

Weekend Warrior's
**GETAWAY
GUIDE**

- ① **Cascade Mountain Ski Area** 608-742-4700; Rte. 78 & 190/94, near Portage WI. One of the most popular of the 'local' ski areas. Great Snowmaking!
- ② **Devil's Head Ski Area** 800-472-6670; Off Rte. 78 about 10 mi. west of Portage. Good '2nd Day' with Cascade. Good sized lodge.
- ③ **Devil's Lake State Park** 2 mi. south of Baraboo off hwy. 123. Best rock climbing in whole Midwest. 100's of climbs. Reserve campsites well in advance if camping.
- ④ **Tyrol Basin** 15 mil. west of Madison near Mt. Horeb. Known for its awesome snowboarding halfpipe.
- ⑤ **South Kettle Moraine Forest** 262-594-6220; From Elkhorn on I-43, north on hwy 12 to LaGrange. Then 1 mi. N on Cnty H to trails. 15+ miles of groomed X-C & mountain biking. Highly recommended.
- ⑥ **Sundown Mountain** 563-556-6676; About 5 mi. NW of Dubuque, IA. Not big, but you can always count on great snowmaking & grooming.
- ⑦ **Chestnut Mountain** 800-397-1320; Near Galena, IL. Probably most popular 'local area'. Continually expanding. Overlooks Mississippi River. Big lodge.
- ⑧ **Rock Cut State Park** 815-885-3311; Off Hwy 51 at Rockford. Something different for hiking, biking, & X-C skiing. Many gentler & wider trails.
- ⑨ **Mississippi Palisades State Park** 815-273-2731; On Hwy 84 just north of Savanna, IL. Closest real rock, rock climbing. OK X-C skiing when there's snow.
- ⑩ **Fox River** flows from NW of Chicago into the Illinois near Ottawa. Canoe rentals available. See Mike Svob's guide for details.
- ⑪ **Snowstar Ski Area** 800-383-4002; In Andalusia, IL (that's 7 mi. west of Rock Island) Good beginner area cause it's less than 2 hr. from Peoria.
- ⑫ **Starved Rock State Park** 800-868-7625; I-39 to Hwy 71 to entrance. Most popular park in Illinois. Very impressive bluffs & canyons. A 'must see' park.
- ⑬ **Matthiessen State Park** 815-667-4868; On Hwy 178 near Oglesby. A less crowded alternative to Starved Rock. Still very pretty and impressive.
- ⑭ **Johnson Sauk Trail State Park** About 6 mi. north of Kewanee. An alternative place to hike and X-C ski.
- ⑮ **Vermillion River** Flows northwest into the Illinois near Ottawa. The best whitewater (only?) paddling in Illinois. Very popular on a warm day when the water's up. Most people put in near the Lowell Bridge for a thrilling run through the 'Wildcat'. See Mike Svob's guide for all the exciting details.
- ⑯ **Big Bureau Creek** Flows south along the west side of I-180 near Tiskilwa. Fun day trip with a few riffles. Once again, see Mike Svob's guide for direction.
- ⑰ **Sandy Creek** From northeast of Lacon into the Illinois. Not big enough to make the Paddling Guide, it's a fun, quick, bending creek to do in the spring. Check out a topo map (DeLorme's Guide) for access.

- ⑮ **Spoon River** One of our two 'local' streams. 20 mi. west of Peoria Through London Mills. Numerous 1-day trips possible. See the Illinois Paddling Guide for details.
- ⑯ **Robinson Park** One mile east of Knoxville Ave. on Mossville Road. Hike on N or S side. Hilly. Go through tunnel under Rt. 6 to Detweiller Park for a long day.
- ⑰ **Jubilee State Park** 446-3758; Just 10 mi. west of Peoria off Rte. 150. Best close by resource for outdoor activities. Over 25 miles of trails make for great mountain biking, hiking, & X-C skiing (when there's snow).
- ⑱ **Black Partridge Park** 2 miles off 116 in Metamora. Turn N on Susan, L on Progress, then R on Coal Bank. This growing 8+ mile multi-use trail system is becoming a local favorite of Mtn bikers and Trail runners.
- ⑲ **Illinois River** Hike along it, paddle it, or sail on it (just don't drink it). Actually, there's lots of fun to be had on the river. One paddler we know gets dropped off at Starved Rock & paddles his touring kayak back to Peoria, camping along the way.
- ㉑ **Rock Island Trail** Old railbed. Runs north thru Dunlap, Princeville, Wyoming and up to Toulon - and south thru town, across Bob Michel Bridge to Morton on E. Peoria Trail. Many access points for bikers, hikers, & runners.
- ㉒ **Detweiller Park** Peoria Park District park on Rte. 29 a few miles north of 150. Fun hiking, running, & picnicking.
- ㉓ **Galena Marina** Just across Rte 29. from Detweiller Park on the river side. Don't confuse this with Detweiller Marina which is downtown. Decent launch point for canoes & kayaks.
- ㉔ **Forest Park Nature Center** 686-3360; Between Prospect & Rte. 29, 2 miles north of Rte. 150. Interesting walking & hiking. Please stay on trails as plants are fragile. No bikes.
- ㉕ **Donovan Park** The old golf course turned into a park for running, hiking, and X-C skiing, weather permitting. Just across the street from Bushwhacker.
- ㉖ **Wildlife Prairie Park** 676-0998; off Taylor Rd. 10 mi. west of Peoria. Unique park to view many wild animals without fences.
- ㉗ **Kinsey Park** Brand new park 1 mile east of Taylor Road on north side of Rt. 8. Three miles of trail for running, hiking, and great for entry level mountain biking.
- ㉘ **Farmdale Park** 676-0998 Off Bittersweet Rd. in East Peoria. 15 miles of technical single track. Not well marked. Follow the fire road from the parking area, & look for paths. Experts only. Call for conditions.
- ㉙ **East Peoria Trail** Access from parking lot behind CVS pharmacy in E. Peoria. Bike, run, or hike on 8 miles of old RR right of way.
- ㉚ **Independence Park** From Rte. 29 @ Marquette Heights sign, turn SE on LaSalle Blvd. Trailhead is 100 yds. up on left. Park along road. Many miles of intermediate to advanced single tracks. HAVE FUN & BE CAREFUL!
- ㉛ **Dirksen Park** Off Rt. 98 across from McNaughton Park & look for the trail on east side of grassy area. Very challenging mtn. biking on both yellow & blue trails.

③4 **McNaughton Park** in Pekin, 2 mi. east of Rt. 29 on Rt.98 to McNaughton Pk. Rd. Good frisbee golf course and home 100 mi. ultra trail run.

③5 **Lake Evergreen** 726-2002; Actually in Comlara Park, which is about 7 mi. north of Bloomington off I-39. Great picnicking & camping for the family, mtn. biking too. Relatively clear water is nice for paddling & sailing. 5hp motors only on lake, no alcohol enforced.

③6 **Mackinaw River** Flows west from a few miles north of Bloomington into the Illinois near Pekin. Favorite flat water daytripping for Peorians. See Mike Svob's guide for all the possible trips. Over 50 miles of paddling possible.

③7 **Upper Limits Climbing Gym** 829-8255; 1304 W. Washington, Bloomington. OK, it's not outdoors, but it's the only climbing within 50 miles. Unique, world renowned silos make for a fun day Classes available.

③8 **Kickapoo State Park** 217-442-4915; 6 mi. west of Danville. Exit 206 or 210 off I-74 & follow signs. Good mtn. biking if you're headed in that direction.

③9 **Jim Edgar Panther Creek Rec. Area** 217-452-7741; 25mi. NW of Springfield. 26 miles of hiking, biking, even backpacking trails - canoeing too.

④0 **Sand Ridge State Forest** 309-597-2212; 25 mi. SW of Peoria at Forest City. Interesting hiking or X-C skiing through dunes & pine forest.

④1 **Turkey Run State Park** 765-597-2635 16 mi. south of I-74 off US 41. OK, it's Indiana, but it's a really cool park, similar to Starved Rock, but a lot less crowded. Lodge, cabins, & camping.

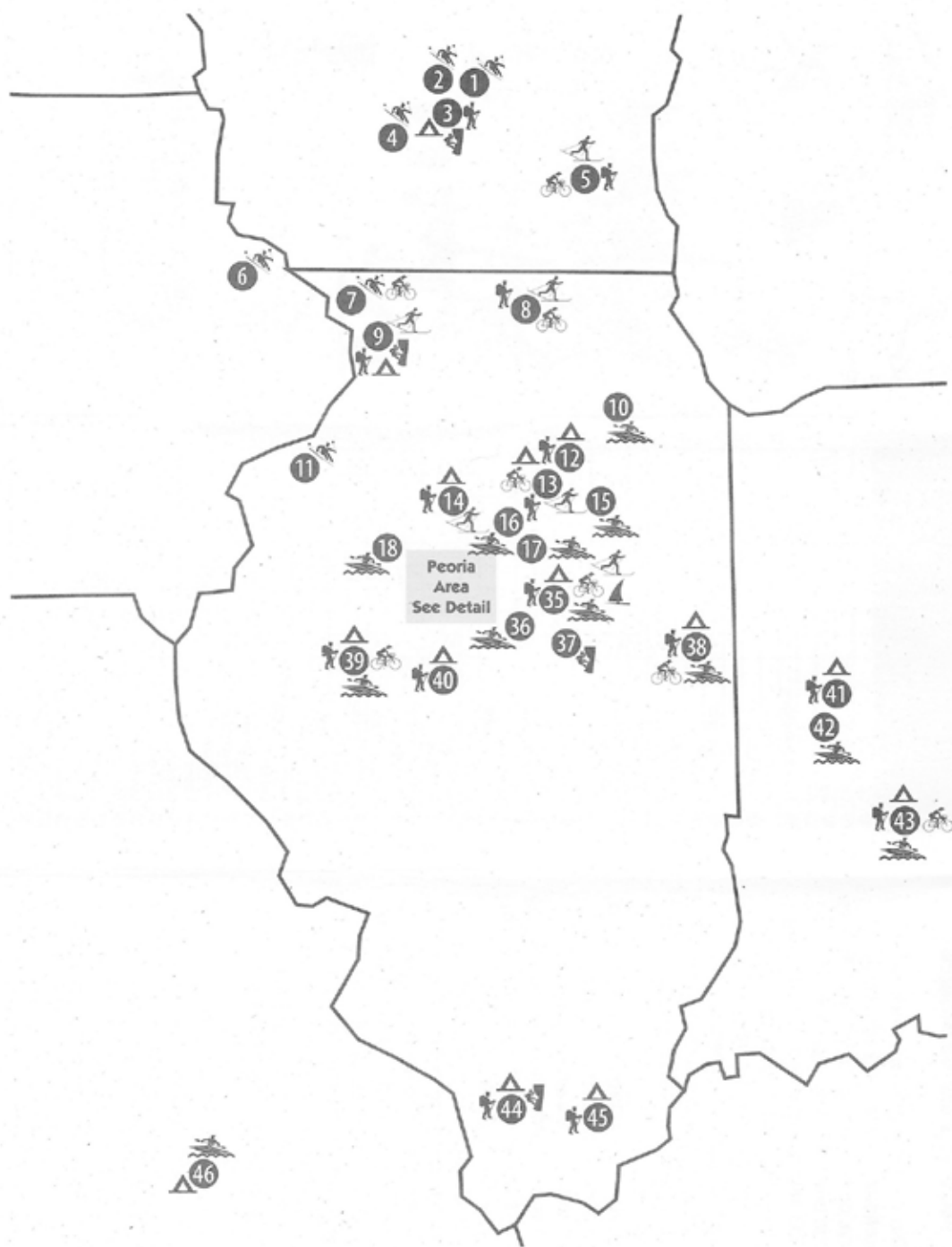
④2 **Sugar Creek** Runs through Turkey Run and makes for some nice paddling. More interesting than lots of other 'close-by' streams, but not difficult. Clement's & Turkey Run Canoe Rentals run popular 1 & 2 day trips.

④3 **Brown County State Park** 40 miles south of Indianapolis. People say its the best park in Indiana. Mecca for mountain biking.

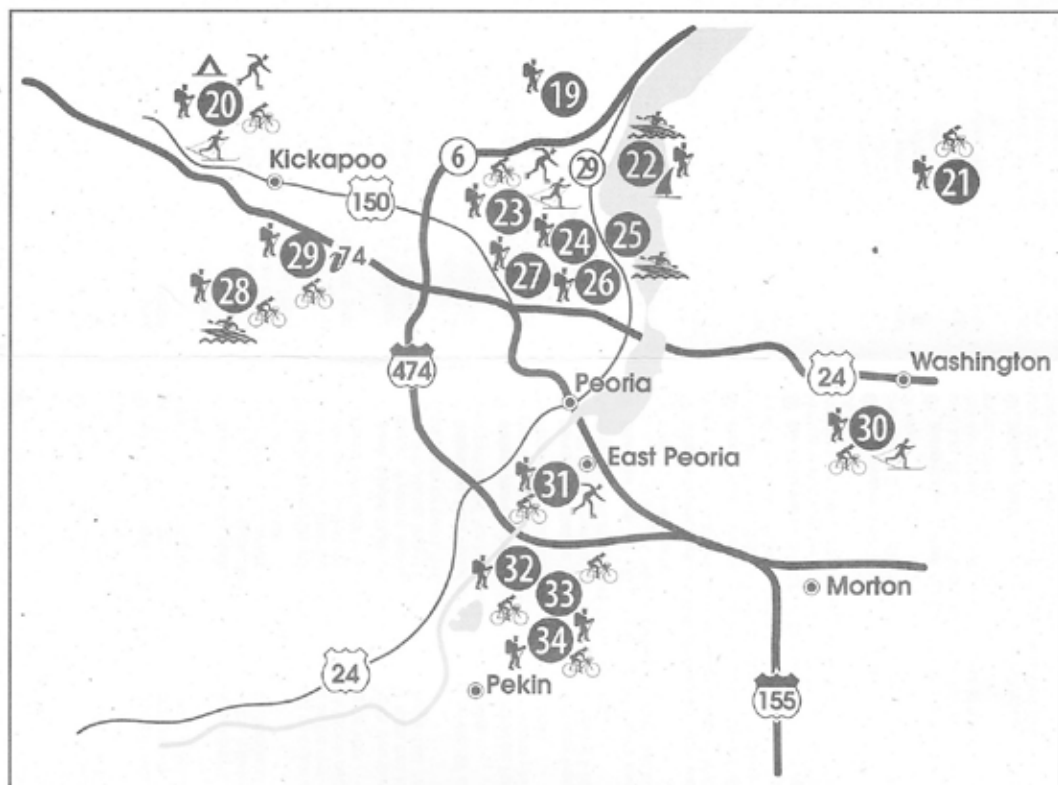
④4 **Shawnee National Forest** Covers most of the southern part of Illinois. Contains Ferne Clyffe & Giant City St. Parks & Garden of the Gods Rec. Area. Amazing rock formations you won't believe are in Illinois. Decent rock climbing at Giant City

④5 **River to River Trail** 618- 252-6789; In southeastern Illinois, trail runs 57 miles from northeast of Vienna on Rte. 45 to a point east of Karber's Ridge. Yes, there is true backpacking in Illinois. See the River to River guidebook, available @ rivertorivertrail.com.

④6 **Current River** 50 miles south of Rolla, MO, it's the most popular weekend paddling trip around. Most people do Aker's Ferry to the Jack's Fork. Very clear & very scenic.



Peoria Area Map



Clubs & Lessons

Peoria Ski Club

Ski trips as well as summer outings.
Contact/website: www.peoriaskiclub.info

Rock Climbing Lessons

Available thru Upper Limits Climbing Gym in Bloomington. All levels. 309-829-8255

Peoria Bicycle Club

Club for the competitive rider
Contact/website: peoriabicycleclub.com

Peoria Triathlon Club

Club for the 3-sport enthusiast
Contact/website: tri-peoria.com

Peoria Area Mountain Bike Association (PAMBA)

Popular bike club for the mountain biker
Contact/website: pambamtb.org

Illinois Valley Wheelm'n

Recreational rides for all levels
Contact/website: ivwheelmn.org

Mackinaw Canoe Club

Weekend excursions throughout the season
Contact: www.meetup.com/Mackinaw-Canoe-Club

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

Meets 3rd Wednesday of month
Website: www.sierraclub.org/illinois

Illinois River Valley Orienteering Club

Great family fun - or cheap, challenging competition
Contact/website: www.invoc.org/

Peoria Backpackers

Meet people interested in backpacking
Website: www.meetup.com/The-Peoria-Backpackers-Meetup-Group/members/7393991/