

# MATTOON LAKES

The story of Mattoon's two lakes is really the story of securing a dependable source of water for the city. That story can be found in the hall.

A side benefit of the quest for water was an opportunity to provide recreational activities to the citizens of Mattoon.



**Paradise Lake Park**  
Big Opening Day - - Sunday, May 1st  
Extra Dance, Sunday, April 24th---Roller Skating

The oldest lake, Paradise Lake was created in 1907 when the Mattoon Water Works and Reservoir Company dammed the Little Wabash River at Paradise Village and created Paradise Lake.

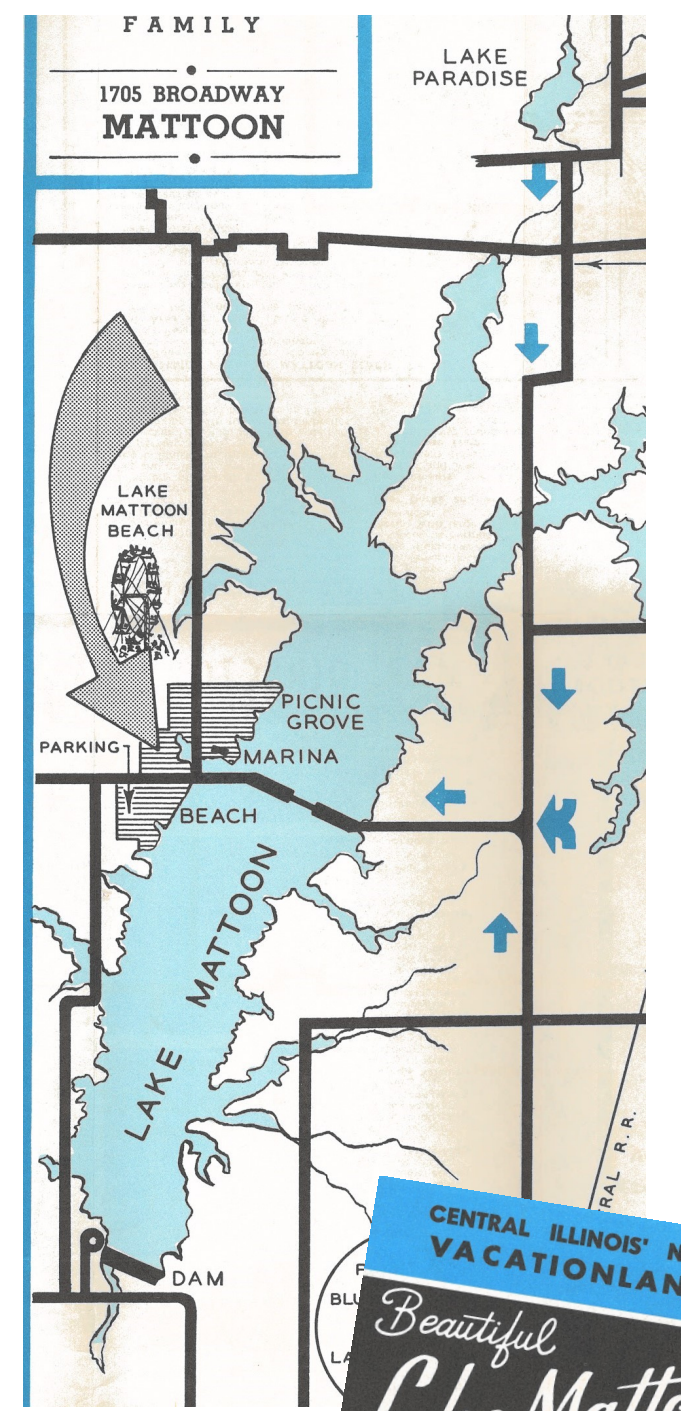
Today, the lake has a surface area of 210 acres. Boats are allowed on the lake, but it is a "No Wake" lake. It is a tranquil setting, with playground and picnic areas.

There are many cottages and summer cabins spotted around Paradise Lake that were built on lots under long term lease from the city.

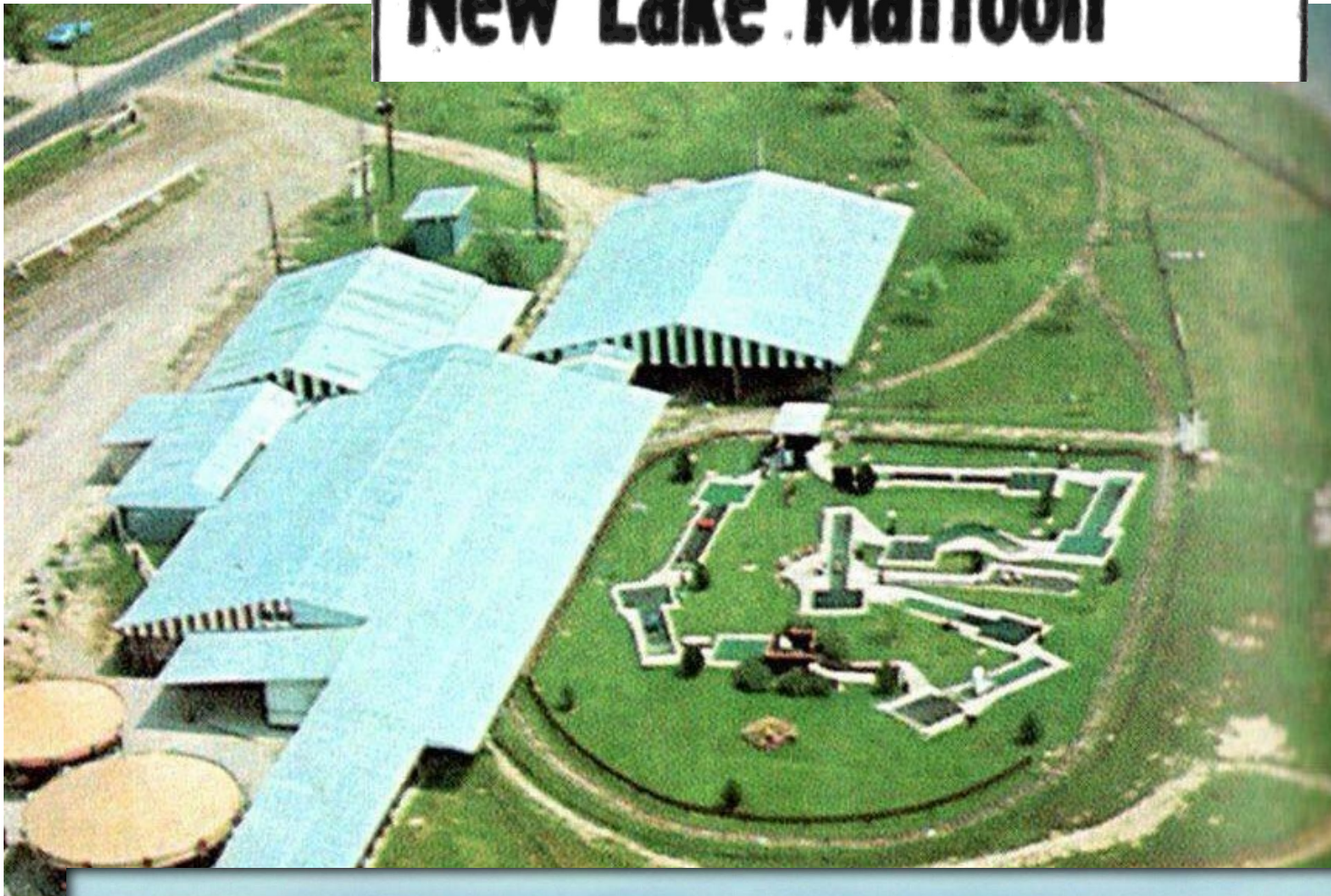


Lake Mattoon came about as the need for a larger and more dependable water supply emerged. From its inception, Lake Mattoon was intended to be used for recreation as well as a reservoir for the city.

Unlike Paradise, much of the land around Lake Mattoon is privately owned and there are many sections containing seasonal as well as year round



## Governor Dedicates New Lake Mattoon



The designated beach area, a 65 acre tract, was leased to a firm that also operated Indiana Beach and many improvements were originally made.

Those improvements included:

Picnic Area

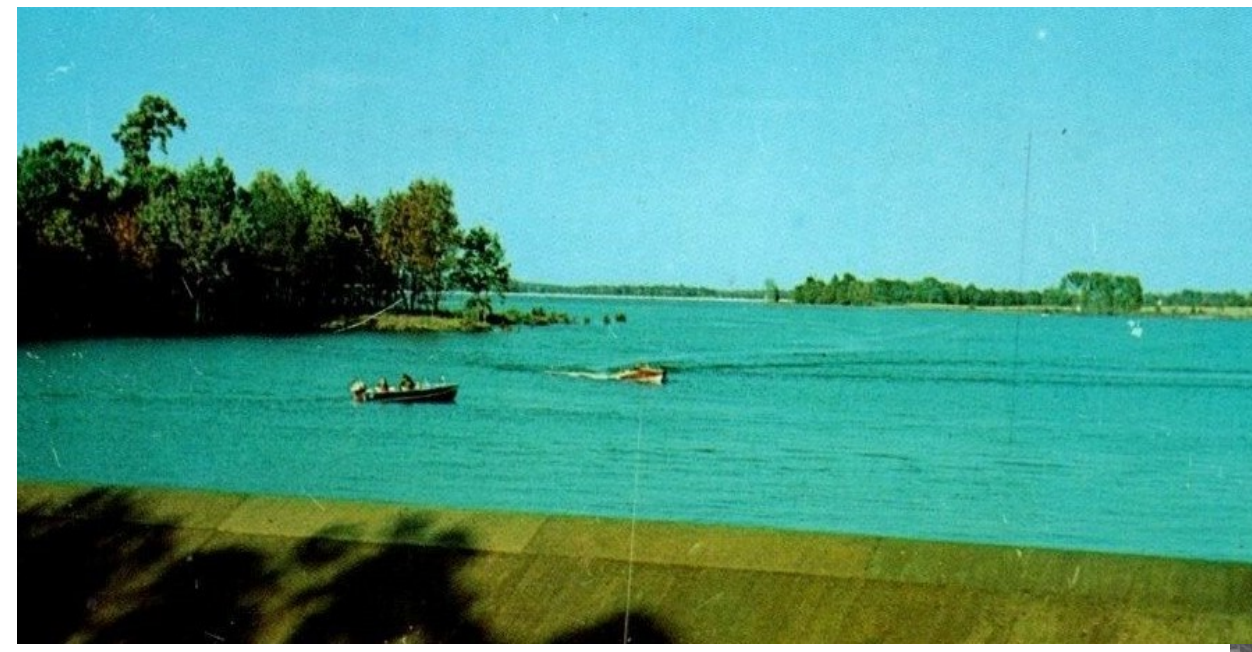
1200' of sanded beach

Amusement area with merry go round, ferris wheel and kiddie rides

Restaurant

Train ride with 6,000 feet of track.

**Lake Mattoon Beach Opens On May 30th**



**Ron Riley**  
7:00 to 9:00 P.M. Monday-Friday  
6:30 to 9:00 P.M. Saturday  
6:30 to 8:30 P.M. Sunday  
WLS-DIAL 890-24 HOURS-A-DAY  
● AN ABC OWNED RADIO STATION ●

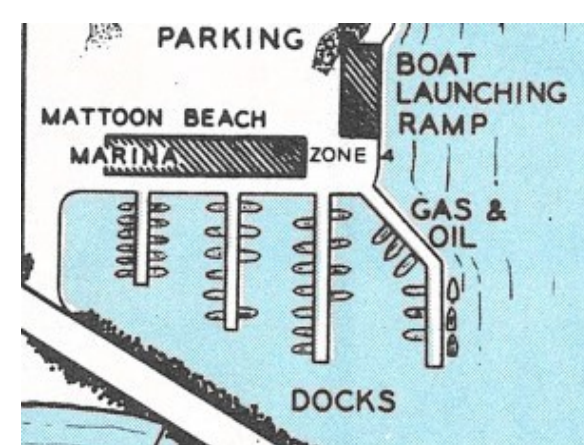
Start your day with  
**Clark Weber**  
6:00 to 10:00 A.M. - Monday thru Saturday  
WLS-DIAL 890-24 HOURS-A-DAY  
● AN ABC OWNED RADIO STATION ●

**Dex Card**  
2:00 to 6:00 P.M.  
Sunday thru Saturday  
WLS-DIAL 890-24 HOURS-A-DAY  
● AN ABC OWNED RADIO STATION ●

Brighten your evening with  
**Art Roberts**  
9:00 P.M. to 12 midnight Mon. thru Sat.  
Sun. 10:00 P.M. to 12 midnight  
WLS-DIAL 890-24 HOURS-A-DAY  
● AN ABC OWNED RADIO STATION ●



A popular attraction with teens was a dance pavilion that hosted many well-known bands on the weekends. These dances were often MC'd by disk jockeys from WLS radio in Chicago, the top 40 station that most Mattoon teens tuned into.



On the other side of the causeway from the amusement area, a marina with docking facilities, fuel, bait and snacks was constructed.