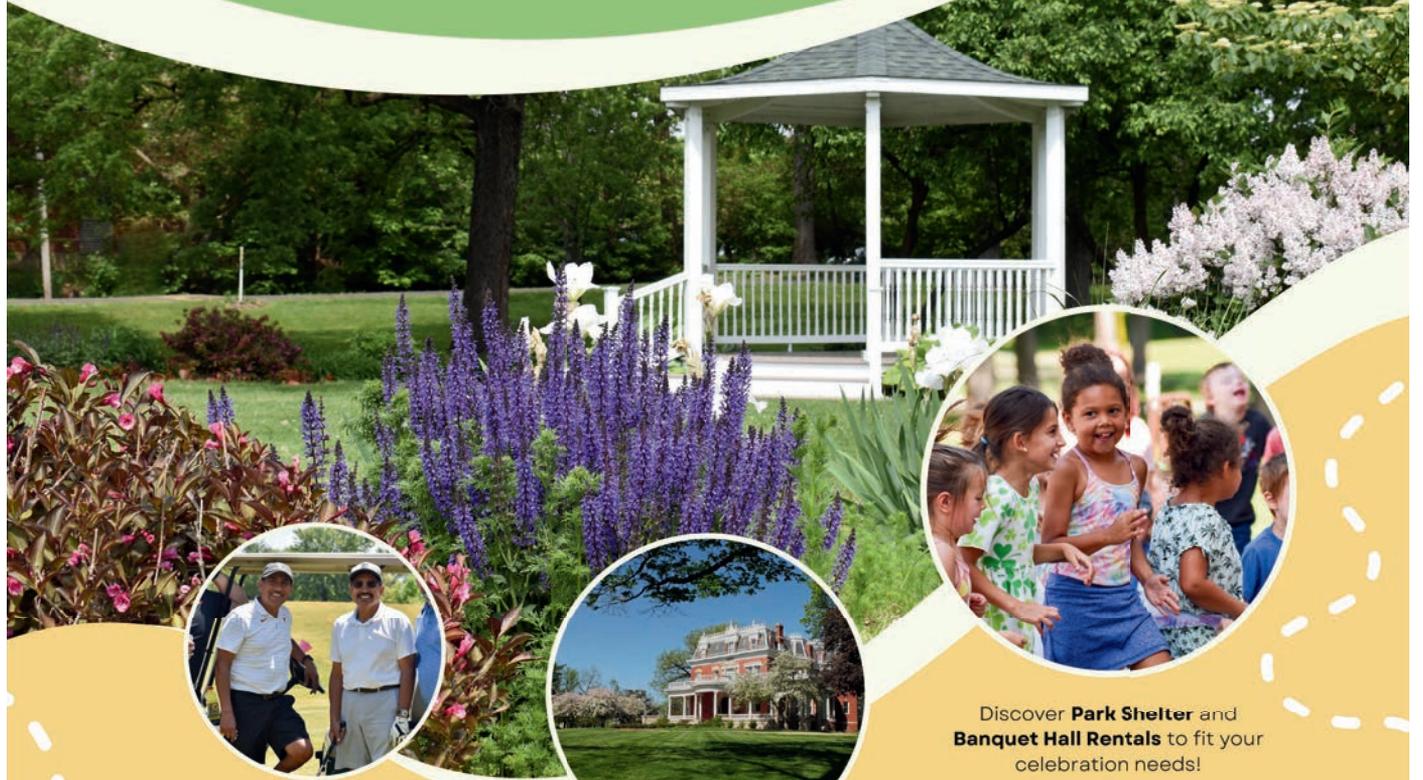


- ~ **Points Of Interest**
- ~ **Fairs & Festivals**
- ~ **Golf Guide**
- ~ **Things To Do**
- ~ **& Much More Inside!**

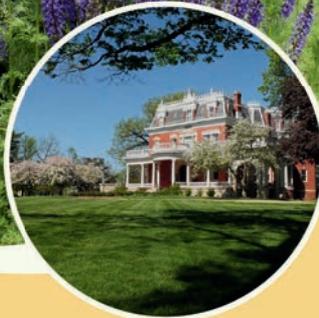
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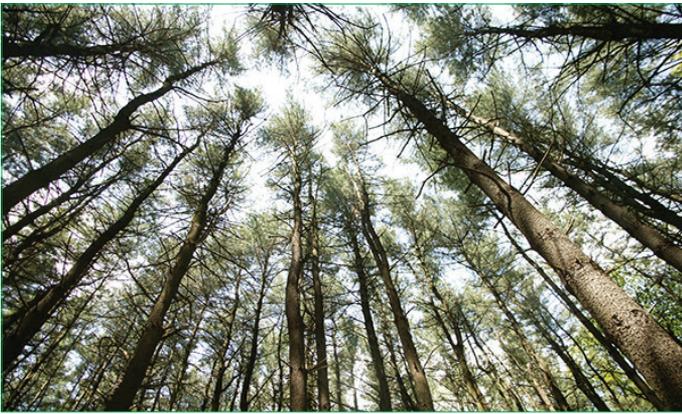


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## 2024 Getaway Guide — Table of Contents

Lowden State Park — Pages 4, 6, 8

White Pines Forest State Park — Pages 5-6, 9-10

Castle Rock State Park — Pages 11, 13-15

Geocaching available at Byron Forest Preserve — Page 16

Rochelle Railroad Park — Pages 17-18

Fairs and Festivals in Ogle County — Pages 19-21

Golf courses in the Ogle County area — Pages 22-23

# Lowden State Park

**OREGON** — One of the most picturesque sites along the Rock River is just north of Oregon in Ogle County.

Legend has it that Chief Black Hawk, as he left the area after the Black Hawk War, talked of the beauty of the area and admonished his captors to care for the land as he and his people had. Lowden State Park was established to care for the land and allow visitors to share in the beauty as well. The park serves as a memorial to Gov. Frank O. Lowden, who served Illinois during World War I.

Just north of Oregon, the bluffs are graced with a majestic image of an American Indian gazing over the Rock River Valley. This is no ordinary statue. It is a 50 foot, concrete-reinforced wonder that is awe-inspiring. A tribute to all Native Americans, but more commonly associated with Chief Black Hawk, the statue was designed by sculptor Lorado Taft.

You can enjoy many wonderful views of the Rock River from the park, but the best view of the statue is from Illinois Route 2. While the setting sun seems to bring the statue to life, it is a spectacular view any time of the day and during all seasons. A restoration and preservation project involving the statue is currently underway.

For nearly 50 years, Eagles' Nest was a popular home for creative people. The original group included artists Ralph Clarkson, Charles Francis Browne and Oliver Dennet Grove; writers



Hamlin Garland, Henry B. Fuller and Horace Spencer Fiske; architects Irving D. and Allen B. Pond; sculptors Lorado Taft and Nellie Walker; organist Clarence Dickinson; and University of Chicago Secretary James Spencer Dickerson. Although Taft was the moving spirit behind the colony, it continued to flourish until 1942, six years after his death.

About a year after the last of the artists and their families left the colony, Gov. Lowden died, and the legislature appropriated \$25,000 toward the cost of a memorial to him. The citizens of Oregon and the vicinity, with help from the now Department of Natural Resources, matched that amount so that the former Eagles' Nest land could be purchased as a memorial park. In 1945, the 63rd General Assembly designated the 273-acre site as Lowden State Park.

Lorado Taft, who created

the 50-foot statue as a tribute to Native Americans, is said to have thought of the figure one evening as he and other members of the Eagles' Nest colony stood gazing at the view from the bluffs. According to a story attributed to Taft, he and his colleagues tended to stand with their arms folded over their chests. The pose made him think of the Native Americans who were so reverent of the beauty of nature and who probably had enjoyed the same view.

With the help of John G. Prasuhn, a young sculptor of the Chicago Art Institute, Taft created a figure almost 50 feet tall, including a six-foot base. Reinforced with iron rods, the hollow statue is 8 inches to 3 feet thick. The interior is accessible to park employees through a door at the base. The outer surface, composed of cement, pink granite chips and screenings, is three inches thick.

The figure is estimated to

weigh 100 tons and is thought to be the second-largest concrete monolithic statue in the world. Although Taft dedicated the statue to Native Americans, it has become commonly associated with Black Hawk. A restoration project on the statue is expected to be completed in 2017.

## Accessibility

**Parking** - All parking areas are asphalt with designated accessible parking spots. There are no paved sidewalks attached to the parking lots except at the campground shower building. Park office door frame has a slight step up that may require assistance for a wheelchair.

**Restrooms** - All but two sets of restrooms are accessible, with cement sidewalk areas leading to the restroom.

**Camping** - There are no accessible campsites at Lowden.

*See page 6*

# White Pines Forest State Park

**MT. MORRIS**—Located in the heart of the Rock River valley, the 385-acre White Pines Forest State Park is the south boundary of the historic Chicago-Iowa Trail. Today, the park is perfect for family getaways to enjoy hiking, fishing, camping and picnicking. With serene, picturesque beauty, and modern lodge facilities amidst a beautiful forest, there is no better place to retreat from the everyday routine than the open spaces at White Pines.

Along the meandering banks of Spring and Pine creeks, this scenic haven has magnificent trees that share moss-covered cliffs, strung with trailing vines. In season,

colorful beds of blossoming trout lily, solomons seal, bloodroot, blue-eyed grass, spring beauty and hepatica are everywhere.

Among the park's most interesting features are the concrete fords that span the creeks, allowing visitors to drive through the flowing streams, with an accessible path leading to the stream bank for wildlife watching and fishing. Camping and picnicking are popular at White Pines, with shaded picnic areas along Pine Creek and more than 100 campsites and youth group campgrounds available.

White Pines Lodge, originally constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the



1930s, has modern amenities. There are 13 one-room cabins, 2 cabins with 4 rooms, and 1 cabin with 2 rooms, for a total of 23 guest rooms. The White Pines Lodge Restaurant features homemade delicacies, banquet facilities, and

a dinner theater. White Pines Forest State Park has seasonal archery and firearm deer hunting and, when snow covers the ground, cross country skiing trails.

*See page 6*

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## 6 • 2024 Rock River Valley Getaway Guide

### From page 5

White Pines Forest lies in the heart of Black Hawk Indian country and is rich in historic accounts of the warriors who resisted the efforts of settlers to drive them from the beloved Rock River valley. Eventually, however, the Black Hawk War forced them out and Warrior Black Hawk himself was sent into exile in the custody of his rival, Keokuk. When early settlers arrived, they found this 700-acre forest of untouched pine extending for 1/4 mile along the east bank of Pine Creek.

With a view to preserving one of Illinois' last stands of native white pines and one of the southernmost stands of white pines in the United States, a movement was start-

ed in the early part of the 20th Century to set the area aside as a state park. Through efforts of Ogle County nature lovers, a bill appropriating \$30,000 for purchase of land was passed by the legislature in 1903, but the measure was vetoed. In 1927, however, they had more success, and the forest was acquired.

### Accessibility

**Parking** - The park office has an asphalt parking lot with an accessible parking space.

**Restrooms** - Accessible vault toilets are available throughout the park and campground. During the Lodge's operating season both the gift shop and the restaurant offer an accessible flush toilet.

**Camping** - The Cedar



White Pines Forest State Park

Ridge Campground has campsites 16 & 18 designated accessible, and the Sunny Crest campground has sites 41, 42, 52 & 82 designated accessible.

**Fishing** - Next to Pine Creek, there are three concrete wheelchair accessible fishing pads. All pads are connected to accessible parking spaces

via concrete sidewalks. Two of the pads are before the first ford, the third pad is just past.

**Cabin** - The park has an accessible historic log cabin (cabin 9) that can be reserved by calling the Lodge at 815-655-2400 or by visiting [www.visitwhitepines.com](http://www.visitwhitepines.com).

**See page 9**



Lowden State Park

### From page 4

**Boating** - The Lowden S.P. boat launch area has three docks. All three have railings and a ramp allowing wheelchair access. One is designated as an ADA dock with railing on one side, the side without railing is to allow access to a boat. The parking area is all asphalt that transitions to a sidewalk onto the docks, from the designated parking spaces to the docks is approximately 20 yds. The dock surface is a composite board deck.

Service animals are wel-

come in the park, and water hydrants are available in the campground area. Any waste products from the animal would need to be cleaned up if able to do so.

### Activities

You can enjoy the beauty of Lowden State Park any time of the year, and the picnic areas are open year-round. Conveniently located near the parking lots, the areas include tables, drinking water, park stoves, outdoor toilets and litter cans.

**See page 8**



Jarrett Prairie Center Museum

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There are 80 Class A campsites which include electricity, a shower building, and a sanitary dumping station for trailers. Another option is the campground cabin which has two sets of bunk beds, a full-sized bed and electricity.

Also available are 38 Class B/S campsites which do not offer electricity, but do have access to showers. For the true wilderness experience, there are 8 Class D primitive hike-in only campsites. During the summer, a refreshment stand provides cool drinks, ice and wood. Contact park staff upon arrival for a camping permit.

The scenic Rock River flows through 34 miles of



Lowden State Park

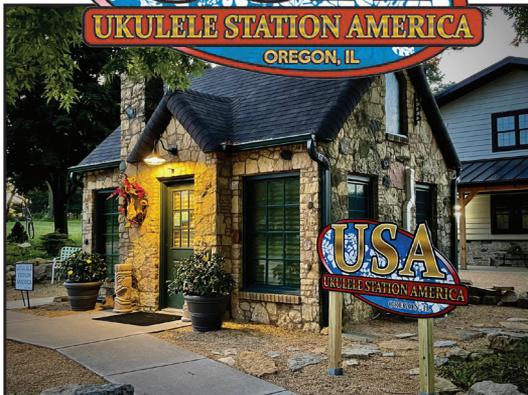
Ogle County, with an average midsummer depth of 3 feet. A boat launching ramp and boat docks are located across the river from the park, 1 mile north of the town of Oregon on Illinois Route 2. Motor boaters and water skiers will enjoy all the river has to offer, but swimming is

not permitted. Boat fishermen can spend their time catching largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, channel catfish, northern pike, walleye, bullhead, carp, sucker and drum.

Almost 4 miles of good foot trails lead visitors through the natural wonders

and beauty of Lowden State Park. You can enjoy the beauty of Lowden State Park any time of the year, and the picnic areas are open year-round. Conveniently located near the parking lots, the areas include tables, drinking water, park stoves, outdoor toilets and litter cans.

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**From page 6**

Trails - The Joe Eichholz memorial nature trail offers a 1/2-mile wheelchair accessible trail that has a gravel base.

Picnicking - The Ford View accessible picnic shelter is located just past the first ford. Ford View is connected to the parking lot by a concrete sidewalk and has an accessible water fountain.

Service animals are welcome in the park, and water is available at the Ford View picnic shelter.

**Activities**

Looking to spend a night under the stars? White Pines has 103 class B/S campsites with vehicular access and a shower/flush toilet building. There are 3 electric hook-up sites (17, 18 & 33), which sometimes serve as our campground host sites and therefore may or may not be available for rent. There are also sites available for the physically challenged. Soft ground conditions may sometimes close campgrounds during the months of March and April.

Call ahead during those times to check the status.

Availability is generally not a problem aside from holiday weekends. There is an alcohol ban in the campground all year around. Camping rates are \$10 a night for a non-electric and \$20 for an electric site. Limitations on a site are 4 adults or 1 family per site, 2 tents per site and 2 vehicles per site. Each site has a fire ring and a picnic table.

There are also youth group campgrounds available. Reservations will no longer be accepted through the park office. While pets are allowed in the park you're required to have proof of current rabies vaccination with you, keep the pet leashed at all times and not to be left unattended. Excessive barking will not be allowed. All laws and regulations are strictly enforced.

Whether you choose an easy walking trail or a more difficult path, three of the seven marked trails are less than a mile long and provide ample opportunity to see the beautiful vine-covered limestone bluffs, blossoming spring flowers and whispering pines.

*See page 10*



**White Pines Forest State Park**

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From page 9

The trails have color-coded markers to aid the hiker in orienteering. A nature trail with a limestone-screened path is accessible for the physically challenged.

Archery deer and firearm deer hunting are allowed in season as part of the site's deer reduction program. Hunting is allowed on 300 acres. Visit [HuntIllinois.org](http://HuntIllinois.org). A perfect place for a family outing, there are several shaded picnic areas along Pine Creek with water, fireplaces, tables and children's playgrounds. Of the four shelters in these areas, two can be reserved online.

White Pines Inn, originally constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, has undergone an ex-



tensive renovation. To preserve the historic ambiance of this wonderful log cabin inn, the original stone and timbers were retained and the new features were carefully blended to enhance the original structure.

This is a perfect location for weekend getaways near Chicago. Numerous homemade delicacies are offered at the White Pines Inn Restaurant. The restaurant can accommodate up to 223 people with sev-

**White Pines Forest State Park**

eral meeting/banquet rooms, one that can seat up to 125. Wedding receptions, retreats, seminars and family reunions are all handled professionally and skillfully. The lodge also offers a matinee dinner theater.

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# Castle Rock State Park

**OREGON**—Castle Rock State Park is located along the west bank of the Rock River in Ogle County, 3 miles south of Oregon on Illinois Route 2. The park is centrally located in the Rock River Hills region of Illinois, and its rolling topography is drained by the Rock River. The park is representative of the Rock River Hills area with rock formations, ravines and unique northern plant associations. A sandstone bluff, adjacent to the river, has given the park its name.



Illinois tribes of native Americans inhabited the region until 1730 when the Sauk and the Fox tribes, who were being forced westward by the colonists, invaded and inhab-

ited the region. The Native Americans called the river in the new territory “Sinissippi,” meaning “rocky waters.”

In the early 1800s, the native Americans were again forced westward into Iowa. In 1831,

Blackhawk, the Sauk chief, led his people in a series of raids back into Illinois to reclaim their ancestral lands. The battles that followed were known as the Blackhawk Indian wars. Chief Blackhawk was

captured in 1832 and ordered to a reservation.

The Castle Rock area was settled by New Englanders early in the 19th century.

**See page 13**

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SCAN ME

*From page 11*

This area was proposed as a state park in 1921 by the “Friends of Our Native Landscape,” who acquired some of the land they described as “a unique wilderness remnant of great natural beauty and scientific interest.” In 1964, the Natural Lands Institute, a non-profit natural lands preservation group, conducted a public fundraising campaign to preserve part of the Castle Rock area.

Castle Rock was recognized in Illinois as an outstanding area of major scientific importance in 1965. It was established as a project area, and land acquisition by the State of Illinois started in 1970.

At the present time, Castle



**Castle Rock State Park**

Rock consists of approximately 2,000 acres, 710 of which are designated as an Illinois Nature Preserve. The site was dedicated as a state park in 1978.

The basis for the acquisition of Castle Rock State Park is the protection of natural resources unique to Illinois. A

thin layer of glacial till covers this region and several distinctive plant species, remnants of the native forest and prairie, still exist. In one valley, 27 different types of ferns have been identified. The park is one of the largest significant natural areas in the northern part of Illinois.

Most of the outstanding natural features are located in the dedicated Nature Preserve which is protected by state law. Use of the 710-acre preserve is restricted to scientific study and limited interpretation activities.

*See page 14*

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The planned development of Castle Rock centers around the Nature Preserve. All development is limited by soil types.

Soil types consist of silt loams and fine, sandy loams which are connected with the general high degree of slopes, which help to limit use and development at Castle Rock. These soils are subject to severe erosion under heavy use.

Castle Rock is a large sandstone butte situated between the Rock River and Illinois Route 2. The rock is made up of St. Peter sandstone. In only a few places in Illinois does St. Peter sandstone come to the surface, even though it underlies practically the entire state.



Castle Rock State Park

### Accessibility

**Parking** - The main parking lot is asphalt with designated parking spaces. There are sidewalks leading to the restrooms at each of the parking areas with smooth transitions between parking lot and sidewalk as well as into the restroom stall itself. It is a very short distance from the parking lot to the restroom.

**Scenic Overlook** - The parking area at the scenic overlook is asphalt with designated parking spaces. The steps leading up to the overlook itself is wood construction with metal steps.

**Observation Deck** - The parking area at the south trails access point and the wetlands parking lot are gravel surfaces.

The area has a ramp at one end of the parking lot leading up to an observation deck of the wetland area. A wheelchair/mobility device could access the observation deck with minimal distance on a gravel surface.

**Restrooms** - The shelter and boat launch areas have accessible vault toilets.

The wetlands parking lot

See page 15



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**From page 14**

Service animals are welcome in the park, and there are water hydrants near the picnic shelter. Any waste produced by the animal would need to be cleaned up if able to do so.

**Activities**

Castle Rock does not have a campground except for a primitive camping area accessible only by canoe or boat. Limited squirrel, turkey and deer hunting are available at the park. For more information, please contact the park office.

Along the Rock River, Castle Rock offers 1 1/2 miles of bank fishing. A boat ramp is available for public use, where boat size is limited due to the varying depth of the river. The most commonly caught fish is the catfish, but some



**Castle Rock State Park**

bass, northerns, walleye, and crappie may be taken.

There are 6 miles of marked hiking trails where hikers can view woodland animals and birds inhabiting the park and photographers can sharpen their skills. Cross-country

skiing and tobogganing also are available when weather permits.

Three picnic areas are available for use at Castle Rock, with shelters, picnic tables, playground equipment, grills, toilets and drinking water.

Scattered picnic tables are also present along the river. One of the picnic areas offers a beautiful view over the Rock River Valley.

Two of the park's shelters may be reserved for a fee (contact the site headquarters).



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FCCA's mission is to promote, conserve, and appreciate the natural area of Franklin Creek through stewardship, education, partnerships, and community engagement.

All proceeds support the mission of Franklin Creek Conservation Association

# Geocaching available at Byron Forest Preserve

**BYRON** — Geocaching is a fun, GPS-based activity in which individuals hunt for a hidden container. Geocaches, or caches, contain a log book for individuals to sign and larger ones may contain items called “swag” that individuals may trade.

There are 41 geocaches on Byron Forest Preserve properties; most are beginner and family-friendly. Download the geocaching app to begin. After you create an account, you will see icons on the map showing the geocaches in the area.

New and free accounts will only be allowed to seek beginner caches that are less challenging. Select a cache, and you will see a popup with

the name, distance from you, the difficulty of the hide, and the difficulty of the hike.

Tap again, and you will see the cache details, such as the description, hints, and when it was last found, as well as a button to “navigate.” Switch to the compass view, and you’re on your way.

When you find the geocache, sign the log book, trade swag if you want to, and log the find online. Be sure to close the container and put it right back where you found it. Then move on to the next one.

Geocaching is available as a Scout Badge Workshop, family field trip, or home school program. If you are a cacher who would like to hide



geocaches on our preserves, please have your proposed location(s) approved to avoid ecologically sensitive areas.

Please avoid areas marked

as Illinois Nature Preserves. Geocaches that are placed without permission may be removed by staff members at the Byron Forest Preserve.



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# Rochelle Railroad Park

**ROCHELLE**—Located at the junction of two major railroads in Rochelle and open 24 hours a day, the Rochelle Railroad Park is a real “hot spot” for train watching from the observation area. Other park features and amenities include a Gift Shop, parking, public restrooms, picnic areas, railroad artifacts and information, and more.

The Rochelle Railroad Park is the first park in the nation built just for visitors to see operating trains. The story of railroads in Rochelle begins in 1854 when the Air Line Railroad was completed between Chicago and the town of Lane (Lane was the first name of Rochelle). The

railroad later became the Chicago and North Western and today is owned by the Union Pacific (UP).

Sixteen years later the Chicago & Iowa Railroad was built through Rochelle in 1870 and it crossed over the Air Line Railroad between 11th Street and 12th Street. The railroad was later called the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy before becoming the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF). In January of 2005 another name change took place, and even though the holding company name remains the Burlington Northern Santa Fe, the introduction of the new rail subsidiary name and logo



took place.

The railroad is now identified as the BNSF. The original BNSF depot on Main Street was built in 1921 when it replaced the original 1890 Depot. For many years both

railroads had daily passenger service to Chicago or the West Coast, but the last passenger service in Rochelle ended in 1971.

*See page 18*

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From page 17

Today these two railroads daily haul millions of tons of merchandise on at least 80 to 90 trains a day through Rochelle in a 24 hour period. This has made Rochelle a “hot spot” for train watching, drawing visitors from every state in the nation and world wide. Because of the number of visitors Rochelle acquired the land in 1995 and constructed a park just for train watching. The park, which was dedicated Aug. 30, 1998, includes a handicapped accessible observation pavilion with various vantage sites for the best visitor viewing and photography.

Visitors can see locomotives from many different railroad companies pass through



Rochelle. They include the Union Pacific and the BNSF. Other units from railroads of the Eastern United States, Mexico, and Canada also pass through from time to time. One will also see engines wearing

their color schemes from past mergers, mixed within the power of a passing freight. The radio transmissions that you are listening to are actual railroad communications from the dispatcher to the train crews

**Rochelle Railroad Park**

and track workers. We monitor both main lines through Rochelle for the UP and the BNSF. Dispatching originates for the UP in Omaha Nebraska, and out of Fort Worth Texas for the BNSF.



**Flagg Township Museum**  
*Rochelle, Illinois*

**Flagg Township Museum**  
*Rochelle's Place for History*

**Open**  
**Thursday – Sunday**  
**11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**2024 – Events at the Museum**  
Subject to change – check with the museum

- Freedom of Faith Reception, February 24
- Chautauqua Programs, March 25-28
- Poetry Slam, April date TBD
- Dog Day at the Iron Fountain, May 4
- “Cut the Square”, June date TBD
- Heritage Festival Parade Float, August 18
- From the Foundation Fundraiser, September date TBD
- The History of the VFW, November date TBD
- Decorate the Museum, November 30
- Santa at the Museum, December 6
- Holiday Tea Fundraiser, December 14, 15

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518 Fourth Avenue • Rochelle IL 61068 • 815 562-3040  
www.flaggtownshipmuseumrochelle.org

**GOAT YOGA**

Sat., April 13  
1:00 & 2:15 p.m.





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# Fairs and festivals in Ogle County

## Ogle County Fair

The first Ogle County Fair was held in October of 1853 on the lawn of the Ogle County Courthouse. In the early years, it was held at several places and on one occasion, in Byron.

Since the fairgrounds were used for the Ogle County 4-H show each year a group of 4-H parents and concerned citizens was formed to find a new fairgrounds. This was a daunting task, but was achieved in 1993.

There was a minimal fair held by the 4-H in 1992 at St. Mary Learning Center located West of Oregon, just off of Illinois Route 64.

## ByronFest

ByronFest, one of the finest family festivals in Northern Illinois, is held annually during the second full weekend in July.

ByronFest is a venture of the Byron Chamber of Commerce designed to encourage and promote tourism in the Byron area and to showcase the Byron community to the many visitors who travel to Byron for the three-day event.

In addition, the festival

provides an opportunity for many not-for-profit organizations to raise funds for various projects. Some local organizations that have taken advantage of this opportunity throughout the years include Byron Lions Club, Byron Kiwanis Club, Byron Key Club and much more.

## Fall Festival

Stillman Valley in its early days was very community-oriented and had many activities for all ages. Among them were: an opera house in the early 1900's, the Grange, S.V. Woman's Club (founded by Julia Hull around 1915), quilting bees, school plays, church programs, dances, community band, pool hall, nationally renowned recreation park (founded in 1921), village Christmas Tree (1935) and even a bowling alley (1946).

The fall festival most certainly is a circulation of these events from our past, but it seems there were several significant occasions which played a key role in forming today's festival.

## PT&C Days

Polo Town & Country



Ogle County Fair

Days was first organized in 1966 by the Polo Jaycees as a way to raise money for the construction of a city pool.

See page 20

**20 • 2024 Rock River Valley Getaway Guide**

**From page 19**

The first festival was a three day celebration which included such events as a carnival, kiddie parade, drum and bugle corps exhibition, and a large community parade to finish out the weekend.

Now – 57 years later, the festival has expanded into a four day event that is kicked off with one of the most amazing fireworks displays in the area. The annual parade still closes out the celebration, and sandwiched in between are four days filled with fun for young and old.

Make plans to visit Polo during Town & Country Days the third weekend in June.

**Summer Daze**

Come to Leaf River for

Leaf River Daze. It is a great way to start the summer. Friday is all about food, music, a tractor rodeo, and fireworks. Saturday is the truck and tractor pull by the FFA Alumni, a tractor and farm equipment show, the Lions Club car show, free games and activities for the kids, and a variety of food.

Sunday, before you stake your spot along the parade route, enjoy a pork chop BBQ prepared by the Ogle County Pork Producers and served by the Leaf River Lions Club. The 2024 Leaf River Summer Daze event will be held in early June.

**Heritage Fest**

The Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival, emphasizing family entertainment



**Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival**

and community pride, is a celebration of Rochelle's rich past and present history of transportation, business and industrial development.

This community event is family-friendly and free to

everyone attending.

**Autumn on Parade**

Byron Hutchins moved to Oregon in 1969.

**See page 21**

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**TIMBER LAKE PLAYHOUSE**  
2024 SEASON

<p><b>THE NERD</b> MAY 30TH – JUNE 9TH</p>	<p><b>Footloose</b> JUNE 13TH – 23RD</p>	<p><b>ANYTHING GOES</b> JUNE 27TH – JULY 7TH</p>
<p><b>THE WIZARD OF OZ</b> JULY 11TH – 28TH</p>	<p><b>Clue ON STAGE</b> AUGUST 1ST - 11TH</p>	<p><b>Seinfeld &amp; HYDE</b> AUGUST 15TH - 25TH</p>
<p><b>Junie B. Jones The Musical</b> MAY 7TH – 11TH</p>	<p><b>Ride the Cyclone THE MUSICAL</b> JULY 23RD - 27TH</p>	<p><b>Church Basement Ladies A Musical Comedy! A Second Helping</b> SEPTEMBER 6TH - 15TH</p>

EDUCATION PROGRAM | FALL CONCERTS | COMMUNITY EVENTS | FAMILY FUN

8215 BLACK OAK ROAD MOUNT CARROLL, ILLINOIS  
(815) 244 - 2035 TIMBERLAKEPLAYHOUSE.ORG

**From page 20**

He served as an advisor with the University of Illinois Extension Service helping to create several committees for the betterment of small communities. One of these committees was for a festival. He was joined by other local leaders- Ray Appler, James Barnes, Ron Fafnis, Anne Jones, and Cecelia Zimmerman. A contest was held to name the event, and Kathryn Gelandner won a \$25 Savings Bond gifted by the Oregon Woman’s Club with her entry of “Autumn on Parade”.

Seven booths lined up on Third Street on a rainy day in 1970 which has grown into an average of 180 booths surrounding courthouse square. Determination, some

dreaming, and creative input-perhaps sprinkled with a few lofty ideas- has led to many additions and changes along the way. We’ve seen pig scrambles, canoe rallies, a fishing derby, Civil War Encampments, Quilt Shows, Big Wheel Races, the Duck Dash, many years of the Antique Tractor Shows and Auto Classics, as well as our ever fabulous parade.

We shine a light on our local histories like Chana School and the Depot Restoration and use our phenomenal parks and their services to support the needs of an event this size. Local civic and not-for-profit organizations form the backbone of the Food Court and then put their hard-earned profits right back into our community. City and Emergency



**Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival**

services work closely to keep us safe, creating a seamless transition from managing a population of 3800 to an instant 75,000 passing through the community throughout the festival weekend.

Days is known throughout the region as one of the top, small-town festivals.

As in the past, the weekend features a parade, a carnival, live entertainment, a car show, booths, bingo and much more. Join us at the Creston Booster Park for food, rides, live music, vendors and lots of fun.

**Booster Days**

The annual Creston Booster



**BerryView Orchard**  
Mount Morris, IL

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Open seasonally through October 22nd!  
Hope to see you soon!

**7504 W. Midtown Rd. Mt. Morris, IL 61054**  
**815-440-5159**  
[berryvieworchard.com](http://berryvieworchard.com)

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# Golf courses in the Ogle County area

## Shady Oaks

Shady Oaks Country Club is a challenging public golf course that offers a unique and challenging 18-hole layout where accuracy off the tee and accurate approach shots are rewarded.

At 6,212 yards from the tips, Shady Oaks doesn't "appear" to be difficult, but don't let the yardage fool you. The tight tree lined fairways and small sloped greens can take a toll on even the most patient golfers and make scoring very difficult. Shady Oaks is open to the public and has four sets of tees for varying skill levels.

Shady Oaks Country Club is open to the public. To book a tee time, call 815-849-5424.

Players can also book online or learn more about memberships, rates, course details, outings and more at <https://www.shadyoaksgolf.com/>.

## Silver Ridge

Located just off of Illinois Route 2 between Byron and Oregon, Silver Ridge Golf Course is a one-of-a-kind layout designed to test all abilities. The course is a unique mixture of hills and trees that makes you feel completely disconnected from reality. Come play Silver Ridge today so you can relax and block the world out for at least a few hours.

We have 18 holes, a practice facility including range to sharpen your skills, a professional ready to teach any skill



## Silver Ridge Golf Course

level from beginner to expert, multiple banquet rooms for parties and get-togethers for all different sizes and occasions, a fully stocked pro shop, and a family friend staff that is experienced and ready to make sure your golf outing or event exceeds your expectations.

We know you've been playing in the fairway but

venture out to experience this diamond in the rough. Silver Ridge is the diamond you've been searching for. The course is located at 3069 N. Hill Road, Oregon.

For more information, go to <http://www.silverridgegolf.com>.

See page 23

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815-393-3414 • [basketcasesunlimited.com](http://basketcasesunlimited.com)

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From page 22

## PrairieView

Experience premier public golf at its finest. Owned and operated by the Byron Forest Preserve District, PrairieView's bentgrass layout boasts beautiful views of restored dolomite prairieland that simply cannot be found elsewhere. Golfers are treated to a varied mix of tight tree-lined holes and open links-style holes.

With challenging greens, dramatic bunkering, and supreme conditioning, the course will test the skills and nerves of every golfer. In addition to the course, PrairieView features GPS golf carts, large practice greens, a grass-tee driving range, and the PrairieGrass Pub with deck and patio seating. Visit [www.prairieviewgolf.com](http://www.prairieviewgolf.com).

PrairieView is also home to PrairieFire Golf & Grill, a YEAR-ROUND Toptracer Range® with eight heated hitting bays using the latest in digital Toptracer® technology. PrairieFire is open well into the night and has illuminated targets, amazing food, and loads of golf fun for golfers and non-golfers all year-round. Book your bay reservation today. Visit online at [www.prairiefiregolf.com](http://www.prairiefiregolf.com).

## Fairways GC

Fairways Golf Course is a unique par-66 course designed by Perry Maxwell of the ASGCA. The 18-hole course has been open since 1929 and offers mature tree-lined fairways with country club course conditioning and an average round time of three-and-a-half hours.



PrairieView Golf Club

To book a tee time, call 815-562-6666 or visit online at <http://www.fairwaysgolf-course.com>. For more information, contact Fairways Golf Course on Facebook, visit online or call the pro shop.

## Sunset GC

Sunset Golf Course was founded in 1937 by the Kable brothers and other prominent figures in Mount Morris Township. In 1990 the course layout changed with the addition of four holes which now play as

Nos 4, 5, 6 and 8.

The course's most well known attraction is the 7th hole which is a 100 yard par 3 that requires golfers to hit their shot over a giant ravine known by locals as the Pit. On the original course layout this played as the final hole, but today it is the seventh.

What seems like such a simple hole has played mind games with golfers for years. Even the best golfers have managed to ruin their rounds after challenging this hole.

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