

October 8, 2019

## Don't forget the skillet!

We're all attracted to water. And when we've got some leisure time on our hands, heading to the nearest lake, river, reservoir or beach is always a popular choice for cooling off and having a day full of fun.

Ever since the last ice age retreated, the Mississippi River has been snaking its way south along the western border of Illinois and creating countless bays, lakes, inlets and backwaters. Frentress Lake is one of those remnant backwater lakes and has been a favorite spot for water-based recreation for years.

A small bay is located at the north end of the lake, which is home to both the Silver Eagle Event Center and Frentress Lake Marine Center. Years ago the Event Center served as a riverboat casino but now hosts meetings, weddings, and all manner of gatherings and events. The Marine Center, at the other end of the bay, provides boat sales, service and docking and is popular for its convenient docks and access to the lake.



Behind the Event Center, the marina owns a parcel of land that had served as a parking lot for tractor trailers. With its prime location along slough arm of the river, it was a natural location for RV camping. This ever-increasingly-popular pastime is always looking for new locations, especially when they're right next to a big attraction like the Mississippi.

WHKS engineers were asked to convert the site into the 93-site Silver Eagle Campground. Because of its proximity to the river, the project called for close coordination with and permitting from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

With the permits in hand, the site was prepared with water, sewer and electrical hookups as well as paved roads and parking areas.

Now the RV owners can pull into their site, hookup their rolling residence, and head out onto the river to snag a delicious bass and be back in time for dinner.

