

## What's New in State Parks and Reservoirs in 2013?

We hope you enjoy taking a look at some of the projects our staff completed in 2012. Most have a direct impact on the facilities you use when you visit in 2013.



Our special events calendar is filled with great opportunities for inexpensive fun and family memory making this year. Visit [www.stateparks.in.gov](http://www.stateparks.in.gov) for details.

You may notice that much of the work completed in 2012 did not involve new construction or major infrastructure overhauls. Our division has over 2000 buildings, 700 miles of trails, 631 hotel/lodge rooms, 75 marinas, 16 swimming pools, 15 beaches, almost 8400 campsites, over 200 shelters, 160 or so playgrounds and 149 cabins.....that's a lot of maintenance, and in these tight fiscal conditions, most of our time and energy has been focused on basic facility care.

We have wonderful donors, partners and volunteers who help us accomplish a variety of projects. Our friends groups contributed thousands of dollars and hours for projects and events. The YHCC program brought us assistance again in 2012. We added a connection for service through the Indiana Heritage Corps with crews of young adult college students or recent graduates who built new trails and performed maintenance on others. And finally, we have creative and dedicated staff who do all they can to find ways to stretch the dollars that you pay when you enter the gate, rent a campsite, launch a boat or attend a special workshop or program. We want to provide you with a great experience during every visit! Enjoy this snapshot of some of the work we did in 2012 – and know that there are hundreds of other projects and events that are not mentioned here that are also designed to manage and interpret the facilities, natural and cultural resources and history of Indiana's state parks and reservoirs.

Your Indiana state parks and reservoirs are a great value, both in cost and in serving as great places to get healthy, relax in the outdoors and create great stories and memories for the future. Get outside with your family and friends – you'll be glad you did. We'll see you on the trail in 2013!

### Across the Division

- The Indiana Heritage Corps members worked in four state parks – Pokagon, Fort Harrison, Brown County and O'Bannon Woods – and cleaned and restored over 150 miles of trails.
- Look for a new, simpler Hoosier Quest patch program this summer – it will be available by Memorial Day. Keep an eye on the web page at [www.stateparks.IN.gov/2418.htm](http://www.stateparks.IN.gov/2418.htm).
- We challenge you to get your children, grandchildren or other kids you know outdoors this year, and help them check off the eleven important things we believe every Hoosier child is entitled to do. See more at [www.childrenplayoutdoors.dnr.IN.gov](http://www.childrenplayoutdoors.dnr.IN.gov).

- We implemented the first changes in fees in the system since 2006 with increases in the price of annual passes, lake permits, swimming and camping. Daily entrance and most other fees remained the same. See details at [www.stateparks.IN.gov/2391.htm](http://www.stateparks.IN.gov/2391.htm).
- Our new SPR Go! (Get Outside) program is a particularly good value in 2013, since it is being sold for now at 2012 prices. It's a good deal since prices have increased for 2013 on annual passes, camping, swimming and motorized lake permits. See [www.stateparks.IN.gov/7313.htm](http://www.stateparks.IN.gov/7313.htm).
- We continue to protect our campground shade trees and forests with the firewood property rule. Bring firewood from home only with bark removed, or purchase firewood with a state or federal compliance stamp. It is also possible to bring scrap kiln dried lumber. Get questions answered at [www.firewood.dnr.IN.gov](http://www.firewood.dnr.IN.gov).
- SPR is partnering with Traditional Arts Indiana to research the limestone heritage at McCormick's Creek and Spring Mill state parks. After extensive interviews, select artists will showcase their work at McCormick's Creek on June 15, and Spring Mill on June 22. This is a chance to see limestone being cut and shaped, the tools used by the artists, and the tool makers. A special bluegrass band, made up of all limestone workers, performs during McCormick's Creek's event.

#### **Brookville/Whitewater**

- Erosion issues were corrected on the Wildlife Wander trail at Mounds State Recreation Area and the self-guided-hike markers were replaced. An updated brochure will be available by Memorial Day Weekend.
- The upstairs area of the Whitewater Beach House is being revamped to serve as an activity room for interpretive programs.
- New metal siding replaced damaged wood on many of the property's vault toilets.

#### **Brown County State Park**

- A new wooden footbridge was built across the spillway of the Strahl Lake dam.
- Carpet was removed and replaced with wood laminate flooring in the bird-watching room of the nature center.
- Hoosier Mountain Bike Association volunteers are building a new, 2.0-mile mountain bike "flow trail" called the HP Bowl, which will add to the existing 25 miles of trails. The park's mountain bike trails have been named some of the best in the country.

#### **Chain O'Lakes**

- In the campground the primary underground electrical service was replaced to help eliminate outages, and a sidewalk was constructed around Comfort Station 3.
- The park entrance road, 75 S, was repaved from State Road 9 to the gatehouse.
- Ninety one large ash trees were removed from the campground as the result of damage from the emerald ash borer. Forty new trees were transplanted to begin to produce new shade in the campground.

- The Beach House Nature Center has been repainted and new interpretive posters and displays have been added. Visitors can play an unforgettable game of checkers or chess on a unique handmade board incorporating several native species.
- Park staff conducted prescribed fire on 97 acres to help manage invasive species.

#### **Charlestown/Falls of the Ohio State Park**

- Charlestown State Park has a new campground host program for 2013.
- The McGee Cabin at Falls of the Ohio will be open in 2013. This cabin interprets the African-American history associated with the Clark Cabin at the site.

#### **Clifty Falls State Park**

- All trails have been identified with new trail markers.
- The bridge over Little Clifty Falls was rebuilt after tree damage in December of 2011.
- Roadsides have been cleared along the road to the pool for better wildlife viewing.

#### **Fort Harrison State Park**

- Fort Harrison State Park will open its new dog park this summer.
- The Lawrence Creek loop of the mountain bike trail system is now completed and open for both biking and hiking.

#### **Hardy Lake**

- All of the comfort stations have new ceramic tile.
- Improvements have been made to many of the campsites at the primitive campground.
- A new "Boater Safety" exhibit has been built at the Scott County Fairgrounds.

#### **Harmonie State Park**

- A new amphitheater stage was built in the campground by the amphitheater by the Friends of Harmonie State Park. It will be used for a concert series during the summer of 2013.
- Several more miles of mountain bike trail have been constructed, extending the intermediate trail.
- A Wild about Nature Workshop will be offered in June and July at the nature center.
- Swimming pool activities this summer will include two sessions of swim lessons and water aerobics.

#### **Indiana Dunes State Park**

- A new bicycle trail now passes through the park.
- The main picnic area has been renovated and restored.
- A new all-terrain wheelchair was purchased by the Friends of Indiana Dunes State Park. It is now at the nature center and is available to visitors with accessibility needs.
- New oak and pine trees were planted in the campground for future shade trees.

### **Lieber SRA**

- New stone was spread on the nature trail.
- The railings were painted along Mill Creek at Cataract Falls SRA.
- The Hilltop Shelter has new picnic tables and the Hilltop Restroom has new lights and stalls.
- Sunny Acres Campground has new fire rings and resource management work was performed.

### **Lincoln State Park**

- The nature center has a new mastodon display.
- A newly constructed sea wall will help control erosion on Lake Lincoln, and a remodeled boat rental area will greet visitors.
- Fifty new pine trees were planted in the campground.
- A new play set donated by the Friends of Lincoln State Park will be installed in Gobbler's Run non-electric campground.
- Campground roads in Lake Lincoln A, Buckhorn youth and Troy Road Picnic Area have been repaved.

### **McCormick's Creek State Park**

- The Peden Springhouse was restored with support from the Friends of McCormick's Creek State Park. It is the location of the original Peden Farmstead. Stop by the nature center to learn more and find out how to visit.
- The public swimming pools deck and drainage system were replaced.
- The group camp shower house was renovated and features a new tile floor, fresh paint and updated amenities.

### **Mississinewa Lake**

- Miami SRA received two miles of new road surface on the main roads and the Miami Boat Ramp Area.
- The Miami Campground now has limited WIFI service for campers.
- A new boat trailer parking lot was added to the seasonal campground.
- Two new shelters located at the beach will be ready for use in June. (These shelters were salvaged from Roush Lake.)

### **Monroe Lake**

- New sand was placed on both Fairfax & Paynetown beaches.
- New gravel was spread on most access lanes in wildlife management units.
- New metal roofs were installed on our two largest storage buildings.
- Renovations and new exhibits/activities will be completed at the Paynetown Activity Center by Memorial Day Weekend.

### **Mounds State Park**

- New cedar shake roof was installed at the Bronnenberg Home, and the kitchen received new plaster and paint.
- Trail #5 was rehabbed to drain seeps and control bank erosion.
- Twenty native hardwood trees were planted in the campground.
- A new 1.5 mile paved pedestrian/bicycle path leads from the Chesterton to the park entrance.

### **O'Bannon Woods State Park**

- Approximately 40 miles of horse trails were armored with gravel.
- Two new horse-driving wagon trails of approximately 10 miles were established.
- New historical pioneer dress exhibits were installed in the pioneer museum along with several newly donated farming implements.
- Both electrical and primitive horse camps have site improvements.
- The group camp continues to put on a new look with the addition of green hardiboard siding.
- Both oxen, Forest and Gump who help run the haypress, have exceeded the 2,000 lb. weight class!

### **Ouabache State Park**

- Both campground comfort stations were remodeled including new floor surfaces, fresh paint, new fixtures, and an improved design.
- Ouabache will rent bicycles from the boat rental building near Kunkel Lake beginning Memorial Day Weekend. Rentals include beach cruisers, tandem, children's, and three wheeled bikes.
- The old CCC/Game Farm entry sign posts have been rehabbed and a new sign will be installed by Memorial Day.

### **Patoka Lake**

- The beach features a new layer of sand.
- Additional lengths of the bike trail have been repaved.

### **Pokagon State Park**

- Pokagon will have a campground host for the first time in 2013.
- Work continues on restoring skid trails from the winter of 2011-2012 removal of emerald ash borer-killed trees. Work areas have been resurfaced and planted with native vegetation to promote native species.
- Elimination of invasive species with grant work with private contractors and volunteers has continued through the year. New bird boxes and martin nesting units have been added as well.
- The park has freshly painted signs and buildings and further restoration of campground restrooms.
- Roof and trim were replaced at the nature center.

- The locations of buildings and pathways for the 1930 CCC camp near the nature center were identified and a self-guided brochure will be available after Memorial Day.
- Construction of roads and buildings and natural areas restoration continue at Trine State Recreation Area in preparation for 2013 opening later this year.

#### **Potato Creek State Park**

- Electrical service was upgraded in campgrounds.
- The bridge to the fishing pier by the boat rental was replaced.
- Restroom flooring was replaced in family cabins.
- Three new wetland restoration projects are underway, creating more habitat for birds and other wetland species.
- A new flat screen display was installed at nature center with looping slide shows.

#### **Prophetstown State Park**

- A new aquatic center with a tube slide, lazy river, splash zones, and zero-entry swimming pool will open during the early summer.
- The visitor center has new hands on displays, live animals and educational materials.
- New plantings of prairie wildflowers, grasses, and riverbank trees near the confluence of the Wabash and Tippecanoe Rivers are the end stages of a partnership with INDOT on habitat restoration. Additional hiking trail mileage will be added during the summer to provide access to this and other areas of the park.

#### **Raccoon SRA (Cagles Mill Lake)**

- Raccoon SRA installed a multiple slip courtesy dock at its main ramp that will be open for use at the start of the 2013 recreation season.
- Two hundred recycled Christmas trees were used to construct fish and wildlife habitats.
- An ADA accessible hunting blind was constructed and installed in wildlife management area #4.
- New mulch was installed in all property playgrounds.

#### **Salamonie Lake**

- Improvements were made to the snowmobile/horse trail at Back Creek's crossing.
- The doors and floors of comfort stations were painted.
- Improvements were made at three pond and marsh levees, which will mean better fishing and wildlife viewing.
- One major improvement is that the lake currently has water after a 2012 summer with limited access for recreation!

#### **Shakamak State Park**

- The park will reopen the West Shelter Restroom and Four-Poster Shelter after a long winter of renovations.
- Bat proofing was completed on the remainder of the family cabins.
- A new kitchen and bathroom await guests staying in family cabin 10.

### **Spring Mill State Park**

- Two cabanas have been erected and will be available to rent to provide shade at the pool.
- New tables with umbrellas are in place in the food court area at the pool.
- The park will host its First Annual Fiber Arts Weekend on June 15-16.

### **Summit Lake State Park**

- The beach house and all park signs got a fresh coat of paint.
- The playground toys were repaired over the winter and infant seats were installed in two areas.
- The interior prairie grass areas will be great areas for bird and butterfly watching this year as a result of prescribed fire.
- The campground dump station was completely rebuilt and is now ready for use.

### **Tippecanoe River State Park**

- The park has new pavement on the North Road, Group Camp, and RAC Cabin areas.
- The interior of the nature center was refurbished.
- New overlooks for the Tippecanoe River are under construction.
- A more concentrated effort in resource management resulted in restoration of the prescribed fire program for the property.
- Two new manure pits were built at the Horse Campground with donated funds and labor.

### **Turkey Run State Park**

- A new roof and gutter system was installed at the nature center.
- Five inn guest rooms received new ceilings, wall repair, and paint.
- The South and West Comfort Stations at Turkey Run were painted.
- Trails # 1 and 2 were modified at Turkey Run. These trails shared a portion of the same foot print for hiking which added confusion for our guest. Trail # 1 has been shortened and now ends at the Narrows Covered Bridge and Trail # 2 has become more of a looped trail.
- Trail structures were repaired at both Turkey Run and Shades State Park.

### **Versailles State Park**

- The entrance gate building was completed and is now in use.
- The development of a small horsemen's campground is underway with support from local volunteers and funding.