



River Road Recreation Area

The area below Clearwater Dam is known as River Road Park. To get there from Piedmont, take Route HH and turn off just before the dam - or go across the dam and turn left.

River Road is on both sides of Black River below the dam.

The east side, next to Route HH, is the larger, with 96 sites. They are mostly electric. There are two showers, flush toilets, two vault toilets, a trailer dump station, two pavilions, picnic facilities and a new hike and bike trail.

All lake campgrounds are open year around, but with services suspended in winter. River Roads is open all year with full services. It is popular with "snowbirds" well into the fall and early in the spring. Snowbirds are northern campers who winter in Texas or Florida, but pace out the twice annual trip with long stops along the way.

There is also a boat ramp into the stilling basin below the dam and a helicopter pad for emergencies that may happen on the lake.

The west side area has 14 camps, nine of which have electric. There are picnic facilities, a vault toilet and a major nature trail designed for viewing wildlife. This trail begins with a boardwalk along and over Black River.

Fishing below the dam is different from the lake.

For one thing, the river has more species variety than the lake. Among the river species are walleye and paddlefish, both of which draw fishermen at times. Walleye may be caught anytime.

Paddlefish are caught

by snagging during the season that opens March 15. Fish 60 pounds and more are caught.

Big catfish move into the spillway in the spring, too, wreaking havoc on crappie fishermen at times.

Biologists regularly find big spotted bass below the dam and there are plenty of crappie.

River Roads is also a popular spot with a resident Canada geese flock, whose young delight on-lookers in the spring and summer.