



850 Franklin Street, Carlyle, Illinois 62231 \* 618-594-2468 \* [info@playandstaycarlyle.com](mailto:info@playandstaycarlyle.com)

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## **Fishing**

Carlyle Lake is Illinois' largest in-land lake at approximately 26,000 acres. And, as gateway to Carlyle Lake, our City is ideally situated to access any area of the Lake where you might want to embark on your fishing adventure! In town, you'll find plenty of options for tackle shops, gas and groceries, sit-down dining, and lodging (see more information on services below).

In October 2008, Carlyle was proud to be chosen to host the first Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Bass Fishing Finals. No other state in the Nation sanctions bass fishing as a high school sport. Illinois will be the first to sanction, and Carlyle will be the first to host it!

## **Species**

There are many catchable species of fish in Carlyle Lake, including white bass, bluegill, crappie, largemouth bass, channel catfish, walleye, sauger, and others.

The State Dept. of Natural Resources and the Army Corps of Engineers cooperate to help stock the Lake with fish and to enhance habitat by creating structure.

Length and daily creel limits for Carlyle Lake follow statewide regulations, except as follows:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum Length Limit</u>	<u>Daily Creel Limit</u>
Largemouth Bass	14 inches	6 fish
Walleye & Sauger	14 inches	6 fish (in combination)
White & Black Crappie	10 inches	10 fish (in combination)

NOTE: Creel limits above only apply in the Lake (not the Tailwater) and tributary streams up to the Corps of Engineers project boundaries, except the walleye and sauger limit which applies to the Tailwater and the entire Kaskaskia Basin.

**Rules reported here are provided as a courtesy, but could change without notice to the City of Carlyle. Always refer to sources disseminated by the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources for official creel limits, and other fishing and hunting rules and regulations.**

### **Carlyle Lake Boat Access**

There are several locations near Carlyle from which boats can be launched for access to Carlyle Lake, the Spillway, and the Kaskaskia River. The table below summarizes the locations of boat ramps convenient to Carlyle:

<u>Boat Ramp</u>	<u>Highwater?</u>	<u>Dock?</u>	<u>Distance from Carlyle</u>
Dam West	Yes	Yes	0 miles
General Dean	No	No	0 miles
City Boat Ramp	Yes	No	0 miles
Dam East	Yes	No	4 miles
Peppenhorst	No	No	6 miles
Allen Branch	No	Yes	6 miles
Apache	No	No	6 miles
Coles Creek	Yes	Yes	13 miles
Boulder	Yes	Yes	15 miles

### **Carlyle Lake Spillway**

It is the damming of the Kaskaskia River that creates Carlyle Lake. The area below the dam is known as the "Spillway" or the "Tailwater," and provides for some of the best fishing in the entire State of Illinois.

The Spillway is extremely easy to access from the City, from the Super 8, and the Mariner's Village. The Dam East Campground is located on the banks of the Kaskaskia River and the Spillway. Electricity is available at each site, and it would be a great place to camp and fish for a weekend, or longer!

If you like fishing for a variety species, the Spillway, is a fisherman's paradise with the most productive fishing area in Illinois, producing 3,260 lbs. of fish per water acre. Here anglers have caught 32 different species of fishes. The state record flathead catfish and white bass have been caught in the spillway. The major species caught are crappie, carp, drum, bluegill, buffalo, channel catfish, and white bass. Other species taken with some regularity are walleye, sauger, yellow bass, largemouth bass, carpsucker, paddlefish, bullhead, sucker, gar and bowfin. Fish cleaning stations are located on both the east and the west sides of the Spillway for the convenience of fishermen.

### **Fishing Guides**

Fishing guide services *may* be available at Carlyle Lake for those seeking it. Steve Henkel, owner of Henkel's Hook & Arrow, is located in Carlyle at 951 12th Street and can be contacted at (618) 594-4818. Steve is very knowledgeable about fishing at Carlyle Lake.

AC Fishing Guide Service, offered by Al Crocker, is another fine guide service. Al can be reached at (618) 420-9796.

### **Fishing Licenses**

The Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources maintains a website through which Illinois fishing licenses can be purchased. Visit [www4.wildlifelicense.com/il/start](http://www4.wildlifelicense.com/il/start) and look for "Purchase a Hunting and/or Fishing License" to begin the process of making a purchase.

### **Bowfishing**

Bowfishing is becoming a more popular sport and is permitted in all areas of the Lake above the Dam, all year around. Bowfishing is also permitted, from a boat only, in the Spillway from the U.S. Route 50 bridge to the cable (just below the Dam), also, all year around.

**Regarding bowfishing, rules reported here are provided as a courtesy, but could change without notice to the City of Carlyle. Always refer to sources disseminated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding rules and regulations for bowfishing.**

### **Contact / Phone Numbers**

For more information, contact any of the following offices:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Carlyle Lake Corps of Engineers	(618) 594-2484
Eldon Hazlet State Park	(618) 594-3627
Target Illinois Poachers	(877) 236-7529