

Friends Creek Campground

Friends Creek Conservation Area encompasses 526 acres, 2 pavilions, a playground, 3 hiking trails, and the historic one room Bethel School. It is also home to Friends Creek Campground:

The campground contains 35 campsites (26 electric sites, and 9 non-electric sites). All parking pads are 40 feet x 10 feet. Electric sites offer 30 amp electric service. Accommodations at the campground include a comfort station with showers and dump station.

One large group campsite is also available for accommodating groups of 15 to 60 people (examples: large family groups, scouts, clubs, etc.). This non-electric site includes 4 tables, a hand water pump (with drinkable water), pit toilets, and a large fire-ring with grill.

Campground Fees: Camping is available at Friends Creek Campground through reservations OR on a first come, first served basis.

- **Electric Sites:** \$17/night for Macon County residents, \$20/night for non-residents
- **Non-Electric Sites:** \$10/night for Macon County residents, \$12/night for non-residents
- **Group Campsite:** \$25/night for up to 25 people, \$1/night for each additional person up to 60

Reserving Your Campsite: Reservations may be made through the business office at Rock Springs Nature Center:

217-423-7708 (Monday - Friday, 8am - 5pm)
3939 Nearing Lane, Decatur, IL 62521

A non-refundable fee of \$5 and security deposit consisting of the first night's fee will be required to secure the reservation. Payment may be made by cash, check, or credit card.

Camping Without a Reservation: Campers without a reservation may have an available site on a first come, first served basis. The campground host will accept payments made by cash or check, and assign camp sites. A "self-service" registration permit and fee envelope is available at the campground if the campground host is not available.

Refunds: Requests for refunds must be received 72 hours in advance of the reservation. The camping fee will be refunded; the \$5 reservation fee is non-refundable. You can transfer your camping dates instead of receiving a refund, but they must be within the same camping season.

Campground Rules

- Friends Creek Campground is intended for recreational camping only.
- Camp only on designated campsites.

- The camping day begins at 3pm, and checkout time is 2pm.
- Quiet hours are observed from 10pm to 6am. Generator use is prohibited during these hours. Respect your camping neighbor by keeping conversation, radio, television, and musical instrument volumes to a minimum during this time. Outside of quiet hours, continue to be considerate of the conservation area's environment and of campers seeking a peaceful outdoor experience.
- Non-camping visitors must leave by 10pm.
- The maximum length of stay for individual sites is 14 consecutive nights, at which time the party must vacate the campground for 5 nights before returning. The maximum length of stay at the Group Campsite is 3 nights.
- Campers may not hook up to a shared water source for extended periods.
- Campers on non-electric sites may not run electrical cords from other campsites or buildings.
- If camping with a recreational vehicle: one recreational vehicle and one tent is allowed per site.
- If tent camping: two tents are allowed per site.
- Maximum of 6 people for individual campsites. Maximum of 60 people for the large Group Campsite.
- Tents must be moved every 5 days to avoid killing the grass.
- Maximum of 2 vehicles per campsite. Please do not park on the grass or along the roadways. Overflow parking is available in the parking lot by the pavilion.
- Pets are welcome when they are secured on a leash that is no longer than 6 feet, reasonably quiet at all times, under the control of the owner, and never left unsupervised. Pet are not allowed inside park structures, such as the restrooms and shower house. Owners shall clean up after their pets.
- Protect the campground environment by not hanging lanterns or any other items in trees, trenching around tents, littering, or discarding sewage or gray water on the ground. A sink for gray water is provided on the west side of the comfort station. A dump station is provided at the campground entrance.
- Solicitation is not permitted.
- Alcohol is not permitted.

- Gathering firewood is prohibited. Consider using alternatives like charcoal and pre-fabricated logs that are available at retail outlets.
- Campers are responsible for their campfires and are restricted to using the campfire rings or grills provided. Fire must be extinguished when vacating the site. Do not burn trash.
- Checkout time is 2pm on the last day of stay to free up the site for the next camper.
- Any camper who violates any of the above rules will be asked to leave and will lose camping privileges. Any damage incurred is the responsibility of the camper. All other rules and regulations governing the Macon County Conservation District shall apply.