

Recreation

Peterson Park in Newton is located on the north side of Newton on Route 130.

The park offers two covered picnic shelters, two tennis courts, a basketball court, batting cages and several shaded picnic sights. The park is also equipped with a playground, swimming pool, miniature golf course and sand volleyball court.

The **Jasper County Boys and Girls Park** is on Scott Avenue in Newton. It is the home of Newton's Babe Ruth softball and baseball diamonds and the busiest place in town during the summer months. The park has five diamonds. It has also hosted several state and regional softball tournaments, as well as two national championships.

Earl Dufrain Park is located on Liberty Avenue in Newton. The park features a playground and skateboard park.

The Newton Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area is located approximately 10 miles west of Newton. It includes a 1,775 acre lake and 540 acres of shoreline.

For the nature lover, Newton Lake offers a glimpse at the abundant white-tailed deer and many other small varieties of wildlife, including the river otter, an endangered species, released in January 1994. Blue Heron can be seen in shallow coves and a large number of ducks and geese remain on the lake during most of the winter. Jasper County also hosts the largest of three prairie chicken flocks left in the state of Illinois, which are sometimes visible at Newton Lake. A family of bald eagles has also made Newton Lake its home.

Newton Lake also provides boating facilities and good bass, blue gill and catfish populations. More than 20 miles of trails are available for hikers, bicyclers, cross-country skiers and equestrian uses. Horse rentals are not available. Picnicking facilities are available at both the north and south access areas.

For more details about park rules and specifications,

call 783-3478

Sam Parr State Park is located three miles north-east of Newton on Route 130. The park offers four picnic areas, more than two miles of foot trails, 13 miles of equestrian trails, tent camping, fishing, boating, hunting, ice skating and ice fishing when conditions are favorable.

The park has trailer camping and electricity but there are no shower facilities.

The park includes a 183-acre lake in its 1,043 total acres and is named after a local conservationist, Sam Parr. The lake reaches a depth of 28 feet and the shore line is 9 miles.

For more information about camping, hunting, fishing and hiking specifications, call 783-2661.

Drive-In Theater

The **Fairview Drive-In**, one of four remaining in the state of Illinois, is located between Newton and Willow Hill on Route 33, east of Newton. The drive-in is open seasonally (May-Sept) and has a double feature each weekend. Movies begin at dusk. For more information, call 455-3100.

Golf Course

Stone's Throw Golf Course is located west of Newton on North 800th Street. The 18 hole public golf course opened about 50 years ago as Jasper County Country Club. In 2003, the additional nine holes opened and the course became public. Everyone is welcome to play golf at Stone's Throw Golf Course. Stone's Throw Golf Course also provides an outstanding banquet facility for wedding receptions, class reunions and parties of any kind. For more information call 618-783-3790.

Mickie Zada, Manager

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