

## Crab Orchard Recreation Association

Hear that? CHECKMATE! Uncle Sam thanks all of those that participated in getting this done.

Why would Fish & Wildlife be happy with 20% when they can have their volunteers run it and have 100%?

**CLOSED**  
**for the**  
**Season**

**COMING SOON!**

**Reservations:** Beginning February 1, 2024, all campsites at Blue Heron Campground will be reservable. Campground will be opening on March 29, 2024.

Reservations and payments can be made by:  
Going online to [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)  
or  
Call Toll Free 1-877-444-6777

RV Site - Electric and Water: \$21.00 daily  
Tent Site - Electric and Water: \$20.00 daily

50% discount for Interagency Recreational Access Passes applies only to pass holders who...

If you have questions, please contact the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center at 618-997-3344.



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Comment

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All comments

**Phil Bear Ruggeri**

It should be open to the public , we pay taxes for that Refuge !

6w Like Reply



Author

**Crab Orchard Recreation Association****Phil Bear Ruggeri** It will be as of 29 March 2024

6w Like Reply



Reply to Phil Bear Ruggeri...

**Carl Cauble**

It's interesting a 15 year contract coming to close early why uhm maybe a disgruntled employee, probably so maybe, locked out on a days notice maybe, unable to provide otherwise because of all information locked within maybe, maybe there's all motives by some other maybe. It's sad most the folks affected or veterans ages between 70 and 85 years of ages that enjoy this area what a disgrace must be related to the Dems. The blue heron club needs there day to prove there innocent even though the contracts ends Dec 2023. This smells

5w Like Reply

**John M Eberhardt**

However one looks at this decision it hurt many nice people that didn't do anything wrong. They paid their dues, didn't cause any trouble, and simply wanted to enjoy life in and around the lake. Because of a few the government punished hundreds. Very sad...

6w Like Reply



Top fan

**Handy Man Karr**

Y'all are being negative, this place needs a good change and maybe more fish will bite now

6w Like Reply

**Steven Abba**

Too much government!

6w Like Reply

**Marilyn Cook**

No comment unless I know all the facts. I just know it was closed down early when embezzlement or some such (according to sign they put up) was being investigated.

6w Like Reply



Jay Hall

I'm just happy it's opening!

6w Like Reply



Jennifer Hall

Jay Hall Me too! ❤️

6w Like Reply

Reply to Jay Hall...

Sarah Boze

They're just going to get it to where nobody wants to rent those and then they're just going to have to shut it down for good because they have no patronism. Such a sad sad world we live in. Anything and everything is about money and the ones that don't have the money can't enjoy themselves and go out and do anything. My husband and I used to camp out there before he passed away and my dad and several acquaintances were on the board at one time and it was so much fun. I won't be returning

6w Like Reply Edited

Claxton Michaels

All of these comments state different views and hearsay. Let's just go to the meeting on Jan. 2 @ 5:30 and here what is exactly going on. CORA please have good news for us. Thanks. All I want to do is catch some crappie!!!!

5w Like Reply

Author

Crab Orchard Recreation Association

Claxton Michaels Yes!!!

5w Like Reply

Reply to Claxton Michaels...

Robin Boyd

Even if you camp there you can't fish

6w Like Reply



Toby Schuyler

Don't care as long as can camp there . Good old boys club probably screwed things up out there anyway.

6w Like Reply



Robin Boyd

If you camp there will you get to fish off the docks

6w Like Reply



 Author

**Crab Orchard Recreation Association**

**Robin Boyd** That was the old rules when CORA had the lease. Now, It will be open to the public as of 29 March 2024. The buildings will be locked and unusable.

6w Like Reply

 **David Dixon**

**Crab Orchard Recreation Association** The sad part is they will let the buildings rot away until they get another \$25.7 million dollar “grant” (aka taxpayer’s money).

5w Like Reply


 Author


**Crab Orchard Recreation Association**

**David Dixon** It always comes down to money. Every. Time.

5w Like Reply

 Reply to Crab Orchard Recreation Association...


 Reply to Robin Boyd...

 Top fan

**Handy Man Karr**

Why can’t you fish?

6w Like Reply

 **Ronnie Joe Craddock**

Do you have any information on boat dock slip annual permits?

6w Like Reply 

 Author

**Crab Orchard Recreation Association**

**Ronnie Joe Craddock** Call Volunteers at Visitors Center on 148.

6w Like Reply

 **Ronnie Joe Craddock**

Will do . . . thanks for the information!

6w Like Reply

 Reply to Crab Orchard Recreation Association...

 Reply to Ronnie Joe Craddock...

 **Pete Williamson**

I wonder if they are gonna hire a government caretaker?

6w Like Reply

Amber Akers

Pete Williamson it's volunteer's.

6w Like Reply

Amber Akers

However they are always taking Volunteers.

6w Like Reply

Reply to Amber Akers...

Amber Akers

So does this mean Blue Herron will have disability discount now also?

6w Like Reply

Timothy Hensley

Amber Akers should

6w Like Reply

Reply to Amber Akers...

Reply to Pete Williamson...

Ivy Kern

I guess we won't be back 🙄 so sad. Government taking everything.

6w Like Reply

Brian Bartimus

Will there still be a Marina? Or Playport will be the only one?

2w Like Reply

Author

Crab Orchard Recreation Association

Brian Bartimus beginning Feb 1 you can rent slips at the website posted.

2w Like Reply

Reply to Brian Bartimus...

Yvonne Eickelman

How did a nice quiet, family friendly campground and marina turn into a reservations only place with no clear set of rules and fees?

6w Like Reply

**Leslie Jo**

**Yvonne Eickelman** because Uncle Sam and his minions have been trying to remove the club for years. They want no private club on public ground altho this used to be private ground before Uncle Sam came in and took over.

A few ppl didnt get their way and went crying to the feds, who then used them & their whining as ammunition to eradicate a great group of ppl who did nothing wrong.

When I used to ride, these kind of ppl would have been handled by their peers. They wouldnt have been allowed to dismantle the club.

6w Like Reply



**Yvonne Eickelman**

**Leslie Jo** This is sad because once the government takes it over, it won't be the same. I didn't go out to the club much this year. It's been a bad year with the loss of my husband. Now I don't know if it would be worth joining. Will Sherry still be working there? She kept the bathrooms and showers so clean and she was very nice.

5w Like Reply

**Leslie Jo**

**Yvonne Eickelman** Probably not since the gov't volunteers will be working it.

5w Like Reply



**Yvonne Eickelman**

Leslie Jo, there are other campgrounds on Crab Orchard that are probably about the same pricewise. I haven't got anything in the mail yet for renewing my membership. I don't trust using my debit card over the phone to pay my dues either. I had it hacked once lately, but the bank notified me right away.

5w Like Reply Edited

Author

**Crab Orchard Recreation Association**

**Yvonne Eickelman** Come to the meeting Tuesday night & it will be taken care of!

5w Like Reply



**Yvonne Eickelman**

**Crab Orchard Recreation Association** I don't like to drive at night except in the Summertime. I've also got an early appointment Wednesday. I will keep following the posts and I haven't decided if I'm going to renew my membership.

5w Like Reply

**Bryan Lind**

**Yvonne Eickelman** there will be no membership to renew

5w Like Reply



Author

**Crab Orchard Recreation Association**

**Bryan Lind** Wrong.

5w Like Reply

Bryan Lind

Crab Orchard Recreation Association where's the club house going to be?

5w Like Reply

Reply to Leslie Jo...

Reply to Yvonne Eickelman...

Samuel Walters

Suck!!!!!!

6w Like Reply

Carla Mathis

SAD. Raise the rates, NO dock fishing and also reservation only!!

6w Like Reply

Author

Crab Orchard Recreation Association

Carla Mathis From what I understand, it will be open to the public and you will be able to fish. I do not know if they will rent marina slips but the boat launch will be open.

\*Leslie Jo

6w Like Reply

Colleen Shupe

Once you are 62 you can get a senior pass for an 80.00 one time lifetime fee. Usually you get a 50% off discount. We camp for 13.00 at Rend Lake for full hookups. This should be the same.

6w Like Reply

T Scott Kell

Colleen Shupe Corp of engineers lake vs. US wildlife refuge

6w Like Reply

Reply to Colleen Shupe...

Reply to Carla Mathis...

Tracey Kerley-Thomas

Chuck Thomas


6w Like Reply

Chasity Parrish

Bob Ses

6w Like Reply




 **Heather Renee  
Ben Emery**

6w Like Reply

 **Angela Gerlach Truluck  
Randy Truluck**

6w Like Reply

 **Lynn Johns  
Joseph Johns**

6w Like Reply

 **Melissa Ashmore**

I'm confused, they opened it up? Just not the original people running it?

6w Like Reply

 Author

**Crab Orchard Recreation Association**

**Melissa Ashmore** The gov't took it away from us and is going to reopen for themselves.

6w Like Reply



 **Melissa Ashmore**

**Crab Orchard Recreation Association** it's a shame because we have always enjoyed camping there because it was very clean.

6w Like Reply



 **Tina Kosco**

**Melissa Ashmore** won't be now

6w Like Reply



 **Martin Giordano**

**Tina Kosco** don't rush to accuse, we volunteer at COE Carlyle and they are as clean as they come.

6w Like Reply



 **Tina Kosco**

**Martin Giordano** not accusing I just know how clean Sherry kept the restrooms. We aren't even sure what they mean by volunteers at this point. The other crab orchard campground restrooms weren't as clean as Blue Herons

6w Like Reply



 Reply to Crab Orchard Recreation Association...

Tina Kosco

Melissa Ashmore also from what I understand it will be by reservation. So if you want to come in for 2 weeks and someone reserves a nice site for a weekend you won't be able to rent it unless you are willing to move when the reservation comes up.

6w Like Reply

Leslie Jo

Tina Kosco the reservations screw everything up!

6w Like Reply

Tina Kosco

Leslie Jo yes they do

6w Like Reply

Noma Gunter Suckoll

Leslie Jo. It may mess things up to have a reservation. But I know for fact that there were a couple campers always had the good spots. They were friends. When one pulled out the friend pulled in. When thier time was up the first pulled back in. I don't agree with the way it will be now but I did not agree with that either.

6w Like Reply

Cheryl Heltsley-Davis

Noma Gunter Suckoll There was always shady stuff like that going on. That's why we quit being members a long time ago. Gossip central was a better name for it and a few wanted to make all the rules. I just hope the government runs it better but we can only wait and see.

6w Like Reply

Reply to Tina Kosco...

Reply to Melissa Ashmore...

Don Smith

If you want to fish off the dock, they gonna be gated you have to have a key and pay \$300

6w Like Reply

Leslie Jo

Don Smith Where did you hear this? It isnt true.

6w Like Reply

Reply to Don Smith...

David Dixon

What a crock! Like I said before, "a self serving entity". And when they want a raise, they will just raise prices and/or spend more of our tax dollars to prop themselves up.

6w Like Reply





 Author

Crab Orchard Recreation Association

David Dixon They raised the rates!!!!



