



Pimiteoui Trail Association Hiking Club

October - December 2025

President: Dave Grebner (309) 222-7941
Vice President: Liane Bisanz (309) 642-1356
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hike Reminders

1. Hikes start promptly with no more than a 5-minute grace period for late arrivals.
2. The newsletter will be published quarterly. Hike leaders: please email your Event Reports to shullag@yahoo.com within two weeks after completion of your scheduled events. A single photo (jpeg file format) for inclusion in the Newsletter may be attached to your report.
3. Hike Leaders are to register all attendees for a hike/bike/paddle event using the "official" Pimiteoui Trail Association Liability Waiver form. These may be obtained on our website at WWW.PTAHIKE.ORG.
4. If an area allows dogs, they must be on a leash at all times. Also, please be prepared to pick up and dispose of pet excrement.
5. In case of bad weather, contact the hike leader to see if the hike/event has been cancelled.
6. We remain committed to following the CDC pandemic safety guidelines and will adapt as needed.

4th Quarter 2025 Event Schedule

Saturday, October 4, 2025, 10:00 AM, Robinson Park, Peoria

Address: 400 W Mossville Rd., Peoria, IL

Please meet in the main parking area. That is, the section of the park that has parking lots on both sides of Mossville Road.

I plan to hike the northern trail route that heads towards Camp Wokanda. Hike will take about 2 to 2.5 hours total. Dogs on leashes are ok.

Trails are somewhat hilly, due to crossing creek valleys and river bluff terrain. Trail also includes a fairly long flat stretch along the bluff crest. I suggest bringing drinking water and hiking poles. Hopefully, we'll catch some Fall color.

Hike Leader: Eric Hutchison

email: ERICHUTCHISON1@HOTMAIL.COM
Both of the following phone numbers accept voice & voice mail only, no text:
home phone: 309-688-7038
mobile phone (active on hike day only): 309-857-1081

Saturday, October 18, 2025, 10:00 AM, Weldon Springs State Park, Clinton, IL

Address: 4734 Weldon Springs Rd., Clinton IL 61727

Directions: When you enter the park you will be on a road that encircles the lake and much of the park. Do not turn off this road. Follow it around and you will pass by the boat dock/concession stand area and then pass the Chautauqua Pavilion. Veteran's Point is the next pull in area. You should see signs directing you. Veteran's Point is visible from many areas (and can be seen from the boat dock/concession stand area) as there are three flags flying there.

Link to park

map: <https://dnr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dnr/parks/documents/weldonspringssitemap.pdf>

This is a 2-mile hike around Weldon Springs Lake, called the Lakeside Nature Trail. We will meet at the Veteran's Point parking lot (directions below). The trail has a few inclines, stairs, and bridges, but I do not think of it as challenging. We will be taking our time and enjoying the beautiful view. Typically the trees are gorgeous at this time of year. I have not previously needed hiking poles for this trail, which I have hiked numerous times. However, I may take them this time as I am not completely healed from total knee replacement. Some areas may be a little muddy after rain. Dogs on leashes are allowed. There are a few bathrooms throughout the park. However, the ones in the concession stand building will not be open. Bathrooms will definitely be open at the Class A campground shower house (2nd road on your right shortly after entering the park). Picnic areas also have bathrooms or pit toilets. There are pit toilets near Veteran's Point.

Should the weather forecast indicate an expectation of rain on Saturday morning, the hike will be moved to Sunday, 10/19, at 10:00. Notice will be given on Friday by 7:00 PM if changes need to be made.

Hike Leader: Gayle Howell (309)267-6878 (may be best to text as phone service can be spotty at the park and I will already be there several days prior to our hike)

Saturday, November 8, 10:00 AM, Northwoods Park, Morton

Address: 22216 N Main St, Morton, IL 61550

Join fellow hikers for a walk in the woods. Meet at the park pavilion parking area. The park is located about a mile North of Morton on North Main Street. There will be a few moderate hills. Wear hiking boots and bring trekking poles if you need support. Toilets are available. Dogs are only allowed on leash on the hiking trails. No off-trail running of dogs. Contact hike leader if more descriptive directions are needed. Optionally after the hike we will eat somewhere for stories and jocularity.

Hike Leader: John Jackson (309) 645-0263

Sunday, November 30, 2025, 1:00 PM, McNaughton Park, Pekin, IL

Address: McNaughton Park Drive, Pekin, IL 61554

The entrance to McNaughton Park Drive is off of Route 98/Edgewater Drive. It is near the entrance to Dirksen Park (where our group walked on May 31, 2025) but on the opposite side of the road.

We will meet at the end of McNaughton Park Drive where it loops around, near the picnic shelter across from Lake Butterfield. We will walk down the hill into the lower meadow. From there, we will pick up a wooded trail that wraps around part of the frisbee golf course. For those who want to extend the hike, we can walk around the bottom meadow afterwards. There is a chance of seeing deer and other wildlife. We will not cross any streams. Children and leashed dogs are welcome. This is a moderate to advanced hike with hills so you may want to bring a hiking stick or poles. There are no restrooms in the park.

Hike Leader: Dianne Wyant (309) 253-0816

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 1:00 PM, Rock Island Trail (Alta Trailhead)

Address: Alta Road Trailhead, W. Alta Lane, Peoria, IL 61615

We will meet at the Alta Road Trailhead parking lot. The trail is somewhat sheltered from the wind, is fairly flat and well maintained. This tree lined trail is graced with beautiful homes and meanders out into the countryside. We may see deer and other wildlife. We normally walk 2 to 2.5 miles out making it a 4 to 5 mile round-trip walk. Children and leashed dogs are welcome. Restrooms are located near the Alta trailhead and about halfway through the hike. This is an easy hike.

Hike Leader: Dianne Wyant (309) 253-0816

Friday, December 12, 2025, 6:30 PM, Holiday Shop and Stroll, Forest Park Nature Center

Address: 5809 North Forest Park Drive, Peoria Heights, IL

Let's celebrate the holidays at Forest Park with a leisurely stroll along the luminary-lit Valley trail, hot cocoa by the campfire, and special music. Please join us for this holiday tradition.

Hike Leader: Liane Bisanz (309) 642-1356

THIRD QUARTER 2025 EVENT REPORTS

2025-12 Saturday, July 12, Social at Matilda's Cocktail Lounge, Peoria

We met at Matilda's Cocktail Lounge, a retro-themed bar near Kelleher's, and enjoyed some good conversation, drinks and snacks.

Attendees: Rob Alexander, Dave Grebner, Andy Shull, Cherie Shull

2025-13 Saturday, July 26, Spring Creek Preserve, Grosenbach Road trailhead

Ten of us met at the park's south trailhead. After an early descent, we had a pleasant walk along the valley floor before climbing back up the hill. The weather was sunny and mild, a welcome break from the intense heat this summer.

Hikers: Carol Raines, Donna Uftring, Eric Hutchison, Jim Perry, Cherie Shull, Pam Brandt, Dave Grebner, Rob Alexander, Liane Bisanz

Hike Leader: Andy Shull

2025-14 Saturday, August 30, Black Partridge Park, Metamora

Eight members and six guests joined our hike at Black Partridge Park near Metamora. We hiked for 90 minutes on the trails, some flat and some hilly. We saw some wild turkeys and squirrels along the beautiful trails.

Hikers: Jim Perry, Eric Hutchison, Carol Raines, Priska Lauber, Dianne Wyant, Iván Wyant, Andy Shull, Lisa Creger, Steve Creger, Rebecca Senneff, Kristen Kennedy, Linda Rowe, Robert Rowe

Hike Leader: Dave Grebner

2025-15 Sunday, September 14, Farmdale Reservoir, Washington

On a hot Sunday afternoon, four of us took a long (3.7 mile) loop through Farmdale Park, starting on the main trail to the left of the parking lot. Dry weather made it easier than usual to cross a creek along our path. We climbed a steep hill and walked along a high ridge, eventually reaching the dam and returning to the lot from the opposite side.

Hikers: Jim Perry, Dianne Wyant, Iván Wyant

Hike Leader: Andy Shull

2025-16, Sunday, September 28, Illinois River Road from Jonah's to Cooper Park North

We had a total of 4 people who braved the heat for this walk. The weather was beautiful but a little warm. The hike weaved through the wetlands near the waterfront although it was not clearly visible from the trail. There were several overlooks that allowed hikers to view the river. This is an even terrain and short walk traveling a total of 1.9 miles to the end of the trail.

Hikers: Laverne Wilson, Jim Perry, Les Hensley

Hike Leader: Liane Marchini-Bisanz