

CATLIN PARK

LaSalle County, IL



CATLIN PARK IS FOR ALL EXPLORERS!

Mountain bikers, hikers, birders, plantsmen, mycophiles, joggers, photographers, naturalists, cross country skiers, families, and more are welcome daily.

Catlin Park's 333 acres are a mix of pine and deciduous forests, prairie grasses, rugged ravines, winding stream beds, deer in abundance, wild turkeys, birds, squirrels, and rabbits. The park's well-organized trail system hosts 14 distinct trails plus numerous connector trails that course throughout the park's habitats, including streams and ponds.

Catlin Park

2560 E. 1251 Road, Ottawa IL 61350



Bathed in broken light from hundred-year-old Chinkapin Oaks explorers the likes of Marquette, Joliet, and Robert de la Salle stood, with a grand prairie to their backs, looking down at a vast valley carved by the slow meandering Inoka Siipiiwi, the Illinois River. It's certain the beauty they beheld was unlike any European explorers had seen before. Surely, they stood on the very clay bluffs that define Catlin Park.

Donated to LaSalle County by its namesake, Catlin occupies the transition zone from the Grand Prairie natural division to the upper Mississippi/Illinois River bottomlands. Explore the abundance of aquatic flora and fauna in the wetlands and lowland creek. Catlin is home to many unique plant species, such as the once abundant Chinkapin Oak or the rare Green Dragon, and a keen eye may find an Orchid or two.

Exploring the park will also yield sightings of Piliated Woodpeckers, Kingfishers, Hawks, Eagles, Turkeys, and an abundance of song birds. Catlin Park truly is a hidden gem in the landscape of North Central Illinois.

Equestrians are encouraged to bring their horses to explore the miles of groomed park trails. The LaSalle County Parks Department maintains a dedicated horse trailer parking lot and a 120 x 160 horse arena at Catlin Park.

The park also features four covered pavilions with picnic tables, grills, parking, and vault toilets. A fifth covered pavilion is located within the trail system.



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