The Special Stories and Features of Indiana State Parks for teachers, students and families

Discovering a Sense of Place

Where nature and history come together

Why should I care about wildlife? What lessons can we learn from our past? What is the real value of the public land we manage? How will our actions impact the future of these unique places? We encourage questions like these from students, teachers and families as we tell the stories of plants, animals, water, soils and history at state parks and reservoirs.

These are our stories.....

This booklet provides an overview of the main messages that we interpret at each of our sites. These stories are presented in many ways. We introduce these themes in campground programs for families, exhibits in interpretive centers, wayside signage and environmental education programming for schools, scouts and other groups.

This booklet is not just for teachers!

If your group visits us for a planned program with an interpreter, we can connect one or more of our site messages with the topic(s) you are covering in your classroom or meeting time. Use this booklet to help you decide which of our properties' messages and resources best match the topic and concepts you are introducing to your students.

The booklet can also serve as a source of basic information about the natural and cultural resources at state park and reservoir properties. These themes were provided by our site interpreters who know the resources best where they live and work. For additional details, call the interpreter or manager at the property.

The mission of the Interpretive Services is to provide information and offer interpretive experiences with Indiana's natural and cultural resources to visitors, staff and a diverse public.

Interpretive Services
Indiana State Parks
402 W. Washington Rm W298
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317/234-4926 vbasman@dnr.in.gov

Memories made naturally.

How Indiana State Parks can help you

Field Trips

Indiana's state parks preserve our most unique resources, provide a wide variety of recreational activities and offer opportunities to investigate and understand resource management issues and practices. Full time interpreters offer programming year round at 24 of our 32 properties. Summer programming for is available at all sites.

NEW! Centennial Curriculum

We celebrate 100 years of Indiana State Parks in 2016, and have introduced a new curriculum that looks at Indiana's history through the lens of our state park system's development. Check it out at www.stateparks.IN.gov/8280.htm and use it in your classroom!

Research and Information

Contact us if you need assistance with research sources or natural history information. We have years of field observations, identification and study to help answer your questions, and can direct you to good resources.

Plant and Animal Identification

We have brochures about snakes, wildflowers, mushrooms, trees, bats, fall colors and more. We can provide you with a single copy that you can duplicate for your students or download them at **www.stateparks.IN.gov.**

How Indiana State Parks can help you (continued)

Teacher/Adult Workshops and Family Programming

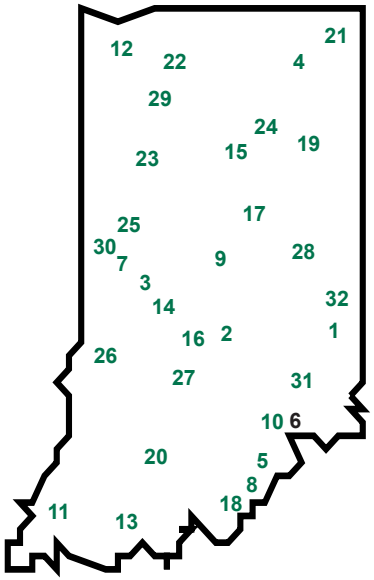
Our interpreters facilitate Project WILD, Learning Tree, WET and Archaeology in different areas of the state. We also offer hands on workshops on various topics in some locations. Several of our properties have newsletters or e-newsletters. Others will mail you program schedules if you ask.

Program fees

When you visit us or we visit you for an organized program, there is a charge for students and chaperones. Teachers participate with their students at no charge. There are no charges for our regularly scheduled public programs for families and individuals, but there may be fees for special workshops or multi-day events.

Where to Find Us

State Parks and Reservoirs with Interpretive Services



1. **Brookville Lake**
2. **Brown County SP***
3. **Cagles Mill Lake(Lieber)***
4. Chain O'Lakes SP*
5. **Charlestown SP**
6. **Clifty Falls SP***
7. ***Raccoon/Mansfield Mill***
8. **Falls of the Ohio SP***
9. **Ft. Harrison SP***
10. **Hardy Lake**
11. Harmonie SP*
12. **Indiana Dunes SP***
13. ***Lincoln SP****
14. **McCormick's Creek SP***
15. **Mississinewa Lake**
16. **Monroe Lake***
17. ***Mounds SP****
18. **O'Bannon Woods SP***
19. Ouabache SP
20. **Patoka Lake***
21. **Pokagon SP***
22. **Potato Creek SP***
23. **Prophetstown SP**
24. **Salamonie Lake***
25. Shades SP
26. Shakamak SP*
27. ***Spring Mill SP****
28. Summit Lake SP
29. Tippecanoe River SP*
30. ***Turkey Run SP****
31. Versailles SP*
32. **Whitewater SP***

Bold* Full time & seasonal interpretive naturalists, Interpretive Center
Bold Full time & seasonal interpretive naturalists, no Interpretive Center
Italic* Full time & seasonal interpretive naturalists, historic site & Interpretive Center
Plain* Seasonal only interpretive naturalists, Interpretive Center
Plain Seasonal only interpretive naturalists, no Interpretive Center

Ways to Have a Great Field Trip or Outdoor Experience with Your Child at an Indiana State Park

Call ahead. Our interpreters present programs only for groups who have scheduled their field trip in advance. We recommend that you call even if you plan to lead your own group at one of our sites. We can let you know if your use of the interpretive center may be limited by already-scheduled groups that will be on site. If you are coming with your family, you can find out what public programs are planned.

Call early. Our spring and fall field trip seasons fill up very fast. Check with the interpreter on site to find out when you can call to make a reservation.

Tell us how we can meet your program needs. What science or history concepts are you studying prior to your site visit? Are there particular skills, standards or messages you'd like for us to emphasize?

Be realistic about your arrival time. Some sites schedule more than one group in a day. If you are behind schedule, it may impact other groups.

Prepare your students. Ask for pre-trip activities or plan some of your own. Talk about what they might see and do. Discuss appropriate behavior with them. Students who visit our sites are in a classroom---it is a very different and unique one---but a classroom still.

Encourage appropriate clothing. Appropriate pants, a jacket on cool days and tennis shoes or hiking boots will allow students to focus on having a good time discovering the resources, rather than on the temperature, trail conditions or basic needs.

Be enthusiastic! Be inquisitive about the trip, the things you see on a hike or the exhibits you find in the interpretive center. Your students will take their cues from your attitude!

Finding fossils at Falls of the Ohio

Indiana Children's OUTDOOR Bill of Rights

It is our goal to encourage Indiana's children to participate in outdoor activities and discover their heritage. Numerous studies have shown that children who participate in outdoor activities are healthier, do better in school, have better social skills, a stronger self-image and lead more fulfilled lives.

We believe that all Indiana children are entitled to experience the eleven activities listed on the next page in the outdoors, regardless of ability.

This initiative is supported by a wide variety of park systems and natural resources agencies around the state.

Get Outdoors - Get Playing!

www.childrenplayoutdoors.dnr.IN.gov

Hey! Let's Play!

Print out this page and have fun checking each item off the list. You can visit a state park or reservoir, go to a local park or playground or just have fun in your own backyard or neighborhood. If you want, you can use the back of this page to write about each thing you did. When you get them all done, go back to the website at and print out a certificate that says that YOU did them all!

- ☐ Explore and play outdoors in a safe place.
- ☐ Follow a trail and discover native plants, wildlife and history.
- ☐ Experience traditional outdoor activities like fishing or hunting.
- ☐ Discover and celebrate Indiana's past.
- ☐ Camp under the stars.
- ☐ Climb a tree.
- ☐ Visit a farm.
- ☐ Plant a seed or tree and watch it grow.
- ☐ Splash and play in streams, lakes and ponds.
- ☐ Enjoy the outdoors using all the senses.
- ☐ Ask questions, find answers and share nature with a friend.

For more on places to play, visit www.childrenplayoutdoors.IN.gov.

Top Five “To Do’s” in Some of our State Parks and Reservoirs

Our staff members have shared some of their favorite things to do at our properties. Use this list to help you explore both the visible and not-so-visible features at our great state parks and reservoirs in Indiana. To learn more, visit www.stateparks.IN.gov or stop by the property office or nature/interpretive centers when you visit.

Brown County State Park
•Climb the 90’ Fire Tower for a breath-taking view of the hills o’ Brown.
•See the rare (and state-endangered) Yellowwood tree on Trail 5.
•Visit the nature center to see the rare, state-endangered timber rattlesnake.
•Jump in the Water Park pool, newly constructed at Abe Martin Lodge.
•Watch a sunrise or sunset from a vista.

Chain O’Lakes State Park
•Visit the Stanley One Room Schoolhouse.
•Discover the canoe camp and/ or take a canoe or kayak excursion on our lakes.
•Hike around the a glacial kettle lakes, especially on Trail # 8.
•Fish on one of the 13 different lakes in the park - try ice fishing in winter!
•Stay overnight in a cabins.

Charlestown State Park
•Camp at one of only four state parks/reservoirs that offer full hookups.
•Launch a boat or take a stroll along the Ohio River at our ramp.
•Take a hike on one of six hiking trails, each with its own unique features.
•Go fishing in Fourteenmile Creek; follow Trail 3 to the creek.
•Take a walk around Rose Island, home to an Amusement Park from 1880 to 1937.

Hardy Lake
•Fish for channel and flathead catfish from Hardy Lake’s Dam.
•Take a hike on the .77 mile Cemetery Trail through an oak-hickory climax forest.
•Pontoon around the edges of the lake to watch for bald eagles and osprey fishing.
•Enjoy our live birds of prey in programs or on display near the property office.
•Hunt deer, turkey, and waterfowl in season.

Falls of the Ohio State Park
•Watch the 14-minute film that covers over 400 million years of history.
•Visit The George Rogers Clark Cabin, a re-creation located on the original site.
•Go fishing in the Ohio River at one of the best places on the river’s 981 mile course.
•Visit the Interpretive Center to see great exhibits on geology, Native American cultures and more.
•Explore the world-renowned fossil beds.

Indiana Dunes State Park
•Hike Trail 9 through the rolling dune blowouts.
•Visit the Nature Center or take part in an interpretive program.
•Spend an afternoon being lazy on the beach.
•Take a moonlit ski or snowshoe journey after a lake effect event.
•Capture some shots of a magnificent Lake Michigan sunset.

Lieber SRA (Cagles Mill Lake)
•Visit the scenic Cataract Falls and the Cataract Falls Covered Bridge.
•Visit the nature center and enjoy the displays or catch a program.
•Visit the aquatic center and go down the waterslide.
•Go fishing boating, or skiing on our 1,400 acre lake.
•Visit the beach and build a sandcastle.

McCormick’s Creek State Park
•Visit the falls and hike the trail 3 loop.
•Hike to Wolf Cave.
•Tour the nature center and attend a program.
•Spend a night at the Canyon Inn or just enjoy a warm meal in the restaurant while watching wildlife from the enclosed porch.
•Explore the Historic Stone Arch Bridge built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Mississinewa Lake
•Visit the first two weekends in October to experience Autumn Camping Weekend.
•Sign up for the Mighty Triathlon in September, kids run, adult swim, bike and run.
•Visit Mississinewa 1812 in October.
•Hike the Blue Heron Trail for exercise and to experience nature.
•Swim at the beach during the recreation season.

Monroe Lake
•Watch the waterfowl from the Stillwater Marsh overlook in late October-November.
•Canoe the north fork of Salt Creek from May-September (put in at Pinegrove SRA).
•Go fishing beneath the spillway at Salt Creek SRA.
•Hike the trail at Allens Creek SRA out to the fossil beds.
•Spend some time relaxing on the beach at Paynetown SRA or Fairfax SRA.

Ouabache State Park
•Visit the bison enclosure and see how they became an attraction to Ouabache.
•Bike the paved trail to experience nature and get exercise.
•Visit the Civilian Conservation Corps-built lodge and property office.
•Swim in the pool and attend a pool break by the property interpretive naturalist.
•Climb the fire tower and learn why it was constructed.

O’Bannon Woods State Park
•Enjoy a picnic at the Ohio River Vista.
•Visit the scenic Blue River Access and dip your toes in the water.
•Take a swim or slide at the aquatic center.
•Visit and climb the fire tower, then take a hike on the adventure hiking trail.
•Experience Hickory Hollow Nature Center, 1850 Hay Press and Pioneer Farmstead.

Patoka Lake
•Kayak to the quarry from Little Patoka Boat Ramp.
•Hike the mail trail to get a feel for Patoka’s landscape.
•View live raptors at the Visitor Center
•Join in on some good family fun during interactive programs around the property.
•Tour the reconstructed Moery Cabin during a scheduled program.

Top Five “To Do’s” in Some of our State Parks and Reservoirs (continued)

Pokagon State Park

•Visit the historic CCC built Spring Shelter and enjoy a drink from the nearby artesian well that runs cold and clean year-round.
•Enjoy a refreshing dip in the clear and clean waters of glacial made Lake James.
•In winter, enjoy a fast ride down on our state’s only refrigerated toboggan run.
•Enjoy a sunrise or moonrise on the floating pier at Lake Lonidaw.
•Enjoy s’mores around the outside, front yard, firering in the summer or a hot chocolate or tea at the old brick fireplace in the cozy Lonidaw Lounge in the winter.

Potato Creek State Park

•Take a walk or ride (bike, mountain bike or horse) on a trail.
•Get out on Worster Lake to fish or float; watch for nesting and fishing osprey in summer.
•Visit one of the many restored wetlands that have made the property a wildlife-watching mecca.
•Drive through the park and check out acre after acre of restored prairie.
•Visit the nature center for programs and watchable wildlife at the viewing window.

Prophetstown State Park

•Hike to the Native American village and sit in the council house.
•Ride your bike to the stone bridge overpass (SR 225) and discover how these large rocks got here with a little help from glaciers.
•Hike Trail 2 to its south-southeast corner and look for the green, elephant ear shaped leaves of skunk cabbage.
•Walk any of the prairie trails and look for the many different colors of wildflowers.
•Keep your eyes open for a northern harrier (marsh hawk) soaring across the tops of the tallgrass prairies searching for its next meal.

Cecil M. Harden Lake (Raccoon SRA) and Mansfield Mill

•Visit the historic Mansfield Roller Mill and see 1880’s milling equipment. Take a picnic and enjoy Big Raccoon Creek.
•Practice your archery skills on stationary targets and from elevated stands on our 1 mile archery trail.
•Enjoy fishing at one of our public fishing access sites.
•Enjoy a day of boating at Raccoon SRA. The boat rental offers hourly/daily rental rates.
•Relax and go swimming at the beach.

Salamonie Lake

•Visit the interpretive center and discover what reservoirs are all about.
•Walk the Three Falls Trail and the Blue Trail at Salamonie River State Forest to view the most scenic river valley in Northeastern Indiana.
•Ride your mountain bike on the Bloodroot Trail (12 miles).
•Hike the Wildlife Management Trail to learn about the importance of resource management.
•Visit one of the many wildlife viewing areas and check out waterfowl and other wildlife.

Shades State Park

•Try a backpacking overnight on the 2.5-mile trail and remote campground.
•Experience the Devil’s Backbone in the Pine Hills Nature Preserve.
•Hike to Silver Cascade Falls and Prospect Point on Trail 1.
•Climb the ladders at Frisz Ravine on Trail 4.
•Take in the view from Lover’s Leap.

Shakamak State Park

•Go fishing off our accessible fishing pier.
•Take a dip in the pool.
•Take a paddle boat or row boat on one of our three lakes.
•Stay in one of our family cabins.
•Hike one of our trails in fall when the leaves are in full color.

Turkey Run State Park

•Visit the Nature Center and see working bee hives, the planetarium and a great wildlife viewing window.
•Visit the only suspended bridge in Indiana state parks or reservoirs, which is more than 200 feet long.
•Take a short walk along peaceful Trail 11 to the Log Church and the Richard Lieber Memorial.
•Hike Trail 2 for rugged beauty and stunning vistas.
•Tour the Salmon Lusk Home.

Brookville Lake

Interpreter: Full Time Interpreter Vacant (Operated with Whitewater Memorial SP)
14108 St. Rd. 101
Brookville, IN 47012
765/647-2658

Brookville Lake

Historic Past

Brookville Lake lies in the historic east fork of the Whitewater River Valley. Traces of prehistoric Indian mounds are still found throughout the valley. This area was one of the first sections of land to become part of the Indiana Territory, as designated by the 1795 Greenville Treaty Line.

Geological Significance

The area is known world wide for its significant cache of Ordovician age fossils. These 450 million year old fossils can still be seen, reminders of an ancient inland sea. Road cuts or creek beds provide a view of the millions of aquatic creatures that once flourished here that are now preserved in the rocks.

Wildlife Management

The land surrounding the lake was purchased by the federal government to protect the watershed and provide a place for wildlife and recreation. These 11,000+ acres provide a variety of habitats. Food plots are planted and wetlands enhanced to help the wildlife. Brookville is one of the few sites in Indiana where walleye reach a size where the females can be milked of their eggs to supply walleye fry to many lakes in Indiana.

Hiking

A 12-mile trail system exists at the Mounds Recreation Area. You can walk to an early woodland mound or hike the shoreline of Brookville Lake. A backcountry trail is available on the rugged and scenic west side of the lake.

Believe one who knows: You will find something greater in woods than in books. Trees and stones will teach you that which you can never learn from masters.

- St. Bernard De Clairvaux, 1115 A.D.

Lake Life

Two beaches, nine boat ramps, quiet coves to fish in and a variety of mammals and waterfowl to observe make this 16 mile long lake a great place for wildlife and people.

Brown County State Park

Interpreter: Jim Eagleman
1405 SR 46W
Nashville, IN 47448
812/988-5240

Visitors to Brown County's Interpretive Center are greeted by a garden of native flowers

The rugged beauty of southern Indiana is enjoyed from within our largest state park

- Park scenic vistas allow views of 15-20 miles of uninterrupted forestland.
- Unglaciated, eroded topography is responsible for miles of ridges, ravines and rugged "misty" hills nicknamed the "little Smokies of Indiana."
- A young forest is gradually reclaiming land that was heavily timbered, then farmed extensively in the beginning of the century.
- Many park ridge tops that were used first as animal trails then country roads now serve as park roads.

Native American occupation-our cultural past

- Migrant tribes were known to pass through; lowland gardens were planted and harvested during travels.
- Woodland tribes were known to hunt and live here, and overwintered in southern Indiana caves.
- The Ten O'Clock Treaty line passes through park, now as a commemorative hiking trail.
- Tools, weapons and remnants found in area farm fields help document the presence of these people.

Farming/Homesteading- a more recent past

- Clearings provide evidence of homesteads and farms nestled in remote park backcountry.
- Foundations, well sites and cemeteries help tell the story of struggle and isolation. Homesteads were abandoned as farms failed; timber sales helped supplement meager incomes.
- A state game farm program found the land to be an ideal release site due to young forest.

The Game Farm Years-before the park

- A fish and game director saw potential in this land for rearing native wildlife to a releasable age as an attempt statewide to replenish dwindling wildlife. Employees built pens and rearing cages to protect young game birds and mammals. Predators (hawks, owls, foxes) were eliminated by traps and shooting.
- Brown County Game Farm was one of state's first deer release sites.
- Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) members worked side-by-side with farm employees.
- Sportsmen's dollars helped secure and purchase lands to add to Brown County Game Farm.
- The property was transferred from the Division of Fish and Game to create a state park in 1940.

What We Are Today-where we're headed...

- The park is a traditional fall color "hotspot."
- Abe Martin Lodge provides modern lodging accommodations with a rustic feel.
- Forest lands adjacent to the park experience development, suburban sprawl, and increased usage.
- Park decision-making utilizes sound resource management principles.
- Changing demographics and populations require thoughtful strategic planning.

Chain O' Lakes State Park

Interpreter: Seasonal Interpreter Only
2355E 75S
Albion, IN 46701
260/636-2654

Geologic History

Glaciers are responsible for the hills, lakes, farms, and ground water.

Hikers discover a trail with an interpreter at Chain O'Lakes State Park

Human History

Chain O' Lakes has been populated by people from prehistoric times to present. People have lived, worked, and played in the park for many years.

In general order of their presence, these include the Mound Builders, the Hopewell people, the Miami Indians, European settlers who eventually built the Stanley School House that still stands in the park, a farming community and state park visitors.

Succession

The area that is now the park has through time, been home to glaciers, tundra, forest and farmland. It is now becoming forest again. The site tells a story of succession and the role humans play in altering the progress of succession. This brings the opportunity to interpret themes such as food chains, succession, alien and invasive plants and animals and resource management.

Natural Lakes

Lake formation and biology are important themes. Most of the visitors come to the park for water activities such as swimming, fishing, canoeing, wildlife watching and wildflower identification.

Lake biology, human impacts on water quality and wildlife/plant biology are considered at many of the interpretive activities such as canoe hikes, fishing derbies and pond probes.

Natural Beauty

Natural beauty is what inspires most visitors to care for natural areas. People are motivated by aesthetics. This is an important theme, and may be the number one reason people visit the park.

Charlestown State Park

Interpreter: Alan Goldstein/Jeremy Beavin (see Falls of the Ohio to contact)
3000 State Park Drive
Charlestown, IN 47111
812/256-5600

A land of many uses becomes a park

- This park was once a largely undeveloped portion of a huge U.S. Army ammunition plant used during World War II
- The park was established in 1995. Its 2,400 acres include 860 acres transferred to the Indiana DNR in 1994 by the U.S. Army, 1,200 acres which are leased from the U.S. Army and 362 acres purchased from private owners.
- At the turn of the century, Rose Island, an amusement park within the new park boundaries, attracted visitors from all over the Midwest. Many came by riverboat from Louisville, Kentucky.
- A unique manufacturing plant constructed by the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War still stands on park property and will one day be interpreted. The plant, designed to produce black-powder in a mechanized process, was never operational.

River bluffs and ravines

- Charlestown is remarkable for its varied topography, from gently rolling highlands to heavily wooded and steep ravines.
- Rock outcroppings, scenic Fourteenmile Creek and high quality woodlands make it an important addition to Indiana's system of parks and reservoirs.

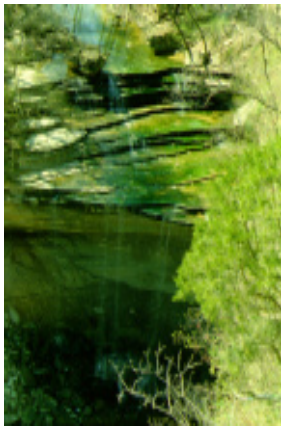
- The park has a well-known geologic formation called Devil's Backbone. It is a unique ridge formed as two different bodies of water---Fourteenmile Creek to the north and the Ohio River to the south---cut through bedrock to form its steep sides.
- Several rare and endangered plant species are found at the site. The trails above Fourteenmile Creek are known for their abundant spring wildflowers.

A park under development

- Development of the property is occuring in four phases.
- Phase one included a 20 acre picnic areas with shelters, playfield, drinking water, roads and parking lots. Hiking trails, the entrance gatehouse and signage were also a part of this project.
- Phase two included construction of a campground with a modern restroom, a second picnic area and additional trails. Water lines, sewer lines, roads and parking lots were added as well.
- Phase three included expanding the modern campground and developing an office and information center.
- Phase four will include acquisition of additional land from the U.S. Army that will allow for Ohio River access. This will include a boat ramp, riverbank boardwalk, restroom facilities and a picnic area.

Clifty Falls State Park

Interpreter: Kristie Ridgway
1501 Green Road
Madison, IN 47250
812/273-0609



Clifty Falls State Park is a geologic splendor

- Four waterfalls, two at 65 feet in height and two at 80 feet, are the geologic centerpieces of the park. When, where, and why the waterfalls formed, and how they arrived in the present array provide insight into the enormity of both geologic time and geologic processes.
- Active erosion in and around the waterfall basins points to a future park quite unlike the present.
- At 450± million years of age, the sedimentary rock exposures are among the oldest surface bedrock in the state. The properties and qualities of these rock layers lend them to a variety of uses.
- An abundant and diverse marine fossil record is easily examined. These fossils are a record some of the earth's earliest organisms.

Water is a geologic force constantly molding the land and is itself an important habitat for Clifty plant and animal life

- Clifty Creek is a major "overland express," annually moving tons of eroded sediment down stream to the Ohio River. The power to cut and shape the land is most apparent in dramatic, sudden stream bed changes. This land is dynamic.
- Clifty Creek is home to fascinating plant and animal life. How the land is used upstream in the watershed, mostly outside the park, will determine the future richness and variety of its aquatic life. These upstream/ downstream relationships are important in our lives too.
- For both people and nature, the Ohio River is the region's environmental backdrop, setting the stage for all local events to play out on. The mighty Ohio's waters bring both life and death.

Taking a close look at a snake at Clifty Falls

Clifty Falls State Park has two woodlands… the upland woods and the canyon woods. While having much in common, each has unique plant and animal components

- Topography, and thus availability of water, defines the two areas. The slightly rolling upland offers plants an abundance of water. The well drained slopes of the valley present much drier conditions.
- Plant communities broadly reflect this availability of water.
- What animal life we find here is dependent on the particular plant community found here and both can change through time.
- Clifty Falls State Park is home to some very rare Indiana plants. By being in the park, their protection here is assured into the foreseeable future.
- By protecting the native plant life in the park, we are also protecting the well-being of the many wildlife species that depend on that plant life.
- Wildlife such as the white-tail deer, wild turkey, bluebird, black rat snake, and cave salamander are often seen at Clifty Falls State Park.

Clifty Falls and Clifty Canyon: a setting for human drama

- Freedom hungry African-American slaves crossed the "Jordan River", the Ohio, and took their first steps into liberty up the valley wall of Clifty Canyon as they fled north on this spur of the Underground Railroad. John Todd, first cousin to President James Buchanan, lived in a house at the mouth of Clifty Canyon and assisted slaves in their journey to freedom.
- An 1852 improvement to Indiana's first railroad, the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad Line, was started through Clifty Canyon. Stone remnants of the failed effort make up major portions of the park's hiking

trails and offer a testimony to the life and work ethic of the pre-civil war period.

- Clifty Falls State Park is a gift to the state of Indiana by citizens of Jefferson County. Following the difficult days of World War I, local citizens raised half the purchase price of the land to make the park possible.
- Some of the finest Hoosier remnants of President Franklin Roosevelt's Depression era Civilian Conservation Corps are to be found at Clifty. Among these are splendid stone and timber gate houses, stone entrance walls, and the present interpretive center itself, built originally as a saddle barn in 1938.
- Clifty Falls State Park remains rich in opportunity for young and old alike. Here we can say, like John Greenleaf Whittier's barefoot boy, "I was (am) rich in flowers and trees, hummingbirds and honey bees… laughed the brook for my delight through the day and through the night… whispering at the garden wall, talked with me from fall to fall."

Falls of the Ohio State Park

Interpreter: Alan Goldstein/Jeremy Beavin
201 West Riverside Drive
Clarksville, IN 47129
812/280-9970

Devonian Past

- The Falls of the Ohio shows what the area was like 387 million years ago.
- Visitors to the Falls discover what fossils are and how they are formed.
- Similarities and differences between modern and ancient reefs are shared.
- The role of extinction in the past and present is a part of the story at Falls.

The Glacial Epoch

- Exhibits and programs tell the story of the region's pre-glacial topography.
- Southern Indiana's landscape was different after the glaciers.
- The creatures of the Pleistocene are different from the creatures of today.
- The falls were an important place for migrating animals.
- The story of the formation of the Ohio River is told at Falls.

The First People at the Falls

- Native People were in the area from 10,000 to 200 years ago.
- Tools and food ways are described.
- The falls provided a path to Kentucky hunting grounds.

The Natural Community

- Ecosystems at the Falls of the Ohio include river, sand bar, wetland and woodlands
- A diversity of fish and other aquatic life populate the river and wetlands.
- 270 species of birds have been sighted at the Falls of the Ohio.
- Mammals present are those that can live with or near humans.
- Over 225 species of flowering plants have been recorded.

John James Audubon exhibit at Falls of the Ohio

The Falls and the River Cities

- George Rogers Clark lived here.
- The Lewis & Clark expedition started at the Falls
- John James Audubon visited the falls area.
- The history of business and industry are evident in the region through structures such as the Portland Canal, the first bridge over the Ohio River, the McAlpine Dam and stories about steamboats.

Protecting a Rare Resource

- Preserving the falls themselves is an important part of our role.
- We tell the history of how the falls were used and then protected, including its designation as a National Wildlife Coservation Area.
- Studies in paleontology and wildlife biology help us better understand the falls and plan for the future.

Fort Harrison State Park

Interpreter: Jeff Cummings
5753 Glenn Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216
317/591-0904

Ft. Harrison State Park contains the last unfragmented woodland tract in Central Indiana greater than 100 acres. This large high quality and relatively undisturbed forest block provides the ecological foundation in which the federally-endangered Indiana bat, rare plant species, great blue heron rookeries, sensitive fish, neotropical bird migrants and other valuable resources exist.

Ft. Harrison State Park is essentially a cultural artifact preserved as open space on the military post. Over the years, this green space has become an island of natural areas in a sea of urban development. This undeveloped area will be treasured for the relaxation and interaction visitors may experience with their natural and cultural heritage.

Wetlands are an important part of the Ft. Harrison State Park environment. They help maintain water quality and plant diversity, provide habitat for wildlife and contribute to the enjoyment of these resources by park visitors.

An unusual number of neotropical migrant birds use the unfragmented woodlands of Ft. Harrison in their annual migrations from the tropics in the winter to the breeding areas of temperate North America. These unbroken forests provide protective cover, nesting sites and food sources for the birds on their journeys.

Indiana's Civilian Conservation Corps (1933-1941) was headquartered out of Ft. Benjamin Harrison and played a significant role in construction and development projects in other Indiana state park properties, as well as the nation. Among the CCC groups was Company 3550, a racially segregated black unit that constructed many projects on the fort.

A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every passerby leaves a mark.
-Chinese proverb

World War II Prisoners of War were held in Camp Glenn (now the park office, nature center and environmental education center), originally built for the Civilian Military Training Camp (1935-40). One group of prisoners was from Italy, the other was a group of Germans from theNorth African campaign. German prisoners built The Officers' Club (now known as The Garrison).

Fort Benjamin Harrison (1903-1995) was built out of sentiment to maintain a functional U.S. Army installation in the shadow of the former Indianapolis Arsenal downtown that was instrumental in supplying arms to Union Troops during the Civil War. The Fort played a major induction and training role in every major military conflict of the 20th Century, including Word War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf War. It became "the home of the Army dollar" in the 1950's with the establishment of the U.S. Army Finance Center, a building second in size only to the Pentagon.

Humans have inhabited the Ft. Harrison region for thousands of years from postglacial climates to the present. Change has been the response of people to the landscape and the response of the landscape and its wild inhabitants to the influence of different cultures and their economies. Native American populations, European settlers, the U.S. Army and the people of the surrounding communities have all had roles in this sweeping change through time.

Hardy Lake

Interpreter: Leslie Grow
4171 E. Harrod Road
Scottsburg, IN 47170
812/794-3800

Unique Geology

Hardy Lake has a very unusual geology for its location in the state. While being surrounded on ALL sides by limestone and rocky bluffs, caves and great fossils, Hardy Lake's property has only slate and shale exposure.

Wildlife Rehabilitation

Hardy Lake is unique in the IDNR for its Raptor Rehabilitation Center. Its main goals are to provide service to local conservation officers and the public in the care of injured birds of prey (raptors) and to educate visitors about Indiana's hawks, owls, falcons and vultures. Injuries to these birds can come from many sources; we work to interpret and prevent those injuries caused solely by human interference.

Conservation and Wildlife Management

Hardy Lake practices many wildlife management techniques and provides hunting for a variety of species. Hunter education and hunter ethics are an important part of our message. Much of this once-rural area has been impacted by housing development, and the need for undeveloped areas is emphasized.

Non-flood Control Reservoir

Hardy is the only state reservoir that was NOT created for flood control. The lake stays at a very stable level year-round. This affects the appearance of our shoreline, the fishing on our lake and the wildlife species that live here. It also affects how the visitors use and view our property.

Diversity of Uses

Hardy Lake has a little of something for everyone. People can hike, swim, boat, ski, camp, picnic, fish, hunt, mushroom hunt, gather berries, attend programs, bike, play ball, toss horseshoes, etc. We are a multiuse facility that encourages wise use of our resources.

INDIANA STATE PARKS

Memories made naturally.

Indiana State Parks is on the web at www.stateparks.IN.gov.

Harmonie State Park

Interpreter: Seasonal Interpreter Only
3451 Harmonie State Park Road
New Harmony, IN 47631
812/682-4821

Intense Study and History

The land that now serves as Harmonie State Park was the source of intense science from 1814-1825. In fact, between 1840-1870, it was considered the science center of the world. A nearby community featuring two different "utopian experiments" brought worldly individuals to the area. Geologists and naturalists abounded then. It is pretty amazing to note that these communities were responsible for many firsts in America, including the kindergarten, trade school, free public school system, library, and seat of geological survey.

Preserving Science History

As New Harmony was being preserved and restored as the historic town we know today, a need to preserve the areas where these great thinkers once studied was recognized. In 1978, Harmonie State Recreation Area was dedicated as a state park to allow visitors to see what early Indiana would have looked like as these scientists made discoveries here.

The Wabash River

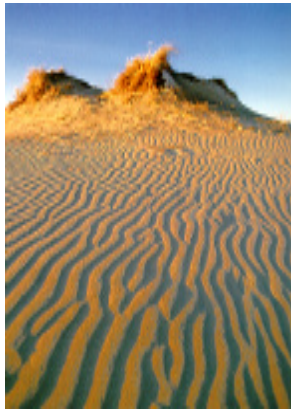
The rugged terrain and the fast-flowing Wabash River reflect the spirit of the Rappites and Owenites who walked river paths over 100 years ago. The pristine landscape and the freedom of wildness link us to their thoughts. More recently, the Wabash provided farmers with water, fishing and and an aquatic pathway for moving trade goods.

Black Gold

The discovery of oil produced an economic boom in the early 1900's and there are still active wells in the floodplain within the park.

Indiana Dunes State Park

Interpreter: Brad Bumgardner
1600N 25E
Chesterton, IN 46304
219/926-1390



Lake Michigan is a natural treasure

- The lake impacts our lives in many ways. It does this today. It has done this throughout history.
- The lake provides habitat for many aquatic species.
- The Lake Michigan fishery is constantly changing.
- The lake has provided us with the raw materials including the precious sand that created the dunes. Lake Michigan and the life it supports need to be cared for.

Sand dunes are unique to our area and are dynamic in nature

- Sand dune formation is a very slow process. It has taken thousands of years for our large sand dunes to form!
- Former lake levels have created a series of dune ridges at differing distances from our current beach.
- Plants growing on the dunes stabilize the sand and hold it in place. Sand dunes that are not stabilized by plants slowly move inland as the winds blow.
- Sand dunes are easily eroded. People walking on the dunes can quickly erode away what has taken thousands of years to form.
- Blowouts are dune formations that are created by combinations of differing types of erosion.

The plant life here makes this a special place

- The Indiana Dunes region is known as the "The birthplace of ecology" because of vegetative studies conducted here at the turn of the last century. These studies gave rise to the principles of succession.
- The Dunes region is home to an incredible diversity of native plant species. The plant species here provide food and shelter for a variety of wildlife.
- Many of the plants living here are threatened or endangered species.
- By protecting the native plant life in the park, we are also protecting the well-being of the many wildlife species.

Many species of animals can be seen in the Indiana Dunes

- The wide range of habitats found in the park provide homes for many species of animals.
- In order to care for wildlife populations, we must protect the habitats those populations depend on for survival.
- During migration, many species of birds are "funneled" over the southern tip of Lake Michigan, making the Indiana Dunes Region a great place to watch birds.

People can make a difference; this park is here as a result of the efforts of many people

- Indiana Dunes State Park was opened in 1925 as a result of the efforts of many individuals and groups of people.
- Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, which surrounds the state park, was dedicated in 1966.
- Efforts that individuals and groups of people make today can ensure that the resources within both of these parks will be protected for the benefit of future generations.

J. Edward Roush Lake

Interpreter: Teresa Rody
3691 S. New Holland Road
Andrews, IN 46702
260/468-2127

This property is operated by the Division of Fish and Wildlife, but we do offer some programs on site. See Upper Wabash Interpretive Services for additional information.

Lieber SRA (Cagles Mill Lake)

Interpreter: Vicki Albietz
1317 W. Lieber Rd. Suite 1
Cloverdale, IN 46120
765/795-4576

Cataract Falls at Lieber SRA

Cagles Mill Lake History

Flood Control Acts approved by Congress in 1938, 1944, and 1965 authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to implement flood control measures throughout the nation. Indiana's first flood control reservoir, Cagles Mill Lake, completed in 1952, was designed and built by the Louisville District of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and is operated primarily for flood control in the Eel and White River watersheds. The lake area is a total of 8,283 acres. Of this amount, 7,300 acres are leased by the Corps to the Department of Natural Resources for management, with the remaining 948 acres owned by the State of Indiana.

Cataract Falls

Cagles Mill Lake is located in the Wabash River Valley. Mill Creek, which feeds the lake, is the home of Cataract Falls, a beautiful cascade with an 80 foot drop. According to the Indiana Geological Survey, Cataract Falls resulted from two preglacial bedrock ridges buried beneath ancient lake sediments of the Illinoian glacial period that were later encountered by the downcutting of postglacial Mill Creek.

People of the Past

The Miami, Shawnee, and Potawatomi Indians were the dominant tribes which inhabited the region through the 18th century. They made their summer camps along Mill Creek. On September 30, 1809, what was left of the great Miami Indian Confederacy sold what is now the southern one-third of Indiana to the U.S. Government. Chief Little Turtle helped lay out the line, which became known as the "10 O'Clock Treaty Line". This line passes through Lieber State Recreation Area (SRA).

Early settlers included the Herberts (a family cemetery is located inside the property), Croys, Collins, Knolls, Bowmans, Whites, Jennings, Teals, Reeves, Redmans and Cagles. Boat tours provide more information about the lives of the early settlers, the history and the legends of the area. The story of the "Lost Silver Mine" is a favorite with visitors!

Lincoln State Park and Col. Wm. Jones Home

Interpreter: Michael Crews
15476N C.R. 300E
Lincoln City, IN 47552
812/937-4710

In the steps of Young Abe Lincoln

- Little Pigeon Creek Settlement was the childhood home of the nation's sixteenth President, Abraham Lincoln.
- Several 19th century historic sites are located in the park, including the Little Pigeon Creek Baptist Church & Cemetery where Lincoln's sister Sarah is buried.
- The Lincoln Amphitheater is home to the Young Abe Lincoln drama, which tells the story of Abraham's childhood years in Little Pigeon Creek Settlement.

Wildlife and Plants

- Sarah Lincoln's Woods Nature Preserve is a state nature preserve. The preserve is classified as a dry xeric upland.
- The nature preserve contains an oak-hickory upland forest and some prairie remnants including post and blackjack oaks, which are both rare at the site, and prairie plants such as little bluestem.
- At least one endangered plant, the butterfly pea, occurs here.

Natural areas throughout the park create a variety of habitats

- The lake serves as a home to many fish and a family of beavers. It is a breeding ground for a number of amphibian species.
- The endangered Mississippi Kite can often be seen soaring above the lake on summer afternoons. Kites feed on insects which they catch while flying over water.
- The area around the Lincoln Amphitheater contains a reintroduced prairie with little bluestem. Indian grass, purple coneflower, butterfly weed and rose pink.

Coal in the land of Lincoln

- Lincoln State Park has a former strip mining area, Weber Lake, which is an acidified remnant borrow pit. Recent efforts to restore it to a living lake constitute a reclamation success story.

Civilian Conservation Corps

- Lake Lincoln was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930's.

The Colonel Jones Home

- William Jones was born and raised in Vincennes, capital of the Indiana Territory. A key figure in Governor Harrison's cabinet, William's father Peter was instrumental in shaping the future of the new state.
- Six years older than teenager Abraham Lincoln, the two young men formed a fast friendship, sharing many interests and experiences.
- William Jones and several partners owned and operated several rural stores, buying many of their goods in Louisville. These general stores were gathering places for news, trading, politicking, banking, (& shopping).
- William Jones and his family represent the passing of the frontier and the rise in the standard of living, including changes in industrialization and technology, the move from log homes to brick homes with glazed windows and decorative details and the growth and decline of communities and villages.
- Colonel Jones fought in the Civil War. The Civil War was a watershed for America and established our power and strength in the world and proved the idea that democracy is a valid means of governing a free people.

McCormick's Creek State Park

Interpreter: Sam Arthur
250 McCormick Creek Park Road
Spencer, IN 47460
812/829-4344

Karst topography creates our scenic variety

- Limestone, formed from the coral life found in ancient seas, has eroded to form a deep canyon. Waterfalls provide essential oxygen for healthy creek life. Deep sinkholes alternate with connecting ridge areas to create tiered native plant communities.
- Wolf Cave and the Twin Bridges show the power of stream erosion and seepage to carve a short, winding, narrow passage through a ridge.

**I hear and I forget,
I see and I remember
I do and I understand.**

- Glacial melt waters were the architects for the spectacular limestone erosion that created the canyon features and Wolf Cave.
- Current water flows also create change.

Rich natural resources have influenced man's use of the land

- Rugged ravines covered in deep woods provided hunting grounds for Indians. The rich diverse woods, crossed with creeks, provided food, water, and shelter for wildlife.
- The White River, our western boundary, provided fish and water oriented mammals.
- John McCormick homesteaded nearly one hundred acres along the canyon by the waterfalls in 1816.
- Early settlers cut timber, grazed livestock on steep slopes and farmed patches of flat uplands.

Fall field trip to McCormick's Creek

- McCormick's Creek was used to power sawmills, though the water level and force was too low to make such ventures profitable.
- Thick limestone near White River provided the foundation for the Indianapolis State House. Today, the Old State House Quarry is a favorite hiking destination.
- The scenic waterfalls of McCormick's Creek inspired Dr. Frederick Denkewalter to establish a "rest and recuperation" sanitarium for the wealthy and weary. Canyon Inn now stands on the site of the old sanitarium.
- The recognition of the value of our natural environment for both wildlife and citizens led to the establishment of McCormick's Creek State Park on July 4, 1916, as part of Indiana's centennial celebration. It has grown from the initial 350 acres to the present size of 1,924 acres.

As Indiana's first state park, McCormick's Creek becomes a model for philosophy, services, and facilities

- Scenic beauty and rich natural heritage guides the selection of areas for state parks and designated natural areas. McCormick's Creek State Park includes two nature preserves: McCormick's Cove and Wolf Cave Nature Preserve.
- Direct experience with nature is encouraged by hiking trails, rated easy to rugged, through varied habitats of deep woods, creeks, old farm site fields, ridges, bottomlands, cave and ravines.
- Active recreation promotes physical fitness through hiking, swimming, horseback riding. playgrounds and game areas.
- McCormick's Creek State Park was the first to offer nature interpretation activities. The Interpretive Nature Center is open all year, serving

individuals, school groups, scouts and other groups.
- Canyon Inn provides comfortable accommodations for guests and and conferences. Dining services are available to all park visitors.
- Campground sites are wooded to blend with nature, yet designed for updated camping and protection of the natural environment.
- The Civilian Conservation Corps built many durable park structures in the 1930's, including the graceful old stone bridge, park amphitheater, and several shelter houses. These structures give character to the park and are still used by families and groups for reunions and special gatherings.

McCormick's Creek State Park provides a place for people, yet preserves a place for wildlife and natural plant communities
- Early reforestation plantations alloed native trees to reclaim the land.
- Native spring wildflowers are abundant.
- Continuing resource management includes removal of exotic invasive plants, burning, deer reductions, and special plantings.
- Special care is taken to preserve historic structures as the park is upgraded for modern use.
- McCormick's Creek State Park is recognized as a significant natural resource for the local community and for this region of our state. Groups and individuals are invited to learn, to experience nature, and to share in the protection of our natural and cultural resources.

Mississinewa Lake

Interpreter: Teresa Rody
3691 S. New Holland Road
Andrews, IN 46702
260/468-2127

See Upper Wabash Interpretive Services for additional information.

Monroe Lake

Interpreter: Jill Vance
4850S St. Rd 446
Bloomington, IN 47401
812/837-9967

The reservoir has a diversity of habitat
- The property has both deciduous and coniferous woods in various stages of growth.
- There are many meadows and forest openings of various sizes and in various stages of succession.
- The reservoir is the largest man-made body of water in Indiana.
- The property has two ponds; one surrounded by meadow, the other by forests.
- There are streams of many sizes flowing into the lake.
- The property features nearly 2,000 acres of wetlands.
- Agricultural food plots are planted for wildlife.

The reservoir has a diversity of wildlife.
- Many consider Monroe the number one birdwatching area in Indiana with over 300 species documented.
- The property has a wide diversity of insects. Thirty nine species have been found at Monroe's North Fork area.
- More than a dozen species of gamefish are found in the lake.
- All species of woodland and upland game except ring-necked pheasant are found at Monroe.
- Sixteen species of waterfowl were harvested during the season in 1998.
- All Indiana species of furbearers except the gray fox are found at Monroe.

The reservoir offers a diversity of recreational opportunities.
- Many water-based activities are possible, including boating, water-skiing, fishing, swimming, sailing, canoeing, accessible fishing and waterfowl hunting.
- Visitors can also camp, hike, photograph wildlife, picnic, sightsee, study nature and birdwatch.
- Hunting and trapping are recreational activities at the reservoir as well.

The reservoir has a diversity of visitors
- Indiana University has students from 136 countries (1998), nearly all of which are represented on the property at various times throughout the year.
- according to study data from July, 1992, an average weekend will find visitors from 28 Indiana counties and 3 other states. (This study was done when Indiana University was not in session.)

The property has a diverse prehistory as well
- Fossil beds uncovered as a result of the lake being built show 206 documented species, making it the most diverse Paleozoic community ever recorded.
- Forty-one sites of Native American culture have been documented on the property.

Mounds State Park

Interpreter: Kelley Morgan
4306 Mounds Road
Anderson, IN 46017
765/649-8128

Bronnenberg Home at Mounds

Mounds and Earthworks

Mounds State Park contains some of the largest and finest examples of 2,000 year old earthworks (Adena) in Indiana and the Midwest. Through partial excavations and archaeological surveys of these and other mound sites, it was discovered that a stratified society existed. The society was composed of hunter-gatherers, traders traveling hundreds—perhaps thousands—of miles, and religious rulers who kept track of solar and celestial events at the mounds.

Flora and Fauna

For the park's small size, the plant and animal life present is extraordinarily diverse. Almost 500 different plants have been documented, ranging from those commonly found in oak-hickory and beech-maple forests to obscure orchids in the park's rare alkaline fen. Common and sometimes not-so-common bird, mammal and other animal species abound.

Bronnenberg Family/Amusement Park

The land that is presently known as Mounds State Park has been bought, sold, traded and parceled out in many ways by various people over the past 200+ years. From the Miami and Delaware Indians to pioneer settlers John Conner and Frederick Bronnenberg, then to the Bronnenberg heirs, the Indiana Union Traction Company, the Madison County Historical Society and finally the State of Indiana, virgin forest was cleared for a farm, which in turn gave way to an amusement park that was in operation from 1897 to 1929.

Other/General

Other site features interpreted on a smaller scale include the White River and associated watershed, local geology, astronomy, weather, resource management/ exotics control and property activities/facilities.

O'Bannon Woods State Park

Interpreter: Jarrett Manek
7240 Old Forest Road SW
Corydon, IN 47112
812/738-8234

Of Rock, Rivers and Industry

For thousands of years, native people mined the valuable bluish-gray Harrison County chert to make projectile points, knives and other tools. The Blue River forms the western border of the park and it joins the Ohio just a few miles west. The Ohio and the Blue Rivers brought early settlers who established towns and businesses along the banks. Button factories, lime kilns and haypress barns were sources for river-related income. Today, the park is home to a uniquely restored, working haypress barn - complete with an ox for power - and a pioneer farmstead.

A Tree Army at Work

The Civilian Conservation Corps left a legacy of buildings, roads and forests on many Indiana DNR properties and O'Bannon Woods is no exception. One of the few African American CCC units - #517 - was stationed at O'Bannon Woods.

Flora and Fauna: Rats, Bats and Outcrops

The park is located in the Shawnee Hills natural region, which is characterized by high limestone cliffs and rock outcrops. Wyandotte Cave is one of the most significant caves in the state both archaeologically and naturally. It is the largest known hibernaculum in the world for the endangered Indiana bat. The cave is open for tours in the late spring and summer, but closes after Labor Day to protect arriving bats. The endangered wood rat nests in rock outcrops in the park. Spring wildflowers are abundant along the Adventure Hiking Trail, a 24-mile trail that winds through the park and the adjacent Harrison-Crawford State Forest.

The Ohio River from O'Bannon Woods

A Working Forest

O'Bannon Woods was originally part of Harrison-Crawford State Forest. It was renamed in 2004 in honor of the late Governor Frank O'Bannon and his family for their contribution to the community and to the area's natural resources and history. The state forest, one of Indiana's largest, serves as a source of timber and offers a unique opportunity for viewing multiple use and management of Indiana's natural resources. The Hickory Hollow Nature Center features exhibits related to forestry, natural resources and history.

Ouabache State Park

Interpreter: Teresa Rody (See Salamonie Lake to contact)
4930E St.Rd. 201
Bluffton, IN 46714
260/824-0926

Climbing the firetower at Ouabache

What's in a name?

People have called the park by many different names: some pronounce it "o-bah-chee," some even say "kwa-bah-chee" despite the fact that there is no "Q" in the name. It actually is the French spelling for the name the Indians gave to their river which was pronounced "wabash" and meant "white river." The meandering path of the Wabash River marks the property's south boundary.

Game Farm

Prior to 1962, Ouabache State Park contained one of the largest game farm operations in the nation. The goal was to use the animals produced at the game farm to help restore the native wildlife populations in Indiana. The farm raised bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasant and raccoons. Today, modern wildlife science concentrates primarily on habitat improvement instead of large-scale stocking of wildlife.

CCC Camp

The work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) can be seen throughout the park. These young men constructed many of the buildings and facilities.

Bison Exhibit

Ouabache State Park is the only state property that has bison. This herd allows visitors to observe this large mammal that once roamed freely across North America. At Ouabache, a one-mile trail around bison enclosure allows visitors to see the animals up-close and personal.

Patoka Lake

Interpreter: Dana Reckelhoff
3084 N. Dillard Road
Birdseye, IN 47513
812/685-2447

Many resources, many uses

- The Patoka Heritage Collection celebrates the rich sense of community and the area's past history. Oral histories and artifacts are available for public access, programs and research. Native American, early settler & 1900s crafts and demonstrations preserve the spirit and skills of our past.
- With 8,800 acres of water, Patoka is a fine example of lake ecology complete with freshwater jellyfish and bald eagle nesting sites.
- Resource management at Patoka integrates wildlife, forestry, soil, and water with ongoing studies of flora & fauna. Otter and osprey reintroduction programs are a part of Patoka's story. Invasive and native species issues, diversity of habitat areas, annual bird counts, stream and river quality studies are all part of the property operations.
- Educational opportunities are available with programs and projects for groups, families and individuals.
- Recreation programs featuring hiking and biking. Outdoor skills programs such as fishing and Dutch oven cooking are presented seasonally.
- Patoka houses a non-releasable screech owl, red-tailed hawk and a barred owl that are a vital part of the interpretive services and provide an opportunity
- Sandstone outcroppings and other geological features provide a memorable outdoor hiking experience for visitors.

Learning about Patoka's resident bald eagle

Pokagon State Park

Interpreter: Marie Laudeman
450 Lane 100 Lake James
Angola, IN 46703
260/833-2012

Pokagon State Park's natural features are classic examples of the northern lakes region

- Pokagon hints of an "up north" feel typical of natural areas in Michigan.
- The last glaciers formed the park and surrounding counties as it melted 10-15 thousand years ago.
- Many glacial features are found in the park (kettle depressions, kettle lake, end moraines, glacial erratics, kames, eskers).
- Steuben County has more lakes than any other county in the state. Lake James is the third largest natural lake in Indiana.

Although a relatively small park (1,200 acres)Pokagon has a tremendous variety of ecotypes and habitats

- This includes lakes surrounding the park and a small lake within, marshes, fens, wooded swamps, upland forests, old field and remnant prairie patches.
- With the variety of ecotypes and habitats, you can discover a variety of common plants and animals plus a few unique, if not rare and endangered species.

Resource management and restoration are a part of our mission

- Pokagon has a variety of plants but the ecosystems have been badly damaged by an overabundance of white-tailed deer.

- The park has also been impacted by the encroachment of garlic mustard, autumn olive, purple loosestrife and multiflora rose.
- To preserve and enhance the variety of ecotypes, we now use resource management practices when and where possible. These include wetland restoration, exotic species removal, burning, some plantings and deer reductions.

Pokagon State Park lies in the region once occupied by the Potawatomi Indians

- The last two, most notable, Potawatomi leaders after whom the park was named were father and son Leopold and Simon Pokagon. .
- Potawatomi people and traditions are not just something of the past. Potawatomi people still live in northern Indiana and southern Michigan today and practice traditional ceremonies and historical teachings.
- This rich Indian history of this area is reflected in many things in the park and county named after the Potawatomi and the Pokagons.
- Potawatomi traditional lifestyles and practices tie directly to the natural resources of the area.

Pokagon State Park in itself is rich in history

- Pokagon became the state's 7th park in 1925.
- The first 500 acres were given to the people of Indiana as a Christmas gift in 1925 by the people of Steuben County, who raised the money to buy the land.
- Potawatomi Inn was built in 1927 and is unique in design and accommodations.
- Company 556 of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was stationed at Pokagon from 1934 to 1942. The young men literally built the park. The buildings and structures are totally unique to Pokagon and have stood the test of time. The CCC boys changed the landscape by the trees they planted and the roads, parking lots, buildings, trails and beaches they built.

Pokagon State Park is northeast Indiana's outdoor playground

- Due to proximity of north/south and east/west super highways, it is a popular meeting point for families.
- Pokagon is a park for all seasons. Each month provides special sights, moods and activities.
- Pokagon State Park and the Potawatomi Inn Resort and Conference Center is one of the premier conference centers in the Midwest.
- Recreation facilities include two beaches, natural lakes for boating, swimming and fishing, abundance and variety of natural areas with trails, boat rental, saddle barn, camping. group camp facility, hiking, picnicking and reunions.
- Pokagon's Interpretive Center and Interpretive Services provide a year-round resource center for environmental education with innovative and interesting programs and services for the general public, school groups and scout, 4H, church, YMCA, special camps and other groups. The Interpretive Services provide a clearing house for information on the natural and cultural resources of this region.

What would it be like to be a deer? (Pokagon's Interpretive Center)

Pokagon State Park is Indiana's and the Midwest's winter playground

- Pokagon has one of three refrigerated toboggan slides in the Midwest. Winter camping and group camping are available. When conditions are optimum, visitors also enjoy cross-country skiing, ice skating, ice fishing, sledding and winter picnics.

Potato Creek State Park

Interpreter: Tim Cordell
25601 St. Rd. 4
North Liberty, IN 46554
574/656-8186

Earth processes are responsible for Potato Creek's diverse ecosystems and human land uses

- Geological processes such as glacial impacts and erosion have helped create the park's landscape.
- Weather continues to change the landscape with erosion and varying climatic conditions.
- The park's different soil types allow a variety of natural communities to exist.

The park has, or had, several ecosystem types with associated flora and fauna resulting in a rich biodiversity.

- Potato Creek State Park is rich in biodiversity.
- Prairie ecosystems, including wet prairie, tall grass prairie and savanna were originally found here and are being restored. These were the dominant ecosystems of the area pre-European settlement.
- Aquatic ecosystems including marshes, swamps, fens, bogs, lake, ponds and streams are at Potato Creek. These ecosystems are among the most productive habitats in the world.

- Forest ecosystems including oak hickory, beech maple, tulip and lowland are found at Potato Creek.
- Man-made systems such as agricultural, invasive and exotic species and landscaped areas have had a profound impact on the park's natural systems.

Discovering fall leaves at Potato Creek

As people use the land in diverse ways, they leave their mark.

- Native peoples used the area for hunting and fishing.
- The first people of European descent settled here in the 1830's.
- There were a variety of agricultural/economic uses (farming, timber harvest, gravel pits, orchards) of the park's land in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Evidence of pre-park residences can still be seen.
- Potato Creek was developed as a recreational property in the 1970's.
- Impacts of the recreational usage of the landscape is apparent.
- Potato Creek State Park began a resource management program in the mid 1990's to actively manage the natural features of the park. This program has resulted in restoring wetlands, planting prairie and managing the deer herd.

Prophetstown State Park

Interpreter: Angie Manuel
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West Lafayette, IN 47906
765/567-4919

The glaciers

The glaciers shaped the land that is Prophetstown today. What they left behind set the stage for unique natural systems, including prairies, fens, and gravel bluffs and small oak woodlands.

The river

The Wabash River dominates the topography. Its course has had a major impact on the region's natural and cultural history and will continue to do so.

The people

People have been changing the landscape of northwestern Indiana for centuries, and their stories are an important part of Prophetstown State Park. These include

- Precontact use of the land by Native American Indians.
- Historic use of the land by the Miami and other tribes, including the remarkable confederation of tribes under the leadership of the Shawnee leader Tecumseh and his brother the Prophet.
- Historic use of the land by those with European heritage(1600's - present.
- The process of park development, which features a unique partnership between a private, nonprofit entity and a state government.

A public and private partnership

The Farm at Prophetstown occupies a site within the park. They interpret early 20th century rural lifestyles.. Tours can be arranged for both The Farm and state park features.

The future

Prophetstown State Park will be under development for a number of years to come; interpreting the planned changes/improvements as appropriate will prepare visitors and local residents for the future. These include development of resource restoration and management and the development of facilities.

Cecil M. Harden Lake (Raccoon Lake SRA) and Mansfield Mill

Interpreter: Ross Plotkin
1588 S. Raccoon Parkway
Rockville, IN 47872
765/344-1412

Visitors explore the rich Indiana history woven through the natural landscape

- Native forest and large rock outcrops line the upper Big Raccoon Creek.
- Portland Mills, known for its covered bridge and old mill site is nearby.
- Payne's cemetery, an early settler's cemetery, is part of Raccoon SRA's cultural history.

The Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the local community formed a working partnership

- Raccoon State Recreation Area is the result of the Flood Control Act of 1938.
- The lake, consisting of 2,060 acres, was developed by damming Big Raccoon Creek.
- The lake provides flood protection, recreation, wildlife management and a variety of economic benefits to the community.
- A comprehensive shoreline management plan fosters a public/private partnership to enhance lakeshore protection.

Managing our resources for present as well as future generations

- A variety of fish can be found at Cecil M. Harden Lake.
- A wide variety of flora and fauna can be viewed.
- There are opportunities to hunt and fish at Raccoon SRA.

Raccoon SRA offers recreational enthusiasts diverse opportunities

- Opportunities for water recreation (swimming, boating, water skiing, canoeing and fishing) abound at Raccoon SRA.
- Raccoon SRA has trails with views of sandstone cliffs and the lake.
- Areas rich with Native American folklore can be seen.

Mansfield Roller Mill

Mansfield Roller Mill is an example of the industrialization taking place in Indiana and the United States at the turn of the 20th century

- Mansfield Roller Mill is a preserved example of an 1880's flour mill adapting the technology of that time period.
- The one hundred year old and plus machinery allows visitors to see how flour was processed.
- The mill is an example of how flour mills and the economy were changing in Indiana during the 1880's.

Mansfield Mill, one of the few remaining early roller mills in the state, is managed by Raccoon.

Mansfield Roller Mill preserves a part of Parke County history

- The mill allows visitors and residents a glimpse of Parke County history, from early Indiana settlement to the present day.
- Mansfield Roller Mill is an example of how mills were important historically to local communities.
- The mill can offer a look into the lives of people connected to the mill past and present.

Mansfield Roller Mill is a resource for life long learning

- The mill can provide a place for teaching moments in fields such as science, English, and history.
- Interpretive tours connect the past with the present.

Shakamak State Park

Interpreter: Seasonal Interpreter Only
6265 W. St. Rd. 48
Jasonville, IN 47438
812/665-2158

Our beginnings are in coal

In the mid 1800's, the area that is now the park was mined for coal both on the surface and in shaft mines. In those days, when the coal supply was depleted, very little was done to restore an area. Lake Shakamak, the oldest of our three lakes, was created by the flooding of these abandoned mines.

Shakamak is a place for people and wildlife

Shakamak State Park was born from a need for water-based recreation in the surrounding area. The Civilian Conservation Corp developed much of the park in the 1930's. Meanwhile, Lake Shakamak was already making a name for itself. From 1938 to 1960, AAU swimming meets were held at the lake, and in 1938 the park hosted the Olympic Swim Trials. Kayak and flatwater canoe championships were held on the lake in 1982. Today, water-based recreation continues. The boat rental provides water transportation. Fishing, which was once a way of life for primitive people, has evolved into a popular recreation activity on the 400-plus acres of water in the park.

Shakamak State Park is mostly "man-made," which is unusual for a state park. From what was once considered "useless" land, the park has become a home to wildlife and people.

Managing for the future

Ensuring the health of aquatic wildlife populations for the future is a part of our mission. The bass slot limit, the alum treatment of Lake Shakamak to control aquatic weeds and restrictions related to gasoline powered motors on all of our lakes help us ensure that Shakamak's lakes provide great habitat for fish, birds and other species.

Lake Shakamak in the fall

Spring Mill State Park

Interpreter: Patrick Haulter(Interpreter)/Colletta Prewitt (Historian)
3333 Highway 60 East
Mitchell, IN 47446
812/849-4129

The property's karst features are unique to south central Indiana and the karst landscape helped to shape the flora, fauna of the area

- The Donaldson-Bronson-Twin Caves system runs under the park and provides a constant source of water to operate the park's Twin Caves Boat tour.
- Spring Mill State Park is home to Donaldson's Woods Nature Preserve, a 67-acre old-growth forest with white oak, tulip tree, and black walnut.
- Spring Mill State Park is home to a small, limestone glade above Donaldson's Cave, where warm season grasses and prairie plants such as prairie dock, obedient plant and little bluestem grow.
- Spring Mill State Park is home to a newly dedicated natural area known as a 'karst sinkhole plain', a landscape of sinkholes covered by a mixed mesophytic forest type.
- The cave systems of Spring Mill State Park are rich with unique fauna.
- The property has a small lake that provides habitat for aquatic life preferring shallow ponds in summer and open, protected water in winter.
- Spring Mill State Park contains at least three, rocky, shallow, fast-flowing streams that originate from cave entrances and run to the lake. These streams provide excellent habitat for many aquatic animals that require cold, fast flowing creeks.

Interpreter visiting one of Spring Mill's limestone glade prairies.

Spring Mill State Park has a long history of human habitation because the karst landscape supports a wide variety of natural resources

- Spring Mill bears the names of many men and women who impacted the area in some way. These include Samuel Jackson (pioneer), the Montgomery brothers and the Hamer brothers(businessmen), George Donaldson (naturalist-explorer), Virgil 'Gus' Grissom (astronaut and hometown boy) and Dr. Carl Eigemann (biologist who studied cave fauna.)
- Spring Mill State Park is home to the 'pioneer village', a favorite tourist attraction for visitors from all over the country. This village dates back 1817 and contains 14 restored buildings brought from all over Lawrence County. The village is interpreted in a mid-1800's timeperiod.
- The Hamer's Cave system provided a constant source of water for the gristmill in the Pioneer Village, and now supplies the Lehigh plant in Mitchell with water for their operations. An agreement with the Lehigh corporation in 1926 gave the land to the State of Indiana to create the park.
- The park contains other sites of historical significance, including the pioneer lime kilns, the Alexander Wilson memorial, the Eigemann fish tanks, and the sites of the 1536 and the 517th Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) companies.
- Spring Mill State Park contains many buildings and shelters constructed by CCC, including the inn, the nature center, several large picnic shelters, and the main bridge across the lake.
- The Grissom Memorial is now home to the Gemini III spacecraft and other artifacts belonging to Captain Virgil I. Grissom, a Mitchell resident and America's second man in space in July, 1961.
- Hamer Cemetery, a semipublic cemetery on the property, has been in operation since 1836.

Pioneer Village at Spring Mill

The management of the natural resources of Spring Mill State Park is important

- The plants in the park are managed to maintain the plant communities found in pre-settlement times.
- The limestone glades are actively managed to maintain communities of grasses and rare plants that once were found there, such as ladyslipper orchids birdsfootviolet, and little bluestem.
- The lake at Spring Mill is artificially created, and is "filling in" with silt. This problem has been studied and there does not appear to be any easy solution.
- We limit visitor traffic to the cave passages under the park because of the sensitivity of these habitats to human disturbance.
- Vegetation is monitored regularly to observe damage from wildlife populations, and wildlife population controls are instituted as needed.
- Exotic plant removal continues as an important, long-term on-going effort for the staff. *Vinca minor* and garlic mustard are two of the challenging invasive species.

Gus Grissom's spacesuit at Spring Mills' Gus Grissom Memorial

Spring Mill State Park is a property with a long history of public use and participation because of the unique natural and cultural resources left to us by prior generations

- We rely on our volunteers to help us provide diverse and quality programs, financial support, and labor to help maintain the park and it's interpretive programs. Our volunteers are a vital natural resource in the park.

Summit Lake State Park

Interpreter: Seasonal Interpreter Only
5993 N. Messick Road
New Castle, IN 47362
765/766-5873

Summer youth group at Summit Lake learns to tie knots for fishing

Summit Lake

The 800 acre Summit Lake is the heart of this State Park. The damming of the upper reaches of the Big Blue River watershed created the lake. The name "Summit Lake" comes from the fact that the immediate area has the highest point of elevation in the immediate region. Summit Lake has excellent fishing. The lake is stocked with largemouth bass, yellow perch, bluegill, redear sunfish, black crappie, channel catfish and walleye.

Migratory and Resident Birds

According to historical accounts, the area has always been an important area for waterfowl because of the many low lying wet meadows and prairies. Today, Summit Lake State Park is one of the best birding areas in the state of Indiana. Migratory species vary and have included such rare species as the black tern, brown pelican, white pelican, sandhill crane, American bittern, least bittern, king rail, and osprey. The variety of habitats found in the park, ranging from the lake to wetlands, woodlands, edges, old fields and prairies all contribute to the variety of birds found here.

Prairie Restorations

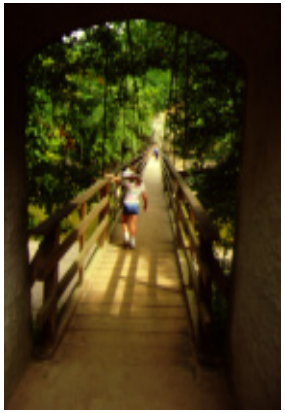
In the year 1821, area surveyor J. Hendricks wrote that the area now encompassed by the park was prairie and wet prairie lands. The abundance of such areas resulted in the area township being named Prairie Township. Prairie Township was later divided into four pieces. The park presently lies within two of these, Prairie and Stony Creek Townships. Over a three year period beginning in 1993, 180 acres of prairie plantings took place. The prairie restoration project was a joint venture between the state and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Zeigler Woods

Summit Lake State Park is also the home to Zeigler Woods Nature Preserve. This is a 128 acre preserve in the southwest corner of the park. The Marjorie Zeigler family donated the land to the The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and it was given to the State by TNC. The preserve is reflective of pre-settlement Indiana's native mesic upland forest communities. Zeigler Woods has a rich flora and fauna with little evidence of human disturbance. Zeigler Woods does not have hiking trails at this time, so is not currently open to the public.

Turkey Run State Park

Interpreter: Barbara Tibbets
PO Box 37; 8121 E. Park Road
Marshall, IN 47859
765/597-2635



The suspension bridge at Turkey Run leads visitors into the sandstone canyons and close to rcok formations caved by glacial meltwaters.

Sandstone cliffs tell many stories from the distant past

The sedimentary rock of Turkey Run's cliffs and canyons was laid down some 300 million years ago. Twenty thousand years ago as the area's last glacier melted, millions of gallons of water carved the sandstone into the canyons and rock formations that make Turkey Run one of the state's most popular hiking destinations. Fossil remains of marine animals lie scattered among the glacial erratics that line the banks of Sugar Creek. Horizontal veins of Pennsylvanian coal are visible along many of the trails, and interpretive signs detail the formation and uses of an abandoned coal mine located on Trail 4 just beyond the Suspension Bridge.

Water moves through Turkey Run's watershed in different ways, creating unique habitats

Springs and seep springs bubble out of the porous sandstone, providing water for many different types plants and animals. A rare wetland called a fen houses an endangered dragonfly. A historically significant impoundment gives us the largest fish-free lake in the state, providing safe habitat for amphibians. Sugar Creek drains all tributary waterways in the park. Its cool, clear waters provide homes for a wide range of fish, mollusks, amphibians and aquatic mammals and serve as a nursery for thousands of different kinds of insects. Recreational water activities, such as fishing, canoeing and kayaking are popular here during the warmer months.

Many special plants find niches in diverse habitats

Many different habitat types can be found in the park, giving rise to a wide variety to plants. Giant old-growth trees and glacial relict plants survive undisturbed in Turkey Run's rugged terrain. Pioneer plants creep across exposed bedrock and a multitude of ferns grace rock and hill alike. Half of all the different types of mosses that live in Indiana can be found here, and a walk through the early spring woods yields a startling display of wildflowers of all shapes and colors.

A variety of wild animals call Turkey Run home

Wild animals frequent the woods, water and fields of Turkey Run. Bobcats and copperhead snakes take advantage of the rocky areas, while wild turkeys and giant pileated woodpeckers are often glimpsed in the deep woods. Beaver and muskrat swim the waters of Sugar Creek and bald eagles fly its length. Deer, coyotes, fox, squirrels, raccoons, skunks, owls and countless other animals can be seen, heard or even smelled along the scenic trails.

Turkey Run has a rich cultural history

The first European settler was Salmon Lusk. In 1823 he and his wife, Mary, bought land here and built a log cabin and a grist mill. The cabin was replaced by a brick mansion that has since been restored and is available for tours. Salmon's holdings eventually became Indiana's second state park. In the early years the park was improved using manpower from government programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration. Covered bridges, shelter houses and trail structures throughout the park serve as testaments to the accomplishments of these dedicated workers.

The resources are managed for the future of the park

Removing exotic plants, managing forest succession, controlling deer populations, educating our visiting public, and channeling visitor impacts on the resources are some of the strategies employed by park staff to ensure the future of one of Indiana's most unique and precious natural areas.

Shades State Park

Interpreter: Barbara Tibbets
7751 S Co Road 890W
Waveland, IN 47989
Office: 765/435-2810 Interpreter: 765/597-2635

Shades State Park, including the Pine Hill Nature Preserve, challenges visitors with 11 miles of scenic hiking trails

Climbing in and out of cool, deep ravines, braving a walk along a 100' high "backbone," looking out from a 150' precipice, crossing streams on stepping stones, these are but a few of the exhilarating experiences that are standard fare for hikers at Shades State Park. All stages of forest succession can be seen, from brushy, early field to young, viney woods, to the towering trees of mature forests.

Ancient history is frozen in time by the cliffs of sandstone

Using the language of geology, the exposed bedrock tells many stories of times long past; stories of mighty rivers, of swamp forests, of ancient seas and creatures long dead. The canyons and cliffs were shaped during the time of the glaciers and continue to provide homes for relict plants such as eastern hemlock and Canada yew, holdovers from that chilly era.

The Shades has a fascinating past

The old inn at Shades brought many visitors to explore the unique features of Sugar Creek.

Legends mingle with fact as the history of this area is uncovered. Campfire stories abound on where the settlers' name for the area, The Shades Of Death, originated. The Miami Indians populated the area before the arrival of the European settlers, and in the period before it became a state park, Shades was a favorite Indiana health and vacation resort, with a large inn and dance hall. Mineral springs and the beauty unique to Shades no doubt contributed to it popularity.

Sugar Creek provides quality habitat for an abundance of aquatic animals

Aside from the beauty provided by the scenic vistas overlooking this sandy stream, Sugar Creek is one of the least polluted waterways in Indiana, playing host to over 70 species of fish. Popular with sportsmen, this creek is also a favorite canoe and kayak trail. A canoe campground is provided by the park.

An astounding variety of plants and animals make their homes at Shades State Park

Due to the diversity of available habitats, more than 700 types of flowering plants and trees grow in the park. Ferns, mosses and other non-flowering plants also abound. These plants make it possible for an abundance of animals to find sustenance and shelter. Birds, herptiles, mammals, insects and a multitude of other creatures live and die in these lush surroundings.

The people of Indiana have made a difference; they've made Shades State Park a reality

Thanks to citizen and group involvement, the Pine Hills Nature Preserve was established. It was the first nature preserve dedicated in Indiana. The park itself was purchased using funds raised by groups, private citizens and school children. Shades is a surviving example of how people really can make a difference.

Tippecanoe River State Park

Interpreter: Seasonal Interpreter Only
4200 N US 35
Winamac, IN 46996
574-946-3213

Historic Past

The land that is now the park has a rich history. Land along the Tippecanoe River was occupied by the Potawatomi Indians in the 1600's and 1700's. French fur traders eventually came to the area, eager to barter with the Indians. Settlement came around the 1930's, as the Potawatomi were removed to a reservation in Kansas. The land was cleared for farming and grazing, and much of the wildlife of the area disappeared. In the 1930's, the US Department of Interior obtained the land, which was named the Winamac Recreation Demonstration Area. The WPA developed most of the facilities in the park, and in 1943, the property was transferred to the Indiana Department of Conservation for operation as a state park. The remainder of the Demonstration Area became Winimac State Fish and Wildlife Area.

The Tippecanoe River

Once a major highway for the fur trade in the area, the Tippecanoe River now offers some of the finest canoeing in the state. The natural beauty of the river is apparent in all seasons. The water quality is good, and the river offers ample opportunities for fishing, wildlife viewing and various other outdoor activities. The Tippecanoe is also considered by many to be one of the most important waterways in the United States, as it is home to a variety of rare and endangered species of mussels.

Ecological Diversity

The land in the park contains a wide variety of ecosystems, which lends itself to a great deal of biodiversity. Some of the diverse types of areas include prairie, floodplains, hardwood forests, swamps, sand dunes and ponds. The park is home to an extensive array of fauna, including river otters, eastern wild turkey and the massasauga rattlesnake.

Tippecanoe River was one of Indiana's sites for the reintroduction of the river otter

Resource Management

Various methods of resource management are employed, including controlled burns, deer reductions and eradication attempts on invasive, exotic species. Human impact issues are also addressed.

Hiking Trails

An extensive trail system exists at the park, containing some 23 miles of horseback and hiking trails that wind through a wide variety of ecosystems.

Upper Wabash Reservoirs Interpretive Services (Salamonie/Mississinewa Lakes & Ouabache SP)

Interpreter: Teresa Rody
3691 S. New Holland Road
Andrews, IN 46702
260/468-2127

The Upper Wabash Reservoirs

The three Upper Wabash Reservoirs, J. Edward Roush, Mississinewa and Salamonie help to protect towns from flooding along the Wabash River. From the air the Upper Wabash Reservoirs and connecting rivers appear as large islands of green in a sea of cultivated farms dotted with small woodlots. This means habitat to migrating birds and a variety of other wildlife. J.Edward Roush Lake is now managed as a Fish & Wildlife Area.

Interpreting wildlife management at Salamonie and Mississinewa.

Cultural History of the Area

The Miami Indians once occupied this area that now is owned by the federal government. The area rivers were once the highways for transporting their goods to other areas throughout the state. Later when the reservoir was constructed, the small communities of Dora, New Holland and Monument City were in the path of the lake. Buildings were removed, while cemeteries and some structures were relocated.

Wildlife Management

On a reservoir property, wildlife is managed to help ensure a balanced population. Habitats are created that provide food, water shelter and space for the wildlife. Food plots are placed throughout the property, artificial homes may be constructed and placed where animals can use them, ponds are built and space is abundant. Hunting is allowed and used as a tool for population control and recreation. Wild turkeys and river otters have been reintroduced at Salamonie Lake.

Forestry

Salamonie and Francis Slocum State forest are located adjacent to Salamonie and Mississinewa Lakes, respectively. At one time each of these state forests was managed for both timber and wildlife habitat development. The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed buildings, trails and shelters on the properties.

Versailles State Park

Interpreter: Seasonal Interpreter Only
P.O. Box 205, U.S. 50
Versailles, IN 47042
812/689-6454

A Watershed

- Well over half of the 5905 acres of the park are part of a single watershed.
- Beautiful hills slope off into creeks in the lower valleys.
- Three creeks feed Versailles Lake: Laughery, Cedar, and Fallen Timbers. Each extend much further north and south of the park boundary.

Creeks Offer Chances to Explore

- Fallen Timbers Creek is an excellent place to discover fossils.
- Great blue herons and elusive beavers can be seen on Laughery Creek.

Hiking Through Hills and Valleys

- Several sink holes and small waterfalls are found along the 6.5 miles of easy to moderate trails.
- Mature growth woodland has canopy openings where young sun-loving trees get their start, building forests for the future.
- Scenic hillsides feature limestone outcroppings.

Abundant wildlife in and around the lake

- Turkey vultures and black vultures share the shore with Canada geese
- The 230 acre lake provides a great place to fish or canoe.
- Largemouth bass and several kinds of catfish and panfish are common.
- Steps lead to a scenic overlook at the dam, which is a prime spot to take pictures of herons and see other aquatic wildlife.

Ancient History

- The numerous fossils tell the story of an ancient sea that covered the region.

Civil War History

- During the Civil War, Morgan's Raiders made their way through what is now the park.
- The town of Versailles was briefly under Confederate control.
- Silas Shimmerhorn disbanded from Morgan while traveling through. His disappearance began the Legend of "Bat Cave" in the region.

Whitewater Memorial State Park

Interpreter: Full-time Interpreter Vacant (operated with Brookville Lake)
14108 St. Rd. 101
Brookville, IN 47012
765/647-2658

A Memorial . . .

The site was conceived as a joint venture by the four surrounding counties for a regional park to honor World War 2 veterans. It became the 16th park in the Indiana State Park system.

Little Lake - Big Lake

A 200 acre man-made lake is great for shoreline hiking. In 1974, the park extended it's boundaries to include part of the shoreline of the 5,260 acre Brookville Lake. The larger lake is great for observing the many migrating flocks of birds. It is the home of one of the few nesting ospreys in the state. Listen for the sounds of hundreds of migrating sandhill cranes in early spring and late fall.

Home of Hornbeam

Whitewater Memorial State Park includes the Hornbeam Nature Preserve. The preserve sets aside a beautiful mature woods which has rare examples of the hornbeam and hophornbeam trees. A large natural seep spring, called Red Springs, gushes from the hillside throughout the year.

Trails

A variety of trails--short, long, loop and shoreline--travel through deep woods and open meadows. Nine miles of riding trails are available for the dayrider or horse camper.

Discovering sumac at Patoka Reservoir

Fun Facts from State Parks and Reservoirs

Indiana State Parksmaintains over 2000 buildings on 32 properties.

State Park Inns with over 600 rooms, are the 4th large state park inn system in the country. Also available are 36 meeting rooms and 8 restaurants.

State Park Inn staff maintain approximately 15,000 sets of sheets, towels and pillow cases, vaccum 220,000 square feet of carpet, wash 1,850 windows and polish 33,000 square feet of hardwood floors.

Indiana State Parks has 600 miles of hiking, biking and horseback riding trails that wind through forests, cross meadows and skirt marshes teeming with wildlife.

Reservoir properties offer 69,000 acres of public hunting land.

The Indiana Recreation Guide is one of the most sought-after sources for DNR information annually. Over 400,000 were printed and distributed during 2014. The Recreation Guide is also one of the most frequently downloaded documents on the DNR website.

Indiana State Parks has over 39,000 acres of lakes, accessed by 75 boat ramps, 10 marinas, 45 docks with 877 boat slips, 34 fishing piers and 18 beaches.

Indiana State Parks has over 7,400 campsites and 131 cabins.

Indiana State Parks has 17,000 picnic tables and 174 picnic shelters and 163 playgrounds.

Reservoir properties receive 511,000 walleye fry for stocking into property rearing ponds. These fry are raised and released into property lakes.

Reservoir properties maintain over 350 wood duck nesting boxes.

Indiana State parks manages 17 year-round Nature Centers and five seasonal centers. We also manage a raptor rehabilitation facility, four historic homes, two mills, a pioneer village and a working haypress, that focus on aspects of Hoosier history.

Approximately 15-16 million visitors use the 178,330 acres managed by Indiana State Parks annually.

This then, is the value of our public estate. That we have set aside forever a part of the original domain. That by leaving it in its natural condition we have made the past intelligible to our and to coming generations. That we have attracted visitors from other states and shown them the beauty of our own. That we have found a measure of appreciation for the good of our day and an offset in part for some of its evils. That we have strengthened citizenship and helped create the appreciation of the soil which cannot but increase our attachment to our own state and to the nation. That we have tried in our State to educate the masses of our people to look upon conservation not merely as a means of self-preservation; a practical conserving of our resources, but also as a need for the appreciation and uplift of the soul of man.

- Richard Lieber, 1923,
Founder of the Indiana State Park System

Mission
The mission of Indiana State Parks is to manage and interpret our properties' unique natural, wildlife, and cultural resources utilizing the principles of multiple use and preservation, while sustaining the integrity of these resources for current and future generations.